



भारत का राजदूतावास, बहरीन  
Embassy of India, Bahrain

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Supply of Covishield-AstraZeneca vaccines to the Kingdom of Bahrain**

The Ambassador of the Republic of India, H.E. Piyush Srivastava, today handed over the consignment of the 'Made-in-India' Covishield-AstraZeneca vaccines to H.E. Faeqa Saeed Al-Saleh, the Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Bahrain on 28 January 2021.

2. The Covishield vaccine is being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in collaboration with Oxford-AstraZeneca. The supply of the Vaccines follows the ongoing cooperation and collaboration between India and Bahrain across various fields, including in dealing with the COVID-19 global pandemic. In line with our deep-rooted ties, Bahrain is among the priority partner countries of India to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

3. As per the vision of 'Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat' initiative, India is developing six (6) COVID-19 vaccines; out of which two vaccines (COVISHIELD and COVAXIN) have already been given approval for emergency use in India, and are being administered in India. The Kingdom of Bahrain has also approved the emergency use of the Covishield vaccine.

4. India is, because of its strengths in the biopharmaceutical and vaccines domains, one of the major centres in the transnational efforts to counter the global pandemic. One of the primary objective of India's vaccine development programme is to provide quality vaccines at affordable price, as per the commitment given by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi while speaking at the UN - "we will help make vaccine accessible and affordable to all". Despite huge domestic demand, the Government of India has been sharing the COVID-19 vaccines manufactured in India with the global community.

5. The Kingdom of Bahrain is among the few countries who have successfully handled the COVID-19 pandemic. Our two countries have closely cooperated and collaborated in dealing with the global pandemic. The Leadership and the Government of Bahrain took exceptional care of the expatriate community in Bahrain, of which Indians form the majority, in addition to providing support to the Vande Bharat Mission and Air Bubble arrangement

for facilitating travel of Indian nationals between the two countries. Furthermore, the Government of India facilitated the supply of 1.5 million Hydroxychloroquine tablets to Bahrain, and the provision of nurses and medical professionals to Bahrain to treat patients with active COVID-19. .

6. It is a matter of great joy and happiness that the delivery of Covishield vaccine has taken place today, when the new terminal at the Bahrain International Airport has been operationalised, which is reflective of the Kingdom's continued economic development and growth during these unprecedented times.

7. We are committed to further strengthening collaboration with the Kingdom of Bahrain, not only in dealing with the pandemic and general matters related to health, but also for further deepening and diversifying all aspects of our bilateral cooperation.

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