DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE DAY

Wednesday 20210630

Vaccine

India opens doors for import of Moderna, its fourth vaccine (The Tribune: 20210630)

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/india-opens-doors-for-import-of-moderna-its-fourth-vaccine-276072

Cipla gets DCGI nod to market US-made vaccine

India on Tuesday licensed its fourth Covid-19 vaccine for restricted emergency use with the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approving Cipla's request for import of US firm Moderna's jabs.

Editorial: Second wave burden

Moderna will be the first internationally manufactured ready-to-inject shot to enter the Indian market once the import formalities are concluded. India has earlier licensed Covaxin, Covishield (both made in India) and the Russian Sputnik V for restricted emergency use. With the Centre already having waived all requirements for local clinical trials for foreign jabs approved by reputed regulators, Moderna would not need to conduct any bridging studies at home

Only the first 100 persons who receive the shot would have to be watched for adverse events. Unlike Sputnik V which is being produced in India, Moderna will only be imported although the government is hoping Moderna would consider manufacturing in India.

Member, NITI Aayog, VK Paul said the regulatory approval had opened the pathway for import of Moderna but did not put a timeline to the availability of the shots in the domestic market.

Asked about indemnity from legal costs for foreign developers, including Moderna and Pfizer have sought, Paul said, "That is under consideration and is being addressed."

Asked when Moderna would enter India, Paul said: “Let’s wait and see how today’s opportunity will be used for importing Moderna into India”.

11-mth Covishield gap ‘improves’ immunity

Oxford University researchers have revealed that an 11-month gap between first and second doses of Covishield leads to better immune response.

US announces $41 mn additional aid to India

The US has announced an additional $41 million aid to help India respond to the pandemic and strengthen preparedness for health emergencies.

New Cases

India records 817 more Covid deaths, lowest in 81 days45,951 more cases reported (The Tribune: 20210630)

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/india-records-817-more-covid-deaths-lowest-in-81-days-276229

India saw a single-day rise of 45,951 coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid cases to 3,03,62,848, while daily deaths remained below 1,000 for the third consecutive day, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll rose to 3,98,454 with 817 fresh fatalities, the lowest in 81 days.

According to the data published at 7 am, cumulatively 33.28 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far under the Nationwide Vaccination Drive.

The active cases further declined to 5,37,064 comprising 1.77 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate has improved to 96.92 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The 817 new fatalities include 231 from Maharashtra, 118 from Tamil Nadu and 104 from Karnataka.

A total of 3,98,454 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,21,804 from Maharashtra, 34,929 from Karnataka, 32,506 from Tamil Nadu, 24,971 from Delhi, 22,577 from Uttar Pradesh, 17,679 from West Bengal and 16,033 from Punjab. PTI

Mixing COVID-19 vaccines gives good protection

Oxford study says mixing COVID-19 vaccines gives good protection (The Tribune: 20210630)

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/oxford-study-says-mixing-covid-19-vaccines-gives-good-protection-275785

Oxford study says mixing COVID-19 vaccines gives good protection

File photo for representation

Amid the global shortage of the COVID-19 vaccines, a study conducted by Oxford University has found out that alternating doses of the AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines generate robust immune responses against the coronavirus.

According to the study, 'mixed' schedules of these vaccines induced high concentrations of antibodies against the SARS-CoV2 spike IgG protein when doses were administered four weeks apart. This study, published on the Lancet pre-print server, means all possible vaccination schedules involving the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines could potentially be used against COVID-19.

"The Com-COV study has evaluated 'mix and match' combinations of the Oxford and Pfizer vaccines to see to what extent these vaccines can be used interchangeably, potentially allowing flexibility in the UK and global vaccine roll-out," said Professor Matthew Snape, Associate Professor in Paediatrics and Vaccinology at the University of Oxford, and Chief Investigator on the trial.

"The results show that when given at a four-week interval both mixed schedules induce an immune response that is above the threshold set by the standard schedule of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine."

