



DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE DAY

Friday

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Covid-19: New antibody treatment

Covid-19: New antibody treatment could offer up to 18 months' protection against severe disease (The Tribune: 20211022)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/covid-19-new-antibody-treatment-could-offer-up-to-18-months-protection-against-severe-disease-327571>

The new treatment, AZD7442, uses special antibodies called monoclonal antibodies

Covid-19: New antibody treatment could offer up to 18 months' protection against severe disease

Photo for representational purpose only. iStock

A new treatment could soon help protect people from developing severe Covid. AstraZeneca has just released results from a phase-3 clinical trial – the final stage of testing before a drug is authorised – that suggest its new Covid treatment, AZD7442, is effective at reducing severe disease or death in non-hospitalised Covid patients.

The treatment contains antibodies, which are usually produced naturally in response to a Covid infection or vaccination. They work by recognising specific parts of SARS-CoV-2 – the virus that causes Covid – and either attack these directly or bind to them to stop the virus from working and flag it for destruction by other parts of the immune system.

After they've done their job of clearing the virus, the antibodies remain in the body for a period of time, making up part of our immunological memory. If what they target is encountered again, they can leap into action.

The new treatment, AZD7442, uses special antibodies called monoclonal antibodies. These are antibodies produced in a lab that imitate the body's natural defences – in this case mimicking the immune system's response to Covid.

Artificially developing antibodies to fight disease isn't a new technique. This technology is already used to treat many diseases, including leukaemia, breast cancer and lupus. In fact, this isn't even the first time the technique has been used for Covid. The first Covid monoclonal antibody treatment was approved in the UK in August 2021.

How does AstraZeneca's treatment work?

AZD7442 is a cocktail of two monoclonal antibodies – tixagevimab and cilgavimab – that are designed to reduce the severity of a SARS-CoV-2 infection and so prevent people from getting severely ill.

Both of these antibodies bind to different parts of virus's spike proteins, which cover its outer surface and are what the virus uses to infect cells. It's thought that attaching to these proteins is what gives the medicine its effect, as this stops the virus from being able to get inside cells and reproduce.

The two monoclonal antibodies in the cocktail are based on antibodies taken from patients who survived COVID. Scientists at AstraZeneca took blood samples from patients and isolated immune cells called B cells, which are the antibody factories of the human body. They then grew more of these B cells in the lab, and used them to make large quantities of the two antibodies, which they had identified as specifically targeting the coronavirus's spike protein.

But the key difference between this and other antibody-based treatments is that in AZD7442, the antibodies have been modified so they stay in the body for longer.

Studies using similarly modified antibodies against another respiratory virus – respiratory syncytial virus – have shown that this approach gives long-term protection, with the modified antibodies having triple the durability of conventional antibodies. It's hoped that a single dose of AZD7442 could offer 12 to 18 months protection from severe Covid, though we'll have to wait to see exactly how long protection lasts.

How well does it work?

AstraZeneca's phase-3 trial investigated the effectiveness of the treatment when given to patients who were infected with SARS-CoV-2.

The study looked at 822 participants who were over the age of 18. Only around 13% were 65 years and over, but 90% had health conditions that put them at high risk of severe Covid, such as cancer, diabetes, obesity, chronic lung disease or asthma, cardiovascular disease or a weakened immune system.

The trial results show that of the 407 people who received AZD7442, 18 developed severe Covid or died, compared with 37 of the 415 people who received a placebo. This suggests that those in the AZD7442 group were 50% less likely to develop severe Covid than those taking a placebo.

The trial also looked specifically at patients who received treatment quickly – that is, within five days of their symptoms starting. In this group, AZD7442 reduced the risk of severe disease or death by 67%, suggesting that early treatment with AZD7442 provides greater protection.

It's important to note, however, that these results have been released by AstraZeneca but don't yet appear to have been formally reviewed by other scientists. So any findings need to be treated with caution.

How useful will it be?

These results suggest that AZD7442 could be a valuable tool for patients in need of instant immunity against Covid, such as those who have not responded to vaccines because of a weakened immune system or those in other high-risk groups.

However, more detail of the characteristics of the patients who did and did not benefit from the medicine is required to fully understand who will benefit most from receiving this drug.

And when considering how useful AZD7442 could be, it's important to consider when in the course of the disease the treatment will be given. For many, severe disease with Covid isn't caused by the virus replicating, but by the immune system going awry.

This means that to prevent severe disease, drugs such as AZD7442 need to be given early in infection, before the overzealous immune response kicks in. Give them too late, and treatments like this that target the virus directly are unlikely to offer much benefit (unlike those that can control inflammation and immune overreaction, such as dexamethasone or tocilizumab).

