



# INJECTING HOPE



“ The largest vaccine drive that started today is guided by humanitarian principles.

That is why the vaccination drive first covers those who need it most, those who are tirelessly working on the frontline.”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
at the launch of Pan-India Vaccine Rollout  
on 16th January 2021

सर्वेभवन्तुसुखिनःसर्वेसन्तुनिरामया।  
सर्वेभद्राणिपश्यन्तुमाकश्चित्दुःखभागभवेत्।

May everyone be healthy  
and free from illness





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pan-India Vaccine Rollout, world's biggest vaccination drive against COVID-19 on 16th January 2021.

The Government of India received several requests for the supply of Indian manufactured vaccines from neighbouring and key partner countries. In response to these requests, and in keeping with India's stated commitment to use India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of humanity fight the COVID pandemic, supplies under grants assistance and later commercial arrangements began on 20th January 2021.

This e-book highlights reporting on Vaccine Maitri as well as India's national vaccination programme.



# NEIGHBORHOOD FIRST



[Bhutan](#)

## INDIA DISPATCHES COVISHIELD VACCINES TO BHUTAN

20 Jan 2021, 10:37 GMT+10



Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], January 20 (ANI): As a gift from India, the first consignment of 1.5 lakh dosages of COVID-19 vaccine 'Covishield' was dispatched to Thimphu, Bhutan from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai in the wee hours of Wednesday.

According to the sources, a consignment containing 1,50,000 doses of Covishield will reach Thimphu today. Bhutan is the first country to receive the Government of India's gift of the COVID vaccines, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII).

In line with India-Bhutan unique and special relations, India ensured a continuous supply of trade and essential items to Bhutan, despite COVID-19 restrictions.

India so far has provided essential medicines and medical supplies- including paracetamol,

hydroxychloroquine, PPEs, N95 masks, x-ray machines and test kits worth over Rs 2.8 cores to Bhutan. It also entered into an "Air Travel Arrangement" or "Transport Bubble" agreement with Bhutan.

India has facilitated the repatriation of over 2,000 Bhutanese nationals stranded in various parts of India. It also facilitated the repatriation of 14 Bhutanese nationals stranded in third countries through Vande Bharat flights to India and their onward journey to Bhutan, sources said.

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COVERAGE ON  
**BHUTAN**



[Bhutan](#)

# INDIA STARTS CORONAVIRUS VACCINE EXPORTS WITH SHIPMENTS TO BHUTAN

JANUARY 20, 2021 | 11:44 AM UPDATED

NEW DELHI, Jan 20 (Reuters) - India started exporting coronavirus vaccines on Wednesday with the first shipment to the neighbouring Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, the foreign ministry said.

“First consignment takes off for Bhutan!”  
Anurag Srivastava, spokesman for the Ministry of External Affairs, said on Twitter. “India begins

supply of Covid vaccines to its neighbouring and key partner countries.”

Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles are also expected to get the shots from the world’s biggest vaccine making country. (Reporting by Krishna N. Das and Sanjeev Miglani; Editing by Himani Sarkar)

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[Bhutan](#)

# INDIA STARTS COVID-19 VACCINE EXPORTS WITH SHIPMENTS TO BHUTAN

20 Jan 2021 03:43PM



Indian Health Minister Harsh Vardhan holds a dose of Bharat Biotech’s COVID-19 vaccine called COVAXIN, during a vaccination campaign at All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospital in New Delhi, on Jan 16, 2021. (File photo: REUTERS/Adnan Abidi)

NEW DELHI: India started exporting coronavirus shots on Wednesday (Jan 20) with a shipment to the neighbouring Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, the foreign ministry said, as the so-called pharmacy of the world looks to bolster its vaccine diplomacy.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world’s biggest vaccine maker, for supplies to start COVID-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

“First consignment takes off for Bhutan!”  
Foreign Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said on Twitter. “India begins supply of COVID vaccines to its neighbouring and key partner countries.”

The ministry said on Tuesday that “supplies under grant assistance” would be shipped to the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles, while Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius await regulatory clearances to receive the vaccines.

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[Bhutan](#)

## BHUTAN RECEIVES 150,000 DOSES OF COVISHIELD VACCINE FROM INDIA

Jan 20, 2021



*Bhutan received 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccine from India today, making Bhutan the first country to receive the gift. The consignment was delivered in the country just four days after India's own massive roll-out of the vaccine. The Indian Ambassador to Bhutan, Ruchira Kamboj handed over the consignment to the government.*

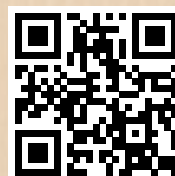
An Indian Air Force aircraft AN32 landed towards late afternoon today with the consignment. 13 boxes which contain 1,200 vials each were sanitized and administered Thruesel by the Leytshog Lopen of the Central Monastic Body.

It was then handed over to the Health ministry. The consignment of 150,000 doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, Covishield for Bhutan will be stored in Thimphu for nearly two months. The vaccine is manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

"We are very confident that we have more than adequate storage capacity. Two to three months

ago, we have done an assessment of cold chain across the country, from the primary health centres till the National Referral Hospital. The vaccine will be stored in the MSPD store in Thimphu. And when we get the second batch, then we will start distributing to health facilities," said the Health Minister, Dechen Wangmo.

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[Bhutan](#)

## BHUTAN RECEIVES ITS FIRST SHIPMENT OF FREE COVID-19 VACCINE FROM INDIA

January 21, 2021



The first consignment of Covid-19 vaccine, 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccines, arrived in the country yesterday.

An Indian military aircraft (AN-32) brought it to the Paro international airport at around 3:30pm yesterday after initial plans to drop it at the Lungtenphu helipad could not materialise.

A press release from the Indian embassy stated that the consignment was a 'gift from the people and Government of India to the people and Government of Bhutan'. This means that the 150,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, locally manufactured in India under the name Covishield is for free.

Four days after India began the world's largest vaccination drive, Bhutan became the first country to receive the vaccines under GoI's grant assistance programme — Vaccine Maitri.

Led by Lyonchhen Dr Lotay Tshering, Sowai Lyonpo (health minister) Dechen Wangmo and other senior government officials received the vaccine consignment handed over by Indian Ambassador, Ruchira Kamboj, yesterday.

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## COVERAGE ON NEPAL

[World](#)

## INDIA TO START COVID-19 VACCINE EXPORTS AS SOON AS WEDNESDAY: SOURCES

By Reuters

Published: 06:45 pm Jan 19, 2021



India, one of the world's biggest drugmakers, will start exports of COVID-19 vaccines as early as Wednesday, government sources said, paving the way for many mid- and lower-income countries to secure supplies of the easy-to-store Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

The first batch of exports will be shipped to the tiny nation of Bhutan, said the officials, who asked not to be named as no formal announcement has yet been made in India.

Two million doses of the Covishield vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII), will also be despatched to Bangladesh on Thursday, said the officials briefed on the plans.

Bangladesh's foreign ministry confirmed the plan, saying a special flight from India carrying the first consignment will land in Dhaka on Thursday. "Bangladesh will receive 2 million doses of Oxford-Astrazenca Covid-19 vaccines from India as a gift on Jan. 21," it said in a statement.

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Asia

## INDIA REMAINS COMMITTED TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL: PM

22 Jan 2021, 05:55 GMT+10



New Delhi [India], January 22 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India remains committed to assisting the people of Nepal in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

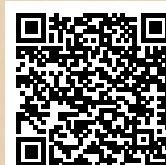
“Thank you PM @kpsharmaoli. India remains committed to assist the people of Nepal in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. The vaccines being made in India will also contribute to the global efforts to contain the pandemic,” PM Modi tweeted.

Earlier, Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli thanked PM Modi for granting one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal.

“I thank Prime Minister @narendramodi as well as the Government and people of India for the generous grant of one million doses of COVID vaccine to Nepal at this critical time when India is rolling out vaccination for its own people,” PM Oli wrote in a tweet.

India gifted one million Covishield vaccines to Nepal, under the “Vaccine Maitri” initiative.

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Nepal

## INDIA TO PROVIDE ONE MILLION DOSES OF COVID VACCINE

By Himalyan News Service, Published: 07:28 am Jan 21, 2021



Indian Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra (left) and Minister for Health and population Hridayesh Tripathi attend a joint press meet organised at the Ministry of Health and Population in Kathmandu, on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. The Government of India is Providing one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal. Photo: RSS

India will provide Nepal with one million doses of COVID vaccines under grant assistance and the first shipment of the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India, will arrive tomorrow.

Ambassador of India to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra made this announcement at a joint press conference held with Nepal's Minister of Health and Population Hridayesh Tripathi at the Ministry of Health and Population here today. Kwatra said India's cooperation with Nepal to fight the COVID-19 pandemic started from the very first day with the initial grant assistance of PPEs, testing kits, and ventilators.

“Nepal will be among the first few countries to receive these vaccines. You are all familiar with the fact that the rollout of vaccines in India started only on January 16, so vaccines coming within a week is effectively a parallel effort,” Kwatra said.

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Nepal

## FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF COVID-19 VACCINES FROM INDIA ARRIVES IN KATHMANDU

By Khabahub

Published: Jan 21, 2021



Minister of Health Hridayesh Tripathi (L) receiving the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from Indian Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra in Kathmandu. (Photo: S. Jaishankar's Twitter)

KATHMANDU: The first batch of COVID-19 vaccine provided by India has arrived in Kathmandu on Thursday.

An aircraft of Air India carrying COVID-19 vaccines landed at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said.

Earlier today, Anurag Srivastava, official spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs had tweeted that the first consignment of India-made COVID-19 vaccines has taken off for Nepal.

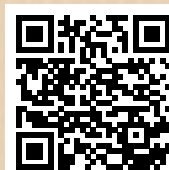
The Government of India had on Wednesday announced to provide 1 million doses of

COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal under grant assistance.

The vaccines will be inoculated to the frontline health workers, employees and security personnel in the first phase.

It should be noted that Nepal had given a conditional approval to use Serum India Institute's

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Nepal

## INDIAN AMBASSADOR HANDS OVER ONE MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO PM OLI

By: Republica | @RepublicaNepal

Published On: January 21, 2021 05:17 PM NPT



Photo courtesy: Surya Thapa, the prime minister's press advisor

KATHMANDU, Jan 21: Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra handed over one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Thursday.

Amid a function held at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar, the Indian envoy handed over the vaccine consignment to PM Oli.

On the occasion, Health Minister Hridayesh Tripathi and senior government officials were also present.

The first consignment of COVID-19 vaccine given by India to Nepal arrived in Kathmandu this morning. An aircraft of Air India carrying COVID-19 vaccines landed at the Tribhuvan International Airport at 11:30AM local time on Thursday.

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Nepal

## ONE MILLION DOSES OF 'MADE IN INDIA' COVID19 VACCINES GIFTED TO NEPAL

By Khabahub

Published: Jan 21, 2021



KATHMANDU — The Government of India gifted one million doses of 'Made in India' COVID19 vaccines to Nepal today for the immediate requirement of Nepal's healthcare and front-line workers. The vaccines were supplied at the request of the Government of Nepal. This assistance was also discussed during the recently concluded 6th India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting co-chaired by the two Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on 15 January.

Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra and H.E. Mr. Hridayesh Tripathi, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Population of Government of Nepal received the vaccines on arrival at the airport today forenoon.

Ambassador Kwatra expressed the hope that the arrival of the vaccines would mark the beginning of the end of COVID19 and reiterated India's steadfast commitment to the people of Nepal in their efforts to defeating the virus. Hon'ble Health Minister said the timely gift of Indian vaccines to Nepal was akin to a parallel roll-out in both countries.

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World

## INDIA GIVES 1 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO NEPAL

*India has sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbors*

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

21 January 2021, 15:50 • 2 min read



KATHMANDU, Nepal -- India sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal on Thursday, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbors.

Nepal health minister Hridayesh Tripathi said the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, manufactured under license by Serum Institute of India, will be given to health workers and other front-line personnel within a week to 10 days.

Tripathi said Nepal would like to purchase 4 million more doses, and asked for the Indian government's help. There was no immediate response from Indian officials who were the airport when the vaccine arrived.

Nepal foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali flew to India last week to formally request the vaccine.

India, the world's largest vaccine producer, began supplying coronavirus vaccine to its neighbors this week as it attempts to strike a balance between maintaining enough doses to inoculate its own people and helping developing countries without the capacity to produce their own vaccine.

India's foreign ministry said it sent 150,000 doses to Bhutan and 100,000 doses to the Maldives on Wednesday, and would send more to Bangladesh, Myanmar and the Seychelles in coming weeks.

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Asia

## INDIA GIVES 1 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO NEPAL

By Binaj GurubacharyaThe Associated Press  
Thu., Jan. 21, 2021timer1 min. read

KATHMANDU, Nepal - India sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal on Thursday, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbours.

Nepal health minister Hridayesh Tripathi said the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, manufactured under license by Serum Institute of India, will be given to health workers and other front-line personnel within a week to 10 days.

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India's foreign ministry said it sent 150,000 doses to Bhutan and 100,000 doses to the Maldives on Wednesday, and would send more to Bangladesh, Myanmar and the Seychelles in coming weeks.

Relations between India and Nepal have been strained by a territorial dispute which led to an exchange of strong-worded statements by the two sides.

India has also accused Nepal's Communist government of becoming closer to other giant neighbour, China.

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WORLD

## INDIA GIVES 1 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO NEPAL

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA - Associated Press - Thursday, January 21, 2021



A van stands parked waiting to transport AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccines, manufactured under license by Serum Institute of India, at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021. India sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal ...

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) - India sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal on Thursday, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbors.

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## NEWS

# INDIA GIVES 1 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO NEPAL

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA | January 21, 2021



A van stands parked waiting to transport AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccines, manufactured under license by Serum Institute of India, at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021. India sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal on Thursday, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbors. (AP Photo/Niranjan Shrestha)

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — India sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal on Thursday, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbors.

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response from Indian officials who were the airport when the vaccine arrived.

Nepal foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali flew to India last week to formally request the vaccine.

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## INDIA

# INDIA'S VACCINE DIPLOMACY IN SOUTH ASIA PUSHES BACK AGAINST CHINA

By Sanjeev Miglani, Gopal Sharma



NEW DELHI/KATHMANDU (Reuters) - India will give millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccine to South Asian countries in the next few weeks, government sources said on Thursday, drawing praise from its neighbours and pushing back against China's dominating presence in the region.

Free shipments of AstraZeneca's vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, the world's biggest producer of vaccines, have begun arriving in the Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Myanmar and the Seychelles are next in line to get free consignments as India uses its strength as one of the world's biggest makers of generic drugs to build friendships.

"The government of India has shown goodwill by providing the vaccine in grant. This is at the people's level, it is the public who are suffering the most from COVID-19," said Nepal's Minister for Health and Population Hridayesh Tripathi.

The gesture comes at a time that India's ties with Nepal have been strained by a territorial dispute and Indian concern over China's expanding political and economic influence in the Himalayan nation sandwiched between the Asian giants.

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## COLUMNS

### PUTTING NEIGHBOURS FIRST

*Nepal is among the first few countries to receive Indian-manufactured Covid-19 vaccines within days of India's domestic rollout.*

28 Jan 2021, 18:18 GMT+10



*New Delhi [India], January 28 (ANI): A consignment containing over 50,000 doses of 'Made in India' coronavirus vaccine reached Colombo on Thursday.*

'India will use its vaccine production and distribution capacity to help the whole of humanity in fighting the Covid-19 crisis'. These were the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he addressed the 20th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State in November 2020. It was a pledge that was perceived as ambitious and utopian, given the unprecedented nature of adversity and the multitude of concerns, both regional and global, that had to be factored in, without compromising on the efficacy of the end-product.

The year 2020 was, more or less, consumed by the onset and spread of the novel coronavirus. A deadly and previously unknown virus wreaked havoc and death across the globe, killing over 2 million people, infecting many more, and causing economic devastation of untold proportions.

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## COVERAGE ON BANGLADESH

# Dhaka Tribune

[Bangladesh](#)

## INDIA GIFTS 2M OXFORD VACCINE TO BANGLADESH

Published at 09:34 pm January 18th, 2021

The imported lot of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is however scheduled to arrive between Jan 21-25.

Bangladesh will receive a total of 2 million additional vaccines as a gift from the Indian government. The Health Services Division under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued a letter signed by the Senior Assistant Secretary (Public Health 2) in this regard to DGDA to take necessary steps to administer the vaccine in Bangladesh on Monday.

As per the letter, the Indian High Commission has already submitted an application in this regard to the ministry. A special flight from India carrying the vaccines would land at Shahjalal International Airport on January 20, it read.

The Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccines, manufactured by Serum Institute of India, are set to arrive on January 20, said Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general (DG) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) also on Monday.

The vaccines will be received and stored at DGHS' facilities, such as EPI (Expanded Program on Immunization).

Additional storage will also be provided for by Unicef, according to Health Minister Zahid Maleque.

Dr Khurshid Alam said: "It is very small in volume compared to the volume we are bringing in for the vaccination program. It will not be a problem for us to store it."

When asked whether it will bring any changes to Bangladesh's vaccination schedule, he said that they will wait for further instructions and information from the Health Ministry.

He also mentioned that the training programs for the country's vaccinator teams are well underway and is scheduled to conclude by January 27.



If the schedule is not followed, it will not be possible to conduct a nationwide vaccination program, he added.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque had stated that the imported lot of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, however, is scheduled to arrive between January 21 to January 25.

Bangladesh has purchased 5 million doses. He also added the vaccines will be administered in hospitals in order to treat any side effects from the vaccine.

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[Bangladesh](#)

## 3.5M DOSES OF VACCINES TO ARRIVE FROM INDIA THURSDAY: FM

Published: 20 Jan 2021, 16:24



Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen on Wednesday said there would be sufficient vaccines in the country with 3.5 million doses of Covishield coming from India on Thursday.

He said India is sending 2 million doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine made by Serum Institute of India as a gift while 1.5 million doses will come through private sector channels, reports UNB.

“So, together we’ll get 35 lakh (3.5 million) doses of vaccines on Thursday. There would be plenty of vaccines in the country, we’re quite sure now. We can start the vaccination programme ahead of the

schedule,” he told reporters after attending a function in the city.

Asked whether Bangladesh will get vaccines as a gift from other countries, Momen said he is not aware of it but more countries including Russia and China are interested in providing vaccines.

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[Bangladesh](#)

## GIFT FROM INDIA: 20 LAKH VACCINE DOSES ARRIVE TODAY

Published: 12:00 AM, January 21, 2021 / LAST MODIFIED: 03:43 AM, January 21, 2021



India’s gift of 20 lakh doses of Covishield is likely to arrive in Bangladesh today.

Besides, the first shipment of the doses bought by Bangladesh is scheduled to arrive on January 25, Health Secretary Abdul Mannan told a press conference at the Prime Minister’s Office yesterday.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd Managing Director Nazmul Hassan Papon told The Daily Star that details of the flight schedule will be known by today.

Bangladesh purchased three crore doses of Covishield, the coronavirus vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and drugmaker AstraZeneca and manufactured by Serum Institute of India.

The procurement was done through a tripartite agreement signed between the government, Serum and its local partner Beximco Pharmaceuticals on November 5 last year.

The first shipment will contain 50 lakh doses.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said several other countries, including Russia and China, were interested in sending vaccines to Bangladesh and some private companies were willing to import them.

There will be plenty of vaccine doses in the coming days, he added.

Health Secretary Abdul Mannan said the 20-lakh dose gift would reach the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 1:30pm today.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque, Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, and other government officials will be at the airport at the time.

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Bangladesh

## 35 LAKH VACCINE DOSES TO ARRIVE FROM INDIA TODAY: MOMEN

20 January, 2021 06:07:41 PM / LAST MODIFIED: 21 January, 2021 01:45:39 PM



Foreign minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said Bangladesh will get 35 lakh of COVID-19 vaccine doses from India in two separate consignments today while some countries, including Russia and China have also expressed their interest to send vaccines here.

“Today, we will get 20 lakh of COVID-19 vaccines as a gift from Indian government while another consignment of 15 lakh Indian vaccines will also be arrived on the same day under private arrangement,” he said.

The foreign minister was talking to reporters after attending a lecture at Foreign Service Academy in the

capital. Momen said, consignments of vaccine will be arriving here from India continuously.

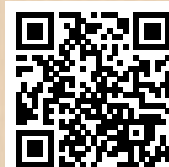
He said several other countries, including Russia and China have also expressed interest to send

their COVID-19 vaccines to Bangladesh. “There will be plenty of vaccines (in coming days),” he added.

Momen said that the government would start inoculating the vaccines to mass people right after getting the shipments from India today.

Meanwhile, finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told parliament yesterday that Covid-19 vaccine would be provided to all Bangladeshi citizens, aged above 18, for free.

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Bangladesh

## INDIA TO SEND VACCINES TO BANGLADESH WEDNESDAY

Published at 01:06 pm January 20th, 2021



An official displays a vial containing Covidshield, a coronavirus vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute of India, in Ahmedabad on January 12, 2021 Reuters

India has also provided training to several neighbouring countries to enhance and strengthen their clinical capabilities

India will start sending vaccines to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles from Wednesday.

The Government of India has received several requests for the supply of Indian manufactured vaccines from neighbouring and key partner countries.

In respect of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, we are awaiting their confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances, read a press release published by the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday.

The release added that in respect of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, India is awaiting their confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances.

Also, immunization program is being implemented in India, as in other countries, in a phased manner to cover the healthcare providers, frontline workers and the most vulnerable.

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Bangladesh

## INDIA, 'PHARMACY OF THE WORLD', STARTS COVID VACCINE SHIPMENTS TO NEIGHBOURS

Published: 20 Jan 2021 09:21 PM BdST Updated: 20 Jan 2021 09:21 PM BdST



Officials unload boxes containing vials of COVISHIELD, a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute of India, after a consignment of the vaccines arrived from the western city of Pune for its distribution, outside a vaccination storage centre in Ahmedabad, India, January 12, 2021. Reuters

India started delivering coronavirus vaccines to its neighbours on Wednesday, the foreign ministry said, flagging off a drive to garner goodwill in an often fractious region with the first shipment sent to the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest vaccine maker, for supplies to start COVID-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

Bangladesh and Nepal said they expected deliveries on Thursday. The only neighbour absent from India's list apart from China, is regional rival Pakistan, which had not requested assistance, according to an Indian government official.

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Bangladesh

## 20 LAKH DOSES OF OXFORD VACCINE REACH DHAKA AS GIFT FROM INDIA

21 January, 2021 12:52:03 PM / LAST MODIFIED: 21 January, 2021 09:43:29 PM



Twenty lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine gifted by India reached Dhaka on Thursday.

