INJECTING HOPE

FIGHTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TOGETHER
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

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
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.
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)
Bhutan

BHUTAN RECEIVES 150,000 DOSES OF COVISHIELD VACCINE FROM INDIA

Jan 20, 2021

An Indian Air Force aircraft AN-32 landed towards late afternoon today with the consignment. 13 boxes which contain 1,200 vials each were sanitized and administered Thruels by the Lheyshog 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.

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.

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.
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.
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.

“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.

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

“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.

“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.

Earlier, Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli thanked PM Modi for granting one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal.
Nepal
FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF COVID-19 VACCINES FROM INDIA ARRIVES IN KATHMANDU
By Khabahub
Published: Jan 21, 2021

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 COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal under grant assistance.

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.
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.

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.
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.

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 neighbours 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.

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.

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.

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

India gave 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Nepal...
**INDIA GIVES 1 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO NEPAL**

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA | January 21, 2021

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.

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’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.
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.

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

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

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.
Bangladesh

35 LAKH VACCINE DOSES TO ARRIVE FROM INDIA TODAY: MOMEN

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.

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. 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.
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

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.

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.
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.”
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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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-Astrazeneca Covid-19 vaccines from India as a gift on Jan. 21,” it said in a statement.

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.

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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.
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.


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.

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.
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.

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.

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, 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 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.

Colombo, Jan 28 (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.

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COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — 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.
After providing coronavirus vaccines to several countries including Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives, India on Thursday 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).

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.
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 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.
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.

“<span class="red">AstraZeneca is one of the most successful vaccines. This will help reduce the health burden,” Dr. Fernandopulle said.</span>

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.

Head of the Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan, Principal Adviser to the President, Lalith Weeratunga 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, Weeratunga 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 AstraZeneca vaccine from India as a donation tomorrow morning.

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

Sri Lanka also had requested Russian Sputnik V vaccine also.
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 drug regulatory body – National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) – gave a go-ahead to Oxford AstraZeneca’s vaccine.

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.
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.
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.

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 million 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.
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 release said.

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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.
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)
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 Iwashchenko as saying.

He gave no further details.

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

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.

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.

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

BHC 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.
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

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.

News

INDIA GIVES 1 MILLION DOES 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

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.
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.

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)
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 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.

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.
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 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.

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.

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“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 initially will only ship the AstraZeneca vaccine. 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.

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

"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."
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.

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.

READ MORE: India surpasses 10 million coronavirus cases, but rate of infection slowing

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

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.

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. Ofrin, 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.
India

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

Reuters
Published January 20, 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 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.

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.

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

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 (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 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.

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.”

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

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

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.

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, ...
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.

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. Ofrin, 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. Ofrin about WHO’s work there, including efforts to counter hesitancy and misinformation surrounding vaccination.
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.

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.

“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. This approval allows Bahrain to begin its COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The move is a testament to the strong ties between the two countries and reflects India’s commitment to supporting global health efforts. #VaccineMaitri,” Srivastava said on Twitter, attaching images of the plane that will carry the supply.

New Delhi: 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.

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Andhrapradesh: 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.

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Andhrapradesh: 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 [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 vaccines 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.
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

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.

SOUTH AFRICA WELCOMES FIRST DELIVERY OF COVID-19 VACCINES


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.

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 vaccine will be administered to frontline workers in approximately two weeks. (Photo by Alet Pretorius)
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.

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

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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.

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.
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.
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-awaiteded 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.

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.
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 (REUTERS)

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.
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.

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

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

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.
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.

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

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 power.

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,
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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

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.
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, 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.

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)

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 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.

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 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,” 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.”
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”.

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.

“No 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.

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

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.

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.
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.

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.
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 vaccination drive is based on humanitarian & very important principles, says Modi"

Published: January 16, 2021 09:48

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.
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.
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.

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.

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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.

These deliveries in turn will give a boost to the warehousing business in the state that had been witnessing strong growth in recent years.
One of the world's largest vaccination campaigns was launched yesterday in India, with sanitation workers, 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.

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 frontline workers.

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 at 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.”
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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India starts world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive
Saturday 16 January 2021 05:44

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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.

Sri Lanka sees vaccination process in India as beginning of the end of pandemic
17 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.

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 asserted that the made-in-India vaccines will ensure a “decisive victory” for the country over the coronavirus pandemic.”
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.

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.

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.

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“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.
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.

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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.

“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”.

ścięty 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

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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
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.

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.
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.

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.
Indien impft seit Samstag seine Bevölkerung.


Die Regierung errichtete auf einem Campingplatz ein Corona-Testzentrum, um religiösen Menschen kostenlos eine Testmöglichkeit anzubieten, die den Campingplatz besuchen, um auf der Sugar-Insel am hinduistischen Fest «Makar Sankranti» teilzunehmen. Foto: Debarchan Chatterjee/ZUMA Wire/dpa | Keystone/ZUMA Wire/Debarchan Chatterjee


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-


Damit wären im Sommer knapp ein Viertel der 1,3 Milliarden Einwohner Indiens geimpft.

»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.«

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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.
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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300 million people
الهند تطلق أكبر حملة تطعيم ضد كورونا في العالم

البحث ◄ السبت ١٦/١/٢٠٢١ ١٤:٠٨ م

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Injecting hope

النوحويه، وكالة: أصبح عامل النفوذ الخارجي في الهند يكتسب أهمية كبيرة، حيث تبدأ البلاد في تشغيل جهاز تطعيم كورونا في العالم، وهو من الكبار في العالم.

وزيرة الصحة الهندية تطلق حملة تطعيم ضد كورونا في العالم.

وفي الختام، توجه نتائج الحملة إلى جميع الأطراف والجهات المعنية، بما في ذلك البلدان الأخرى، مما يجعل هذه الحملة تجربة نموذجية في منظور العالم.

من المصدر: الهند، ١٦/١/٢٠٢١
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.

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.”
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.
India launched one of the world’s largest coronavirus vaccination drives on Saturday, setting in motion a complex deployment plan aimed at stemming the widespread 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.

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.
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

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1000万人を超え米国に次ぎ世界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、インドは途上国で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ート・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学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ゼラム・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750万万分を備蓄済みという。

インド、夏までに3億人 ワクチン接種スタート

【ニュースリリース】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200万人を超えるなどお感染拡大が止まらない中、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るのか、注目を集めている。
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.
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.
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.
Índia inicia grande campanha de vacinação contra a COVID-19

Nova Deli, 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

Índia satisfeita com início da campanha de vacinação

17/01/2021 13h47

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.

A medical worker inoculates a colleague with a COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine at the Rajawadi Hospital in Mumbai on Saturday (AFP photo)
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.
ÍNDIA INICIA GRANDE CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO E PFIZER PLANEJA REDUZIR ATRASO NA ENTREGA DAS DOSES

16/01/2021 - 16h19

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.

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

Kumar recebeu sua dose no Instituto de Ciências Médicas da Índia (AIIMS), um dos 3.006 centros de vacinação estabelecidos em todo o país.

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.

ÍNDIA COMEÇA CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO CONTRA A COVID-19

16/01/2021 05h51  Atualizado há um mês

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Funcionário de crematório na cidade alemã de Meissen (leste) transporta caixões de vítimas do coronavírus - AFP

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ÍNDIA DÁ INÍCIO À 'MAIOR CAMPAHNA 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.

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.

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.
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.


NEW DELHI, 17 JAN – 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.
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.”

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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