But one thing that could help the treatment be deployed early during infection is the fact that it only needs to be injected into a muscle, rather than be given intravenously. This means it can be given at a clinic, without patients needing to come into hospital.

However, monoclonal antibody treatments are notoriously expensive, and the cost of AZD7442 has not yet been released. This could be the biggest barrier to the drug having a big impact worldwide – assuming, of course, that its phase 3 results pass the scrutiny of regulators and the drug is approved. — The Conversation

WHO

India reports 18 per cent decrease in Covid cases, 13 per cent decrease in deaths during Oct 11-17: WHO (The Tribune: 20211022)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/india-reports-18-per-cent-decrease-in-covid-cases-13-per-cent-decrease-in-deaths-during-oct-11-17-who-327035>

(The Covid Weekly Epidemiological Update was released by the World Health Organisation on Tuesday

India reports 18 per cent decrease in Covid cases, 13 per cent decrease in deaths during Oct 11-17: WHO

India reported an 18 per cent decrease in the new Covid cases along with a 13 per cent decline in the number of deaths during the week of October 11 to 17, the WHO has said, highlighting that all the regions globally, except the European Region, reported a fall in new weekly cases of the deadly virus.

The Covid Weekly Epidemiological Update, released by the World Health Organisation on Tuesday, said that with just over 2.7 million new cases and over 46,000 new deaths reported during the week of October 11 to 17, the global number of new cases and deaths remained similar to that of the previous week.

Apart from the European Region, which reported a 7 per cent increase in the number of new weekly cases when compared to the previous week, all the other regions reported declines in new weekly cases.

The update said that the largest decrease in new weekly cases was reported from the African Region (18 per cent), followed by the Western Pacific Region (16 per cent). The African Region also reported the largest decline in weekly deaths (25 per cent) followed by the South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean Regions with 19 per cent and 8 per cent declines, respectively.

The cumulative number of confirmed cases reported globally is now over 240 million and the cumulative number of deaths is just under 4.9 million.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the United States of America (582,707 new cases; 11 per cent decrease), the United Kingdom (283,756 new cases; 14 per cent increase), Russia (217,322 new cases; 15 per cent increase), Turkey (213,981 new cases; similar to the number reported in the previous week) and India (114,244 new cases; 18 per cent decrease).

The update said that declining trends continued in the South-East Asia Region, with just under 215,000 new cases and over 2,900 new deaths reported, a decrease of 13 per cent and 19 per cent respectively, as compared to the previous week.

All countries in the region reported a decline in new cases and deaths this week, apart from Thailand that reported a similar number of cases as compared to the previous week.

While India reported the highest numbers of new cases at 114,244, they were still an 18 per cent decrease over the previous week. Thailand (72,817 new cases) and Myanmar (9202 new cases) also reported high numbers of new cases in the South-East Asia Region.

In the region, the highest numbers of new deaths were reported from India (1,535 new deaths; a 13 per cent decrease), Thailand (582 new deaths; a 14 per cent decrease), and Indonesia (301 new deaths; a 37 per cent decrease). PTI

Pfizer vaccine

Pfizer vaccine very effective against Delta variant in adolescents in Israel: Study (The Tribune: 20211022)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/pfizer-vaccine-very-effective-against-delta-variant-in-adolescents-in-israel-study-327568>

The research was conducted between June and September when Delta variant was the main strain in Israel

Pfizer vaccine very effective against Delta variant in adolescents in Israel: Study

Photo for representational purpose only. Reuters file

The Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection and symptomatic disease from the Delta variant among 12- to 18-year-olds, research conducted in Israel shows.

The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, will likely provide further reassurance the shot is effective against the variant among younger people as the US drug watchdog considers authorising use of the vaccine on children as young as five.

The study found the estimated vaccine effectiveness against documented COVID-19 infection in adolescents was 90%, and 93% against symptomatic COVID-19, on days seven to 21 after the second dose.

Israel's Clalit health maintenance organisation and Harvard University researchers reviewed data from 94,354 vaccine recipients aged 12 to 18 who were matched with an identical number of unvaccinated adolescents from the same age group.

The research was conducted between June and September, when the Delta variant was the main strain in Israel.

In a statement late on Wednesday, Clalit said the study was one of the largest peer-reviewed evaluations conducted among the age group of the effectiveness of the vaccine against the Delta variant.

Earlier this week, an analysis released by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed the Pfizer Inc /BioNTech vaccine was 93% effective in preventing hospitalisations among those aged 12 to 18.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is authorised for children as young as 12, and the companies are seeking further approval from the US Food and Drug Administration for use in those as young as five.

A panel of advisers to the FDA is expected to weigh in on data on young children later this month.