A chartered flight of Air India carrying the vaccine landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 11:21 am, said additional SP of Airport Armed Police Alamgir Hossain.

Indian Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar tweeted on "VaccineMaitri" saying that India reaffirms the highest priority to its relations with Bangladesh.

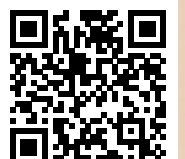
Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami handed over the vaccine to Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen and Health Minister Zahid Maleque at a ceremony at state guesthouse Padma on Thursday afternoon.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam was, among others, present.

It is part of commitment made at the highest level – Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi --- and as part of 'Neighbourhood First policy', said the Indian High Commissioner.

He said Bangladesh and India will fight the disease together as friends.

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Bangladesh

## 'THANK YOU': HASINA TO MODI FOR THE GIFT OF COVID-19 VACCINE

08:54 PM, January 21, 2021 / LAST MODIFIED: 09:01 PM, January 21, 2021



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today thanked her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for sending the Oxford vaccine produced in India as a gift for Bangladesh.

"I'm thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sending the vaccine as a gift," she said, adding that the procured vaccine will come soon from India as planned.

The PM said this while virtually addressing an international conference titled 'Celebrating the 100 Years of the University of Dhaka: Reflections from the Alumni - International and National' on the occasion of the university's birth centenary.

She hoped that the vaccine that Bangladesh procured from India will arrive within January 25-26.

The PM informed that they have already planned how they will proceed with the vaccine. "We've taken all the steps to face the Covid-19 situation in the country," she said.

Education Minister Dipu Moni addressed the opening ceremony as a special guest while prominent economist Rehman Sobhan presented the keynote speech, held at the university's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban with Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman in the chair.

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Bangladesh

## HASINA THANKS MODI FOR SENDING CORONAVIRUS VACCINE TO BANGLADESH

Published: 21 Jan 2021 10:46 PM BdST Updated: 21 Jan 2021 10:46 PM BdST



A freezer van is being prepared to transport the vaccines, which arrived in Bangladesh as a gift from neighbouring India, to EPI storage from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Thursday, Jan 21, 2021. Photo: Asif Mahmud Ove

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has thanked her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for sending two million doses of the coronavirus vaccine as a gift amid the pandemic.

Noting that the doses arrived on Thursday, she said joining the opening ceremony of the Dhaka University's centenary via video call: "I thank the Indian prime minister for this."

India will begin sending the 30 million doses purchased by Bangladesh on Jan 25 or 26, according to her.

"We've made a detailed plan on the vaccination drive."

Hasina, who studied at the university, regretted her inability to join the celebrations in person.

She compared the situation with her days in confinement during the 2007-08 emergency. "It feels like that I am in a large prison now."

READ MORE >>





## BANGLADESH

# FOREIGN SECRETARY THANKS INDIA FOR COOPERATION DURING PANDEMIC, HANDOVER OF VACCINES

09:52 PM, January 28, 2021 / LAST MODIFIED: 10:08 PM, January 28, 2021



*New Delhi [India], January 28 (ANI): A consignment containing over 50,000 doses of 'Made in India' coronavirus vaccine reached Colombo on Thursday.*

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen today thanked the Indian government for their excellent cooperation that both countries enjoyed during the trying times of the coronavirus pandemic. He also thanked them for the recent handover of Covid-19 vaccines.

He called on the Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the latter's residence in New Delhi this afternoon.

During the call, both sides discussed early resolution of pending issues as well as new areas of cooperation.

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[GULF TODAY](#)

## MYANMAR RECEIVES FIRST BATCH OF COVID-19 VACCINES FROM INDIA

22 Jan 2021



*A woman holds a small bottle labelled with a “Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine” sticker and a medical syringe in this illustration. File/Reuters*

## COVERAGE ON MYANMAR

Myanmar on Friday received 1.5 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine supplied by India to inoculate 750,000 people, the first vaccine batch delivered to the Southeast Asian country as it fights one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks in the region.

India is donating millions of doses of vaccines to a string of countries in Asia, drawing praise from neighbours and pushing back against China’s dominating presence in the region.

Shipments of AstraZeneca’s vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, the world’s biggest producer of vaccines,

have already gone to the Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Myanmar was among the countries next in line to get free consignments as India moved before China which has also pledged to supply vaccines to its neighbour. “This is a gift from India to Myanmar,” Saurabh Kumar, India’s ambassador to Myanmar, told reporters at Yangon airport,

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## Sri Lanka

# INDIA TO SUPPLY COVID-19 VACCINES TO SIX NEIGHBOUR COUNTRIES FROM TOMORROW

Posted on January 19th, 2021

India will begin supplying Covid-19 vaccines to six neighbouring and key partner countries with effect from tomorrow (January 20).

Thereby, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles will be the first recipients to get acquire the India-manufactured vaccines.

However, India is still awaiting the confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India, in a statement published today (January 19), said the country has received several requests for the supply of Covid-19 vaccines manufactured in India.

In keeping with its stated commitment to using India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to

help fight the Covid pandemic, India plans to kick off vaccine export tomorrow.

The immunization programme is being implemented in India, as in other countries, in a phased manner to cover the healthcare providers, frontline workers and the most vulnerable, the statement read further.

Keeping in view the domestic requirements of the phased rollout, India will continue to supply COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner. It will be ensured that domestic manufacturers will have adequate stocks to meet domestic requirements while supplying abroad."

Prior to the delivery of vaccines, a training programme, covering administrative and operational aspects, is being conducted on 19th and 20th of January 2021 for immunization managers, cold chain officers, communication officers and data managers of the recipient countries, both at national and provincial levels.

India had earlier supplied hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir and paracetamol tablets, as well as diagnostic kits, ventilators, masks, gloves and other medical supplies to a large number of countries during the COVID19 pandemic."

India has also provided training to several neighbouring countries to enhance and strengthen their clinical capabilities, under the Partnerships for Accelerating Clinical Trials (PACT) programme.

Separately, several training courses have been organized for healthcare workers and administrators of partner countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, sharing our experience in dealing with the pandemic.

India says it will continue to supply countries all over the world with vaccines, in keeping with the ongoing efforts. This will be calibrated against domestic requirements and international demand and obligations, including under GAVI's Covax facility to developing countries."



## COVERAGE ON SRI LANKA

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[Sri Lanka](#)

## DELHI AWAITS REGULATORY CLEARANCE FROM SRI LANKA TO SUPPLY COVID VACCINE

Published: 19 January 2021



India is awaiting regulatory clearance from Sri Lanka to supply the coronavirus vaccine, the Indian External Affairs Ministry said today.

The Government of India has received several requests for the supply of Indian manufactured vaccines from neighbouring and key partner countries.

In response to these requests, and in keeping with India's stated commitment to use India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of humanity fight the Covid pandemic, supplies under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles will begin from 20 January 2021.

"In respect of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, we are awaiting their confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances," the Indian External Affairs Ministry said.

The Immunization programme is being implemented in India, as in other countries, in a phased manner to cover the healthcare providers, frontline workers and the most vulnerable.

Keeping in view the domestic requirements of the phased rollout, India will continue to supply COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner. It

READ MORE >>



[Sri Lanka](#)

## INDIA TO START COVID-19 VACCINE EXPORTS AS SOON AS WEDNESDAY

Written by Staff Writer

Published: 19 Jan, 2021 | 7:45 PM



REUTERS: India, one of the world's biggest drugmakers, will start exports of COVID-19 vaccines as early as Wednesday, government sources said, paving the way for many mid- and lower-income countries to secure supplies of the easy-to-store Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

The first batch of exports will be shipped to the tiny nation of Bhutan, said the officials, who asked not to be named as no formal announcement has yet been made in India.

Two million doses of the Covishield vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII), will also be despatched to Bangladesh on

Thursday, said the officials briefed on the plans.

Bangladesh's foreign ministry confirmed the plan, saying a special flight from India carrying the first consignment will land in Dhaka on Thursday. "Bangladesh will receive 2 million doses of Oxford-Astrazenca Covid-19 vaccines from India as a gift on Jan. 21," it said in a statement.

READ MORE >>





Sri Lanka

## INDIA AND SRI LANKA WORKING TOWARDS EARLY DELIVERY OF VACCINES

Published: 22 January 2021



India and Sri Lanka are working towards the early delivery of the coronavirus vaccines, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said today.

The High Commission said that the Government of Sri Lanka has conveyed that emergency use approval for Covishield vaccines has been granted.

“Government authorities in India and Sri Lanka are now working towards early delivery of these vaccines in Sri Lanka,” the High Commission said.

The National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) had today granted approval for the emergency use of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine for Covid-19 in Sri Lanka.

State Minister Dr. Channa Jayasumana said the vaccine is expected to reach Sri Lanka soon.

India’s drug regulator had given the green light to Covishield (the local name for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine developed in the UK) and Covaxin, locally-made by pharma company Bharat Biotech.

READ MORE >>



BANGLADESH

## COVISHIELD ARRIVES IN SRI LANKA; TO BE DELIVERED TO SIX MAIN HOSPITALS TODAY

BY CHANKA JAYASINGHE | Thursday January 28, 2021 14:40



*President Gotabaya Rajapaksa accepting the consignment of Covishield vaccines at the BIA this morning 28)*

ECONOMYNEXT – An Air India flight carrying half a million vials of India’s Covishield vaccine arrived in Colombo this morning, according to news.lk, the government’s official news portal.

The consignment, donated to Sri Lanka by the Indian government, will see 250,000 frontline workers immunised against COVID-19, free of charge, presidential advisor Lalith Weeratunga told reporters yesterday. Covishield is manufactured by the Serum Institute of India in collaboration with the Oxford University and the British-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

The vials were accepted by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Bandaranaike International Airport at 11.30am today and were transported

by Sri Lanka’s armed forces to storage facilities run by the Ministry of Health (MoH), news.lk reported.

Deputy Director General of Health Services Dr Hemanth Herath told reporters today that the vaccines will be delivered to six main hospitals by evening and vaccination of staff at said hospitals will begin tomorrow.

READ MORE >>





[Sri Lanka](#)

## INDIA'S ROLE IN COMBATING COVID-19 THROUGH VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING

Date 1/22/2021 9:42:54 AM



The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted India's position as a reliable stakeholder in global healthcare supply chains with major strengths in manufacturing, Research and Development (R&D), and innovation. India has acted as the 'Pharmacy of the World' by extending medical and other assistance to over 150 countries in the fight against COVID-19. Today, India is a leader in vaccine R&D and 60% of global vaccine production comes from India.

As global efforts to contain and eliminate the pandemic intensify, the fact that universal immunization is amongst the most effective and economical health interventions ever devised has found new relevance. Towards this end, about 30 groups across academia

and industry in India are actively involved in COVID-19 vaccine development. Two vaccines, 'Covishield' of AstraZeneca-Oxford-Serum Institute and 'Covaxin' of Bharat Biotech have already received Emergency Use Authorization and AstraZeneca-Oxford-Serum Institute is being currently dispensed in the largest COVID vaccination program in the world. Additionally, six vaccine candidates, including 3 indigenously developed, are in clinical trials.

READ MORE >>



[INDIA](#)

## INDIA DONATES FIRST 500,000 DOSES OF VACCINE TO SRI LANKA

28 Jan 2021 - 14:14



FILE PHOTO: Vials of AstraZeneca's Covishield coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine, are seen before they are packaged inside a lab at Serum Institute of India, Pune, India, November 30, 2020. REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas/File Photo

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Sri Lanka's president on Thursday welcomed the first 500,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine from India, which has donated the shots to eight countries in the region.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

Sri Lanka said 150,000 health workers and 115,000 selected military and police troops will be the first to be inoculated at six hospitals in Colombo and its suburbs.

One of the hospitals is reserved for COVID-19 patients while the others have separate wards for the coronavirus.

The Health Ministry plans to expand the vaccination campaign to 4,000 hospitals and health centers in other parts of the country next week.

READ MORE >>





## NATIONAL

# SRI LANKA PRESIDENT RECEIVES FREE INDIAN COVID VACCINES

28 January 2021 · 2-min read

Colombo, Jan 28 (PTI) Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday received 500,000 doses of Covishield vaccine donated by India under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

India last week announced that it will send COVID-19 vaccines under grant assistance to Sri Lanka and seven other countries -- Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles, Afghanistan and Mauritius.

Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives have already received India's COVID-19 vaccines under grant assistance in sync with its "Neighbourhood First" policy.

President Rajapaksa was at the Colombo international airport to receive the consignment of free Indian COVID-19 vaccines which arrived on a special Air India flight.

The consignment was packed in 42 boxes.

Rajapaksa was joined at the airport by the Indian envoy in Colombo Gopal Baglay.

'The arrival of 500,000 doses of COVISHIELD vaccines happens on blessed Poya Day, which marks the 1st visit of the Buddha to Lanka. High Commissioner offered prayers at the sacred Gangaramaya Temple for the health and well being of the people of Lanka on auspicious Duruthu Poya Day,' the Indian High Commission here tweeted.

The consignment came after the country approved emergency use of Oxford AstraZeneca's Covishield vaccine.

The vaccination programme is to be launched in the country on Friday at six hospitals around the capital Colombo, health officials said.

A total of 250,000 people, mostly health frontline workers, members of the security forces and

police and the vulnerable aged, will get the vaccine on a priority basis.

The government said the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation would be this week ordering 3 million doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine from India's Serum Institute.

Sri Lanka has recorded more than 60,000 coronavirus cases so far with 288 deaths.

India is one of the world's biggest drug-makers and an increasing number of countries have already approached it for procuring the coronavirus vaccines. PTI Corr NSA NSA

READ MORE >>



## HEALTHNATION & WORLD

# INDIA DONATES FIRST 500,000 DOSES OF VACCINE TO SRI LANKA

January 23, 2021



1 of 4 | Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, second right, receives a box of COVID-19 vaccines upon arrival from India, in... (Sri Lankan Presidents Office via AP) More

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president on Thursday welcomed the first 500,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine from India, which has donated the shots to eight countries in the region.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

Sri Lanka said 150,000 health workers and 115,000 selected military and police troops will be the first to be inoculated at six hospitals in Colombo and its suburbs.

One of the hospitals is reserved for COVID-19 patients while the others have separate wards for the coronavirus.

The Health Ministry plans to expand the vaccination campaign to 4,000 hospitals and health centers in other parts of the country next week.

India's donation covers 250,000 people and Sri Lanka is making efforts to obtain more vaccines, either through donation or by purchasing them.

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ASIA

## INDIA DONATES FIRST 500,000 DOSES OF VACCINE TO SRI LANKA

By Bharatha MallawarachiThe Associated Press  
Thu., Jan. 28, 2021timer1 min. read



COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Sri Lanka's president on Thursday welcomed the first 500,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine from India, which has donated the shots to eight countries in the region.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

Sri Lanka said 150,000 health workers and

115,000 selected military and police troops will be the first to be inoculated at six hospitals in Colombo and its suburbs.

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ASIA

## INDIA DONATES FIRST 500,000 DOSES OF VACCINE TO SRI LANKA

Jan. 28, 2021  
Updated: Jan. 28, 2021 4:17 a.m.



Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, second right, receives a box of COVID-19 vaccines upon arrival from India, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021. Rajapaksa on Thursday welcomed the first 500,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine from India, which has donated the shots to eight countries in the region. (Sri Lankan Presidents Office via AP)

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president on Thursday welcomed the first 500,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine from India, which has donated the shots to eight countries in the region.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

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be the first to be inoculated at six hospitals in Colombo and its suburbs.

One of the hospitals is reserved for COVID-19 patients while the others have separate wards for the coronavirus.

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## NEWS

# INDIA DONATES FIRST 500,000 DOSES OF VACCINE TO SRI LANKA

28 January 2021

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president has welcomed the first 500,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine from India, which has donated the shots to eight countries in the region. The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was manufactured by the Serum Institute of India. Sri Lanka says 150,000 health workers and 115,000 selected military and police troops will be the first to be inoculated at six hospitals in

Colombo and its suburbs. India's donation covers 250,000 people and Sri Lanka is making efforts to obtain more vaccines, either through donation or purchase. The country has ordered 2 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine and is planning to order 3 million more from India. It also expects some from the U.N. COVAX Facility to be able to vaccinate 20% of the population.

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## NEWS

# INDIAN CORONAVIRUS VACCINES ARRIVE IN SRI LANKA

28 January 2021



Senior Advisor to the President Lalith Weeraratunga speaking to reporters yesterday

The coronavirus vaccines that were gifted by India arrived in Sri Lanka today (28) in a special Air India flight.

Under the Government of India's #VaccineMaitri programme, India has gifted 500,000 doses of made-in-India Covishield vaccines to Sri Lanka.

The consignment was transported in a special Air India flight and packed in tailor-made boxes.

Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Bagley formally handed over the consignment to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Bandaranaike International Airport in

Katunayake (BIA) today.

Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield vaccine is manufactured by the Serum Institute of India. This has been approved for emergency use by the Government of Sri Lanka.

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NEWS

## INDIA DISPATCHES COVIDSHIELD VACCINES TO BAHRAIN, SRI LANKA

28 January 2021



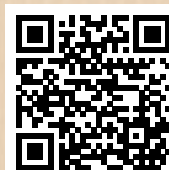
After providing coronavirus vaccines to several countries including Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives, India on Thursda established its position as a reliable partner in COVID-19 assistance by dispatching Covishield vaccines to Bahrain and Sri Lanka.

A consignment of 50,400 doses of coronavirus vaccines will be provided by India to Sri Lanka under the Vaccine Maitri initiative, while Bahrain will receive get 10,800 doses.

The Covishield vaccine developed by Serum Institute of India (SII) was loaded to the cargo aircraft at Mumbai and left as per schedule at 7.55 am (IST) or 5.30 am (Bahrain time) for Manama.

The vaccine consignment for Colombo was delayed for 15 minutes and was scheduled to leave at 9am (IST).

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NEWS

## FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF COVISHIELD COVID-19 VACCINES ARRIVES IN SRI LANKA

28 January 2021



The Air Indian flight (AI- 281) carrying the first consignment of Oxford-AstraZeneca's COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccines gifted by the Indian government has reached Sri Lanka today (January 28).

A special flight chartered by Air India touched down at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) with 500,000 vials of doses packed in tailor-made boxes for the purpose.

Oxford-Astrazeneca's COVISHIELD vaccine is manufactured by Serum Institute of India. This has been approved for emergency use by Government of Sri Lanka.

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## BANGLADESH

# SL TO PROCURE 3 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE

Thursday, 28 January 2021 02:33



Senior Advisor to the President Lalith Weeraratunga speaking to reporters yesterday

Entering the global fray to procure vaccines Sri Lanka will order three million doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca jab from India's Serum Institute by the end of the week as part of plans to immunise at least 50% of the population within this year, a top official said yesterday.

Rolling out its vaccine plans in earnest Sri Lanka will today receive the country's first batch of COVID vaccines as part of a donation from India and will begin the vaccination process targeting 250 frontline workers tomorrow.

The batch will consist of 500,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, which is also known as Covishield, and will arrive at 11 a.m. today via an Air India flight. The donation will be made under the #VaccineMaitri initiative and the vaccines will be handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Bandaranaike



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## NEWS

# FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF COVID-19 VACCINES ARRIVE FROM INDIA

Jan 28, 2021



The maiden consignment of Covid-19 vaccines from India arrived at Sri Lanka today (28).

500,000 doses of India's COVISHIELD vaccine, packed in tailor-made boxes, was ceremonially handed over to president Gotabaya Rajapaksa by the Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay at the Bandaranaike International Airport.

Oxford-Astrazeneca's COVISHIELD vaccine, manufactured by Serum Institute of India, has been approved for emergency use by the Government of Sri Lanka.

The gift from India is keeping in line with India's continued support to Sri Lanka in fighting the COVID pandemic.

Guided by 'Neighbourhood First' and SAGAR policies, about 5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been gifted to neighbouring

countries, and those in the Gulf and Indian Ocean since 20 January 2021. Millions of doses of made in India COVID vaccines have also been exported to countries as far away as Latin America and West Asia, and will continue to reach those in the Caribbean and the Pacific too. In September 2020, Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi told the UN that India's vaccine capacity will be used to help all humanity fight the COVID pandemic. India, which is called the 'Pharmacy of the World', supplied essential medicines to fight COVID-19 to 150 countries, more than half of which was as gift.



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NEWS

## STATE PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATION TO IMPORT COVID VACCINES

27 January 2021



The State Pharmaceutical Corporation is to import Covid vaccines after the free stocks arrive, the Government said.

State Minister of COVID-19 Prevention Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle said that steps have been taken to import the vaccines at the earliest.

“We are facing a challenge with supplies as the whole world is now implementing a vaccination process. But we will import vaccines as soon as possible and distribute it to those on the priority list,” she said.

She said that the AstraZeneca Covishield vaccines from India will be distributed as soon as it arrives in Sri Lanka.

The National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) has given approval for emergency use of AstraZeneca.

“AstraZeneca is one of the most successful vaccines. This will help reduce the health burden,” Dr. Fernandopulle said.

Fernandopulle said that after the first jab the second jab will be given in three weeks.

The Minister said that the vaccines will be issued free to the public like all other vaccines issued by the government.

“Once we obtain the free stocks we will purchase more stocks,” she said.

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NEWS

## SRI LANKA ROLLOUT COVID 19 VACCINE FROM FRIDAY: 50%-60% OF THE TARGET GROUP TO BE VACCINATED THIS YEAR

January 27, 2021 12:28 pm



Head of the Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan, Principal Adviser to the President, Lalith Weeraratunga says Sri Lanka expects to vaccinate 50%-60% of the target group by end of this year.

Ahead of Sri Lanka receiving first consignment of the vaccine from India tomorrow, Weeraratunga explain in a press conference today the government's program plan on COVID 19 vaccination.

He said vaccine will be rollout on Friday giving it to frontline health sector workers followed by armed forces.

Then it will be available to those who above 60 years of age and priority will be given to those who have compelling health concerns.

Sri Lanka will receive 500,000 Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccine from India as a donation tomorrow morning.

Weeraratunga said Sri Lanka will receive another 300,000 Sinopharm vaccine from China.

Sri Lanka also had requested Russian Sputnik V vaccine also.

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## NEWS

# INDIA'S CORONAVIRUS VACCINE GIFT REACHES SRI LANKA

28 Jan 2021, 18:18 GMT+10



New Delhi [India], January 28 (ANI): A consignment containing over 50,000 doses of 'Made in India' coronavirus vaccine reached Colombo on Thursday.

Taking to Twitter, Jaishankar said: "A dependable partner, a reliable friend. Made in India vaccines reach Sri Lanka now." After providing coronavirus vaccines to several countries including Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives, India has established its position as a reliable partner in COVID-19 assistance by dispatching 'Covishield' vaccines to Bahrain and Sri Lanka.