Professor Snape said these results are an invaluable guide to the use of mixed dose schedules, but the interval of four weeks studied here is shorter than the eight to 12-week schedule most commonly used for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

Meanwhile, UK Deputy Chief Medical Officer Professor Jonathan Van-Tam said: 'Today's data are a vital step forward, showing a mixed schedule gives people protective immunity against COVID-19 after four weeks."

"Our non-mixed (homologous) vaccination programme has already saved tens of thousands of lives across the UK but we now know mixing doses could provide us with even greater flexibility for a booster programme, while also supporting countries which have further to go with their vaccine rollouts and who may be experiencing supply difficulties."

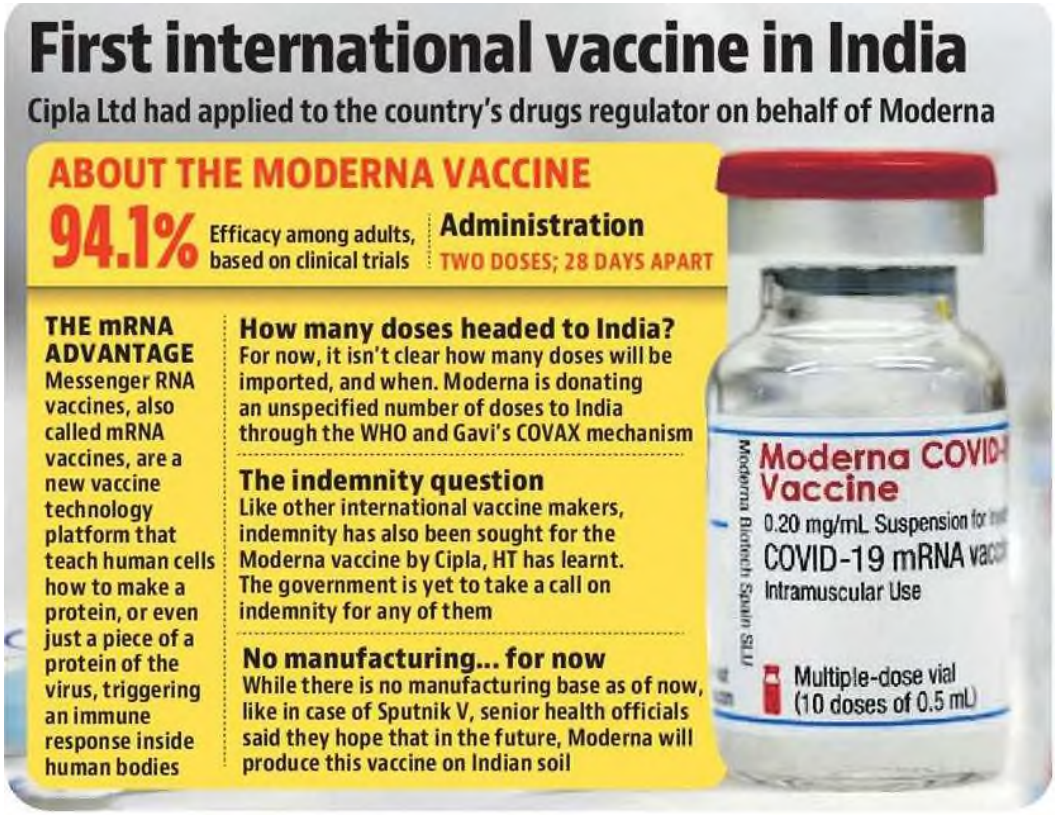
The University of Oxford is leading the Com-COV study, run by the National Immunisation Schedule Evaluation Consortium (NISEC).

This UK government funding study aims to evaluate the feasibility of using a different vaccine for the initial 'prime' vaccination to the follow-up 'booster' vaccination. (ANI)

Moderna's Covid vaccine

Moderna's Covid vaccine approved for use in India (Hindustan Times: 20210630)

https://epaper.hindustantimes.com/Home/ArticleView



Rhythma Kaul

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NEW DELHI : India on Tuesday approved the import of US pharmaceutical major Moderna's mRNA technology-based coronavirus disease (Covid-19) vaccine, paving the way for the entry of the first international vaccine against the infectious disease into the country.