In England, the spread of COVID-19 among children is fuelling a rise in cases and causing concern among some scientists that vaccines are being rolled out in schools too slowly. Reuters

Oxidative stress

Can orange juice help reduce inflammation, oxidative stress? Here's what you need to know (The Indian Express: 20211022)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/study-orange-juice-reduce-inflammation-oxidative-stress-benefits-how-much-to-have-7583191/>

"Orange juice consists of anti-inflammatory agents and compounds like flavonoids, hesperidin and naringenin which helps in the proper functioning of the body and its organs," said dietician Sakina Diwan

orange juiceResearch has found that drinking orange juice can have potential health benefits. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Having a freshly squeezed glass of orange juice every day may help reduce inflammation and oxidative stress, claims a new study. Published in the Journal Advances in Nutrition, the findings, though limited in scope, indicate that drinking 100 per cent orange juice significantly reduces interleukin 6, a marker of inflammation, in both healthy and high-risk adults, along with two additional inflammatory and oxidative stress markers.

However, the results do not have statistical significance, suggesting that more analysis and larger studies are needed to reach conclusive evidence. The study also stressed that vitamin C and bioactive compounds in oranges play an important role in helping improve one's health.

ALSO READ |Fruit juices and fruits: What is the best time to have them?

Notably, chronic inflammation, referred to as slow, long-term inflammatory response by one's immune system as per National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), can cause chronic lifestyle diseases like that of the heart, diabetes, and more.

Another NCBI 2015-study investigated the effects of red-orange juice consumption on risk factors for metabolic syndrome. It noted how orange juice consumption can promote lower levels of oxidative stress and inflammation due to the antioxidant activity of citrus flavonoids

and carotenoids. In addition, red-fleshed sweet orange juice (red orange juice) also contains lycopene. The study published in the International Journal of Food Sciences and Nutrition also observed how insulin resistance and systolic blood pressure were reduced in normal-weight volunteers after consuming orange juice every day for eight weeks, while diastolic blood pressure decreased in overweight volunteers after the intervention.

To understand if consuming a glass of orange juice every day can help, we reached out to experts.

Sakina Diwan, dietician, Bhatia Hospital explained how orange juice can help. “Orange juice consists of anti-inflammatory agents and compounds like flavonoids, hesperidin, and naringenin which helps in the proper functioning of the body and its organs. The juice is said to mediate the response in cell’s plasma and genes thus modulating inflammation in individuals,” she told indianexpress.com.

orange juice Consider having orange juice daily; here’s why (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

According to Diwan, here are some benefits of orange juice

*Orange juice is an excellent source of vitamin C: 1 cup contains twice the daily recommended value. Vitamin C supports your immune system and may be effective in fighting against several infections.

*It also contains folate that is found to support fetal development.

*Orange juice contains high levels of potassium citrate. The nutrient binds to calcium in urine, creating an environment where kidney stones are less likely to develop.

Dr Navneet Kaur, general physician, Apollo Spectra Nehru Enclave, Delhi said orange juice is rich in fibre and improves digestive health. “Since it is high in fibre, it also lowers cholesterol levels. It is jam-packed with Vitamin B9 and folate, promotes blood circulation and purification by helping in the production of red blood cells. Thus, it can manage blood pressure and improve the inner lining of blood vessels. The calcium and potassium present in oranges can help in the prevention of kidney stones,” Dr Kaur mentioned.

While the juice has a sweet taste, it is low in glycaemic index and fat content, said Kaur. “It is a good option if you want to battle the bulge. The vitamins C and E content in the juice can regenerate skin cells. This helps minimise the appearance of blackheads and spots. The vitamin A in it can keep your vision intact,” Dr Kaur stated.

How should it be consumed?

Diwan recommends “high pulp orange juice that has more fibre”. “You can even find orange juice that has been fortified with calcium and vitamin D, which does not naturally occur in orange juice,” she said.

While it is beneficial, experts recommend just one glass of orange juice per day. “In the case of children, it will be one small glass of juice in a day. Try to have the juice in the first half of the day, or make it a part of your breakfast,” said Dr Kaur.

Breast cancer

Meet breast cancer survivor Cheryl Kire Achumi, who is motivating people to exercise and live healthy (The Indian Express: 20211022)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/fitness/breast-cancer-awareness-month-survivor-fitness-entrepreneur-cheryl-kire-achumi-dimapur-nagaland-city-gymn-women-health-goals-7565456/>

A silver lining amid this pandemic has been that people have understood the importance and benefit of exercise, she says

Cheryl Kire Achumi Cheryl Kire Achumi has been advocating for fitness in Nagaland's Dimapur. (Source: Cheryl Kire Achumi)

Cheryl Kire Achumi, born and brought up in Dimapur, was living the life of her dreams with her husband and two children. A graduate in hospitality management and a BA in English, the native of Nagaland had dabbled in a few jobs before she started her own side businesses in the form of a tent house, a service apartment rental and later a tea garden. She quit her job in 2010 to pursue entrepreneurship full-time.