The consignment of 50,400 doses of coronavirus vaccines is being provided by India as a gift to Sri Lanka under the Vaccine Maitri initiative.

This comes days after Sri Lanka's drugs regulatory body -- National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA)--gave a go-ahead to Oxford Astrazeneca's vaccine.

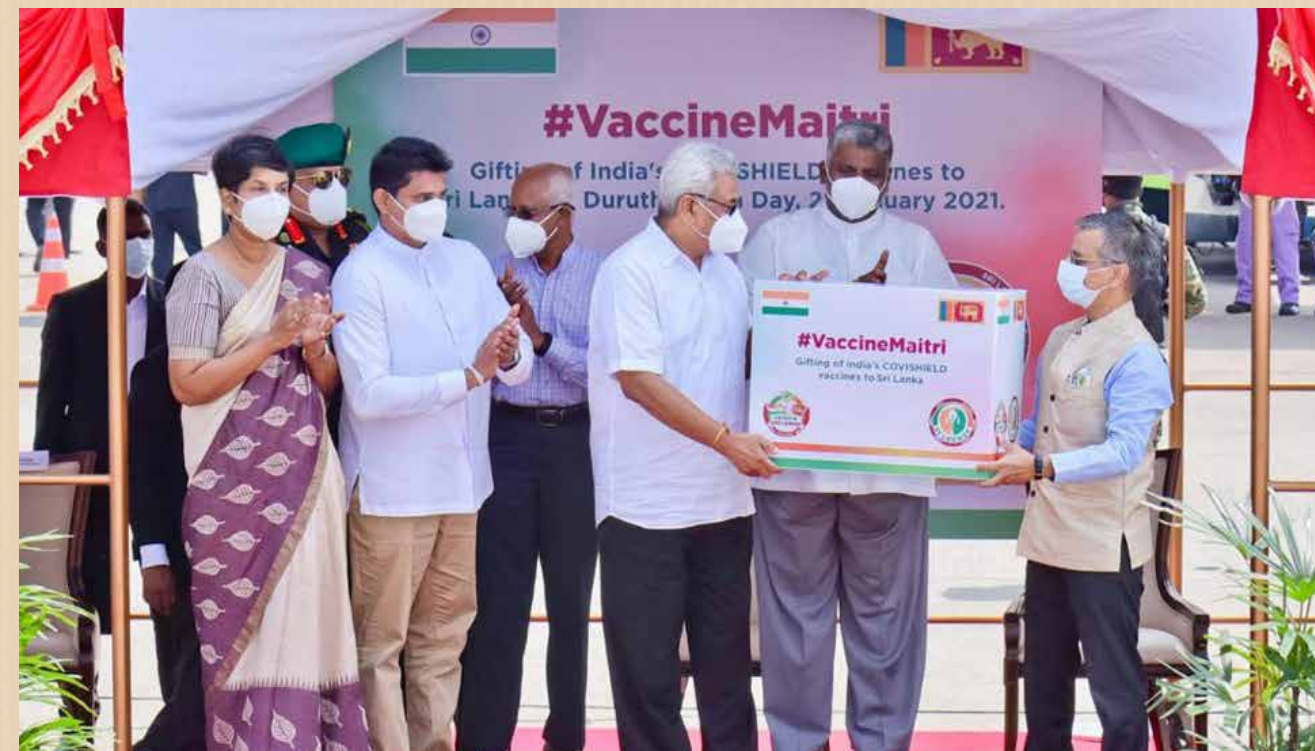
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## NEWS

# INDIAN HC HANDS OVER FIRST CONSIGNMENT TO PRESIDENT

CEYLON TODAY | Published: 2:00 AM Jan 29 2021



The High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, officially handed over the first consignment of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Government of India to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday (28), at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA).

Developed by the Oxford University in the UK, the AstraZeneca COVISHIELD vaccine was manufactured at Serum Institute in Mumbai. Carrying 500,000 vials, Indian Airlines Flight AI281 landed at BIA at 11.45 a.m. last morning.

The weight of the vaccines stored in the aircraft's special cold storage is 1,323 kg and the stock of vaccines is planned to be stored in the cold storage of the airport premises and distributed in refrigerated vehicles covering 25 districts. Vaccines are stored at a temperature of 2-8 degrees Celsius.

Vaccination will commence in six main hospitals in the Western Province today (29) and around 150,000 health workers, 120,000 members of Tri-Forces, Police and Security Forces who are in the frontline of COVID-19 prevention operations will be given first priority.

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## GLOBAL MEDIA COVERAGE #VACCINE MAITRI

**The Washington Post**  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

[Asia & Pacific](#)

### INDIA IS GIVING AWAY MILLIONS OF CORONAVIRUS VACCINE DOSES AS A TOOL OF DIPLOMACY

21 Jan 2021, 18:55 GMT+10



NEW DELHI — India started vaccinating its own population against the coronavirus only a few days ago, but it is already using its manufacturing heft to generate goodwill with its neighbors.

India's government has made the calculation that it has enough vaccine doses to share. The result is a form of vaccine diplomacy that appears to be unlike any other in the world.

Since Wednesday, the Indian government has sent free doses to Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives — more than 3.2 million in

total. Donations to Mauritius, Myanmar and Seychelles are set to follow. Sri Lanka and Afghanistan are next on the list.

The shipments reflect one of India's unique strengths: It is home to a robust vaccine industry, including Serum Institute of India, one of the world's largest vaccine makers.

[READ MORE >>](#)





AFRICA

## SOUTH AFRICA WELCOMES FIRST DELIVERY OF COVID-19 VACCINES

ANI | 29 Jan 2021, 04:03 GMT+10



South African law enforcement vehicles provide security for two refrigeration trucks transporting the AstraZeneca vaccine that arrived earlier from India, near Johannesburg, Monday, Feb. 1, 2021. South Africa has welcomed the delivery of its first 1 million doses and will be administered to frontline workers in approximately two weeks. (Photo by Alet Pretorius) (Associated Press)

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa gave a hero's welcome Monday to the delivery of its first COVID-19 vaccines — 1 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa greeted the crates of vaccine that arrived at Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport. The shipment will be followed up later this month by another 500,000 doses.

The vaccine will be effective in preventing severe disease and death from the variant that has become dominant in South Africa, a vaccine expert says.

READ MORE >>



World

## INDIA STARTS DONATING COVID-19 VACCINES TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

*India setting itself up as go-to supplier for vaccines while aiming to counterbalance China's rising profile*

By Rajesh Roy and Saeed Shah  
Updated Jan. 21, 2021 8:52 am ET



India setting itself up as go-to supplier for vaccines while aiming to counterbalance China's rising profile  
Workers unload a box containing Covid-19 vaccines manufactured in India. PHOTO: PRAKASH

NEW DELHI—India has started donating millions of doses of vaccine to its South Asian neighbors, using its position as a vaccine manufacturing hub to strengthen its ties in a region where China has been wielding increasing influence.

India announced this week that it is giving a million doses of vaccine to Nepal, 2 million to Bangladesh, 100,000 to the Maldives and 150,000 to Bhutan. It also plans to give 1.5

millions doses to Myanmar and 50,000 doses to Seychelles as early as Friday, said government officials, and begin commercial exports of the two vaccines which have received emergency approval and are already being mass produced in India.

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World

# 'PHARMACY OF THE WORLD WILL DELIVER': INDIA BEGINS COVID-19 VACCINE EXPORTS

India said it will be shipping to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh and more.

By Zoe Magee

20 January 2021, 19:07 • 6 min read



LONDON -- India has begun exporting Covid-19 vaccines to neighboring countries with the first batches being shipped Wednesday to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles, the foreign ministry said.

"First consignment takes off for Bhutan!" was the first of a flurry of tweets from the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Anurag Srivastava, as he posted pictures of batches leaving and arriving at different destinations, "Indian vaccines reach Maldives, reflects our special friendship."

"India is deeply honoured to be a long-trusted

partner in meeting the healthcare needs of the global community," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted Tuesday as he announced the first shipments would be sent today.

India is sending these vaccine batches "under grant assistance", a foreign ministry press

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NEWS

# SOUTH AFRICA WELCOMES FIRST DELIVERY OF COVID-19 VACCINES

South Africa gave a hero's welcome to the delivery of its first COVID-19 vaccines, a million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press, 2 February 2021



Tour guides pose together for a 'selfie' in Luxor amid precautions against the coronavirus disease. (File/AFP)

JOHANNESBURG -- South Africa gave a hero's welcome Monday to the delivery of its first COVID-19 vaccines — 1 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa greeted the crates of vaccine that arrived at Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport. The shipment will be followed up later this month by another 500,000 doses.

The vaccine will be effective in preventing severe disease and death from the variant that has become dominant in South Africa, a vaccine expert says.

The AstraZeneca vaccines will be used to inoculate South Africa's front-line health workers, which will kickstart the country's vaccination campaign. The first jabs are expected to be administered in mid-February, after the vaccines are tested and approved by South Africa's drug regulatory authorities.

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[India](#)

# INDIA, 'PHARMACY OF THE WORLD', STARTS COVID VACCINE SHIPMENTS TO NEIGHBOURS

JANUARY 20, 2021 11:52 AM UPDATED 12 DAYS AGO



NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India started delivering coronavirus vaccines to its neighbours on Wednesday, the foreign ministry said, flagging off a drive to garner goodwill in an often fractious region with the first shipment sent to the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

Bangladesh and Nepal said they expected deliveries on Thursday. The only neighbour absent from India's list apart from China, is regional rival Pakistan, which had not requested assistance, according to an Indian government official.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest vaccine

maker, for supplies to start COVID-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

"The Pharmacy of the World will deliver to overcome the COVID challenge," Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar said on Twitter, adding the first vaccine lots had reached Bhutan and the Maldives.

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[HEALTHCARE](#)

# INDIA SENDS FREE ASTRAZENECA VACCINES TO SRI LANKA FOR FRIDAY ROLLOUT

JANUARY 28, 2021 5:49 PM UPDATED 9 DAYS AGO

NEW DELHI, Jan 28 (Reuters) - India sent half a million free doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Sri Lanka on Thursday, officials said, part of diplomatic efforts by Delhi to deepen ties with its neighbours.

India is one of the world's biggest makers of medicines, and the vaccine produced by AstraZeneca and Oxford University is being produced at the Serum Institute of India, a private firm, in the western city of Pune.

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa received the vaccine, branded as COVISHIELD, from the Indian ambassador Gopal Baglay at a ceremony at Colombo airport, Gotabaya's office said in a statement.

The island nation of 22 million people will begin inoculations of frontline health workers on Friday from the western province, the presidential office said.

"The stock was donated to Sri Lanka following a request made by the President to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi," it said in a statement.

China, which has invested millions of dollars in ports and highways in Sri Lanka as part of its Belt and Road Initiative, has also promised to deliver 300,000 vials of vaccine, Lalith Weeratunga, principal advisor to the president, said.

India, which is battling the world's second highest caseload of coronavirus, has given away free vaccines to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Mauritius, and also Afghanistan once local approvals are secured.

"This humanitarian gesture amid the pandemic showcases India's commitment to its neighbourhood first policy," a government source said. (Reporting by Sanjeev Miglani; Additional reporting by Waruna Karunatilake in Colombo; Editing by Jan Harvey)

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[India](#)

## UKRAINE IN TALKS WITH INDIA ON COVID-19 VACCINE SUPPLY - INTERFAX

JANUARY 20, 2021 7:12 PM UPDATED 17 DAYS AGO



FILE PHOTO: Vials of AstraZeneca's COVISHIELD, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine are seen before they are packaged inside a lab at Serum Institute of India, in Pune, India, November 30, 2020. REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas/File Photo

KYIV (Reuters) - Ukraine is in talks with Indian medical firm Serum Institute on supplying COVID-19 vaccines, Interfax Ukraine news agency quoted a deputy Ukrainian health minister as saying on Wednesday.

"Negotiations are underway with an Indian manufacturer, Serum Institute, which can produce the American Novovax vaccine and has the ability to produce the AstraZeneca vaccine at the moment," Interfax quoted Ihor Ivashchenko as saying.

He gave no further details.

India will initially only ship the AstraZeneca vaccine, made by The Serum Institute, the world's biggest vaccine maker, which brands the shot as COVISHIELD.

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[PMN Business](#)

## INDIA TO START COVID VACCINE EXPORTS ON WEDNESDAY

Jan 19, 2021 • January 19, 2021 • 2 minute read

NEW DELHI — India will start exporting COVID-19 vaccines from Wednesday, paving the way for many mid- and lower-income countries to get supplies of the easy-to-store Oxford/AstraZeneca drug, of which it said it plans to ship millions of doses within days.

Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine producer, told Reuters last week it soon expected emergency use authorisation from the World Health Organization (WHO) for that vaccine, which SII has been licensed to make.

The foreign ministry said shipments would start on Wednesday following requests from "neighboring and key partner countries." Officials said the first doses would go to Bhutan and Maldives.

Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles will also get supplies in this week's first phase, the ministry said.

The Bangladesh foreign ministry said it expected to receive a gift of two million doses on Thursday. The country of 160 million, which has yet to start its vaccination program, has ordered a further 30 million doses, officials said.

The vast majority of the production of the three most widely approved COVID vaccines globally has so far been hoovered up by developed nations, raising concerns at the WHO and elsewhere that poorer countries could face a long wait for supplies.

TRENDING

'It's a perfect storm': A shipping container crisis has upended the global food trade with Video

Exclusive CRA data suggest a surge in new businesses, but culture change still needed to succeed with Video

Why the automobile has become a kingmaker for downtown commercial real estate with Video

Posthaste: After a brief lull, Canada's priciest real estate market just got busier — and even more expensive CIBC halts \$797-million sale of stake in FirstCaribbean after regulators reject deal with Video. The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is widely viewed as their best option because the other two, manufactured by Pfizer/BioNTech and by Moderna, need to be stored at very low temperatures.

WHO emergency authorisation for the Astra-Oxford vaccine would additionally allow SII to begin supplying it to the WHO-backed COVAX initiative aimed at fairly distributing COVID-19 shots across the world.

India, which has the world's second highest COVID caseload, has said it needs to balance its domestic requirements with international demands.

It began giving shots of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, as well as another developed by Bharat Biotech, to domestic health workers on Saturday.

The country plans to start exporting Bharat Biotech's vaccine at a later stage.

The foreign ministry said Astra-Oxford vaccine supplies to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius would begin soon after those countries' regulators cleared the drug.

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## Prognosis

# U.K., BELGIUM AMONG NATIONS SEEKING CHEAPER INDIA-MADE VACCINES

By Archana Chaudhary and P R Sanjai

January 20, 2021, 2:49 PM GMT+5:30 Updated on January 20, 2021, 5:11 PM GMT+5:30



The Covishield vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford and manufactured by Serum Institute of India. Photographer: Dhiraj Singh/Bloomberg

India says it can increase its production of Covid-19 vaccines to 500 million per month for export, as it fields interest from the U.K., Belgium, and countries across the Middle East and Africa seeking access to cheaper inoculations.

The South Asian nation has the capacity to boost the production of AstraZeneca Plc's vaccine being produced locally by the Serum Institute of India Ltd as well as an indigenously developed shot, on expectations that demand will rise by

the end of this week, according to people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified as talks are still in progress. South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria are among African nations in talks for supplies, they said.

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## News

# INDIA GIVES 1 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO NEPAL

*India has sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbors*

Via AP news wire

Thursday 21 January 2021 10:20



India has sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbors

Virus Outbreak Nepal India (Copyright 2021 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.)

India sent 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal on Thursday, a gift that is likely to help repair strained ties between the two neighbors.

Nepal health minister Hridayesh Tripathi said the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, manufactured under license by Serum Institute of India, will be given to health workers and other front-line personnel within a week to 10 days.

Tripathi said Nepal would like to purchase 4 million more doses, and asked for the Indian government's help.

There was no immediate response from Indian officials who were the airport when the vaccine arrived.

Nepal foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali flew to India last week to formally request the vaccine.

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## News

## INDIA LAUNCHES VACCINE DIPLOMACY WITH GIFTS OF COVID-19 VACCINES TO NEIGHBORS

January 24, 2021 12:27 PM



NEW DELHI - In an unusual diplomatic initiative, India has donated millions of doses of the British-developed AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine being produced in the country to neighboring South Asian nations.

The “vaccine diplomacy” aims to raise New Delhi’s global profile and push back against China, which has been expanding its influence in South Asia, analysts say.

“It’s about image and soft power. India wants to be recognized as a global leader,” Sreeram Chaulia, dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs, said.

As the world’s largest vaccine producer, India is set to be at the forefront of supplying affordable shots against COVID-19 to low- and middle-income countries. An Indian company, the Serum Institute of India, has joined with AstraZeneca to make the vaccine.

Shipments of the vaccine landed in recent days in Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar,

Mauritius and Seychelles, just days after India launched its own nationwide inoculation program.

A plane is seen as Myanmar receives the first batch of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines from

India at Yangon Airport in Yangon, Myanmar, Jan. 22, 2021. (Embassy of India in Myanmar/ Handout via

Reuters)

The vaccine will be sent to Sri Lanka and Afghanistan after it gets approval in those countries.

However, India’s rival Pakistan, which has approved the AstraZeneca vaccine, is conspicuously absent from the list of recipients.

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## PMN HEALTH

## INDIA TO INTRODUCE MORE LOCALLY MADE COVID VACCINES -PM MODI

Jan 28, 2021 • January 28, 2021 • &lt; 1 minute read

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country would introduce more locally made COVID-19 vaccines as New Delhi continues to save lives of people in other countries by exporting medicines and vaccines.

“India has in these times of crisis fulfilled its global responsibilities from the beginning by

setting up infrastructure related to vaccination. So far only two made-in-India vaccines have been introduced, but in the future many more vaccines will be made available,” Prime Minister Modi said at a virtual meeting of the World Economic Forum. (Reporting by Nidhi Verma and Sanjeev Miglani Editing by David Goodman)

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Asia

## INDIA TO BEGIN SUPPLY OF COVID-19 VACCINES TO 6 COUNTRIES

20 Jan 2021, 01:37 GMT+10



Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India

New Delhi [India], January 19 (ANI): India will begin supplies of COVID-19 vaccines being manufactured in the country to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles from Wednesday.

India is awaiting confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances concerning the supply of medicines in respect of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius.

The Ministry of External Affairs said in a release on Tuesday that the government has received several requests for the supply of Indian manufactured vaccines from neighbouring and key partner countries.

“In response to these requests, and in keeping with India’s stated commitment to use India’s vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of humanity fight the Covid pandemic, supplies under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles will begin from January 20, 2021. In respect of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, we are awaiting their confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances,” the release said.

The ministry said in an ongoing effort, India will continue to supply countries all over the world with vaccines.

“This will be calibrated against domestic requirements and international demand and

obligations, including under GAVI’s Covax facility to developing countries.” India has given emergency use authorisation to two COVID-19 vaccines being manufactured in the country - Covishield and Covaxin. While Covishield has been developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, Covaxin is an indigenous vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR.

The ministry said that the immunization programme is being implemented in India, as in other countries, in a phased manner to cover the healthcare providers, frontline workers and the most vulnerable.

“Keeping in view the domestic requirements of the phased rollout, India will continue to supply COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner,” it said.

The ministry said that it will be ensured that domestic manufacturers will have adequate stocks to meet domestic requirements while supplying abroad.

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NEWS

## INDIA STARTS SUPPLYING COVID-19 SHOTS TO NEIGHBORING NATIONS

ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL, AP Science Writer

Jan. 20, 2021 | Updated: Jan. 20, 2021 1:54 a.m.



FILE - In this Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, file photo, an Indian doctor shows a COVID-19 vaccine at a government Hospital in Jammu, India. India started exporting COVID-19 vaccines to its neighboring countries on Wednesday, Jan. 20. To start with, India will send 150,000 shots of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Bhutan and 100,000 shots to Maldives. Afterwards, vaccines will be sent Bangladesh, Nepal, India’s foreign ministry said.

NEW DELHI (AP) — India began supplying coronavirus vaccines to its neighboring countries on Wednesday, as the world’s largest vaccine making nation strikes a balance between maintaining enough doses to inoculate its own people and helping developing countries without the capacity to produce their own shots.

India’s Foreign Ministry said the country would send 150,000 shots of the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, manufactured locally by

Serum Institute of India, to Bhutan and 100,000 shots to the Maldives on Wednesday.

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## NEWS

### COVID-19 VACCINE DIPLOMACY: INDIA STARTS EXPORTS

Reuters/New Delhi  
Filed on January 20, 2021



India started exporting coronavirus shots on Wednesday with a shipment to the neighbouring Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, the foreign ministry said, as the so-called pharmacy of the world looks to bolster its vaccine diplomacy.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest vaccine maker, for supplies to start Covid-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

"First consignment takes off for Bhutan!" Foreign Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said on Twitter. "India begins supply of Covid vaccines to its neighbouring and key partner countries."

The ministry said on Tuesday "supplies under grant assistance" would be shipped to the Maldives,

Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles, while Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius await regulatory clearances to receive the vaccines.

India authorised two vaccines this month for emergency use at home, one licensed from Oxford University and AstraZeneca and another developed at home by Bharat Biotech in partnership with the state-run Indian Council of Medical Research. Both are manufactured locally.

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## NEWS

### INDIA STARTS COVID VACCINE SHIPMENTS TO NEIGHBOURS

Reuters/New Delhi  
Filed on January 20, 2021



Photo: Reuters

India said on Tuesday "supplies under grant assistance" would be shipped to Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

India started delivering coronavirus vaccines to its neighbours on Wednesday, the foreign ministry said, flagging off a drive to garner goodwill in an often fractious region with the first shipment sent to the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

Bangladesh and Nepal said they expected deliveries on Thursday. The only neighbour absent from India's list apart from China, is regional rival Pakistan, which had not requested

assistance, according to an Indian government official.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest vaccine maker, for supplies to start COVID-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

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WORLD

## INDIA STARTS VACCINE SHIPMENTS TO NEIGHBOURS, BARRING PAKISTAN CHINA

Reuters 21 Jan 2021



India started delivering coronavirus vaccines to its neighbours on Wednesday, the foreign ministry said, flagging off a drive to garner goodwill in an often fractious region with the first shipment sent to the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

Bangladesh and Nepal said they expected deliveries on Thursday. The only neighbour absent from India's list apart from China, is regional rival Pakistan, which had not requested assistance, according to an Indian government official.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest vaccine maker, for supplies to start COVID-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

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World

## INDIA, 'PHARMACY OF THE WORLD', STARTS COVID VACCINE EXPORTS

Reuters -January 20, 2021 5:31 PM



*A health worker receives a Covid-19 vaccine at a government hospital in Hyderabad on Monday. (AP pic)*

NEW DELHI: India started exporting coronavirus shots on Wednesday with a shipment to the neighbouring Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, the foreign ministry said, as the so-called pharmacy of the world looks to bolster its vaccine diplomacy.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest vaccine maker, for supplies to start Covid-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

"First consignment takes off for Bhutan!" Foreign Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said on Twitter. "India begins supply of Covid vaccines to its neighbouring and key partner countries."

