

# India's COVID-19 vaccination drive in full swing

The country has become one of the major centres in the transnational efforts to counter the pandemic

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India is one of the world's largest vaccine producers. Sixty per cent of global vaccine production comes from India.

Indian producers supply 1.5 billion doses annually to more than 150 countries. The country is the largest supplier of the DPT, BCG and Measles vaccines globally. WHO sources 70% of its essential immunisation vaccines from India.

India is a leader in vaccine R&D with a well-developed ecosystem linking the public and private sectors as well as academia and industry in networks that spur innovation.

An indigenously developed low-cost Rotavirus vaccine

which protects against childhood diarrhea, and another against the dreaded Japanese encephalitis, are now included under the Indian Universal Immunisation Programme.

## Coronavirus and vaccines

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted India's position as a reliable stakeholder in global healthcare supply chains with major strengths manufacturing, R&D and innovation.

About 30 groups across academia and industry are actively involved in development, collaboration, co-development and trials for COVID-19 vaccines in India. Six vaccine candidates, inclusive of three indigenously developed ones are in clinical stages of development and



Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer

three vaccine candidates are in advanced pre-clinical stage of development.

Many others are in pre-early stages of development. Two vaccines received Emergency Use Authorization on 2nd January 2021 and one of them (AstraZeneca-Oxford-Serum

Institute) is being currently dispensed in the largest COVID vaccination programme in the world.

Six candidates are in clinical trials which include three indigenously developed vaccine candidates. These are:

Phase III trial of Inactivated

whole virion vaccine by Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL) and ICMR.

Phase II clinical trial of DNA vaccine candidate (ZyCoV-D) by Zydus Cadila Phase I clinical trial of recombinant protein subunit vaccine candidate by Biological E.

Phase II/III clinical trials of ChAdOx1-S, in-licensed from University of Oxford/AstraZeneca, by Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd. (SIPL)

Adaptive phase II/III clinical trial for the Russian Sputnik V vaccine by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd.

Repurposed Vaccine : Phase III Clinical trial of rBCG vaccine by Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd. (SIPL)

Two vaccine candidates, a

mRNA vaccine (Gennova Biopharmaceuticals) and another using an inactivated rabies vector platform (BBIL) are in advanced stages of pre-clinical development. Many are in early stages of development.

Government institutions and regulatory authorities have worked closely during the pandemic with the private sector to support candidate vaccine development and create enabling regulatory framework.

The immunoassay laboratory of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (Department of Biotechnology) is one of the six labs in the world designated by Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, for centralised assessment of COVID-19 vaccines.

## A feeling of patriotism and pride for New Horizon School students

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The New Horizon School celebrated India's 72nd Republic Day yesterday to inculcate a feeling of patriotism and pride in the students despite staying miles away from their motherland.

Republic Day is celebrated with colours of unity to depict the opulence and the richness

of Indian culture. Students were given activities on preparing the national symbols of India.

Students of Grades 3 to 6 performed a 'Mashup Dance' to patriotic songs and filled the air with an aroma of patriotism and nationalism. The highlight of the event was a parade on "Incredible India" by the students of Kindergarten and

Grade 1. They represented 28 states, sang and danced to the regional language of each state to display the theme "Unity in Diversity".

A Grade 6 student, Hannah, in her speech gave an insight on the significance of Republic Day and highlighted the martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for the sake of India's honour

and glory.

The key address was delivered by acting Principal, Leena Verma, who encouraged and urged the teachers and students to instil the feeling of oneness – a prime criteria of Indian culture and heritage. The vote of thanks was given by Suresh who congratulated the team for their excellent display.



## Happy Republic Day 26th January



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