But in May 2014, she was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer. “I had a small uncomfortable lump in my breast. So, I underwent a lumpectomy and sent it for biopsy. Results came and I was diagnosed with carcinoma breast stage 1,” the 43-year-old told indianexpress.com.

As part of her treatment, Cheryl had to undergo three clinical operations, six rounds of chemotherapy and 15 rounds of radiotherapy, as a result of which her “body and mind were encountering immense pain, stress and anxiety”. “During the treatment process, I also gained about 18 kilos and went from 50 to 68 kg. Since I was unable to move around freely without feeling constantly fatigued and in pain, the most I did in terms of ‘fitness’ was to walk around the compound. But I kept myself busy with the household, a little bit of gardening, read a few books, and even did a little knitting when my stiff fingers allowed,” she recalled.

Cheryl Cheryl Achumi works out six days a week. (Source: Cheryl Achumi)

She soon realised she “urgently needed to work on my core strength to get back in shape and become healthier and fitter”. With that in mind, she visited various nearby gyms in Dimapur city but “could not find a single gym in the locality that had proper amenities and trainers”.

“So, I ended up working out at home and focused on core strengthening exercises, cardio and some weights, stretching and flexibility training,” shared Cheryl who was guided by her husband Abraham Botoking, a fitness enthusiast and a certified personal fitness trainer. Her diet included both micro and macro level intake. “My husband made sure I consumed a lot of fresh fruits, vegetables, dried nuts and fruits, protein, and soup. I started on Omega 3+6+9, multivitamins and calcium,” she described.

ALSO READ |Can sedentary lifestyle, mental stress lead to hormonal imbalance in middle-aged women?

Over the next several months, she and her husband also started discussing about the prospects of starting-up an entrepreneurial venture around “enabling high-quality fitness for all”. And in no time, her husband — a former banker by profession – had quit his job to wholeheartedly support Cheryl’s entrepreneurial aspirations into becoming a reality. This is how City Gymn, co-founded by the fitness-lover couple, came to being in September 2016, and emerged as the first-ever gym in the city to have a dedicated ‘women’s fitness section’ incorporated into their facility. The gender-inclusive gyms aim to motivate and aid people to take care of their health and fitness goals.

“Everyone should exercise daily and live a healthy lifestyle. Women usually ignore their health and hardly ever exercise. We need to realise that the benefits of living a fit life are both mental and physical. This means, reduced anxiety and stress, reduced chronic illnesses, more energy, hormonal balance, weight management, longer life, better mood, good skin, good sleep, good mental health. Basically look good and feel great! That should be the ultimate motto for every woman,” Cheryl, who opened yet another branch in 2019 in Burma Camp area of the city, told this outlet .

The certified diet and nutrition coach and fitness trainer now works out six days a week with focus on core strengthening, weights and a little cardio.

Cheryl Kire Achumi Cheryl Kire Achumi, a breast cancer survivor, opened a gym with her husband (Source: Cheryl Kire Achumi)

But the pandemic soon halted things with the couple facing a financial crunch and being forced to close down one of their centers. “But we brought all the equipment home for our elderly clients and those opting for personal training—thereby enabling them to work out in privacy and security without fear of contracting the virus,” she expressed. Now as she begins again, Cheryl, who was part of the Her&Now Entrepreneurship Support Programme in the North East Region in 2019 (which enabled her to formulate a solid business expansion plan and introduced her to various innovative avenues to grow her venture), plans to “open more gyms”, along with a sporting centre, and a football coaching centre in the near future.

Notably, Her&Now programme is an initiative that empowers women entrepreneurs and is implemented by GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation

and Development (BMZ) and in partnership with the Government of India's Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE).

“A silver lining amid this pandemic has been that people have understood the importance and benefit of exercise. We have many individuals who have signed up for our fitness training in an effort to live a healthy lifestyle. Footfall is now on the rise. We also opened a Futsal centre which is doing well at the moment,” she mentioned.

ALSO READ |Majority of Indians are aware of breast cancer risks, screenings: Survey

According to breastcancerindia.net statistics, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in India with one woman being diagnosed with breast cancer in India, every four minutes, and one woman dying of it in the country every eight minutes. Despite the numbers, and the call for preventive check-ups, people especially women are “seldom proactive about their own well-being”.