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Asia

## INDIA, 'PHARMACY OF THE WORLD', STARTS COVID-19 VACCINE EXPORTS

PUBLISHED JAN 20, 2021, 4:15 PM SGT



*India initially will only ship the AstraZeneca vaccine.*

NEW DELHI (REUTERS) - India started exporting coronavirus shots on Wednesday (Jan 20) with a shipment to the neighbouring Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, the foreign ministry said, as the so-called pharmacy of the world looks to bolster its vaccine diplomacy.

Many low- and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest vaccine maker, for supplies to start Covid-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

"First consignment takes off for Bhutan!" Foreign Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava

said on Twitter. "India begins supply of Covid vaccines to its neighbouring and key partner countries."

The ministry said on Tuesday "supplies under grant assistance" would be shipped to the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles, while Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius await regulatory clearances to receive the vaccines.

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Asia

## INDIA STARTS SUPPLYING COVID-19 SHOTS TO NEIGHBOURING NATIONS

By Aniruddha GhosalThe Associated Press  
Wed., Jan. 20, 2021timer2 min. read



After Bhutan, Maldives is to receive the second shipment, with a few other countries in waiting India on Wednesday began to export coronavirus shots to its neighbours, with the first shipment set to reach Bhutan and Maldives, less than a week after it started its own vaccination drive — said to be the largest in the world.

"First consignment takes off for Bhutan!" Anurag Srivastava, spokesman for the Ministry of

External Affairs of India, said on Twitter. "India begins supply of Covid vaccines to its neighbouring and key partner countries."

"The pharmacy of the world will deliver to overcome the Covid challenge," foreign minister, S. Jaishankar, tweeted, referring to the exports.

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World

## INDIA STARTS SUPPLYING CORONAVIRUS VACCINES TO DEVELOPING NATIONS

By Aniruddha Ghosal The Associated Press

Posted January 20, 2021 7:47 am | Updated January 20, 2021 7:51 am



India began supplying coronavirus vaccines to its neighboring countries on Wednesday, as the world's largest vaccine making nation strikes a balance between maintaining enough doses to inoculate its own people and helping developing countries without the capacity to produce their own shots.

India's Foreign Ministry said the country would send 150,000 shots of the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India, to Bhutan and 100,000 shots to the Maldives on Wednesday.

READ MORE: India surpasses 10 million coronavirus cases, but rate of infection slowing  
Vaccines will also be sent to Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles in coming weeks, the ministry said, without specifying an exact

timeline. It added in a statement late Tuesday that regulatory clearances were still awaited from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius.

India's ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, said Wednesday that New Delhi would supply Nepal with one million doses free of charge, with the first to arrive as early as Thursday.

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CORONAVIRUS

## VACCINE DIPLOMACY: INDIAN SUPPLIES REACH BANGLADESH AND NEPAL

KIRAN SHARMA, Nikkei staff writer

January 21, 2021 19:07 JS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the launch of the pan-India COVID-19 vaccination drive via video conference in New Delhi on Jan. 16. (Photo courtesy of Government of India)

NEW DELHI -- India on Thursday dispatched coronavirus vaccines to Bangladesh and Nepal, a day after launching supplies to "neighboring and key partner" nations to help them fight the pandemic when China too is pushing its COVID-19 response outreach in the region.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed on Twitter that consignments of made-in-India vaccines have reached both Dhaka and Kathmandu. "Putting neighbors first, putting people first!" he added.

Bhutan and the Maldives on Wednesday became the first countries to receive doses numbering 150,000 and 100,000, respectively, of the Serum

Institute of India-manufactured Covishield vaccine developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca. Myanmar and the Seychelles are other countries set to receive the Indian vaccines. As for shipments to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, New Delhi is awaiting their confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances.

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PMN Business

## INDIA TO START COVID-19 VACCINE EXPORTS AS SOON AS WEDNESDAY: SOURCES

19 Jan 2021 - 15:07



*An employee in personal protective equipment (PPE) removes vials of AstraZeneca's COVISHIELD, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine from a visual inspection machine inside a lab at Serum Institute of India, Pune, India, November 30, 2020. REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas/File Photo*

NEW DELHI: India, one of the world's biggest drugmakers, will start exports of COVID-19 vaccines as early as Wednesday, government sources said, paving the way for many mid- and lower-income countries to secure supplies of the easy-to-store Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

The first batch of exports will be shipped to the tiny nation of Bhutan, said the officials, who asked not to be named as the plans are not public.

Two million doses of the vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII), will also be despatched to Bangladesh on Thursday, said officials briefed on the plans.

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Health & wellness

## UN AGENCIES SUPPORTING MAMMOTH INDIA COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

Published 2 weeks ago on January 20, 2021

By Newsroom



*Health workers pose with a vial of COVID-19 vaccine after receiving their shots at a hospital in India. UNICEF/ Vinay Panjwani*

India has begun what is the world's biggest COVID vaccination campaign so far, deploying hundreds of thousands of health workers, with the training and support of the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

On 16 January, the first day of the campaign, 207,229 vaccine shots were given across the country, one of the worst-hit by COVID-19, with over 10 million COVID-19 infections and 150,000 deaths.

"[We] provided technical assistance to the Government of India for the development of operational guidelines and other training materials for state and district programme managers and vaccinators, and establishing tracking and accountability frameworks",

Roderico H. Ofri, WHO Representative in India said.

"WHO field officers have facilitated the highest-level oversight through regular task force meetings at state and district levels, which are chaired by the Principal Secretaries (Health) at the state level, and District Magistrates at the district level", he added.

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India

## INDIA STARTS COVID-19 VACCINE SHIPMENTS TO NEIGHBOURS, BARRING PAKISTAN AND CHINA

ReutersPublished January 20, 2021



A doctor poses after receiving a dose of the Bharat Biotech's coronavirus vaccine, called Covaxin, at a government-run hospital in New Delhi, India on Tuesday. — Reuters

India started delivering coronavirus vaccines to its neighbours on Wednesday, the foreign ministry said, flagging off a drive to garner goodwill in an often fractious region with the first shipment sent to the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

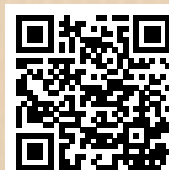
Bangladesh and Nepal said they expected deliveries on Thursday. The only neighbour absent from India's list apart from China, is Pakistan, which had not requested assistance, according to an Indian government official.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest

vaccine maker, for supplies to start Covid-19 immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

"The Pharmacy of the World will deliver to overcome the Covid challenge," Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar said on Twitter, adding the first vaccine lots had reached Bhutan and the Maldives.

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India

## INDIA TO START COVID VACCINE EXPORTS TODAY

*Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles will also get supplies in this week's first phase, the ministry said*

ReutersPublished January 20, 2021



A research scientist works inside a laboratory of India's Serum Institute, the world's largest maker of vaccines, which is working on vaccines against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Pune, India, May 18, 2020. PHOTO: REUTERS/FILE

NEW DELHI: India will start exporting Covid-19 vaccines from Wednesday, paving the way for many mid- and lower-income countries to get supplies of the easy-to-store Oxford/AstraZeneca drug, of which it said it plans to ship millions of doses within days.

Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine producer, told Reuters last week it soon expected emergency use authorisation from the World Health Organization (WHO) for that vaccine, which SII has been licensed to make.

The foreign ministry said shipments would

start on Wednesday following requests from "neighbouring and key partner countries". Officials said the first doses would go to Bhutan and Maldives.

Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles will also get supplies in this week's first phase, the ministry said.

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NEWS

## INDIA STARTS SHIPPING COVID-19 VACCINES TO BHUTAN, MALDIVES - FOREIGN MINISTRY

Fahad Shabbir (@FahadShabbir) 17 days ago Wed 20th January 2021 | 02:35 PM



India on Wednesday sent its first shipments of the COVID-19 vaccines to Bhutan and Maldives, Anurag Srivastava, a spokesman for the Ministry of External Affairs, said.

NEW DELHI (UrduPoint News / Sputnik - 20th January, 2021) India on Wednesday sent its first shipments of the COVID-19 vaccines to Bhutan and Maldives, Anurag Srivastava, a spokesman for the Ministry of External Affairs, said.

“India begins supply of Covid vaccines to its neighbouring and key partner countries,” Srivastava wrote on Twitter, adding that that the first consignments took off for Bhutan and Maldives.

On January 16, India started the world’s largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The first wave of vaccinations, intended for health care and

essential workers, is expected to cover some 30 million people.

The second wave, inoculating people over the age of 50, may cover some 270 million.

India is in second place in the world in the number of people infected with the coronavirus. , The country confirmed over 10.5 million COVID-19 cases, with 152,718 deaths,

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NEWS

## INDIA STARTS SHIPPING COVID-19 VACCINES TO BHUTAN, MALDIVES - FOREIGN MINISTRY

Fahad Shabbir (@FahadShabbir) 17 days ago Wed 20th January 2021 | 02:35 PM



ECONOMYNEXT – Sri Lanka is yet to give India clearance to ship free doses of the COVISHIELD vaccine which our giant neighbour began distributing to a number of countries in the region as of yesterday.

Shipments to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles began yesterday while clearance has not been granted as yet by Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, a press release issued by the government of India said.

Officials in Sri Lanka have said that the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) has yet to register the Indian version of the AstraZeneca Oxford vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII) called COVISHIELD. SII is the world’s largest producer of vaccines in the world by volume.

The first batch was sent to Bhutan and the second to the Maldives, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said in multiple tweets yesterday.

India’s External Affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar tweeted that his country was fulfilling “its commitment to give vaccines to humanity... The Pharmacy of the World will deliver to overcome the COVID challenge.”

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INDIA

## INDIA IS GIVING AWAY MILLIONS OF VACCINE DOSES AS A TOOL OF DIPLOMACY

By Joanna Slater, The Washington Post -January 21, 2021



Nepal's Minister for Health and Population Hridayesh Tripathi and Indian ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra attend the vaccine handover ceremony upon the arrival of the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines provided by the Government of India as a grant to Nepal, at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal January 21, 2021. REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar

NEW DELHI – India only started vaccinating its own population against the coronavirus a few days ago, but it is already using its manufacturing heft to generate goodwill with its neighbors.

India's government has made the calculation that it has enough vaccines to share. The result is a form of vaccine diplomacy that appears to be unlike any other in the world.

Since Wednesday, the Indian government has sent free vaccines to Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives – more than 3.2 million doses in total. Donations to Mauritius, Myanmar and Seychelles are set to follow. Sri Lanka and Afghanistan are next on the list.



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Asia

## INDIA STARTS SUPPLYING COVID-19 SHOTS TO NEIGHBOURING NATIONS

By Aniruddha GhosalThe Associated Press  
Wed., Jan. 20, 2021timer2 min. read



NEW DELHI - India began supplying coronavirus vaccines to its neighbouring countries on Wednesday, as the world's largest vaccine making nation strikes a balance between maintaining enough doses to inoculate its own people and helping developing countries without the capacity to produce their own shots.

India's Foreign Ministry said the country would send 150,000 shots of the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India, to Bhutan and 100,000 shots to the Maldives on Wednesday.

Vaccines will also be sent to Bangladesh, Nepal,

Myanmar and the Seychelles in coming weeks, the ministry said, without specifying an exact timeline. It added in a statement late Tuesday that regulatory clearances were still awaited from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius.

India's ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, said Wednesday that New Delhi would supply Nepal with 1 million doses free of charge,



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CHINA / SOCIETY

# INDIA GAINS DIPLOMATIC GROUND OVER CHINA IN GIVING VACCINES TO SOUTH ASIAN NEIGHBORS

World | 21 Jan 2021 5:34 pm



Coronavirus vaccines from India have arrived in Maldives islands.

India will give millions of doses of coronavirus vaccine to neighboring South Asian countries in the next few weeks, government sources said on Thursday, pushing back against China's attempts to dominate in the region.

Free shipments of AstraZeneca's vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, the world's biggest producer of vaccines, have begun arriving in the Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal, Reuters reports.

Myanmar and the Seychelles are next in line to get free consignments as India uses its strength as one of the world's biggest makers of generic drugs to build friendships.

"The government of India has shown goodwill

by providing the vaccine in grant. This is at the people's level, it is the public who are suffering the most from coronavirus," said Nepal's Minister for Health and Population Hridayesh Tripathi.

The gesture comes at a time that India's ties with Nepal have been strained by a territorial dispute and Indian concern over China's expanding political and economic influence in the Himalayan nation sandwiched between the Asian giants.

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NEWS

# WHO SUPPORTS COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN INDIA

28 January 2021 | Interviews



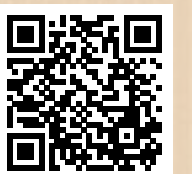
India has embarked on one of the largest COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in the world, with more than 2,600 WHO staff training nearly half a million team members.

That's according to Dr. Roderico H. Ofri, Representative of the World Health Organization

(WHO) in India, which is one of the main UN agencies supporting the government-led drive.

Anshu Sharma asked Dr. Ofri about WHO's work there, including efforts to counter hesitancy and misinformation surrounding vaccination.

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## COLUMNS

# INDIA SENDS BATCH OF HOME-GROWN CORONAVIRUS VACCINE TO BAHRAIN - FOREIGN MINISTRY

Mohammad Ali (@ChaudhryMALi88) 9 days ago Thu 28th January 2021 | 01:18 PM



India sent a batch of domestically-produced coronavirus vaccine doses to Bahrain under its Vaccine Maitri campaign, Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Anurag Srivastava said on Thursday

NEW DELHI (UrduPoint News / Sputnik - 28th January, 2021) India sent a batch of domestically-produced coronavirus vaccine doses to Bahrain under its Vaccine Maitri campaign, Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Anurag Srivastava said on Thursday.

Vaccine Maitri, which translates as "vaccine friendship," is a campaign that was launched on January 20, under which India sends Indian-made vaccines to its partner countries as a gesture of goodwill.

"Next Stop Bahrain! Consignments of Made in India Covid vaccines takes off for the Kingdom of Bahrain! #VaccineMaitri," Srivastava said on

Twitter, attaching images of the plane that will carry the supply.

This past Monday, Bahrain's National Health Regulatory Authority approved the emergency use of Covishield, an Indian-manufactured coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford.



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## البحرين تتسلم دفعة من لقاح (كوفيشيلد - أسترازينيكا) المضاد لفيروس كورونا من جمهورية الهند وتفتح باب التسجيل للتطعيم

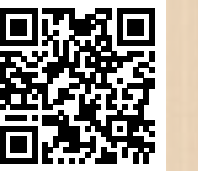
الخميس ٢٨ يناير ٢٠٢١ - 14:06



في إطار العلاقات الثنائية الوطيدة بين مملكة البحرين وجمهورية الهند، تسلمت سعادة الأستاذة فائقة بنت سعيد الصالح وزيرة الصحة صباح اليوم الخميس دفعة من لقاح (كوفيشيلد - أسترازينيكا) المضاد لفيروس كورونا (كوفيد-19)، حيث قام بتسليمها سعادة السفير بيوش شريفاستاف سفير جمهورية الهند بمركز البحرين الدولي للمعارض والمؤتمرات.

وقد أشادت وزيرة الصحة بدعم جمهورية الهند الصديقة وذلك تعزيزاً للتعاون في المجالات الصحية بين البلدين الصديقين، وخصوصاً في ظل تداعيات فيروس كورونا (كوفيد-19) التي يواجهها العالم أجمع، مؤكدة أن ما يربط البلدين من علاقات متميزة يسهم دوماً في تعزيز التعاون المشترك في شتى المجالات التنموية.

وتم خلال اللقاء استلام كميات لقاح "كوفيشيلد - أسترازينيكا" المضاد لفيروس كورونا (كوفيد-19)، والذي وافقت الهيئة الوطنية لتنظيم المهن والخدمات الصحية على الاستخدام الطارئ له، والذي تنتجه شركة (أسترازينيكا) بالتعاون مع جامعة أكسفورد، ويتم تصنيعه في معهد سيرام الشركة المصنعة للقاح في جمهورية الهند.



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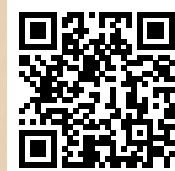


## البحرين تتسلم رسميًا الشحنة الأولى من لقاح «كوفيشيلد» المضاد لفيروس كورونا



في إطار العلاقات الثنائية الوطيدة بين مملكة البحرين وجمهورية الهند، تسلمت سعادة الأستاذة فائقة بنت سعيد الصالح وزيرة الصحة صباح اليوم الخميس دفعة من لقاح (كوفيشيلد - أسترازينيكا) المضاد لفيروس كورونا (كوفيد-19)، حيث قام بتسليمها سعادة السفير بيوش شريفاستاف سفير جمهورية الهند بمركز البحرين الدولي للمعارض والمؤتمرات.

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## NEWS

## INDIA TO SUPPLY 10 MILLION CORONAVIRUS VACCINE TO AFRICA

29 Jan 2021, 00:56 GMT+10



New Delhi [India], January 28 (ANI): India has gifted over 55 lakh doses of coronavirus vaccine to neighbouring countries so far, External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

Addressing a weekly briefing, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Thursday said India plans to gift vaccine doses to Oman, CARICOM countries, Nicaragua, Pacific Island states.

Srivastava said New Delhi plans to supply 1 crore or 10 million vaccine doses to Africa and 10 lakh to United Nations health workers under GAVI's (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) COVAX facility.

"There is interest in many countries to access vaccine from India. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement that India sees international cooperation in the fight against the pandemic. We have played the role of the first responder in the neighbourhood," Srivastava said.



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NEWS

## BAHRAIN RECEIVES FIRST BATCH OF COVISHIELD - ASTRAZENECA VACCINE FROM PARTNERS IN INDIA

28 Jan 2021 Created: 01:55 PM Last Updated: 02:29 PM Views: 1264



Bahrain receives first batch of Covishield - AstraZeneca vaccine from partners in India

Manama, Jan, 28 (BNA): The Kingdom of Bahrain today received its first batch of the Covishield - AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, manufactured in India by the Serum Institute of India under the name 'Covishield'.

The vaccine will be available to all citizens and residents and distributed equitably to support the national vaccination action efforts.

Commenting on the arrival of the vaccine, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister thanked the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and the Indian Government for working with the

Kingdom to secure its delivery.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister welcomed the strong partnership enjoyed between the Kingdom of Bahrain and India.

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NEWS

## SOUTH AFRICA WELCOMES FIRST DELIVERY OF COVID-19 VACCINES

ANDREW MELDRUM, Associated Press | Feb. 1, 2021 | Updated: Feb. 1, 2021 1:47 p.m.



South African law enforcement vehicles provide security for two refrigeration trucks transporting the AstraZeneca vaccine that arrived earlier from India, near Johannesburg, Monday, Feb. 1, 2021. South Africa has welcomed the delivery of its first 1 million doses and will be administered to frontline workers in approximately two weeks. (Photo by Alet Pretorius)

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa gave a hero's welcome Monday to the delivery of its first COVID-19 vaccines — 1 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa greeted the crates of vaccine that arrived at Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport. The shipment will be followed up later this month by another 500,000 doses.

The vaccine will be effective in preventing severe disease and death from the variant that has become dominant in South Africa, a vaccine expert says.

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## ARAB NEWS

**EGYPT RECEIVES 50,000 ASTRAZENECA JAB DOSES FROM INDIA**

Sunday . February 07, 2021



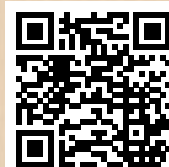
Tour guides pose together for a 'selfie' in Luxor amid precautions against the coronavirus disease. (File/AFP)

CAIRO: Egypt received a shipment of about 50,000 coronavirus vaccines manufactured in India on Sunday as part of efforts to diversify the country's vaccine sources.

The shipment arrived at Cairo International Airport on Emirates EK 927 from India via Dubai, where authorities finalized procedures for its release.

Presidential adviser Mohammed Awad Tag El-Din announced on Saturday that Egypt would gradually receive coronavirus vaccines from different sources, and referred to the arrival of 50,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses.

Tag El-Din said that pregnant women will be unable to receive vaccinations as Egypt's jab stock had been urgently fast-tracked. The country will target healthcare workers, the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

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## VOĐEĆI PROIZVOĐAČ

**INDIJA POČINJE OPSKRBLJIVATI CJEPIVOM PROTIV NOVOG KORONAVIRUSA ŠEST SUSJEDNIH ZEMALJA**

Cjepivo stiže u sklopu programa pomoći što znači da ga te zemlje neće morati platiti



Indija, jedan od vodećih proizvođača lijekova u svijetu, od srijede počinje opskrbljivati cjepivom protiv novog koronavirusa šest susjednih zemalja.

Prve zalihe cjepiva prema programu bespovratne pomoći stižu u Butan, Maldive, Bangladeš, Nepal, Mjanmar i Sejše, potvrdilo je ministarstvo vanjskih poslova.

Cjepivo stiže u sklopu programa pomoći što znači da ga te zemlje neće morati platiti.

Prema ministarstvu, potvrdit će se i narudžbe za cjepiva proizvedena u Indiji koje su pristigle iz Šri Lanke, Afganistana i Mauricijusa, nakon odobrenja tamošnjih regulatornih tijela,

Indijska agencija za lijekove je izdala hitno odobrenje za primjenu dva cjepiva protiv covid-19. Zeleno svjetlo dobilo je cjepivo

razvijeno u suradnji Sveučilišta Oxford i farmaceutske tvrtke Astra Zeneca te cjepivo indijske tvrtke Bhaeat Biotech.

Indija je u subotu započela program cijepljenja oko 300 milijuna ljudi.

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وَأَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَعْلَمُ مَا يُفْعَلُ  
وَلَا يَخْشَى الْفِتْنَةَ سِوَاكَ

[illegible][illegible][READ MORE >>](#)







[NEWS](#)

## INDIA, 'PHARMACY OF THE WORLD', STARTS EXPORTING COVID VACCINES

*First shipment sent to Bhutan as 'supplies under grant assistance' to be exported to other neighbouring nations.*

20 Jan 2021



*A nurse displays a vial of AstraZeneca's Covishield vaccine during a vaccination campaign in Mumbai [Francis Mascarenhas/Reuters]*

India has started exporting coronavirus vaccines with a shipment to the neighbouring Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, as the so-called "pharmacy of the world" looks to bolster its vaccine diplomacy.

immunisation programmes and bring an end to their outbreaks.