On behalf of Moderna, Indian pharmaceutical company Cipla Ltd applied to the country's drugs regulator, the Drugs Controller General of India, for grant of approval to import the vaccine to India.

“An application received from Moderna through an Indian partner of theirs, namely Cipla, has been granted new drug permission for restricted use that is commonly known as emergency use authorisation. This is the first internationally developed vaccine for which now such permission exists today, and this potentially opens up a clear possibility of this vaccine being imported into India in the near future. Let’s see how this opportunity will be used for accessing the vaccine in the country. There must be other formalities that they will have to follow but a very important licensure has been given,” said Dr VK Paul, member (health), Niti Aayog, during the Union health ministry’s media briefing on Covid-19 updates.

Moderna is donating an unspecified number of doses to India through the World Health Organization (WHO) and Gavi’s COVAX mechanism; Cipla is facilitating this, and the approvals are part of the process. In a statement, Cipla said it is “supporting Moderna with the regulatory approval and importation of vaccines to be donated to India. At this stage, there is no definitive agreement on commercial supplies.” It wasn’t clear how many doses will be imported, and when.

An official said the approval was not limited to donations. “Cipla has been given a licence to import, and it is applicable to the Moderna vaccine import in general, under which they are also allowed to distribute it here; since it is still under emergency use authorization retail sale of the product is not allowed. It does not matter whether the doses are a part of some donation or otherwise being exported by the US company, Cipla is now authorized to import the Moderna vaccine,” the official aware of the matter in the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) said on condition of anonymity.

“Even though it is totally up to them how much they want to import and when, it is likely that about 7 million doses are imported, and the process should start in next 5-6 days. Moderna has definitely got the first mover advantage...,” the official added.

In a statement, Moderna said the government of India issued a registration certificate and a permission to import the Covid-19 vaccine for restricted use in an emergency situation. “I want to thank the government of India for this authorization, which marks an important step forward in the global fight against the pandemic,” a statement by the company’s CEO said.

Previously, news reports in May, citing unnamed people, said Cipla was considering spending up to $1 billion to import 50 million doses of the vaccine. HT learns that Cipla has also sought indemnity for the Moderna vaccine, much like other international vaccine makers negotiating their entry into India. The government is yet to take a call on indemnity for any foreign vaccine maker.

“Moderna is coming in the ready-to-inject form. There is no manufacturing base as of now, like in case of Sputnik V, but we also hope that in the future, Moderna will produce this vaccine on Indian soil; and make this, therefore, into a made-in-India vaccine. There will be no need for a bridging study that has been already clarified, but recipients of first 100 doses of the vaccine will be closely watched. So, now there are four Covid-19 vaccines approved: Covaxin, Covishield, Sputnik and Moderna; our vaccine basket is now richer by this addition,” Paul said.

The vaccine, mRNA-1273, manufactured by Moderna TX Inc., is a two-dose vaccine with the shots to be given 28 days apart. Messenger RNA vaccines, also called mRNA vaccines, are a new vaccine technology platform.

The vaccine can be stored for up to seven months between -25 and -15 degrees Celsius; and its medium-term storage temperature is -20 degrees. In normal cold chains, where the temperature is between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius, an unopened vial can stay effective for 30 days.

The mRNA vaccines teach human cells how to make a protein, or even just a piece of a protein of the virus, triggering an immune response inside human bodies. The benefit of mRNA vaccines, like all vaccines, is that those vaccinated gain protection without ever having to risk the serious consequences of getting sick with Covid-19.

According to the evidence generated through clinical trials, in people aged 18 years and older, the Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 infection.

Experts welcomed the clearance of an mRNA vaccine.