“No matter what part of the body is affected, cancer is cancer. Cancer can touch anyone irrespective of caste, creed or colour. No one is immune. My advice to every woman would be to always do a self breast examination every month educate yourself. Do research. Go for regular checkups. Eat healthy, exercise regularly, let go grudges and do things that make you happy,” Cheryl said

COVID-19 vaccine doses

Scripting history: On 100 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses (The Hindu: 20211022)

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/scripting-history-the-hindu-editorial-on-100-crore-covid-19-vaccine-doses/article37116112.ece>

India must not lose sight of the goal of vaccinating all eligible adults by year-end

India scripted history on Thursday with its COVID-19 vaccine doses administered crossing the one-billion mark — accomplished in just about nine months after the vaccination programme rollout on January 16. What is even more outstanding is the targeting of adults. Unlike the established universal immunisation programme, for infants and children, India has never undertaken any massive universal adult vaccination programme. That this exercise involving thousands of health-care workers and others was carried out even while in the midst of a huge number of daily cases in April-May during the second wave makes it even more remarkable. It became possible only because vaccine manufacturers, the Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech, were able to ensure uninterrupted vaccine availability even if supply was limited in the beginning. If the Serum Institute had the foresight to begin manufacture in advance, Bharat Biotech's capability to quickly develop an indigenous vaccine with the ICMR ensured that

India did not have to endlessly wait for vaccine supplies from other countries. If there was hesitancy initially even among health-care workers, who were the first to be eligible to receive the vaccines, the deadly second wave led to a huge leap in vaccine uptake; vaccination was opened up to all priority groups and to everyone above 18 years before the second wave peaked in early May. India could have probably reached this grand milestone earlier had time not been wasted in asking States to procure vaccines directly from the two manufacturers at a higher cost to vaccinate the 18-44 age group.

While basking in glory, it is important not to lose sight of the bigger goal of vaccinating all eligible adults by the year-end. Even as vaccine supply is increasing, the pace of the vaccination drive has to be speeded up to meet the objective. If over 75% of the eligible adults have already been vaccinated with one dose, the proportion of adults who are fully vaccinated is only 31%. Since vaccination with two doses is necessary to increase the protection level, efforts should be directed at increasing the pace of second dose vaccination. China has already administered over 2.2 billion doses and fully vaccinated over 75% of the eligible population even by mid-September. Crossing the one-billion mark became possible as India stopped the export of vaccines, impacting most low- and middle-income countries. On October 14, nearly six months after halting exports, India finally supplied vaccines to four countries; further supplies will depend on production and demand. It is imperative that vaccine production is quickly ramped up to meet demand. Any more delay in meeting international obligations will greatly hurt India's credibility as a reliable vaccine supplier to the global South.

A 'pink bot' awareness campaign on breast cancer

A 'pink bot' awareness campaign on breast cancer (The Hindu: 20211022)

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/dr-p-guhan-introduces-a-campaign-that-uses-artificial-intelligence-ai-for-breast-cancer-awareness-month/article36921024.ece>

It is never too early for detection. Dr P Guhan and his team introduce a 'pink bot' campaign that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

A 'Hi' over WhatsApp is all it takes. The reply arrives almost immediately. You are not greeting a person, but a 'pink bot'. The bot is quick to list nine topics on breast cancer starting with early signs of breast cancer, early diagnosis to treatment modalities, and risk factors. "One can choose either Tamil or English. Using Artificial Intelligence (AI), the bot answers every query on breast cancer," says Dr P Guhan, director of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Oncology and Research (SRIOR), Sri Ramakrishna Hospital.

The pink bot, a chat module integrated into WhatsApp to answer queries on breast cancer is the latest initiative from Dr P Guhan and his team to raise awareness on it. It has been launched

to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign celebrated worldwide in October too raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer.

Pfizer-BioNTech

Pfizer-BioNTech ask EU agency to approve vaccine for kids 5-11(The Hindu: 20211022)

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/pfizer-biontech-ask-eu-agency-to-approve-vaccine-for-kids-5-11/article37011643.ece>

If EU regulators agree, it would be the first opportunity for younger children in Europe to get immunized against COVID-19.

Pharmaceutical company Pfizer and biotechnology company BioNTech said Friday they have requested to have their coronavirus vaccine licensed for children ages 5 to 11 across the European Union.

If EU regulators agree, it would be the first opportunity for younger children in Europe to get immunized against COVID-19.

Covaxin

WHO to meet next week to consider emergency use listing of India's Covaxin(The Hindu: 20211022)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/who-to-meet-next-week-to-consider-emergency-use-listing-of-indias-covaxin/article37050127.ece>

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, which has developed Covaxin, had submitted EOI to the World Health Organisation on April 19 for its vaccine.