Many low and middle-income countries are relying on India, the world's biggest vaccine maker, for supplies to start COVID-19

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# OP-EDS

## Daily News

### NEWS

## VACCINE DIPLOMACY: A HELPING HAND FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Tuesday, February 2, 2021



*Batticaloa District COVID-19 Vaccination Programme was launched in the MOH office, Batticaloa on January 30. (Picture by Sivam Packiyathan - Batticaloa District Corr.)*

It has been a diplomatic coup of sorts. That's precisely what the Narendra Modi government could have expected after it unveiled Vaccine Maitri, an initiative to send millions of doses of the Indian manufactured Covid-19 vaccines to its neighbouring countries, and sometimes even as far as the Middle East and South America.

India had earlier supplied hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir, and paracetamol tablets, as well as diagnostic kits, ventilators, masks, gloves, and other medical supplies to a large number of countries during the pandemic. This time, however, even as the country rolled out what's touted as the world's largest Covid-19

vaccination programme, it also deftly moved to send vaccines to neighbouring countries.

Quite importantly, the move also comes at a time when no other country has delivered free vaccines to other countries. Even the United States, where the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are being made, is yet to send vaccines to developing nations hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis.

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## NEWS

### BY SENDING CORONAVIRUS VACCINES ABROAD, INDIA ENTERS V5: THE WORLD'S EXCLUSIVE VAX POWER CLUB

January 15, 2021, 8:14 PM IST Rajiv Bhatia in TOI Edit Page, Edit Page, India, World, TOI

Today India rolls out “the world’s biggest vaccination programme”, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi put it, in its epic combat against Covid-19.

In the new year, as TS Tirumurti – India’s ambassador to the UN – prepared to take his seat in the UN Security Council for a two-year tenure as a non-permanent member, another kind of global security was being concurrently consolidated. VG Somani, the country’s drugs controller general, announced approval for two vaccines made in India for “restricted use in emergency situation.” This cleared the way for the government to provide the much-awaited vaccines at home as well as to the world community.

It marked India’s entry into the exclusive V5 club – the five anti-corona vaccine-producing powers (the US, UK, Russia, China, India) – and reflects an impressive increase in its soft power globally.

The two vaccines approved in India are Covishield, produced by the Serum Institute of India, Pune, in collaboration with Oxford University and AstraZeneca, and Covaxin indigenously developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Virology. Given the heavy toll already exacted by the pandemic, approval for both was accorded, subject to certain “regulatory conditions”.

The goal is to provide vaccinations to about a quarter of the country’s population rating priority, in the coming months. But while engaged in this momentous exercise, the needs of India’s external partners will not be ignored.

Here, the government will astutely balance its internal needs and external requests.

The first category of countries to receive vaccine supplies comprises the immediate neighbours. Armed with MoUs signed in advance, Bangladesh and Myanmar are at the top of the queue. External affairs minister S Jaishankar assured his interlocutors in Colombo that their request for vaccines would be honoured. Nepal has pressed its claim during the visit of its foreign minister. Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan are also assured of a positive response.

The second category includes friendly countries in the extended neighbourhood: West Asia, central Asia and the Indian Ocean region states. Official sources indicate that immediate requests from these two categories may be for 30 million doses. This can be arranged smoothly as the immediate production capacity of Indian companies will touch or exceed 300 million doses in the next six months.

The third category will cover the rest of the world, with the choices to be made carefully in terms of the urgency of need and the nature of relations with India. Countries in Africa and in Latin America will be provided with India-produced vaccines. In view of the specific request made by the president of Brazil, the supply of vaccines is likely to be arranged soon.

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## ASIA

### A PROMISE KEPT

January 23, 2021



At the GAVI Virtual Vaccine Summit in June last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said: “India not only has the capacity to contribute to global health efforts, but also has the will to do so in a spirit of sharing and caring”.

Likewise, in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2020, he had said: “India’s vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis.”

Keeping true to this, within five days of a national rollout, Bhutan was the first among India’s neighbours to receive the Made-in-India vaccine.

Graciously accepting this gift, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering emphasized altruism at its best when he said: “It is of unimaginable value when precious commodities are shared even before meeting your own needs, as opposed to giving

out only after you have enough”.

In doing so, India stimulated a process of regional access to the vaccine, in embodying also global leadership for the development and distribution of the Covid vaccine.

How did we get here? While full tribute must be paid to our scientists and researchers who have spent hours in their labs, this is also the culmination of a carefully crafted initiative – one that has emphasized self-reliance and self-confidence, whilst being rooted in care and compassion.

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## NEWS

# MANAGING DRUG SECURITY EFFECTIVELY IN TIMES OF A PANDEMIC

By Sudhansh Pant

UPDATED ON JAN 20, 2021 09:19 PM IST



The Centre ensured the supply of drugs with equitable and integrated access (REUTERS)

One of the most critical pillars of Covid-19 management has been ensuring the availability and accessibility of essential medicines at affordable prices. The challenge of establishing a nationwide logistics management and supplies system during complete and partial lockdowns was Herculean, but was successfully overcome. The Centre's strategy to ensure sufficient access, monitor stocks and distribution, issue approvals, maintain seamless supply chain of drugs, effectively communicate with stakeholders, and evolve a dynamic Clinical Management Protocol (CMP) has contributed significantly to India's Covid-19 management success.

The Centre ensured the supply of drugs with equitable and integrated access. It ensured a robust regulatory mechanism and expedited

approvals and stocks. The supply chain was efficiently managed, with close monitoring of the distribution of medicines to states, Union Territories and central institutions.

In the early days, there were no Covid-19 treatment guidelines. Experts drafted clinical management guidelines, which were updated when new scientific information was available. Efforts were made to reduce the severity, duration and impact of Covid-19 by identifying and approving early interventions.

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## NEWS

# NEIGHBOUR'S PRIDE

*India stands to enhance its status as a responsible nation by supplying Covid vaccines to countries in South Asia.*

By: Editorial | Updated: January 21, 2021 8:51:48 am



Delhi's decision to start sending vaccines to its neighbours in South Asia and other countries who have asked for it is the right step forward for India in its relations with its neighbours. It holds immense potential for a new kind of diplomacy in the region, one based on the common good and common interests of the South Asian people. As of now, India has shipped vaccines to Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles, and will send them to other countries as well, including Sri Lanka and Afghanistan once approvals are available.

In doing so, Delhi is fulfilling its role as a responsible nation. With its advanced cutting-edge healthcare in the private sector, India attracts thousands of people from all countries of South Asia for medical treatment, at a fraction of what it costs in the West. Medicines manufactured in India have a good reputation across South Asia, even in Pakistan. It was natural then that governments in the region

would look to vaccines manufactured in India, especially Covishield, developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca, as a viable option. In their recent visits to neighbouring capitals, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla were asked about and gave assurances on the possibilities of vaccine supply from India. It is commendable that Delhi has moved quickly to deliver on commitments made to some of these countries. While the initial supplies have been sent free of cost, it is possible that countries may choose to enter into commercial agreements with the manufacturers for more quantities. The governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh are already in such negotiations.

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## NEWS

### INDIA'S LEADING EDGE

*India's diplomatic wins and vaccine distribution policy have been widely acknowledged in Pakistan's academic circles while also further frustrating the Pakistani administration*

Shantanu Mukharji 24 Jan 2021 11:05 PM



India's outreach to a number of countries to supply vaccines to address the COVID-19 pandemic has augured well with a large section of Pakistani society that is talking amongst themselves about the poor production of the vaccines while their arch-rival India has risen to the occasion to deal with the problem in an effective and massive manner. Pursuing a well-crafted policy of 'neighbourhood first', India has already supplied (or is in the process of supplying) millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Brazil. It's also considering supplying the vaccine to many more countries in the near future. Some senior figures of the Pakistani establishment, occupying key positions, are also overheard appreciating India and describing the supply of vaccine initiative on part of India as a major diplomatic exercise to win friends. There is no counter-argument on this as India's

image has certainly got a further boost by such extraordinary gestures. India is believed to be producing 60 per cent of the world's vaccines and its pharmaceutical companies' credibility are also well known in international circles and Pakistan is silently reconciling to this fact. Neighbours of India and Pakistan, are at large, bewildered as to why Pakistan has not asked India for supply of vaccines? In all probability, India would have readily obliged its immediate neighbour as a gesture of friendship as it's an open agenda with no concealed plans. It's a humane mission to mitigate suffering. Again, unnamed friends in Pakistan assess that Pakistan lost an opportunity to seek India's help for a larger and noble cause.

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## NEWS

### INDIA'S VACCINE DIPLOMACY

*Opportunity to carry out exercise imaginatively to strengthen ties with other nations*

Updated At: Jan 21, 2021 06:29 AM (IST)



*Reaching out: Developing countries are turning to India, the largest producer of vaccines in the world, to meet their urgent needs. PTI*

The Covid-19 pandemic has thus far afflicted around 96 million people worldwide. The death toll has crossed 2 million. It is now internationally recognised that this pandemic has been handled responsibly, maturely, and with wisdom in India, and indeed, in many countries across the world. The last global pandemic that humanity had faced ended around a century ago. The 1918 'pneumonic' pandemic led to the death of an estimated 50 to 100 million people worldwide. An estimated 17-18 million people died in India. There has, in present times, been a global effort since April 2020, to jointly address the challenges posed by the Covid-19 virus.

The past nine months have been marked by unprecedented efforts to get people across

the world to respond to the challenges posed by the virus by observing personal practices like washing hands regularly and wearing face masks. This has been accompanied by the adoption of measures for personal testing of millions of people to ascertain if they have been infected. With growing production of new vaccines to deal with the epidemic, one can be confident that while the world has been shaken badly by these developments, there are now good prospects for the threats from the virus being

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## NEWS

### VACCINE AID FOR NEIGHBOURS

Published Jan 21, 2021, 4:55 am IST Updated Jan 21, 2021, 4:55 am IST



While six nations — Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles — will get the Indian vaccines in the first tranche, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius will get them once necessary regulatory clearances are given. (Photo: twitter @DrSJaishankar)

India has long called itself the pharmacy of the world and has now decided to live up to the claim. By the time these lines are printed, lakhs of doses of made-in-India vaccines against the novel coronavirus would have landed in our neighbouring countries, and more will do so in the coming days. While six nations — Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles — will get the Indian vaccines in the first tranche, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius will get them once “necessary regulatory clearances” are given. It is noteworthy that the Indian vaccines would be the first to arrive in most of these nations.

Vaccine, all said and done, is a knowledge product: it calls for the use of the knowledge humankind has created and every single tool

it has made till now for its successful rollout. India's soft move, peppered with diplomatic quotients, will earn a lot of goodwill for the country. It will also prove to the neighbours, and the world at large, that India becoming a superpower will benefit all.

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## NEWS

### 'पड़ोस पहले' की नीति से मजबूत होंगे रिश्ते

Published : 28 Jan 2021



भारत की वैक्सीन डिप्लोमेसी ने न केवल विश्वस्तर पर प्रशंसा हासिल की है, बल्कि वैक्सीन उत्पादक देशों के प्रतिष्ठित वी-5 देशों के क्लब में भारत का शामिल होना भी सुनिश्चित किया है। क्लब के अन्य देश हैं अमरीका, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, रूस और चीन। विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि निश्चित रूप से यह भारत की आत्मनिर्भरता की भावना को बढ़ाने वाला है। इसके साथ ही भारत ने पड़ोसी देशों बांग्लादेश, नेपाल, म्यांमार, सेशल्स में वैक्सीन की पहली खेप खाना कर उनका भरोसा और विश्वास जीता है। श्रीलंका, अफगानिस्तान और मॉरीशस को भी भारत की मदद मिलेगी। इस तथ्य के बावजूद कि पूरा विश्व

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## NEWS

# SREERAM CHAULIA VACCINE DIPLOMACY IS INDIA'S FINEST HOUR

Published Jan 29, 2021, 4:15 am IST Updated Jan 29, 2021, 7:14 am IST



Picture used for representational purposes only (Image source: Pixabay)

Operation “Vaccine Maitri”, which was launched earlier this month, is a milestone in the history of India’s assistance to fellow developing countries. As millions of India-made Covid-19 vaccines, packed in boxes labelled with the uplifting Sanskrit verse Sarve Santu Niramaya (may all be free from disease), reach countries across South and Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America, India’s stature as a Good Samaritan and a responsible power in the world is rising.

The most remarkable feature of India’s mission to supply the much-sought-after doses to a pandemic-plagued world is its timing. Within days of approval from India’s regulatory authorities and their foreign counterparts, the export of vaccines began in earnest. India’s

domestic vaccine rollout, which is a humungous task in itself due to the vast size of its territory and population, did not in any way delay its health rescue diplomacy towards countries near and far such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, the Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius, South Africa, Bahrain, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Brazil.

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## COMMENTARY / WORLD

# FREE VACCINES AND INDIA'S HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY

Jan 27, 2021



A medic shows a vial of AstraZeneca’s COVISHIELD coronavirus vaccine in Yangon, Myanmar, on Wednesday after the country received 1.5 million doses of the drug manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

Large parts of the world are still reeling from the spread of the coronavirus, with renewed lockdowns in effect in many places. With every stricken country focused on tackling its COVID-19 crisis, there is little international generosity in donating large quantities of medicines or vaccines when demand for them is sky-high.

So, when India in recent days delivered millions of COVID-19 vaccines as gifts to countries in the Indian Ocean region, it attracted international attention.

More than 5 million Indian-made vaccines were airlifted last week to countries extending from Myanmar and Bangladesh to Mauritius and the Seychelles. And millions of more free vaccines are on their way this week.

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## NEWS

# INDIA'S 'VACCINE MAITRI' INITIATIVE – ANALYSIS

January 30, 2021 Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the Serum Institute of India, in Pune to review COVID-19 vaccine trials, on 28 November 2020. Photo Credit: Prime Minister's Office

Speaking at the first UN General Assembly Session he attended in September 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that India's foreign policy is governed by its age-old maxim of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The World is One Family).

As soon as the coronavirus hit the world, India emphasised the imperative of collaboration to overcome the inimical health and economic impact of the virus. It was with this objective that the Indian government organised a virtual meeting of SAARC leaders on March 15, 2020. A SAARC Fund to combat the disease was established, with India contributing an amount of \$10 million.

In the initial months of the pandemic, India, by virtue of the fact that it is the 'pharmacy of the world', ramped up production of essential

medicines like hydroxychloroquine, paracetamol etc. as well as Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits, ventilators and masks. It should be noted that at the start of the pandemic, India's production capacity to manufacture such equipment was negligible. However, India was very quickly able to significantly augment its production competence to not only meet its own domestic requirements but also emerge as a significant exporter of these items.

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## NEWS

# THANK YOU INDIA, VIVA OMAN!

03 Feb 2021



India has sent similar consignments of vaccine to Afghanistan and other nations in the Indian Ocean.

At a time when the world is sliding into selfishness and greed, when usurpation has become an obvious tool in international relations, Oman is lucky to have a friend that upholds moral values.

In fact, the Indian community has always been part of Oman's history and has always contributed to the sultanate - in the past and in the present.

Indians were active traders in the Omani empire that stretched to East Africa and played a role as it flourished. The Indian community always

focused on trade and business, never entangling in any political issues. That is what earned them the respect of all sultans and citizens.

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NEWS

## INDIA'S VACCINE DIPLOMACY – A WIN-WIN INITIATIVE

COLUMNS 06 FEBRUARY 2021



A nurse displays a vial of Covishield, AstraZeneca's Covid-19 coronavirus vaccine made by India's Serum Institute, as she prepares to inoculate her colleagues at the KC General hospital in Bangalore.

It is a little more than a year that the coronavirus was first detected in the city of Wuhan in China. The first case outside China of a woman who had arrived from Wuhan was reported by World Health Organization (WHO) in Thailand on 13th January. This development should have set alarm bells ringing but the WHO kept maintaining that there was no cause for concern nor was there any need to stop flights from Wuhan/China as this would be tantamount to stigmatizing a country and its people.

Within a few days, authorities in the US, Nepal,

France, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam and Taiwan confirmed fresh cases. It was only on 30th January that WHO declared the coronavirus a global emergency as the death toll and the number of infected cases

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NEWS

## VACCINE DIPLOMACY: INDIA'S WINNING, FOR NOW

COLUMNS 06 FEBRUARY 2021



A medic show a vial containing doses of Covishield vaccine during a countrywide inoculation drive against the coronavirus, at BSF Hospital in Jammu, Monday, Jan. 25, 2021. Credit: PTI Photo

India's shipments of Covid-19 vaccine consignments to other countries has provided a shot in the arm to its image as both a capable country in regard to pharmaceutical production as well as a generous power, not just in its own neighbourhood but across the world. Unlike many rich countries that are hoarding vaccines in excess of their requirements, India is dispatching large consignments to other developing countries that are in need of them. In keeping with New Delhi's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, it is India's immediate neighbours that have been the first beneficiaries; Maldives,

Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh have already started receiving the vaccine consignments, and supplies to Sri Lanka and Afghanistan are expected to follow soon. The vaccine diplomacy should go some way in changing our neighbours' perception of India as a strutting, ungenerous

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## NEWS

# THE WORLD'S LARGEST "VACCINATION CAMPAIGN" IS ABOUT TO KICK OFF

16 JANUARY 2021



Reuters reported that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 16 will give a speech online in advance to medical staff to launch a "largest" vaccination campaign in the world in an effort to control the COVID pandemic. -19 in this populous country.

Doctors, health workers and others on the anti-epidemic front lines are the priority target for the Indian vaccination campaign, which started with the 2-dose domestic COVID-19 vaccine.

On the first day, about 100 people will receive the COVID-19 vaccine voluntarily at each of the 3,006 vaccination centers across the country.

"This will be the largest immunization program in the world to be widely deployed nationwide," said Prime Minister Modi's office.

India, the world's most populous country after China, says it may not need COVID-19 vaccination for all of its 1.35 billion people to provide community immunity. Covering even just half of the country's population makes India's vaccination program one of the biggest in the world, even when major countries, including the US, have vaccinated. for all residents.

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## ASIA / PACIFIC

# INDIA LAUNCHES ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

Issued on: 16/01/2021 - 06:59



India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

The country is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the U.S and several times more than its existing program that targets 26 million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers to be followed by 270 million others, who are either aged over 50 or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

Health officials haven't specified what percentage of the nearly 1.4 billion people will be targeted by the campaign. But experts say it will almost certainly be the largest such drive globally.

The sheer scale has its obstacles. For instance, India plans to rely heavily on a digital platform to track the shipment and delivery of vaccines. But public health experts point out that the internet remains patchy in large parts of the country, and some remote villages are entirely unconnected.

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## NEWS

### INDIA LAUNCHES WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | NEW DELHI ASIA PACIFIC JAN 16, 2021 9:12 AM GMT+3



India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

The country is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the U.S and several times more than its existing program that targets 26 million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses

and other front-line workers to be followed by 270 million others, who are either aged over 50 or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

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## WORLD

### INDIA BEGINS MEGA-ROLLOUT OF COVID-19 VACCINE

PUBLISHED : 16 JAN 2021 AT 04:45



A worker sets up a poster at a coronavirus vaccination centre in Mumbai on Friday, with the Indian government aiming to inoculate around 300 million people by July.

NEW DELHI: India begins one of the world's biggest coronavirus vaccine programmes on Saturday, a colossal and complex task compounded by safety worries, shaky infrastructure and public scepticism.

The world's second-most populous nation hopes to inoculate around 300 million of its 1.3 billion people by July -- a number equal to almost the entire US population.

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NEWS

# 'GO FOR IT,' SAYS FIRST PERSON VACCINATED IN INDIA'S MASSIVE COVID-19 CAMPAIGN

JANUARY 16, 2021 10:46 AM UPDATED A MONTH AGO



NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Hospital cleaning worker Manish Kumar became the first person in India to be vaccinated against COVID-19 on Saturday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched one of the world's largest immunisation campaigns to bring the pandemic under control.

Kumar received his shot at Delhi's premier All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), one of 3,006 vaccination centres established around the country.

"The vaccine will give me strength and motivation to serve my hospital which has been at the forefront of taking care of coronavirus patients," Kumar said. "Since I'm feeling relieved after taking the vaccine, I think everyone should go for it."

India is prioritising nurses, doctors and other frontline workers, and Modi had tears in his eyes as he addressed healthcare workers via video conferencing.

"The disease separated people from their families, kept mothers away from their children, and those who died of the disease couldn't even get a final goodbye from their families," Modi said.

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NEWS

# AP PHOTOS: VACCINATED INDIAN NURSE HOPES WORST IS OVER

Date: 16.01.2021



UKHRUL, India (AP) — For as long as Shimray Wungreichon can remember, many of the people in her mountain town had little respect for the work she did.

A nurse's job is said to be noble, but in our part of the world it is interpreted differently, said Wungreichon, a nurse in Ukhrul, a remote town in India's northeastern state of Manipur. We are looked down on as a service profession. The coronavirus pandemic changed that.

Wungreichon was among the first of many Indian health workers to be vaccinated on Saturday, opening a new chapter in the battle against the pandemic in the world's second

hardest-hit country, which has been scarred profoundly by a virus that has killed more than 152,000 of its people.

I am very positive about it," said Wungreichon, a nurse for 14 years who described getting vaccinated as a normal routine for her.

