

## INDIA

Aid has been pouring in from the global community to help India battle through an unprecedented crisis and support her in her efforts to overcome the pandemic. The unparalleled solidarity shown by the world in responding to India's needs and arrival of urgent medical drugs and equipment from dozens of countries belonging to multiple continents shows that help is never too far away.

Foreign supplies, valuable medical equipment, and much needed oxygen concentrators are reaching India and systematically being distributed to healthcare facilities across the nation.

Emirates Airlines has also set up a humanitarian air bridge between Delhi and Dubai to facilitate quick transportation of urgent relief and medical items. The airline will offer cargo capacity free of charge on all of its flights to nine cities of India to help international organisations send relief supplies to where it is required. The cargo capacity will be on an "as available" basis.

In another happy development, Vistara announced the launch of non-stop flights between Tokyo and New Delhi from 16 June 2021. The airline will fly once a week between the two capitals under the travel bubble arrangement between the two countries. Bookings for the flights are being progressively opened on different platforms including the airline's website and through travel agents.

The vaccination drive in India is continuing with over 175 million doses administered as on 12 May 2021 8AM (IST).

For latest statistics and vaccination status, please click here.

## NEPAL

The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) has issued a release with the decision to extend the ban on International flights till midnight of 31 May 2021. This decision comes amid the growing surge of Covid-19 cases in Nepal.

The only exceptions to this flight ban being the two flights a week between New Delhi and Kathmandu operated one each by Air India and Nepal Airlines under the travel bubble arrangement. Cargo, chartered, and medical flights can fly with prior permission from the Civil Aviation Authority.

For latest figures and detailed statistics, please click here.

## **SRI LANKA**

The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka announced a temporary ban on the entry of Indian passengers into the island nation. This announcement comes on the instructions of the Health Authorities of Sri Lanka. The authorities have however reassured that the ban is only temporary and that they will review it as early as possible.

For travellers arriving from other countries, Sri Lanka has put a cap on the number of passengers per flight that are allowed to come into the country to 75. This new travel restriction has been effective since the morning of 03 May 2021 for a period of 14 days, following which the decision will be reviewed whether to lift or further tighten the restrictions.

For latest statistics, please <u>click here</u>.

## BHUTAN

Bhutan has reached out to India and agreed to supply 40 MT of oxygen to Assam as a gesture of the longstanding friendship and unique ties between the two countries. Prime Minister Lotay Tshering also expressed his solidarity, good wishes, and support in a telephonic conversation with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bhutan had received its first lot of AstraZeneca vaccine from India and inoculated an impressive 93% of its adult population with the first dose. The country is now waiting for the second lot to arrive to continue its immunisation drive.

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

Please <u>click here</u> for the latest updates.

<u>Click here</u> to read more on our proposed post-Covid preparations.



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