The WHO's technical advisory group will meet on October 26 to consider the emergency use listing of India's Covaxin which is being used in the country's nationwide anti-COVID-19 vaccination programme, according to the global health agency's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, which has developed Covaxin, had submitted EOI (Expression of Interest) to the World Health Organisation on April 19 for its vaccine.

Vaccination

Is COVID-19 vaccine necessary for children? | In Focus podcast The Hindu: 20211022)

<https://www.thehindu.com/podcast/is-covid-19-vaccine-necessary-for-children-in-focus-podcast/article36999519.ece>

Jacob Koshy speaks to us on whether it is really necessary to expose children to vaccines when it is evident that they only contract a mild infection

With about 29% of India's population fully vaccinated, the government's Subject Expert Committee (SEC) has now recommended Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine, Covaxin, for Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) for children aged 2-18 years. This is the second vaccine in India to be cleared for children. Earlier, Zydus Cadilla's vaccine got authorization for kids above 12.

While the timeline for the supply of Covaxin for children is still unclear, its availability as an option has raised some critical questions: Is it really necessary to expose children to a vaccine authorised for emergency use, when it is evident that they only contract a mild infection and don't face the threat of mortality? Secondly, is WHO clearance for Covaxin a mere formality or should it be a matter of concern that a vaccine that is yet to get WHO clearance for adults has already got approval for children in India?

Vaccination Centre (The Asian Age: 20211022)

<http://onlinepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15913746>

■ Modi says 'history scripted' as world hails milestone ■ 75% adults got 1 dose; 31% both India administers billionth Covid jab

SANJAY KAW
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

India scripted history on Thursday as the cumulative Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed the one billion (100 crore) milestone. Nine months since the launch of one of the world's biggest vaccination drives, India has also become the second country in the world after China to achieve this historic feat.

Hailing the collective spirit of 1.3 billion Indians who managed to pull off this incredible achievement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top BJP leaders expressed their gratitude to all medical health professionals and citizens who made this achievement possible.

After paying a visit to New Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the vaccination centre at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi on Thursday.

— PTI

in the morning, Mr Modi tweeted: "India scripts history. We are witnessing the triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore Indians. Congrats India on crossing 100 crore vaccinations. Gratitude to our doctors, nurses and all those

who worked to achieve this feat.

#VaccineCentury."

A series of events were also held to mark the milestone. These included the launch of a song by singer Kailash Kher and an audiovisual film by Union health minister Mansukh

▶ **NINE MONTHS** since the launch of one of the world's biggest vaccination drives, India has also become the second country in the world after China to achieve this historic feat.

▶ **AN ANNOUNCEMENT** was made at railway stations across India hailing the completion of administering 100 crore doses and congratulating all the frontline and healthcare workers for their efforts during the crisis

Mandaviya at the Red Fort. The largest khadi tricolour in the country, weighing around 1,400 kg, was also displayed at the iconic fort. The same tricolour of 225 ft by 150 ft, had been unfurled on Gandhi Jayanti in Leh, Ladakh.

An announcement was made at railway stations across India hailing the completion of administering 100 crore doses and congratulating all the frontline and healthcare workers for their efforts during the crisis. The Delhi Metro made announcements through its public address systems and displayed messages on panels in trains and at stations to mark the "momentous achievement".

SpiceJet unveiled special livery on its Boeing 737 aircraft at Delhi airport to celebrate the milestone. The livery bearing an image of Mr Modi and healthcare workers adorned three Boeing 737 aircraft of SpiceJet. Some mobile networks' caller tunes mentioning completion of 100 crore doses were also introduced. Also, banners were put up

■ Turn to Page 4

Public Health (The Asian Age: 20211022)

<http://onlinepaper.asianage.com/article/detailpage.aspx?id=15913761>

■ 'Need to spend 2.5-3.5% to support healthcare transformation'

India needs to raise public health spending: Report

New Delhi, Oct. 21: India needs to raise public health spending to 2.5-3.5 per cent of GDP to support healthcare transformation, according to a report released on Thursday. As per the Union Budget 2021-22, the total public health sector allocation stood at 1.2 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The FICCI and KPMG in India report titled 'Covid Induced Healthcare Transformation in India' said the pandemic saw the country undergo a paradigm shift from traditional legacy systems to cloud-based applications last year. The crisis proved to be a catalyst for increased adoption of digital healthcare systems across the world.

"With a healthcare spending of 1.5 per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018-19,

▶ The FICCI and KPMG in India report titled 'Covid Induced Healthcare Transformation in India' said the pandemic saw the country undergo a paradigm shift from traditional legacy systems to cloud-based applications last year.

there is a need to increase the public health spending to 2.5 - 3.5 per cent to support healthcare transformation," said the report.