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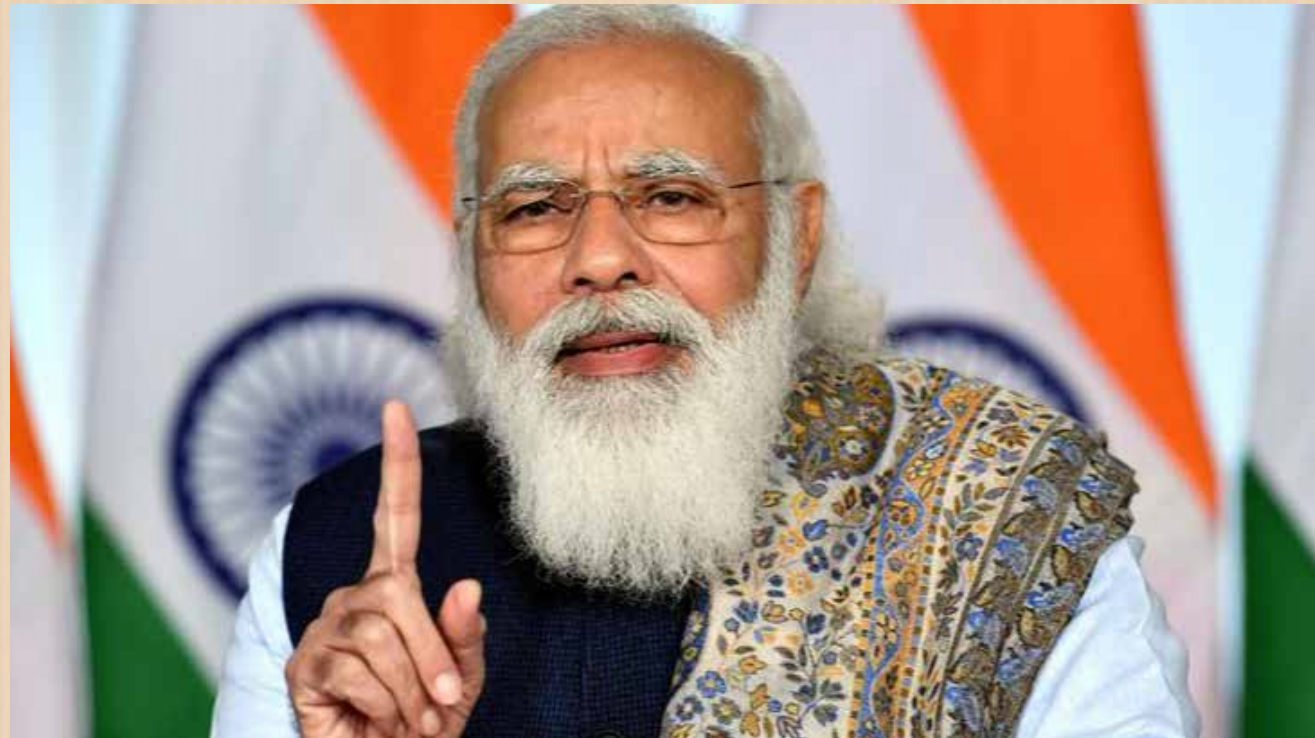


## CORONAVIRUS

# INDIA'S MODI KICKS OFF WORLD'S LARGEST COVID VACCINATION DRIVE

*Prime minister gives emotional tribute to health care and front-line workers*

KIRAN SHARMA, Nikkei staff writer January 16, 2021 14:58 JSTU



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gives a speech inaugurating the country's COVID-19 vaccination program via video link in New Delhi on Jan. 16. (Photo courtesy of Government of India)

NEW DELHI -- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive, which is expected to inoculate around 300 million of India's 1.3 billion people over the next few months.

"The whole country had been waiting for this day with bated breath," Modi said as he announced the start of the program via video link to 3,006 vaccination sites nationwide. Roughly 300,000 people are expected to receive shots on the first day.

The vaccine rollout will take place in stages, with 10 million health care providers in the government and private sectors to be given shots

first, followed by 20 million other front-line workers, such as police and army troops. Phase 2 will cover 270 million people over the age of 50,

along with those having co-morbidities such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.



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## ASIA PACIFIC

# ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST VACCINE CAMPAIGNS STARTS IN INDIA

Date : 16.01.2021



At hospitals and vaccination centers across major Indian cities — from Mumbai to New Delhi — tens of thousands of key front-line workers began queuing Saturday, some to receive the first COVID-19 vaccines while others to administer

India launched one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives on Saturday, setting in motion a complex deployment plan aimed at stemming the wide spread of infections across a nation of more than 1.3 billion people.

At hospitals and vaccination centers across major cities — from Mumbai to New Delhi — tens of thousands of key front-line workers began queuing, some to receive the first vaccines while others to administer them. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi kicked off the program with a speech addressing more than 3,000 centers across India where the first shots were to be given.



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## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# INDIA BEGINS COVID-19 INOCULATION CAMPAIGN

By VOA News | January 16, 2021 06:21 AM



A healthcare worker holding a rose receives an AstraZeneca's COVISHIELD vaccine, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination campaign, at a medical centre in Mumbai, India, Jan. 16, 2021.

India began its COVID-19 vaccine campaign Saturday. Frontline workers are slated to receive the first inoculations.

The campaign began after Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a nationally televised speech.

“We are launching the world’s biggest vaccination drive and it shows the world our capability,” Modi said.

COVID-19 deaths worldwide exceeded 2 million Friday, according to Johns Hopkins University, a year after the coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan, China.

“Behind this terrible number are names and faces, the smile that will now only be a memory,

the seat forever empty at the dinner table, the room that echoes with the silence of a loved one,” U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters Friday.

Guterres also said the death toll “has been made worse by the absence of a global coordinated effort,” and added that, “science has succeeded, but solidarity has failed.”

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## ASIA PACIFIC

# INDIA STARTS WORLD’S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

Date : 16.01.2021

NEW DELHI (AP) — India has started inoculating health workers in what is likely the world’s largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway. The country is home to the world’s largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the U.S and several times more than its existing program that targets 26 million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers to be followed by 270 million others over 50 or with illnesses. It’s unclear what percentage of the nearly 1.4 billion people will be targeted.

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INDIA

## INDIA BEGINS WORLD'S BIGGEST COVID VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Sat 16 Jan 2021 08.57 GMT



A health worker shows Covid-19 vaccine in Mumbai, India. Photograph: Rajanish Kakade/AP

India has begun one of the world's biggest Covid-19 vaccination programmes, the first major developing country to roll out the vaccine, marking the beginning of an effort to immunise more than 1.3 billion people.

The first dose was administered to a health worker at All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, after the prime minister, Narendra Modi, kickstarted the campaign with a national televised speech.

"We are launching the world's biggest vaccination drive and it shows the world our capability," Modi said. He implored citizens to keep their guard up and not to believe any "rumours about the safety of the vaccines".

It is not clear if Modi, 70, has been given the vaccine like other world leaders as an example of its safety. His government has said politicians will not be considered priority groups in the first phase of the rollout.

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NEWS

## CORONAVIRUS: INDIA LAUNCHES MASSIVE VACCINATION DRIVE

Date : 16.01.2021



India hopes to vaccinate 300 million people within the next six months

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the "world's largest" vaccination drive today, starting with healthcare and frontline workers. The government has defended the Indian-made Covaxin jab.

India launched its mammoth vaccination drive on Saturday, as the country tries to bring the pandemic under control with two locally-produced vaccines.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally kicked off the "world's largest" vaccination campaign in a video address to the nation.

"Normally, it takes many years to make a vaccine but in such a short span of time, not one, but two 'Made in India' vaccines are ready," Modi said in a livestreamed speech.

DW's Ankita Kumar watched Modi's "emotional speech," in which he emphasized the importance of vaccinating frontline workers.

Earlier, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan tweeted he would be joining the prime minister, doctors, and potential vaccine beneficiaries at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi for the launch.

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[AFP UK](#)

## INDIA STARTS HUGE VACCINE DRIVE AFTER EMERGENCY APPROVAL

16 January 2021

India has kicked off one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives as the pandemic spread at a record pace and global Covid-19 deaths surged past two million. India, home to 1.3 billion people, has the world's second-largest

caseload. The government has given approvals to two vaccines -- though one is yet to complete clinical trials -- aiming to inoculate around 300 million people by July.

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[CORONAVIRUS | NEWS](#)

## INDIA STARTS WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

Published Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:20PM EST



A health worker, left, receives a COVID-19 vaccine at a private Hospital in New Delhi, India, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

NEW DELHI -- India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

India is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the current challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the U.S and several times more than its existing program, which targets 26 million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers, to be followed by

270 million people who are either over 50 or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

For workers who have pulled India's battered health care system through the pandemic, the vaccinations offered confidence that life can start returning to normal. Many burst with pride.

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## INDIA

### PM NARENDRA MODI LAUNCHES INDIA'S VACCINATION DRIVE AGAINST COVID-19

*India's vaccination drive is based on humanitarian & very important principles, says Modi*

Published: January 16, 2021 09:48



Doctors from the Rajawadi Hospital pose for a selfie as a television broadcasts a live address by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi before the start of the COVID-19 vaccination drive in Mumbai on January 16, 2021.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that India's coronavirus drive is based on humanitarian and very important principles and also laid emphasis on maintaining social distancing and the use of masks.

Speaking at the launch of the nationwide

vaccination drive against the novel coronavirus via video conferencing, PM Modi said: "India's



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## HOME WORLD

### INDIA SET FOR HUGE VACCINE DRIVE AS GLOBAL VIRUS DEATHS TOP 2 MILLION

Saturday, 16 Jan 2021 05:33 PM MYT



Healthcare workers wait to receive COVISHIELD, a Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute of India, during one of the world's largest Covid-19 vaccination campaigns at Mathalput Community Health Centre in Koraput district of the eastern state of Od

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 — India was set to begin one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives today as the pandemic spread at a record pace and global Covid-19 deaths surged past two million.

The World Health Organization has called for accelerating vaccine rollouts worldwide as well as ramping up efforts to study the sequencing of the virus, which has infected more than 93 million people globally since it was first detected in China in late 2019.

India, home to 1.3 billion people, has the world's second-largest caseload, and the government has given approvals to two vaccines — though one is yet to complete clinical trials v aiming to inoculate around 300 million people by July.



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## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

### COVID-19: INDIA VACCINE DRIVE OFF TO A GOOD START

Filed on January 16, 2021 | Last updated on January 16, 2021 at 11:23 pm



The government has readied tens of thousands of refrigeration tools and about 150,000 specially trained staff to try and overcome some of those challenges.

India kicked off the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drive on Saturday as the global Covid-19 deaths surged past two million.

The first dose was administered to a sanitation worker at the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences in the capital New Delhi after Prime Minister Narendra Modi kickstarted the campaign with a nationally televised speech.

"We are launching the world's biggest vaccination drive and it shows the world our capability," Modi said. He implored citizens to keep their guard up and not to believe any "rumours about the safety of the vaccines."

The government has given approvals to two vaccines aiming to inoculate around 300

million people by July. Authorities say they are drawing on their experience with elections and child immunisation programmes for the drive, which is a daunting task in an enormous, impoverished nation with often shoddy transport infrastructure.

The government has readied tens of thousands of refrigeration tools and about 150,000 specially trained staff to try and overcome some of those challenges.

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## NEWS

### IN PICTURES: INDIA BEGINS WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

Published: January 16, 2021 13:47



India has started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign. | Above: A medical worker inoculates a doctor with a COVID-19 vaccine at the King Koti hospital in Hyderabad.

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## CORONAVIRUS: A DEADLY THREAT

### SANITATION WORKER FIRST PERSON TO RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINE IN INDIA

03:21 PM, January 16, 2021 / LAST MODIFIED: 04:22 PM, January 16, 2021



Sanitation worker Manish Kumar receives the first jab of Covid-19 vaccine in India. Photo collected from Twitter

As people around applauded the worker Manish Kumar, AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria also received a shot of the Covaxin vaccine, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Meanwhile, the CEO of Serum Institute of India, which manufactured Covishield, also got the first dose of the vaccine in Pune.

"I was never reluctant to take the vaccine. People should not be worried about the shot," the first recipient Manish told TV channels.

Indian Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, who was present when Manish Kumar and Randeep Guleria were vaccinated, said the two vaccines -- indigenous Covaxin from Bharat Biotech and Covishield from Oxford-AstraZeneca -- were

"sanjivani" (life-giving) in the fight against the pandemic.

"These vaccines are our sanjivani in fight against the pandemic. We have won the battle against polio and now we have reached the decisive phase of winning the war against Covid. I want to congratulate all frontline workers on this day," Vardhan told reporters.



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## TOP NEWS

### INDIA STARTS WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

By Associated Press Jan. 16, 2021



An Indian doctor shows a COVID-19 vaccine at a government Hospital in Jammu, India. India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

NEW DELHI >> India started inoculating health workers today in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

India is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the current challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the

U.S and several times more than its existing program, which targets 26 million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers, to be followed by 270 million people who are either over 50 or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.



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## NEWS

### INDIA STARTS MASSIVE VACCINATION DRIVE

12:00 AM, January 17, 2021 / LAST MODIFIED: 03:46 AM, January 17, 2021



Sanitation worker Manish Kumar, who according to the officials is the first person in India vaccinated against the Covid-19, receives a dose of Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN during the coronavirus disease vaccination campaign at All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospital in New Delhi yesterday. Photo: Reuters

India kicked off one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives yesterday as the pandemic spread at a record pace and global Covid-19 deaths surged past two million.

The World Health Organization has called for accelerating vaccine rollouts worldwide as well as ramping up efforts to study the sequencing of the virus, which has infected more than 93 million people globally since it was first detected in China in late 2019.

India, home to 1.3 billion people, has the world's second-largest caseload.

The government has given approvals to two vaccines -- though one is yet to complete clinical trials -- aiming to inoculate around 300 million people by July, AFP reports.

One of the first to receive a jab in the eastern city of Kolkata was 35-year-old health worker Santa Roy, who told AFP he now saw a "ray of hope" after witnessing people die of the coronavirus.

Authorities say they are drawing on their experience with elections and child immunisation programmes for the drive, which is a daunting task in an enormous, impoverished nation with often shoddy transport infrastructure and one of the world's worst-funded healthcare systems.

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## NEWS

### COVID-19: IN CONSUMERIST KERALA, VACCINES ARE THE LATEST ITEM IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Published: January 16, 2021 11:43



The dry run for the second phase of the COVID-19 vaccination in the state held, in Kochi.

Thiruvananthapuram: For a state that gets much of everything from vegetables to packaged consumer products and white goods from other states, the latest item in the supply chain is the COVID-19 vaccine.

The first batch of COVID-19 vaccines for immunization has reached the state, and much larger quantities are expected to reach the state in the coming days for last mile delivery to recipients.

These deliveries in turn will give a boost to the warehousing business in the state that had been witnessing strong growth in recent years.

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## NEWS

### INDIA BEGINS ONE OF WORLD'S BIGGEST VACCINE DRIVES

PUBLISHED JAN 17, 2021, 5:00 AM SGT



Sanitation worker Manish Kumar took the honour of being the first person in India to be vaccinated. Ten million healthcare workers will be the first to get the vaccine, followed by 20 million front-line workers.

One of the world's largest vaccination campaigns was launched yesterday in India, with a sanitation worker, doctors and nurses receiving their shots in what the government declared as the beginning of the road to victory against Covid-19.

In a procedure broadcast live throughout the nation, sanitation worker Manish Kumar, 34, took the honour of being the first person to be vaccinated, receiving it at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), a top medical institute.

The vaccination drive was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was clearly overcome by emotion when, in an address broadcast live to the more than 3,000

vaccination centres, he thanked healthcare workers for their efforts over the past year.

"They stayed away from their families to serve humanity. And hundreds of them never went home. They gave their life to save others. And that is why the first jabs are being given to healthcare workers - this is our way of paying respect to them," said Mr Modi.

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## WORLD BRACES FOR SURGE OF CORONAVIRUS VARIANTS

### INDIA BEGINS INOCULATING ITS 1.3 BILLION PEOPLE, STARTING WITH HEALTH CARE WORKERS

12:49 a.m. ET Jan. 16, 2021



India's campaign to inoculate its population of 1.3 billion began on Saturday with medical workers. The country has reported more than 10.5 million coronavirus cases, the second largest caseload after the United States.

PUNE, India — India on Saturday began one of the most ambitious and complex initiatives in its history: the nationwide rollout of coronavirus vaccines to 1.3 billion people, an undertaking that will stretch from the perilous reaches of the Himalayas to the dense jungles of the country's southern tip.

The campaign is unfolding in a country that has reported more than 10.5 million coronavirus infections, the second-largest caseload after the United States, and 152,093 deaths, the world's third-highest tally.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked off the vaccine drive on Saturday with a live television address as 3,000 centers nationwide were set to

inoculate a first round of health care workers.

"Everyone was asking as to when the vaccine will be available," Mr. Modi said. "It is available now. I congratulate all the countrymen on this occasion."

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[NEWS](#)

## VACCINATION DRIVE KICKS OFF IN VARIOUS INDIAN CITIES

Date: 17.01.2021

India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway. (Jan. 16)

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[NEWS](#)

## INDIA STARTS WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

Date: 17.01.2021



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NEWSWORLDDEUROPE

## INDIA STARTS WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

Saturday 16 January 2021 05:44



*Virus Outbreak (Copyright 2021 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.)*

India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

The country is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the U.S and several times more than its existing program that targets 26 million infants. The

recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers to be followed by 270 million others, who are either aged over 50 or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

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NEWS

## SRI LANKA SEES VACCINATION PROCESS IN INDIA AS BEGINNING OF THE END OF PANDEMIC

17 January 2021



Sri Lanka sees the coronavirus vaccination process in India as the beginning of the end of the pandemic.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa congratulated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the launch of the massive vaccination drive.

"Congratulations PM @narendramodi and the Government of India on taking this very important step with this massive #COVID19Vaccination drive. We are starting to see the beginning of the end to this devastating pandemic. @IndiainSL," Rajapaksa tweeted.

Modi yesterday (Saturday) launched the all-India rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination drive via video conferencing.

Considered to be the world's largest vaccination program, it covers 30 million health care and frontline programme workers across India in the first phase.

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INDIA

## SANITATION WORKER GETS FIRST SHOT AS INDIA LAUNCHES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Published: 16 Jan 2021, 16:46



Sanitation worker Manish Kumar, who according to the officials is the first person in the country vaccinated against the COVID-19, receives a dose of Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination campaign at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital in New Delhi, India, 16 January, 2021

Sanitation worker Manish Kumar became the first person in India to be vaccinated against COVID-19 on Saturday, as prime minister Narendra Modi launched one of the world's largest immunisation campaigns to bring the pandemic under control.

India is prioritising nurses, physicians and other frontline workers, and Modi had tears in his eyes as he addressed healthcare workers through video conferencing.

"The disease separated people from their families, kept mothers away from their children, and those who died of the disease couldn't even

get a final goodbye from their families," Modi said.

The singing of Sanskrit hymns followed the prime minister's address. Modi, 70, has not said whether he will be taking the vaccine, but he has said that politicians would not be considered frontline workers.

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WORLD NEWS

## INDIA LAUNCHES WORLD'S LARGEST VACCINATION DRIVE AGAINST COVID-19

16 January, 2021 06:15:54 PM / LAST MODIFIED: 17 January, 2021 10:30:07 AM



India's vaccination drive, the world's largest immunisation exercise against Covid-19, kicked off today with priority to about 30 million health care and frontline workers to be inoculated in the first phase.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive this morning through video conferencing when he congratulated scientists for the achievement.

"It takes years to prepare vaccines. But in the shortest span of time, we have not only made one but two India-made vaccines," he said requesting all not to pay heed against any propaganda or rumours over the vaccines.

He said, "People should not fall for propaganda over vaccines, amid controversy over Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, which has been cleared for emergency use while still in clinical trial."

"India is getting two vaccines in such a short time is a testimony to the talent and skills of the

nation's scientists...our vaccination programme is driven by humanitarian concerns, those exposed to maximum risk will get priority," Modi said.

He asserted that the made-in-India vaccines will ensure a "decisive victory" for the country over the coronavirus pandemic".

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HEALTH

# INDIA BEGINS VACCINATION CAMPAIGN, AMONG WORLD'S LARGEST

REUTERS | Published: January 16, 2021 12:53:14 | Updated: January 16, 2021 19:06:36



Sanitation worker Manish Kumar, who according to the officials is the first person in the country vaccinated against the COVID-19, receives a dose of Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination campaign at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital in New Delhi, India, 16 January, 2021

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched on Saturday one of the world's largest vaccination campaigns, as part of efforts by the populous nation to bring the Covid-19 pandemic under control starting with two locally-manufactured shots.

Modi, who addressed healthcare workers through video conferencing, will not immediately take the vaccine himself as India is initially prioritising nurses, doctors and others on the front line.

On the first day, around 100 people will be voluntarily vaccinated in each of the 3,006

centres in the country, the government said this week, calling it the start of the biggest such campaign in the world.

"This will be the world's largest vaccination programme covering the entire length and breadth of the country," Modi's office said in a statement this week.



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WORLD NEWS

# SANITATION WORKER GETS FIRST SHOT AS INDIA LAUNCHES COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Saturday, 16 Jan 2021 03:38 PM MYT



A sanitation worker receives COVISHIELD during the world's largest Covid-19 vaccination campaigns at Mathalput Community Health Centre in the remote Koraput district of the eastern state of Odisha January 16, 2021. — Reuters pic

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 — Sanitation worker Manish Kumar became the first person in India to be vaccinated against Covid-19 today, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched one of the world's largest immunisation campaigns to bring the pandemic under control.

India is prioritising nurses, doctors and other frontline workers, and Modi had tears in his eyes as he addressed healthcare workers through video conferencing.

"The disease separated people from their families, kept mothers away from their children, and those who died of the disease couldn't even get a final goodbye from their families," Modi said.



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## INDIA

### INDIA STARTS HUGE VACCINE DRIVE AS EUROPEAN ROLLOUT STUTTERS

Sunday, 17 Jan 2021 | 9:51 AM MYT



A nurse performing Hindu prayers to a box containing Covid-19 vaccines upon its arrival at a government Hospital in Ahmedabad, India, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021. India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest Covid-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway. - AP

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (AFP): India kicked off one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives on Saturday (Jan 16), as US drugs giant Pfizer moved to calm fears in Europe about delays to deliveries of their vaccine.

The United Nations is intensifying its push to speed up vaccine rollout globally, particularly to poorer countries, as officially recorded virus deaths surge past two million.

"I have seen people dying," said Santa Roy, a health worker who was one of the first to receive a jab in Kolkata, telling AFP he now saw a "ray of hope".

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## NEWS

### INDIA KICKS OFF ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST VACCINATION DRIVES

PUBLISHED JAN 16, 2021, 4:20 PM SGT



NEW DELHI - One of the world's largest vaccination campaigns was launched on Saturday (Jan 16) in India with a sanitation worker along with doctors and nurses receiving their shots in what the government declared as the beginning of the road to victory against Covid-19.

In a procedure broadcast live throughout the nation, sanitation worker Manish Kumar, 34, took the honour of being the first person to be vaccinated, receiving it at the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences, a top medical institute.

The vaccination drive was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was clearly overcome by emotion when, in an address broadcast live to the more than 3,000

vaccination centres, he thanked healthcare workers for their efforts over the past year.

"They stayed away from their families to serve humanity. And hundreds of them never went home. They gave their life to save others. And that is why the first jabs are being given to healthcare workers - this is our way of paying respect to them," said Mr Modi.

"Such a vaccination drive at such a massive scale was never conducted in history," he added.

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## NEWS

### INDIA'S COVID-19 INOCULATION DRIVE WILL BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND FASTEST IN THE WORLD. HERE'S HOW THEY ARE DOING IT

Posted SunSunday 17 JanJanuary 2021 at 12:14am



A health worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine in New Delhi after India. (AP: Manish Swarup)

India has started what authorities claim is the world's fastest and largest inoculation drive, with 191,000 healthcare workers receiving a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine on Saturday.

