

### INDIA

19 July 2021 is a special day in the history of TCI. It marks 60 years of the organisation's foundation that has grown to become an institution in the travel industry by virtue of its sheer tenacity and steadfastness that has seen it through many ups and downs over the years. We would like to take this moment to thank all our partners who have stood by our side and supported us every step of the way. Thank you for your trust in us and we hope it continues for another 60 years!

In order to enhance India's share of foreign tourist arrivals vis-à-vis World Tourist Arrivals, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Government of India has released a guideline under Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS). It is aimed at promoting India in short, medium, and long haul tourism markets to augment tourist traffic to India and to encourage the tour operators from these countries to sell India tour programmes. For further information, please visit [Guideline for CSSS](#).

The government has also announced lucrative incentives to MICE operators to bring international conferences into India. The country is busy preparing excellent infrastructure to support inbound MICE events by building state-of-the-art convention centres, the latest one being the two-storied Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi built with the aid of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi, the convention centre is poised to become one of the finest venues for international trade events, exhibitions, and much more.

The India manufactured AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine has now been recognised by 17 European nations including France, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Spain, and Germany. The recognition comes as welcome news as it means Indians vaccinated with two doses of Covishield vaccine will be allowed to travel to these European countries, once they gradually lift their travel restrictions.

As on date, over 417 million doses of vaccination have been administered in India with over 6.4% of the total adult population having received both doses.

For detailed and latest updates on vaccination and number of cases, please [click here](#).

### NEPAL

With the arrival of over 1.5 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine donated by the United States under the 'Covax' agreement, Nepal's inoculation drive has received a new lease of life. The government has proceeded to use these single-dose vaccines to immunize its differently abled and vulnerable citizens from 19 July. The shipment of the vaccines from USA came as a great relief for the people of Nepal who were reeling under a shortage of Covid-jabs.

The country has now fully immunised over 4% of its total adult population and hopes to inoculate even more with the other vaccines including the AstraZeneca Covishield and the Chinese manufactured Vero Cell.

The national carriers of Nepal and India have increased the number of weekly flights that will fly between the capital cities of Kathmandu and Delhi. From the earlier two flights, there will now be six flights on the route under the travel bubble arrangement between the two countries. This decision comes following an increase in demand of outbound travellers from Kathmandu most of who want to visit India for medical treatments.

With the recovery rate at about 95%, Nepal has been successfully handling the Covid situation in the country and with the latest consignment of American vaccines, Nepal hopes to be able to immunise a significant number of its senior and vulnerable citizens.

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

### SRI LANKA

The Emerald Isle is now ready to welcome visitors again!

This is great news for travellers who are longing to visit the sun-drenched beaches of Sri Lanka. Cultural and historical attractions and National Parks across the country are now open for visitor. There is an added advantage for fully vaccinated guests. They only need to stay at a Level 1 hotel on their first night and then they are free to move into the community from Day 02. This is subject to a negative result on the mandatory PCR test conducted on arrival. Fully vaccinated travellers with a negative PRC report will get a 'Discharged Card' that will serve as their passport for unrestricted movement within the island.

Non-vaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers can also visit Sri Lanka. However, they need to pre-book Level 1 'Safe & Secure' hotel accommodation (up to 15 Days) and travel within a 'Safe Bio-Bubble'. Guests must also undergo mandatory PCR test on arrival and on Day 14 prior to being 'Discharged'. They can visit cultural sites and attractions but with safety restrictions, which they can discuss with their local travel representatives.

Mandatory requirements for all who want to visit Sri Lanka are as below

- Valid Passports
- Original Vaccine Certificate
- Pre-booking confirmation of first night stay at a Level 1 'Safe & Secure' Hotel
- Pre-paid travel local insurance (\$12 per person for a cover of \$50,000)
- An English version of a negative PCR test report done no more than 72 hours prior to boarding

The government has temporarily banned arrivals from India, Vietnam, some African, and South American regions and of passengers with history of travel to these places in the last 14 days.

There has been remarkable progress in the inoculation drive of the country with over 48% of the total adult population having received at least a single dose of the vaccine. Approximately 12% of its total adult population is fully vaccinated making Sri Lanka the leader in the region in terms of percentage of adults vaccinated.

The country has received 1.5 million doses of Moderna vaccines from USA on 16th July that has helped speed up the vaccination drive. They are also due to receive another shipment of 1.45 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines from Japan by the end of July under the 'Covax' agreement. The government is also administering doses of AstraZeneca Pfizer-BioNTech, Sinopharm, and Sputnik V vaccines to citizens above 30 years and it is confident of inoculating 100% of its adult population by the end of September.

The number of cases reported daily has also seen a decline and as on 20 July, the numbers ranged between 1200-1400 cases daily.

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

### BHUTAN

The tiny Himalayan country that carried out one of the fastest vaccination drives with the 150,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine donated by India in March, had to halt its progress following the deadly second wave that hit India and created a shortage in the manufacture and supply of vaccines.

With over 62% of the total population having received the first dose, the government sought help from the other countries of the world who stepped up to provide relief. China, Denmark, and USA have sent millions of doses of different vaccines that have restarted Bhutan's inoculation drive. USA has sent 500,000 doses of Moderna vaccine through the 'Covax' facility, Denmark has sent 250,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines, China has sent 50,000 doses of Sinopharm-manufactured and developed vaccine, and over 100,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines have come from Bulgaria, Croatia, and few other countries. The COVAX facility has also sent over 5800 doses of Pfizer vaccines.

The Bhutanese Government has expressed its gratitude towards all the countries that have stepped up in this time of crisis and shown good faith and kindness.

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

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