It also highlighted the need to incorporate alternative financing models to address the financial gaps in the health sector and ensure mandatory health coverage for all to support the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) targets. The report also suggests establishing a

▶ It also highlighted the need to incorporate alternative financing models to address the financial gaps in the health sector and ensure mandatory health coverage for all to support the Universal UHC targets.

district level Health System Index to assess health system maturity, modifying existing district hospitals to implement a hub-and-spoke model, ensuring adequate diagnostic services across all districts and promoting convergence of public health scheme.

It calls for leveraging make-shift and alternative health infrastructure and strengthening primary care through collaborating with private sector

to strengthen existing health system.

Alok Roy, Chair, FICCI health services committee and chairman, medical group of hospitals said, "The Covid pandemic exposed weaknesses in our health systems and amplified already existing challenges pertaining to gaps in health infrastructure, workforce and accessibility and equity in health services."

"But at the same time, it also reinforced an urgent need to make greater investments in augmenting health preparedness and quality of care," he added. Lalit Mistry, partner and co-Head — healthcare sector, KPMG in India said, "The pandemic has transformed the way the government and private players are planning to bring change in the healthcare system."

— PTI

Vaccines

सौ करोड़ टीकों का कोरोना कवच (Hindustan: 20211022)

<https://epaper.livehindustan.com/>



नई दिल्ली स्थित राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल में गुरुवार को वाराणसी के दिव्यांग अरुण राय को सौ करोड़वां टीका लगाया गया। इस दौरान प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी भी मौजूद रहे। उन्होंने चिकित्सकों और नर्सों के प्रयासों की सराहना की। • प्रेटर

करोड़
21 अक्टूबर



देश में 71 करोड़ वयस्क आबादी को पहली और 29 करोड़ लोगों को दूसरी खुराक लगी

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने बधाई दी, कहा- यह भारत और हर नागरिक की उपलब्धि

भारत ने इतिहास रच दिया। यह भारतीय विज्ञान, उद्यम और 130 करोड़ भारतीयों की सामूहिक भावना की जीत है। भारत में टीकों की 100 करोड़ खुराक दिए जाने पर बधाई। हमारे चिकित्सकों, नर्सों और इस उपलब्धि में योगदान देने वालों के प्रति आभार।

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

भारत ने कोरोना टीकाकरण की दिशा में गुरुवार को इतिहास रच दिया। देर रात तक कुल 100 करोड़ 62 लाख से अधिक टीके लगाए गए। दुनिया में चीन के बाद भारत दूसरा ऐसा देश है, जो यह मुकाम हासिल कर पाया। देश में अब तक 71.09 करोड़ वयस्क आबादी को टीके की एक खुराक और करीब 29.52 करोड़ लोगों को दोनों खुराक मिल चुकी हैं।

इस मौके पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने बधाई देते हुए कहा कि आज का दिन इतिहास में दर्ज हो गया है। एम्स के झज्जर परिसर में बने राष्ट्रीय कैंसर संस्थान के कार्यक्रम में उन्होंने कहा कि अब देश के पास सौ साल की सबसे बड़ी महामारी से मुकाबला करने के लिए 100 करोड़ खुराक का मजबूत सुरक्षा कवच है। यह भारत की, भारत के हर नागरिक की उपलब्धि है। केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री मनसुख मंडाविया ने ट्वीट कर कहा, बधाई हो भारत!

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार, अब दूसरा लक्ष्य सभी वयस्क आबादी को इस साल के अंत तक टीके की एक खुराक लगाने का है। 18 साल से अधिक उम्र के लोगों की आबादी करीब 94 करोड़ है। इनमें से 70 करोड़ से अधिक को एक खुराक दे दी गई है।

पर्याप्त उपलब्धता: देश में इस समय टीके की पर्याप्त उपलब्धता है। करीब 30 करोड़ खुराक प्रतिमाह तैयार करने की क्षमता हासिल हो चुकी है। कोविशील्ड, कोवैक्सीन के साथ-साथ स्पूतनिक टीके का भी उत्पादन देश में शुरू हो रहा है। जायडस कैडिला का टीका भी जल्द शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।

99.9 खुराकें देश में बनीं: एक बड़ी उपलब्धि यह रही कि जो खुराकें अब तक दी गईं उनमें से 99.9 से अधिक भारत में बनीं हैं। ये कोविशील्ड व कोवैक्सीन की खुराक हैं। रूस में बनी स्पूतनिक की कुछ लाख खुराकें लगी हैं।