The Government's first phase of an ambitious vaccination program will target 30 million people, starting with healthcare and frontline workers before it is expanded to people aged above 50 and those suffering from comorbidities.

Authorities have set up an initial 3,000 vaccination points across India, each to provide doses to 100 people a day.

By August, India aims to have inoculated 300 million people.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the vaccine rollout in a televised address, stating the world was "looking at India with hope".

"Such a vaccination drive at such a massive scale has never been conducted in history," he said.

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## NEWS

### INDIA BEGINS 'WORLD'S BIGGEST' VACCINATION DRIVE

January 16, 2021 | 14:36

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday launched what Prime Minister Narendra Modi called "the world's biggest vaccination drive" to inoculate 1.3 billion people against the coronavirus.

In the first stage of the campaign, which will run through August, the main target will be 30 million front-line health workers, followed by 270 million people above the age of 50, who are deemed to be at a higher risk. Two locally produced vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — will be used in the nationwide immunization drive.

"We are launching the world's biggest vaccination drive and it shows the world our capability," Modi said, as he praised the "skills and talents of Indian scientists" while launching the campaign in New Delhi.

Covishield is a form of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine locally produced by the Serum Institute of India in Pune. Covaxin was developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research and Bharat Biotech in Hyderabad.

"It takes years to make a vaccine, but in such a short time, not one, but two made-in-India vaccines were developed. This is a testimony to the skills and talent of our scientists," Modi said.

About 300,000 healthcare workers have been vaccinated in 3,006 centers across the country. After 28 days, each will have to take another vaccine dose.

"We are lucky to have a vaccine in our country on a high priority. Vaccination is the only way to address the viral disease," Dr. Sumi Nandwani of the Super Specialty Pediatric Hospital in the Indian city of Noida told Arab News after getting her jab.

Nitu Kumar, who works as a lab technician at the same hospital, also took the jab, describing it as "a necessity if one has to free the country from coronavirus."

However, doctors are raising concerns over the efficacy of Covaxin, which had been approved for emergency use by India's drug regulator despite lacking late-stage clinical trials.

"We would like to bring to your notice that the residents are a bit apprehensive about the lack of complete trials in the case of Covaxin and might not participate in huge numbers, thus defeating the purpose of the vaccination campaign," the Resident Doctors Association of the government-run Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi said in a letter to hospital authorities.

"We request you to vaccinate us with Covishield, which has completed all stages of the trial before its rollout," they said.

On Thursday, a group of 13 renowned scientists asked the government to release the Covaxin Phase Three trial results.

READ MORE >>





## NEWS

### INDIA TESTS VACCINE SUPERPOWERS WITH COVID-19 INOCULATION DRIVE

Updated Jan. 17, 2021 9:51 am ET



A staff member received a Covid-19 vaccine at a hospital in Ahmedabad, India, on Saturday, the first day of the country's national vaccine drive.

NEW DELHI—India started a massive vaccination campaign this weekend, hoping to use its unique skills at mobilizing millions to progress quickly in its efforts to protect its populace from Covid-19.

Hundreds of thousands of health-care workers—the first people to get the vaccines—lined up across the country to get their shots, in a nationwide effort that tapped the talents of millions of people to make, deliver, register, administer, monitor and protect the shots, said India's Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

India is targeting around 300,000 doses a day and will increase inoculations depending on how much vaccine is available, Mr. Vardhan said. The

country aims to inoculate 300 million of its 1.3 billion people by August. Over the weekend it was still off the pace needed to hit that target, with around 191,000 people receiving shots on Saturday and 17,000 getting them on Sunday when the campaign was closed in most states.

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## NEWS

### INDIA HAILS 'LIFE SAVING' COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

AFP -January 17, 2021 4:13 PM



A hospital staff receives Covid-19 vaccine at a government Hospital in Ahmedabad yesterday. (AP pic)

NEW DELHI: India's Covid-19 vaccination drive had a successful start with more than 190,000 people receiving their first jabs and no one hospitalised for major side effects, the health ministry said, but reports emerged about concerns over the homegrown vaccine.

Authorities have given emergency-use approval for two vaccines – Oxford-AstraZeneca and the homegrown "Covaxin", which has yet to complete its Phase 3 trials – and plans to immunise some 300 million people in the country of 1.3 billion by July.

Frontline workers such as hospital staff, people over 50 and those deemed to be at high risk due to pre-existing medical conditions are on the shortlist to receive the vaccines.

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## NEWS

# CORONA-IMPFKAMPAGNE IN INDIEN AB 16. JANUAR

09. Januar 2021, 16:13



Die Regierung errichtete auf einem Campingplatz ein Corona-Testzentrum, um religiösen Menschen kostenlos eine Testmöglichkeit anzubieten, die den Campingplatz besuchen, um auf der Sagar-Insel am hinduistischen Fest «Makar Sankranti» teilzunehmen. Foto: Debarchan Chatterjee/ZUMA Wire/dpa | Keystone/ZUMA Wire/Debarchan Chatterjee

Danach plant die Regierung rund 270 Millionen Menschen, die älter als 50 Jahre alt sind, und Bürger unter 50 mit Begleiterkrankungen zu impfen. Indien hatte am Sonntag erstmals zwei Corona-Impfstoffen eine Notfallzulassung erteilt: dem in Indien entwickelten Impfstoff Covaxin der Firma Bharat Biotech und dem des britisch-schwedischen Pharmakonzerns AstraZeneca. Der AstraZeneca-Impfstoff soll für Indien und andere Märkte unter dem Namen Covishield von dem indischen Hersteller Serum Institute of India produziert werden.

Indien ist mit rund 1,3 Milliarden Einwohnern das zweitbevölkerungsreichste Land der Welt nach China. Mehr als 10,4 Millionen Menschen haben sich dort, nach Daten der Johns-Hopkins-



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## CORONAVIRUS

# INDIEN LANCIERT DIE GRÖSSTE IMPFKAMPAGNE DER WELT

Publiziert 16. Januar 2021, 08:58



Indien impft seit Samstag seine Bevölkerung.

Indien hat mit der weltweit wohl grössten Impfkampagne gegen das Coronavirus begonnen. In dem Land wurde am Samstag damit angefangen, Mitarbeiter des Gesundheitswesens zu impfen. Die örtlichen Behörden wollen insgesamt 300 Millionen Menschen impfen, was etwa der Bevölkerung der USA entspricht. Unter ihnen sind 30 Millionen Angestellte des Gesundheitswesens. Die 270 Millionen weiteren Impfkandidaten unter den knapp 1,4 Milliarden Einwohnern sind entweder über 50 oder sind wegen Vorerkrankungen anfällig für eine schwere Covid-19-Erkrankung.

Der indische Premierminister Narendra Modi leitete die Impfkampagne mit einer im Fernsehen übertragenen Rede ein. «Wir starten das weltweit grösste Impfvorhaben und es zeigt der Welt unsere Fähigkeit», sagte Modi. In der sollten keine «Gerüchte über die Sicherheit der Impfstoffe» glauben, mahnte Modi.



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NEWS

# INDIEN BEGINNT CORONA-IMPFUNGEN - MODI: GRÖSSTE KAMPAGNE DER WELT

Agentursda vor 1 Monat in Politik



In Kolkata erhält eine Mitarbeiterin des Gesundheitswesens eine Impfung gegen das Coronavirus. Foto: Bikas Das/AP/dpa

«Kein Land hat jemals in der Geschichte eine Impfkampagne dieses Ausmasses durchgeführt», betonte Modi in einer Fernsehansprache. Als erster wurde am Samstag ein Mitarbeiter eines staatlichen Krankenhauses in Neu Delhi geimpft.

Nach Behördenangaben sollen nun zunächst 30 Millionen Menschen geimpft werden, nämlich Mitarbeiter aus dem Gesundheitsbereich sowie Angehörige der Polizei, des Militärs, Gefängnispersonal und Bedienstete von Behörden, die mit der Corona-Eindämmung zu tun haben. Bis Juli sollen dann weitere 270 Millionen Menschen über 50 Jahre sowie Risikogruppen an die Reihe kommen.

Damit wären im Sommer knapp ein Viertel der 1,3 Milliarden Einwohner Indiens geimpft.

Indien ist das zweitbevölkerungsreichste Land der Welt hinter China. Die Gesamtzahl der Geimpften entspräche dann fast der Bevölkerung der USA (330 Millionen).

READ MORE >>



INDIA STARTS MASSIVE VACCINE ROLLOUT – NEWSPOT

# INDIA STARTS MASSIVE VACCINE ROLLOUT – NEWSPOT

Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 12:05 PM



A medical worker inoculates a doctor with a Covid-19 coronavirus vaccine at the King Koti hospital in Hyderabad on January 16, 2021. (Photo by Noah SEELAM / AFP)

India began one of the world's biggest coronavirus vaccination programmes on Saturday, hoping to end a pandemic that has killed 150,000 people in the country and torpedoed the economy.

AFP looks at the numbers involved in the vast and complex undertaking compounded by weak infrastructure, online hoaxes and worries about one of the vaccines being rolled out while still in clinical trials.

Over the coming months, India aims to inoculate around a quarter of the population, or 300

million people. They include healthcare workers, people aged over 50 and those at high risk.

On the first day, around 300,000 people were set to be vaccinated at 3,000 centres. About 150,000 staff in 700 districts have been trained to administer jabs and keep records.

READ MORE >>





INDIA

## CORONAVIRUS VACCINE: INDIA BEGINS WORLD'S BIGGEST DRIVE

16 January



Health workers are the first in line to get Covid jabs

A sanitation worker became the first Indian to receive a Covid vaccine as the country began the world's largest inoculation drive.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the programme, which aims to vaccinate more than 1.3 billion people against Covid.

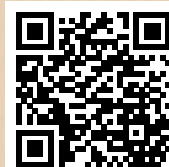
He paid tribute to front-line workers who will be the first to receive jabs.

India has recorded the second-highest number of Covid-19 infections in the world after the United States.

Millions of doses of two approved vaccines - Covishield and Covaxin - were shipped across the country in the days leading up to the start of the drive.

"We are launching the world's biggest vaccination drive and it shows the world our capability," Mr Modi, said, addressing the country on Saturday morning.

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NEWS

## COVID-19: INDIA STARTS MASSIVE VACCINE ROLLOUT

Updated January 16, 2021



A medical worker inoculates a doctor with a Covid-19 coronavirus vaccine at the King Koti hospital in Hyderabad on January 16, 2021. (Photo by Noah SEELAM / AFP)

India began one of the world's biggest coronavirus vaccination programmes on Saturday, hoping to end a pandemic that has killed 150,000 people in the country and torpedoed the economy.

AFP looks at the numbers involved in the vast and complex undertaking compounded by weak infrastructure, online hoaxes and worries about one of the vaccines being rolled out while still in clinical trials.

300 million people

Over the coming months, India aims to inoculate around a quarter of the population, or 300 million people. They include healthcare workers, people aged over 50 and those at high risk.

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## الهند تطلق أكبر حملة تطعيم ضد كورونا في العالم

الحدث الساعة السبت ١٦/يناير/٢٠٢١ ١٤:٠٨ م



مسقط - العمانية

أطلقت الهند اليوم ما يتوقع أن يكون أكبر حملة تطعيم ضد فيروس كورونا في العالم.

وتعتزم الحكومة الهندية تطعيم 300 مليون شخص، بحلول يوليو المقبل. وأصبح موظف صحة في مستشفى حكومي في دلهي أول شخص يتلقى جرعة لقاح كورونا في الهند البالغ عدد سكانها 1.3 مليار نسمة.

وقال ناريندرا مودي رئيس وزراء الهند، في كلمة متلفزة بمناسبة إطلاق الحملة: "تطلق الهند اليوم أكبر برنامج تطعيم ضد كورونا".

وأضاف مودي: "لا توجد دولة أطلقت حملة تطعيم بهذا الحجم في التاريخ" وفي إطار الحملة، سيتم تطعيم نحو 30 مليون موظف صحي ومن العاملين في الخطوط الأمامية، يليهم 270 مليوناً من الأشخاص العاديين ممن تجاوزوا سن 50 عاماً، أو الأكثر عرضة للخطر.

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## الهند تطلق أكبر حملة تطعيم في العالم .. وعامل نظافة أول المتلقين

في السياسة 16 يناير، 2021

نيودلهي - وكالات: أصبح عامل النظافة مانيش كومار أول شخص في الهند يتلقى لقاح كورونا مع إطلاق رئيس الوزراء ناريندرا مودي واحدة من أكبر حملات التطعيم في العالم من أجل احتواء الجائحة، وتحدث مودي وهو يغالب دموعه إلى العاملين في القطاع الصحي في مكالمة عبر الفيديو. وقال "فَرَّقَ المرض بين الناس وعائلاتهم، وأبعد الأمهات عن أطفالهن. بل إن من قضوا نحبهم بسبب المرض لم يتمكنوا من الحصول حتى على نظرة وداع أخيرة من عائلاتهم". ولم يعلن مودي "70 عاماً" ما إذا كان سيحصل على اللقاح أم لا، لكنه قال إن السياسيين لن يجري اعتبارهم ضمن العاملين في الخطوط الأمامية، وأقامت الهند 3006 مراكز للتطعيم باللقاحات المضادة لكوفيد 19 في أنحاء الهند.

READ MORE >>





NEWS

# INDIA LAUNCHES VACCINATION DRIVE AGAINST COVID-19

Saturday 16/January/2021 16:41 PM



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched India's vaccination drive against the novel coronavirus via video conferencing.

Billed as the world's largest vaccination program, covering the entire length and breadth of the country, the drive aims to first inoculate millions of its healthcare and frontline workers and reach an estimated 3 crore people by the end of its first phase. A total of 3006 session sites across all states and union territories will be virtually connected during the launch. Around 100 beneficiaries will be vaccinated at each session site on the inaugural day, the union health ministry has said.

In the first phase government and private sector health care workers, including Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) workers, will receive the vaccine.

The drive will be held daily from 9 am to 5 pm, except on the days earmarked for routine immunisation programmes.

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NEWS

# INDIA'S BEGINS HUGE VACCINE ROLLOUT

16/01/2021 Oman Observer



With hospitals decked out with flowers and balloons, India began Saturday one of the world's biggest coronavirus vaccine rollouts, a colossal and complex task compounded by safety worries, shaky infrastructure and public scepticism.

The world's second-most populous nation hopes to inoculate around 300 million of its 1.3 billion people by July — a number equal to almost the entire US population.

Health workers, people over 50 and those deemed at high-risk are prioritised to receive one of two approved vaccines, although one of them has yet to complete clinical trials.

On day one around 300,000 people were due to receive the first of two doses after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the

programme live on his YouTube channel.

"Normally, it takes many years to make a vaccine but in such a short span of time, not one, but two 'Made in India' vaccines are ready," Modi said.

"The world has immense faith in India's scientists and capacity of vaccine production."

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## أطلاق أكبر حملة تطعيم في العالم ضد فيروس كورونا ب الهند

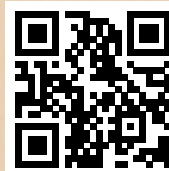
16 يناير، 2021



وكالات

أعلن رئيس الوزراء الهندي ناريندرا مودي، اليوم السبت، انطلاق أكبر حملات التطعيم في العالم ضد فيروس كورونا المستجد كجزء من الجهود التي تبذلها الدولة ذات الكثافة السكانية المرتفعة والتي يبلغ عدد سكانها 1.3 مليار نسمة،

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NEWS

## IN PHOTOS: INDIA STARTS WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

AP, Saturday 16 Jan 2021



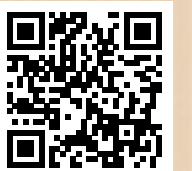
India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

India is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the current challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the U.S and several times more than its existing

program that targets 26 million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers, to be followed by 270 million people who are either over 50 years old or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

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### NEWS

## HEALTH INDIA'S MODI LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE ROLLOUT OF COVID-19 VACCINE DRIVE

Daily News Egypt January 16, 2021 Comments Off



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide rollout of the vaccine drive against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on 16 January.—

The drive will be the world's largest vaccination programme covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3,006 session sites across India will be virtually connected during the launch. Around 100 beneficiaries will be vaccinated at each session site on the inaugural day.

This vaccination programme is based on the principles of priority groups to be vaccinated, and government and private sector healthcare workers will receive the vaccine during this phase.

READ MORE »



### ASIA PACIFIC

## ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST VACCINE CAMPAIGNS STARTS IN INDIA

AP , Saturday 16 Jan 2021



*At hospitals and vaccination centers across major cities — from Mumbai to New Delhi — tens of thousands of key front-line workers began queuing, some to receive the first vaccines while others to administer them. Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked off the program with a speech addressing more than 3,000 centers across India where the first shots were to be given.*

India launched one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives on Saturday, setting in motion a complex deployment plan aimed at stemming the wide spread of infections across a nation of more than 1.3 billion people.

At hospitals and vaccination centers across major cities — from Mumbai to New Delhi — tens of thousands of key front-line workers began queuing, some to receive the first vaccines while others to administer them. Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked off the program with a

speech addressing more than 3,000 centers across India where the first shots were to be given.

READ MORE »





## インドでインド国産の新型コロナワクチンが承認 アストラゼネカ製も

2021.1.8 13:13

インドの医薬品規制当局はこのほど、国内で開発し製造した新型コロナウイルス感染症ワクチンの緊急使用を承認したと発表した。インドは感染確認者が1000万人超と米国に次ぎ世界2番目に多い深刻な状況。先進国に比べ接種が遅れている新興国に、国産ワクチン承認の動きが広がった。インドでは新型コロナのワクチン承認自体が初めて。

保健当局によると、インドは途上国に必要な他の感染症ワクチンの6割を生産した実績がある。今回承認された新型コロナのワクチンは2～8度の温度で保管できるため、生産が本格化すれば保管設備が不十分な新興・途上国にワクチンが広がることも期待される。

承認されたのは、インドのワクチン製造会社バーラト・バイオテックと政府系研究機関「インド医学研究評議会」が開発した不活化ワクチン。これに合わせ、英オックスフォード大と英製薬大手アストラゼネカが開発したワクチンも承認した。

不活化ワクチンは臨床試験の最終段階にあり、詳しい情報が公表されておらず、安全性や効果に疑問の声も上がっている。英国のワクチンは、アストラゼネカとライセンス契約を結んでいるインドのセラム・インスティテュート・オブ・インディア（SII）が製造する。既に約7500万回分を備蓄済みという。

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## インド、夏までに3億人 ワクチン接種スタート

亜細ア・オセアニア + フォローする

2021年1月16日 17:12



インドは夏ごろまでに3億人へのワクチン接種をめざす=ロイター

【ニューデリー=馬場燃】インド政府は16日、新型コロナウイルスのワクチン接種を開始した。モディ首相は同日のビデオ演説で「世界最大のワクチン接種が始まった」と語り、夏ごろまでに約3億人への接種を予定する。全世界の累計死者数が15日に200万人を超すなどなお感染拡大に歯止めがかからない中、13億人強の人口大国のインドがワクチンの円滑な接種を成功させられるのか、注目を集めている。

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## 感染者2位のインド、16日から接種開始 ワクチン大国も国内普及に“壁”

2021.1.12 17:57 ライフ からだ



【シンガポール=森浩】新型コロナウイルスの感染者が世界で米国に次いで2番目に多いインドで、16日からワクチン接種が始まる。人口13億のインドで大規模接種に成功すれば、新興国の新型コロ

READ MORE >>



ASIA PACIFIC

## INDIA KICKS OFF 'WORLD'S LARGEST' VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

January 16, 2021 at 11:50 JST



Health workers prepare for the COVID-19 vaccination drive for frontline health workers at a government Hospital in Mumbai, India, on Jan. 15. (AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade)

NEW DELHI--Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the "world's largest" vaccination campaign on Saturday as the populous nation tries to bring the COVID-19 pandemic under control starting with two locally-manufactured shots.

Modi will address healthcare workers through video conferencing but will not immediately take the vaccine himself as India is initially prioritising nurses, doctors and others on the front line.

On the first day, around 100 people will be voluntarily vaccinated in each of the 3,006 centres in the country, the government said this week, calling it the start of the biggest such campaign in the world.

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## ASIA PACIFIC

### INDIA APPROVES ASTRAZENECA AND LOCAL COVID VACCINES, ROLLOUT SOON

January 3, 2021 at 17:00 JST



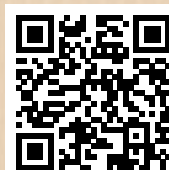
People participating in a COVID-19 vaccine delivery system trial wait for their turn at a COVID-19 vaccination center in New Delhi, India on Jan. 2. India tested its COVID-19 vaccine delivery system with a nationwide trial on Saturday as it prepares to roll-out an inoculation program to stem the coronavirus pandemic.

NEW DELHI--India's drugs regulator on Sunday gave final approval for the emergency-use of two coronavirus vaccines, one developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and the other by local company Bharat Biotech and a state-run institute.

The decisions mark the first vaccine approvals for the world's second-most populous country, which after the United States, has recorded the most infections of the coronavirus disease.

It is now expected to start a massive immunisation programme within about a week, a government official said, and hopes to inoculate 300 million of its 1.35 billion people free of charge in the first six to eight months of this year.

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## WORLD

### INDIA STARTS WORLD'S LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

Jan. 17 05:55 am JST 0 Comment

NEW DELHI

The requested article has expired, and is no longer available. Any related articles, and user comments are shown below.

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## WORLD

### INDIA STARTS HUGE VACCINE DRIVE AS EUROPEAN ROLLOUT STUTTERS

By AFP - Jan 17,2021 - Last updated at Jan 17,2021



A medical worker inoculates a colleague with a COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine at the Rajawadi Hospital in Mumbai on Saturday (AFP photo)

NEW DELHI — India kicked off one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives on Saturday, as US drugs giant Pfizer moved to calm fears in the European Union about delays to deliveries of their vaccine.

The United Nations is intensifying its push to speed up vaccine rollout globally, particularly to poorer countries, as officially recorded virus deaths surged past 2 million overnight.

"I have seen people dying," said Santa Roy, a health worker who was one of the first to receive

a jab in Kolkata, telling AFP he now saw a "ray of hope".

The virus continued to play havoc with the sporting calendar, with 47 players barred from practising for a fortnight ahead of the Australian Open (AO), the first grand slam tournament of the year.