“There are likely going to be small numbers for next many months, so unlikely (to be a) major contribution to public health. But it is very valuable as a process and for a small group of people for whom other vaccines may not work well,” said Dr Gagandeep Kang, physician-scientist, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

In early June, after reports of a partnership with Moderna surfaced, Cipla said in a statement that it is “in the process of seeking clarity and guidance from the Government of India for exploring the possible road map for vaccine importation to India”. “At this stage, no definitive terms have been finalized and hence, the Company cannot comment further,” read the company statement.

Paul also mentioned during the media briefing that the government was making necessary efforts to also bring in other foreign vaccines to India and that the sticky indemnity issue is under consideration and examination.

“Our efforts to invite, and to have other internationally developed vaccines, specifically Pfizer and J&J, continue. Those processes are on, and we are also looking at increased production, and availability, of our own vaccines that are being manufactured already in our country. We look forward to the vaccination programme gaining further momentum.”

“We have had multiple sessions with Pfizer; going through the agreements that are required for such an arrangement to be operationalised, and exchange of information and thoughts, and inputs are going back and forth. The process is very much on and we have done an intensive meeting last week. We are looking forward to receiving the feedback from their end now,” he added.

In an emailed response, a Pfizer company spokesperson said: “We continue to engage with the government to make our Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine available for use in the country.”

A Johnson & Johnson India spokesperson said: “At Johnson & Johnson, we remain fully focused on bringing a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to people in India. We are in ongoing discussions with the Government of India and are exploring how best to accelerate our ability to deliver our Janssen single dose COVID-19 vaccine to India.”

J&J already has a manufacturing tie-up with Biological E, which is also making a protein sub-unit vaccine of its own.

To facilitate the entry of foreign made vaccines into India, the government earlier made regulatory modifications.

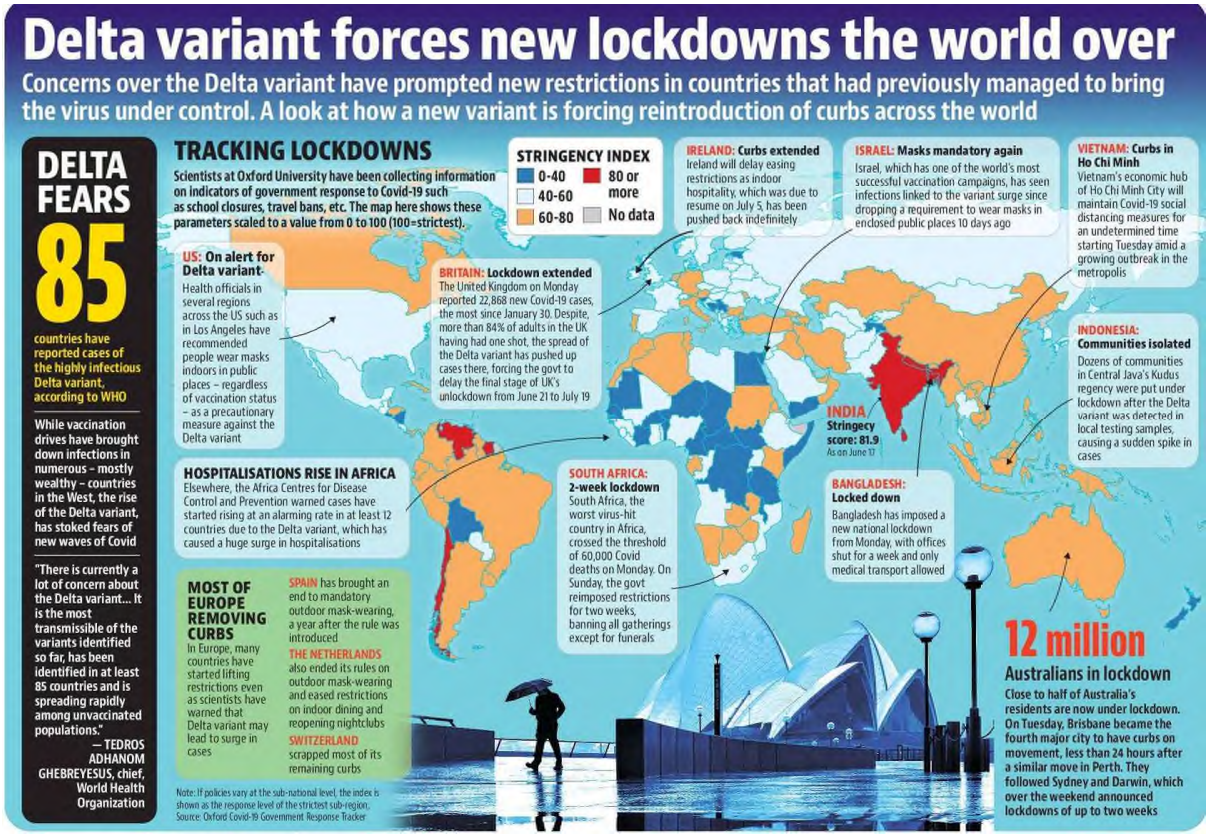
On June 2, the national drugs controller announced that Covid-19 vaccines approved by specific countries and WHO would no longer require post-approval bridging trials and batch testing in India.