इतिहास रचा

-नरेंद्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

75

अहम पड़ाव

करोड़

13 सितंबर

100

50

06 अगस्त

कब-कितने टीके लगे

25

12 जून

जिन डॉक्टरों, नर्स व अग्रिम मोर्चे पर तैनात कर्मियों की वजह से यह संभव हुआ, उन्हें सलाम। हम सब मिलकर इस बीमारी को हराएंगे।

-अरविंद केजरीवाल, मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

Dengue

दिल्ली सरकार का दावा : हालात नियंत्रण में, महज 221 मरीज अस्पताल में भर्तीडेंगू के **25** मरीज बाहरी:जैन(**Hindustan: 20211022**)

<https://epaper.livehindustan.com/>

179

भर्ती मरीज दिल्ली
के रहने वाले है

21

अस्पतालों में चल रहा है
डेंगू मरीजों का इलाज



राजधानी में बीते छह सालों में डेंगू का हाल वर्ष कुल मामले मौत

2015 14889 60

2016 3650 10

2017 3829 10

2018 1595 04

2019 1069 02

2020 612 01

2021 723 01

(16 अक्टूबर तक)

कोविड मरीजों के लिए अब सिर्फ 10 फीसदी बेड आरक्षित

डेंगू मरीजों के लिए पर्याप्त बेड की व्यवस्था करने के लिए कोविड मरीजों के लिए आरक्षित बेड की संख्या 30 फीसदी से घटाकर 10 फीसदी कर दी गई है। एलएनजेपी अस्पताल में कोविड बेड की संख्या 700 से 400 और राजीव गांधी सुपर स्पेशिएलिटी अस्पताल में 600 से घटाकर 350 कर दी गई है। खाली हुए बेड का प्रयोग जल जनित बीमारी से ग्रसित लोगों के इलाज के लिए किया जाएगा।

डेंगू की स्थिति पूरी तरह से नियंत्रण में है। बेड की कोई कमी नहीं है। दिल्ली के अस्पतालों में दिल्ली के बाहर के मरीजों का भी इलाज चल रहा है। अभी दिल्ली के अस्पतालों में भर्ती कुल डेंगू मरीजों में 25 फीसदी दिल्ली से बाहर के हैं। हालात 2019 की तरह ही हैं। -**सत्येंद्र जैन**, स्वास्थ्य मंत्री दिल्ली सरकार

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

दिल्ली सरकार का दावा है कि राजधानी में डेंगू की स्थिति नियंत्रण में है। दिल्ली के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री सत्येंद्र जैन के अनुसार दिल्ली के अस्पतालों में भर्ती कुल डेंगू के मरीजों में 25 फीसदी बाहरी हैं जो यहां इलाज करा रहे हैं। दिल्ली सरकार के अस्पतालों में अभी 221 डेंगू मरीज भर्ती हैं, जिनमें 179 ही दिल्ली के नागरिक हैं। सरकार ने उन अटकलों को भी खारिज किया है कि दिल्ली में डेंगू मरीजों को बेड नहीं मिल रहा है। सरकार का कहना है कि अस्पतालों में पर्याप्त संख्या में बेड उपलब्ध है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री सत्येंद्र जैन के मुताबिक डेंगू से घबराने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। दिल्ली में डेंगू पूरी तरह नियंत्रित है और 2019 की तरह निचले स्तर पर है। सरकार के मुताबिक अस्पतालों में बुखार के जो मरीज भर्ती हैं वह सभी सुरक्षित हैं। सभी को बेड और उचित उपचार मिल रहा है। दिल्ली सरकार जागरूकता अभियान के अलावा खुद अस्पतालों में निगरानी बनाएं हुए है। दिल्ली के 21 अस्पतालों में डेंगू मरीजों का इलाज चल रहा है जिसमें 3 अस्पताल ऐसे हैं जहां पर एक भी डेंगू का मरीज नहीं है। ज्यादातर अस्पतालों में भी 10 से कम डेंगू मरीज ही अस्पताल में भर्ती हैं। इनमें भी बाहर के मरीज ज्यादा है।

दिल्ली में अब तक डेंगू के 723 मरीज आए, 1 मौत

दिल्ली इस वर्ष डेंगू के अब तक 723 मरीज आ चुके हैं। अभी तक डेंगू से सिर्फ एक मौत दिल्ली में दर्ज हुई है। सरकार का कहना है कि अस्पतालों में बुखार के जो मरीज आ रहे हैं उसमें 25 फीसदी ही डेंगू की बीमारी से ग्रसित हैं। सरकार ने अपील की है कि लोग सावधानी बरतें। अपने आस-पास साफ पानी जमा न होने दें।