

India Update over Covid Scenario

Date – 15th January 2021

INDIA

Earlier India was leading the world in daily case count however in past few weeks has shown a marked improvement in its coronavirus situation. The country is now consistently reporting under 20,000 daily cases on an average as compared to hitting a peak of over 97,000 new cases in a single day last September. And while its battle against coronavirus is far from over, India's Covid-19 graph does stand out when compared to some other badly-hit nations around the world.

India's tally has moved to 1,05,27,683 which includes 2,13,027 active cases, 1,01,62,738 patients who have recovered (*with a recovery rate of 96.52%*) and 1,51,918 deaths so far.

With regards to New Strain of novel Coronavirus from U.K. - A total of 38 samples have been found to be positive with the new U.K variant genome. All these persons have been kept in single room isolation in designated Health Care facilities by respective State Governments at their home cities. Their close contacts have also been put under quarantine. Comprehensive contact tracing has been initiated for co-travelers, family contacts and others. Genome sequencing on other specimens is going on. The situation is under careful watch and regular advice is being provided to the States for enhanced surveillance, containment, testing & dispatch of samples to INSACOG labs.

With UK becoming the first country to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, giving the much-needed respite to the world. India too, has approved the two of the leading coronavirus vaccine contenders for restricted use. Oxford-AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine Covishield, manufactured by Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech's COVID vaccine Covaxin have been approved for emergency use authorisation.

With India's COVID-19 inoculation drive set to commence on Saturday (16 January), initially frontline health workers (approx. 30 Million) will receive the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. According to the guidelines issued to the shortlisted vaccination centres, the group of 'healthcare workers' shall also include nursing

hospital attendant, cleaners, ambulance drivers along with doctors and nurses. The beneficiaries will be chosen from a mixed age group, including above 50 years.

On 16th January Government is also likely to launch the Co-WIN (COVID-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network) App, a digital platform created for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine delivery and distribution.

After creating successfully the travel bubbles to a large number of nations as advised in our last update the tourism ministry is actively considering opening up of the VISA's to all foreign nationals to visit India which will be subject to strict health & safety protocols and COVID -19 tests prior to leaving their country and upon arrival in India.

Will keep you updated on the same. For the latest updates you may visit <https://www.mygov.in/covid-19>