“If the vaccine has been certified and released by the national control laboratory of certain countries or if it is listed in the WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL), it can be exempted from the aforementioned requirement,” stated a letter issued by CDSCO that is headed by the drugs controller.

However, additional scrutiny and review shall continue, DCGI said, and before the vaccine is rolled out for further immunisation programmes, the first 100 beneficiaries shall be assessed for seven days for safety outcomes, along with other procedures for the filing of applications and timelines.

Delta Variant (Hindustan Times: 20210630)

https://epaper.hindustantimes.com/Home/ShareImage?Pictureid=306f61ba395



Moderna Vaccine (The Asian Age: 20210630)

http://onlineepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15680706

90% effective Moderna vaccine gets DCGI nod

In Assam, 34,000 children have tested +ve during the 2nd wave of Covid-19

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

MODERNA'S VACCINE will be the fourth Covid-19 jab to be available in India after Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik. Moderna is said to be 90 per cent effective against Covid.

Giving a shot in the arm to India's vaccination drive, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted permission to pharmaceutical company Cipla to import Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine for restricted emergency use in the country. Moderna's vaccine will be the fourth Covid-19 jab to be available in India after Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik. Moderna is said to be 90 per cent effective against Covid.

"An application was received from Moderna through their Indian partner Cipla following which Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine has been granted restricted emergency use authorisation by the drug regulator. This new permission for restricted emergency use potentially opens up a clear possibility of this vaccine being imported to India in the near future. This is the first internationally developed vaccine for which now such permission exists. Our efforts to invite and to have other internationally developed vaccines, specifically Pfizer and J&J, also continue. We are also looking at increasing the production of vaccines," NitiAayog member (Health) Dr V.K. Paul said. He added that the indemnity issue to Moderna is still under consideration.

Foreign vaccine makers have been urging the government to provide indemnity for vaccines in India, which would mean

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Moderna Vaccine (The Asian Age: 20210630)

http://onlineepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15680636

Moderna vaccine gets nod

■ Continued from Page 1

that the government would be liable to pay for serious vaccine-related injuries instead of the company

Dr Paul said that Moderna, the first international vaccine in India, will not need bridging trials in India. The vaccine can be stored at -25 to -15 degree Celsius for seven months and normal storage after the vial is opened is 30 days.

On June 27, Moderna had informed DCGI that the US government has agreed to donate a certain number of doses of its Covid-19 vaccine through Covax to India for use here and sought approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). "This permission is for restricted use in emergency situations in public interest. The firm has to submit seven days' safety assessment of the vaccine in the first 100 beneficiaries before rolling out of the vaccine for further immunisation programme, according to the approval order," an official said.

