



Destination Updates as on 27 May 2021

INDIA

This week, India has crossed 200 million cumulative COVID-19 vaccinations. While lockdowns and travel restrictions are the order of the day in different parts of India, preparations for graded reopening have also begun. Authorities are chalking out updated safety protocols and guidelines to avoid a relapse. We are hoping for things to get better slowly but steadily with the indefatigable efforts of the frontline workers. We are truly indebted to them for their selfless service.

In a welcome move, the Government of Kerala has announced that hotel and restaurant employees in the state between the ages of 18 – 45 will be considered for priority vaccination. Recently many tour operators in the region converted their mini tourist buses into Covid-19 special ambulances that came as a great boon for the state's fight against the virus.

We are happy to announce that our organisation has launched a countrywide vaccination drive for all employees and contractual staff. This is our humble endeavour to ensure the wellbeing of our employees and their families. We are also maintaining a health and vaccination database of all our staff to be able to be of assistance to them in whichever way possible.

The deadly second wave has brought things to a standstill in the country. However, one is always hopeful that tomorrow will be a better day. The past months have been one of the toughest times in many of our lives, but as Robert Frost summed up in three words, "It goes on." We buckle up and carry on.

For latest statistics and vaccination status, please [click here](#).

SRI LANKA

All passenger arrivals to Sri Lanka are suspended till 31 May as a more stringent measure to curb the transmission of Covid-19. This comes due to the Health Ministry in particular cautioning the government that Sri Lanka too should adapt more strict measures in the Asian region.

Sri Lanka had rolled out its vaccination programme in late January, 2021 after India gifted 0.5 million doses of the AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine. So far, the country has administered over 1.6 million doses out of which, 0.3 million people have been fully vaccinated. The government has also sourced and approved the use of both Sinopharm and Sputnik V vaccines for inoculating its citizens over the age of 30 years.

Sri Lanka is hopeful of reaching its target of immunizing majority of the population by the end of the year.

For latest statistics, please [click here](#).

NEPAL

The ongoing lockdown, officially the prohibitory order, imposed in the Kathmandu valley has been extended till 3 June.

As Nepal battles the second wave of the coronavirus, critical shortages in vaccines, oxygen, testing supplies, skilled human resources and critical care medicines and supplies have been identified as immediate needs. The humanitarian community is working in support of the Government's efforts to prevent and mitigate adverse health impacts. China is helping with 1 million doses of vaccine in grant assistance. So far, according to government figures, 2.7 million people have been vaccinated, with around 0.65 million taking both doses.

Nepal had begun its inoculation drive in January, 2021 with 1 million doses of AstraZeneca type vaccine, Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India. Amid uncertainty over when the country would get the balance supply of Covishield vaccine, the government has decided to widen the gap of booster dose to 12-16 weeks in line with the Indian government's decision for forward vaccination coverage. The Government plans to vaccinate at least 72 percent of its 30 million population.

For latest figures and detailed statistics, please [click here](#).

BHUTAN

The Bhutanese borders, remain monitored and closed for tourists until further notice.

Bhutan received its first 150,000 dosage of AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine from India in January, 2021. It has vaccinated nearly 93% of its adult population since March 27. Overall, the country has vaccinated 62% of its 800,000 people. Bhutan plans to fully vaccinate the entire country by the end of June, subject to timely vaccine supplies. Buoyed by the success of the campaign, the government hinted at relaxing stringent quarantine and travel restrictions, and slowly opening the country's borders after the second round of vaccinations in June.

Please [click here](#) for the latest updates.

[Click here](#) to read more on our proposed post-Covid preparations.