

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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16

Covid Vaccine

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Vaccines for seniors and 45-plus with comorbidities from March

Shots will be given for free at govt. facilities and for a charge at private hospitals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

People above 60 and those above 45 with comorbidities would be given COVID-19 vaccines from March 1, the Union government announced on Wednesday.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said that under the second phase of vaccination, shots would be given for free at 10,000 government-run medical facilities and for a charge at 20,000 private ones. Charges for vaccination at private hospitals would be confirmed in a few days.

"The Health Ministry is in discussion with manufacturers and hospitals to determine the cost of vaccination to be made available in private sector," Mr. Javadekar said. The Centre would buy doses and send them to all the States for the government medical facilities.

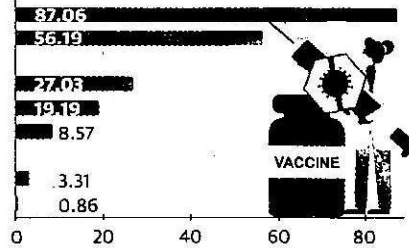
Around 27 crore people are expected to be covered in the second phase. Of this group, around 10 crore people were over 60, he said.

A senior health official told *The Hindu* that with the expansion of the vaccination

Lagging behind India was ranked 75th in terms of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered per 100 persons, among the 95 nations/territories that have begun their inoculation campaign. Israel led the world, having administered 87 doses per 100 persons

RANK | COUNTRY | VACCINE DOSES PER 100

1.	ISRAEL	87.05
3.	UAE	56.19
7.	U.K.	27.08
11.	U.S.	19.19
20.	DENMARK	8.57
58.	BRAZIL	3.31
75.	INDIA	0.86



SOURCE: OUR WORLD IN DATA

Delhi may bring in travel checks

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government is likely to ask travellers from Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya

Pradesh and Punjab to show a negative RT-PCR test report for COVID-19 before entering the national capital, officials said.

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Coverage in State is 75%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka, which rolled out vaccination for health workers on January 16 and for frontline workers on February 15, had cumulatively achieved an overall coverage of 75% till Wednesday.

While 61% of the targeted 7,28,349 healthcare workers have been inoculated, 51% of the targeted 2,91,037 frontline workers have been covered. On Wednesday, 36,691 of the 65,102 targeted healthcare and frontline workers for the day were vaccinated.

Meanwhile, as many as 1,77,965 healthcare workers have taken the second dose so far. While the highest coverage was recorded in Bengaluru Urban district (22,096), the lowest was in Chamarajanagar (1,231).

The State on Wednesday reported 334 new cases of COVID-19, taking the total to 9,49,183. Bengaluru Urban reported 174 cases.

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Vaccination for seniors from March

When asked whether Ministers and the Prime Minister would get inoculated, Mr. Javadekar said those who wanted to take the vaccine would take it at the place of their choosing from March 1. Vaccination in India had been successful, "faultless with hardly any complaints", he said.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who also briefed the media on the Cabinet decisions, said most of the Ministers were of the opinion that they would pay to get vaccinated.

The first phase of vaccination started on January 16. The cumulative number of doses administered to healthcare and frontline workers crossed 1.23 crore on Wednesday, the Health Ministry said.

"A total of 1,23,66,633 vaccine doses have been given through 2,63,224 sessions, as per the provisional report till 6 p.m. These include 65,24,726 healthcare workers (HCWs) who have taken the 1st dose and 14,81,754 HCWs who have taken the 2nd dose, along with 43,60,153 frontline workers (FLWs) (1st dose). Vaccination of the FLWs

started from 2nd Feb 2021," a Ministry release said.

A total of 2,01,035 doses were given till 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the 40th day of the nationwide vaccination. Out of this, 1,17,681 were given the first dose and 83,354 HCWs received the second, as per the provisional report. Sessions numbering 8,868 were held till 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

Vaccines in use

India has approved two vaccines for emergency use - Covishield (developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and manufactured by the Serum Institute of India) and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

On Wednesday, Russia's Sputnik V applied for emergency use. It has an efficacy rate of 91.6%.

Reacting to the government announcement, Max Health Care said, "We welcome this decision by the government. It is a positive move to include the private sector and we are keen to participate. We await clarity from the government on how to take this forward in terms of required manpower and centres."

Delhi may bring in checks

The order is likely to be implemented from Saturday and would be effective till March 15.

Confirming the development, an official at the Chief Minister's Office said the order would be applicable to those arriving on flights, trains and buses.

The issue was discussed at the Delhi Disaster Management Authority meeting on Monday. "The file regarding it was approved by the department and sent to the L-G's office for approval, through the Minister con-

cerned, but it is yet to come back from the L-G office," a Delhi government official said.

The government is yet to formally announce the decision.

West Bengal on Wednesday made it mandatory for passengers travelling on flights from Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana to produce negative COVID-19 reports. Passengers should undergo RT-PCR tests within 72 hours of the flight departure.

(With PTI inputs)

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