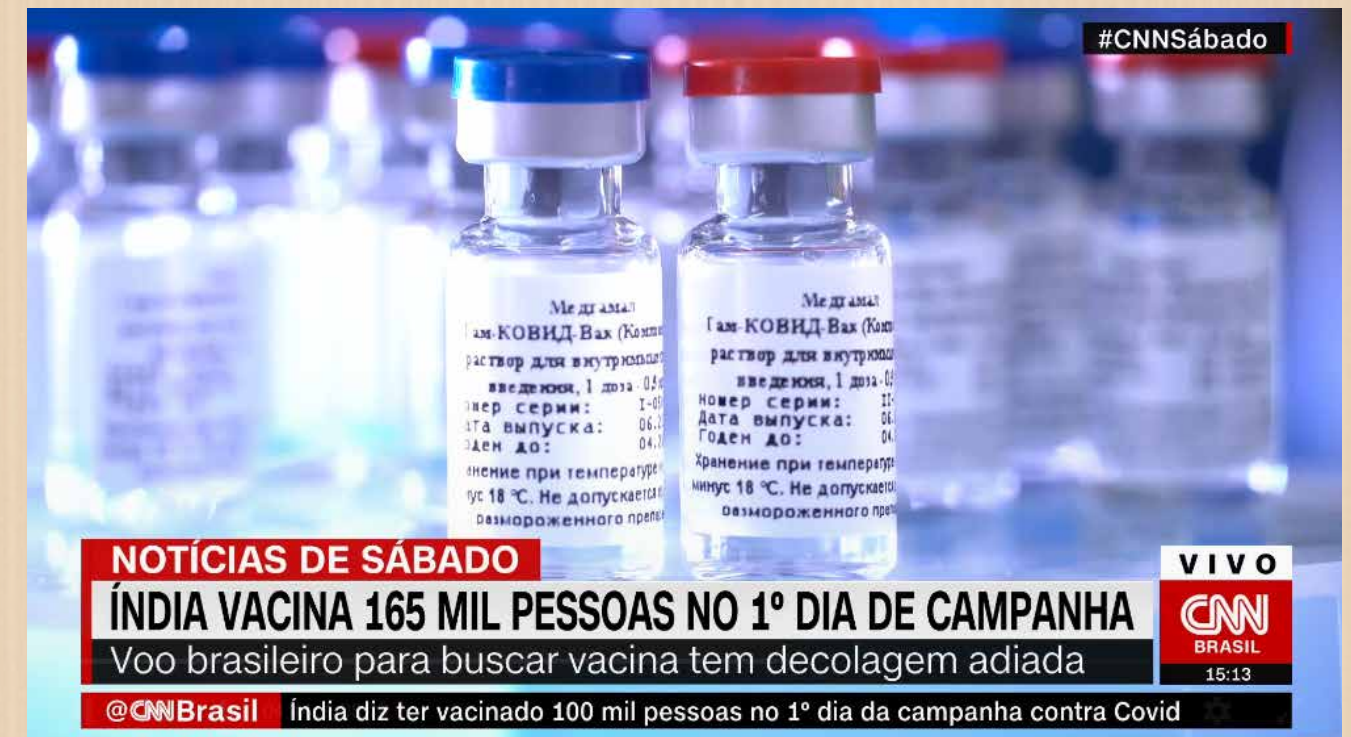
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## SAÚDE

### 165 MIL PESSOAS SÃO VACINADAS NO 1º DIA DA CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO NA ÍNDIA

16 de janeiro de 2021 às 13:15 | Atualizado 16 de janeiro de 2021 às 15:46



A Índia iniciou sua campanha nacional de vacinação contra a Covid-19 neste sábado (16). De acordo com o Ministério da Saúde e Bem-Estar da Família do país, 165.714 profissionais de saúde foram vacinados a partir das 17h30 no horário local.

Ao todo, 16.755 pessoas aplicaram as vacinas em 3.351 sessões em todo o país, acrescentou o ministério.

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## ÍNDIA INICIA GRANDE CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO CONTRA A COVID-19

postado em 16/01/2021 11:23 / atualizado em 16/01/2021 12:29



A medical worker inoculates a colleague with a COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine at the Rajawadi Hospital in Mumbai on Saturday (AFP photo)

A Índia começou, neste sábado (16), a maior campanha de vacinação contra o coronavírus do planeta, uma tarefa colossal e complexa em um contexto de medo sobre a segurança da vacina, uma infraestrutura instável e o ceticismo público. O segundo país mais populoso do mundo espera vacinar 300 milhões dos 1,3 bilhão de habitantes até julho, um número quase igual ao de toda a população dos Estados Unidos.

"Fiquei tão feliz ao ver meu nome na lista!", disse à AFP Mohan Ganpat Nikam, de 53 anos, segurança em um hospital de Mumbai, a capital econômica do país.

Profissionais da saúde, maiores de 50 anos e as pessoas consideradas de alto risco são os grupos prioritários para receber duas vacinas aprovadas, embora uma delas ainda não tenha completado os ensaios clínicos.

READ MORE >>



## ÍNDIA SATISFEITA COM INÍCIO DA CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO

17/01/2021 13h47

Nova Délhi, 17 Jan 2021 (AFP) - O início da campanha de vacinação contra a covid-19 foi um sucesso na Índia, com mais de 224.000 pessoas vacinadas, anunciou o ministério da Saúde. A Índia, o segundo país mais populoso do planeta atrás da China, com 1,3 bilhão de habitantes, quer vacinar antes do fim de julho 300 milhões de pessoas, quase o equivalente à população dos Estados Unidos. Para esta campanha, a Índia utiliza as vacinas Covaxin e Covishield. A Covaxin, desenvolvida pelo gigante indiano Bharat Biotech, foi autorizada mesmo sem concluir os ensaios humanos de terceira fase, o que gera desconfiança. A Covishield é uma versão desenvolvida pela farmacêutica AstraZeneca e a U... - Veja mais em <https://www.bol.uol.com.br/noticias/2021/01/17/india-satisfeita-com-inicio-da-campanha-de-vacinacao.htm?cmpid=copiaecola>

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## NEWS

### INDIA SATISFIED WITH START OF VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Date: 17.01.2021

The start of the vaccination campaign against covid-19 was a success in India, with more than 224,000 people vaccinated, announced the Ministry of Health.

India, the second most populous country on the planet after China, with 1.3 billion people inhabitants, wants to vaccinate 300 million people before the end of July, almost equivalent to the population of the United States.

For this campaign, India uses the Covaxin and Covishield vaccines.

Covaxin, developed by the Indian giant Bharat Biotech, was authorized even without completing the third phase human trials, which creates suspicion.

Covishield is a version developed by the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford, manufactured by the

Serum Institute of India, the largest vaccine manufacturer in the world.

"We have encouraging and satisfying echoes from the first day," Indian Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Saturday.

The Health Ministry said on Sunday that 447 people had negative effects after vaccination, such as fever, headache and nausea. Three people have been hospitalized, but two have already been discharged, he added.

"The vaccine will be a Sanjeevani (lifesaver)," he added.

India is the country most affected, after the United States, by the pandemic with more than 10.5 million registered cases and 152,000 deaths. However, the death rate is one of the lowest in the world.

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## NEWS

### ÍNDIA SATISFEITA COM INÍCIO DA CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO

17/01/2021 13h47



Enfermeiro vacina um médico contra a covid-19 em Ahmedabad, noroeste da Índia - AFP

O início da campanha de vacinação contra a covid-19 foi um sucesso na Índia, com mais de 190.000 pessoas vacinadas, anunciou o ministério da Saúde.

A Índia, o segundo país mais populoso do planeta atrás da China, com 1,3 bilhão de habitantes, quer vacinar antes do fim de julho 300 milhões de pessoas, quase o equivalente à população dos Estados Unidos.

Para esta campanha, a Índia utiliza as vacinas Covaxin e Covishield.

A Covaxin, desenvolvida pelo gigante indiano Bharat Biotech, foi autorizada mesmo sem concluir os ensaios humanos de terceira fase, o que gera desconfiança.

A Covishield é uma versão desenvolvida pela farmacêutica AstraZeneca e a Universidade de Oxford, fabricada no Serum Institute of India, o maior fabricante de vacinas do mundo.

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## NEWS

## ÍNDIA COMEÇA CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO CONTRA A COVID-19

16/01/2021 05h51 Atualizado há um mês



Manish Kumar, que segundo as autoridades indianas, foi a primeira pessoa no país a ser vacinada contra a Covid-19 no país — Foto: Adnan Abidi/Reuters

A Índia iniciou sua campanha de imunização para controlar a pandemia do novo coronavírus neste sábado (16). O trabalhador da área sanitária Manish Kumar foi o primeiro a receber a dose da vacina Covaxin, da farmacêutica indiana Bharat Biotech. O país vai priorizar enfermeiras, médicos e outros trabalhadores da linha de frente no início da vacinação.

Kumar recebeu sua dose no Instituto de Ciências Médicas da Índia (AIIMS), um dos 3.006 centros de vacinação estabelecidos em todo o país.



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## GIRO

## ÍNDIA INICIA GRANDE CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO E PFIZER PLANEJA REDUZIR ATRASO NA ENTREGA DAS DOSES

16/01/21 - 16h19



Funcionário de crematório na cidade alemã de Meissen (leste) transporta caixões de vítimas do coronavírus - AFP

A Índia iniciou neste sábado (16) sua grande campanha de vacinação contra o coronavírus, com o objetivo de inocular inicialmente 300 milhões de seus 1,3 bilhão de habitantes, enquanto a farmacêutica Pfizer anunciava que poderia reduzir o atraso na entrega das doses que havia indignado a Europa.

“Já vi pessoas morrerem”, disse Santa Roy, funcionário de um hospital da cidade de Calcutá, ao resumir a esperança depositada na campanha indiana, que começa com profissionais de saúde. “Agora temos um vislumbre de esperança”, acrescentou.

O objetivo é gigantesco: injetar as duas doses o

mais rápido possível em 30 milhões de cidadãos do setor de saúde e dos grupos mais vulneráveis, e depois alcançar um total de 300 milhões de vacinados em pouco mais de seis meses.

A covid-19 já matou mais de dois milhões de pessoas e os países estão simultaneamente enfrentando novas variantes do vírus e lançando campanhas de vacinação.



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NEWS

## ÍNDIA DÁ INÍCIO À 'MAIOR CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO DO MUNDO' CONTRA A COVID-19

Date: 16.01.2021



Apresentando um vídeo ao vivo publicado em suas redes sociais, Modi elogiou os cientistas indianos e os profissionais de saúde da Índia pelo desenvolvimento de vacinas domésticas em tempo recorde. Em um comunicado de imprensa publicado pelo governo indiano, o gabinete do premiê definiu a campanha de vacinação como a maior do mundo.

O país aprovou o uso emergencial de duas vacinas, a Covishield, desenvolvida pela AstraZeneca/Universidade de Oxford e produzida pelo Instituto Serum da Índia, e a Covaxin, desenvolvida pela empresa indiana de biotecnologia Bharat Biotech. A Índia também tem um acordo de produção de 100 milhões de doses da vacina russa Sputnik V.

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INTERNACIONAL

## ÍNDIA DÁ INÍCIO AO MAIS AMBICIOSO ESQUEMA DE VACINAÇÃO DO MUNDO

16 de janeiro de 2021 às 05:00 | Atualizado 16 de janeiro de 2021 às 15:58

A Índia iniciou seu programa de vacinação contra Covid-19 neste sábado (16). O país, que tem uma população de 1,35 bilhão de pessoas e mais de 10 milhões de casos do novo coronavírus, tem pela frente o desafio de organizar a “maior campanha de vacinação do mundo”, dizem as autoridades indianas.

Neste primeiro dia, cerca de 100 mil pessoas serão vacinadas voluntariamente em cada um dos 3.006 centros do país.

O país não faz uma operação de saúde em grande escala há quase 20 anos, quando lançou a campanha contra a poliomielite para vacinar cerca de 100 milhões de crianças menores de três anos em um dia.

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## ASIA PASIFIK

### INDIA PUJI VAKSIN COVID-19 'PENYELAMAT NYAWA'

January 18, 2021



Kakitangan perubatan menginokulasi seorang doktor menggunakan vaksin koronavirus di Institut Pusat Penyelidikan dan Penyakit Buah Pinggang (IKDRC) di Ahmedabad pada 16 Januari. – AFP

NEW DELHI, 17 JAN – Kempen vaksinasi COVID-19 India telah bermula dengan jayanya ketika lebih 190,000 orang menerima suntikan pertama mereka dan tidak ada yang dimasukkan ke hospital bagi kesan sampingan besar, kata Kementerian Kesihatan, namun laporan muncul tentang kebimbangan vaksin tempatan.

Pihak berkuasa telah memberikan kelulusan dua vaksin bagi penggunaan kecemasan – Oxford-AstraZeneca dan 'Covaxin' buatan tempatan yang belum lagi menamatkan ujian fasa ketiganya – dan rancangan untuk mengimunkan

sejumlah 300 juta penduduk dari 1.3 bilion menjelang Julai.

Anggota barisan hadapan seperti kakitangan hospital, individu berusia 50 dan mereka yang dianggap berisiko tinggi akibat masalah kesihatan sedia ada berada dalam senarai pendek untuk menerima vaksin.



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THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, SABAH AND SARAWAK

## WORLD

### INDIA STARTS WORLD'S LARGEST VACCINATION DRIVE

January 17, 2021



Medical workers wait to be inoculated with a Covid-19 vaccine at a hospital in New Delhi, India. PHOTO: AFP

NEW DELHI (AP) — India started inoculating health workers yesterday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

India is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunisation programmes. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the current challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the United States (US) and several times more than its existing programme that targets 26

million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other frontline workers, to be followed by 270 million people who are either over 50 years old or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.



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## NEWS

### INDIA STARTS HUGE VACCINE DRIVE

AFP | Publication date 17 January 2021 | 20:57 ICT



A medical worker inoculates a colleague with a Covid-19 vaccine at a hospital in New Delhi on Saturday. AFP

India kicked off one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives on January 16, as US drugs giant Pfizer moved to calm fears in Europe about delays to deliveries of their vaccine.

The UN is intensifying its push to speed up vaccine rollout globally, particularly to poorer countries, as officially recorded virus deaths surge past two million.

"I have seen people dying," said Santa Roy, a health worker who was one of the first to receive a jab in Kolkata said he now saw a "ray of hope".

The virus continued to play havoc with the sporting calendar, with 47 players barred from practising for a fortnight ahead of the Australian

Open, the first grand slam tournament of the year.

Passengers on two charter flights that brought them to Melbourne tested positive for Covid-19.

"Sorry but this is insane," tweeted French player Alize Cornet, adding: "Soon, half of the players from the AO will actually have to isolate."



READ MORE >>

## INTERNATIONAL

### INDIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED GLOBALLY

January 18, 2021



The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi launched the pan India rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination drive via video conferencing yesterday. This is the world's largest vaccination programme covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3,006 session sites across all states and union territories were virtually connected during the launch.

Shri Modi started his speech by paying compliments to the scientists who were associated with the development of the vaccines. He said, usually it takes years to prepare a vaccine but here, in such a short time, not one but two made-in-India vaccines were launched.

He put the unprecedented scale of the vaccination drive in perspective by informing

that, in the first round itself, 30 million people, which is more than the population of at least 100 countries of the world, are being vaccinated. He said that this needs to be taken up to 300 million in the second round when elderly and people with serious co-morbidities will be vaccinated. He said that there are only three countries: India, the USA and China, who have populations of more than 300 million.



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NEWS & POLITICS

## WORLD HASN'T SEEN VACCINATION DRIVE OF THIS LEVEL EVER: PM

KBT Admin Saturday, January 16, 2021 News & Politics,



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive via video conferencing today. This is the world's largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3006 session sites across all States and UTs were virtually connected during the launch.

The Prime Minister started his speech by paying compliments to the scientists who were associated with the development of the vaccines. He said, usually it takes years to prepare a vaccine but here, in such a short time, not one but two made-in-India vaccine were launched. The Prime Minister cautioned the people to be careful about not missing taking two doses. He said that there will be a gap of one month

between the doses. He asked people to keep their guards up even after taking the vaccine as only two weeks after taking the second dose, human body will develop necessary immunity against Corona.



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NEWS

## INDIA BEGINS COVID-19 INOCULATION CAMPAIGN

January 16, 2021 06:21 AM



A healthcare worker holding a rose receives an AstraZeneca's COVISHIELD vaccine, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination campaign, at a medical centre in Mumbai, India, Jan. 16, 2021.

The Prime Minister started his speech by paying compliments to the scientists who were associated with the development of the vaccines. He said, usually it takes years to prepare a vaccine but here, in such a short time, not one but two made-in-India vaccine were launched. The Prime Minister cautioned the people to be careful about not missing taking two doses. He said that there will be a gap of one month between the doses. He asked people to keep their guards up even after taking the vaccine as only two weeks after taking the second dose, human body will develop necessary immunity against Corona.

The Prime Minister put the unprecedented scale of the vaccination drive in perspective by

informing that, in the first round itself, 3 crore people, which is more than population of at least 100 countries of the world, are being vaccinated. He said that this needs to be taken up to 30 crores in the second round when elderly and people with serious co-morbidities will be vaccinated. He said that there are only three countries- India, USA and China, who have the population of more than 30 crore.



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EMBASSIES

## PM LAUNCHES PAN INDIA ROLLOUT OF COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

January 17, 2021



16th of January 2021, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the pan India rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination drive via video conferencing today. This is the world's largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3006 session sites across all States and UTs were virtually connected during the launch.

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# SOCIAL MEDIA SPACE

**Kuensel** @KuenselOnline  
Bhutan gets 150,000 doses, in the first consignment, of Covishield vaccine from India this afternoon.  
[facebook.com/14091839594306...](https://facebook.com/14091839594306...)



4:05 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for Android

**Foreign Minister Bhutan** @FMBhutan  
Our profound gratitude to the GoI for the generous gift of 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccines that Bhutan received today. Deeply grateful to GoI for its abiding friendship and unconditional support to Bhutan's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. @RuchiraKamboj @DrSJaishankar



4:20 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

**Bhutan Broadcasting** @BBShutan  
Bhutan receives 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccine from India - BBS  
Bhutan received 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccine from India today, making Bhutan the first country to receive the gift. The consignment was delivered in the...



6:27 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter Web App

**India in Mauritius** @HCLPortLouis · 1h  
The Vice President of Mauritius, H.E. Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon expresses his appreciation for India's supply of Covid-19 vaccines to Mauritius in a timely manner



#IndiaMauritius #VaccineMaitri #NeighbourhoodFirst #AffordableVaccines4All #IndianNavy @MEAIndia @indiannavy

**Pravind Kumar Jugnauth** @jugnauthkumar · 29m  
We are deeply grateful to India for donating 100 000 doses of Covishield to Mauritius as part of its Mission 'Vaccine Maitri'. @PMOIndia @narendramodi @HCLPortLouis



**India in Bhutan** @indianbhutan  
#VaccineMaitri #NeighbourhoodFirst #affordablevaccine4all @PMOIndia @MEAIndia @IndianDiplomacy

**Business Bhutan** @bbshutan · 3h · Q  
An AN32 aircraft just arrived in Paro valley, Bhutan's first consignment of COVID-19 from India.  
The aircraft of Indian Air Force delivered 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccines, making Bhutan the first country to receive the gift since the roll out in India.  
Health minister Dechen Wangmo will receive the vaccines from Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj in presence of Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering in a modest ceremony.



7:02 · Twitter for iPhone

**Bhutan Broadcasting** @BBShutan  
#CovidVaccineUpdates An AN32 aircraft just arrived in Paro valley, ferrying Bhutan's first consignment of COVID-19 vaccine from India.  
[facebook.com/13397251661726...](https://facebook.com/13397251661726...)



3:05 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for Android

**Narendra Modi** @narendramodi · Jan 23  
The honour is ours, President @jairbolsonaro to be a trusted partner of Brazil in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic together. We will continue to strengthen our cooperation on healthcare.

**Jair M. Bolsonaro** @jairbolsonaro · Jan 22  
- Namaskar, Primeiro Ministro @narendramodi  
- O Brasil sente-se honrado em ter um grande parceiro para superar um obstáculo global. Obrigado por nos auxiliar com as exportações de vacinas da Índia para o Brasil.  
- Dhanyavaad! धन्यवाद  
Show this thread



Obrigado, Índia!

890 46.4K 9.7K

**India in Bhutan** @indianbhutan  
#VaccineMaitri #NeighbourhoodFirst #AffordableVaccines4All @PMOIndia @MEAIndia @IndianDiplomacy @PIB\_India

**Indian Times** @indiantimes · 1h  
Aircraft just arrived in Paro valley, ferrying 1st consignment of COVID-19 vaccine  
1st of Indian Air Force delivered 150,000 covishield vaccines, making Bhutan the 1st country to receive the gift since the massive India.  
Health Minister Dechen Wangmo will receive the vaccines from Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj in presence of Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering in a ceremony.



6:59 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

**Dechen Wangmo** @DechenWangmo · 2h  
Our heartfelt gratitude to Shri @narendramodi ji, @RuchiraKamboj and the people of India for the generous gift. We applaud the leadership of @PMOIndia for the regional solidarity to enhance access to vaccine, a vital global agenda close to @DrTedros and @GaviSeth.



**Connecting Nations** @connectingnations · 1m · Q  
COVISHIELD VACCINE FOR BHUTAN  
The first consignment of 1.5 lakh dosages of Covishield vaccine being dispatched to Bhutan from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai.  
#VaccineMaitri #NeighbourhoodFirst

The first consignment of 1.5 lakh dosages of COVISHIELD VACCINE being DISPATCHED TO BHUTAN from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai.



6:47 AM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

**PM Bhutan** @PMShutan  
An AN32 aircraft just arrived in Paro valley, ferrying Bhutan's first consignment of COVID-19 vaccine from India.  
The aircraft of Indian Air Force delivered 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccines making Bhutan the 1st country to receive the gift since the roll out in India.



2:59 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

**Dechen Wangmo** @DechenWangmo · 3h  
Health Minister Dechen Wangmo will receive the vaccines from Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj in presence of Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering in a modest ceremony.



2:59 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

**India in Bhutan** @indianbhutan  
#VaccineMaitri #AffordableVaccines4All #NeighbourhoodFirst @PMOIndia @MEAIndia @IndianDiplomacy @PIB\_India

**The Journalist** @thejournalist · 3h · Q  
AN32 aircraft just arrived in Paro valley, ferrying 1st consignment of COVID-19 vaccine from India.  
Aircraft of Indian Air Force delivered 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccines, making Bhutan the 1st country to receive the gift since the massive India.  
Health Minister Dechen Wangmo will receive the vaccines from Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj in presence of Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering in a ceremony.



6:56 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

**PM Bhutan** @PMShutan  
An AN32 glided its way into the Paro valley around 3:25 pm today, ferrying Bhutan's first consignment of COVID-19 vaccine  
[facebook.com/41011202576817...](https://facebook.com/41011202576817...)



3:45 PM · Jan 20, 2021



# SOCIAL MEDIA SPACE







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