On Monday, Cipla filed the application seeking permission for import of Moderna's vaccine referring to DCGI notices dated April 15 and June 1 according to which if the vaccine is approved by the USFDA for EUA, the vaccine can be granted marketing authorisation without bridging trial, and assessment of safety data of first 100 beneficiaries of vaccines shall be submitted before rolling out in immunisation programme.

Also, the requirement of testing of every batch by Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Kasauli, can be exempted if the batch/lot is released by the CDL of country of origin. However, summary lot protocol review and scrutiny of documents shall be undertaken by the laboratory for batch release according to standard procedures, Cipla said referring to the DCGI's new revised rules.

India on Tuesday recorded 37,566 fresh cases of Covid-19 and 907 deaths. With daily cases declining, Delhi government has asked private hospitals with 100 or more beds to scale down the number of oxygen beds reserved for Covid patients to 30 per cent of their total capacity. So far 51 cases of Delta Plus variant have been reported in 12 states.

Talking about vaccination coverage, Union health ministry said 49 per cent of senior citizens have been vaccinated so far. The total vaccination coverage from May 1 to June 24 in rural areas is 9.72 crore (56 per cent) and urban areas is 7.68 crore (44per cent).

Covid Crisis (The Asian Age: 20210630)

http://onlineepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15680410

In Covid crisis, SC forces Centre to share vital info

Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

Along with the Central and state governments, the Supreme Court has been playing an important role in monitoring the management of the situation arising out of the six-week-long Covid-19 second wave between the middle of April and the end of May. Through its order of April 30, the Supreme Court bench of Justices Dhananjay Y. Chandrachud, L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravindra Bhat had been actively directing the Central and state governments on the supply of liquid medical oxygen in the last week of April and the first week of May, and the availability of beds for critically ill patients in hospitals, as well as the availability of vaccines and their proper distribution across the country.

Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government has claimed credit for its decision on procuring vaccines directly and then allocating them to the states, announced by the PM in a televised address on June 7, the suggestion actually came from the highest court after scrutinising the Centre's policy of acquiring 50 per cent of the vaccines at a set price and leaving the remaining 50 per cent to be negotiated by the state governments and private hospitals with the manufacturers.

The Supreme Court in its April 30 order had said: "Prima facie, there are several aspects of the vaccine pricing policy adopted by the Central government which require that policy to be revisited." The court went on to add: "Prime facie, the duty of the State (which includes the right to health) under Article 21 would be for the Central government to procure all vaccines and to negotiate the price with the vaccine manufacturers." It concluded with a judicious note of warning: "While we are not passing a conclusive determination on the constitutionality of the current policy, the manner in which the current policy has been framed would prima facie result in a detriment to right to public health, which is an integral element of Article 21 of the Constitution."

The court also noted that individuals and communities had turned to the social media for help and that through the online networks people had tried to help those in distress either by finding the medicines or hospital beds needed. And here comes the acerbic observation: "However, it is with deep distress that we note that individuals seeking help on such platforms have been targeted by alleging that the information posted by them is false and has only been posted on the social media to create panic, defame the administration or damage the nation's image". It went on to say: "We do not hesitate in saying that such targeting shall not be condoned, and the Central government and state governments should ensure that they immediately cease any direct or indirect threats of prosecution and arrest to citizens who air grievances or those who are attempting to help fellow citizens to receive medical aid."

It is indeed a matter of shame that during a time of extreme distress, the Supreme Court was forced to tick off the authorities and warn them against intimidating people. This is a judgment that should become an integral part of any account of Covid-19 in India, and political leaders in positions of power should hang their heads in shame.

It was after this chastening tone by the Supreme Court that the Central government, through the solicitor-general and its other law officers, has been filing affidavits informing the court about the availability of vaccines, a crucial part of the fight against the pandemic. Most of the vital information on the availability of the vaccines has not been shared by the government with the people. The daily press conference that the health ministry officials hold are used as a propaganda forum to trumpet the number of vaccinations that had been administered that day, and the total figure of those vaccinated. The other key figures like the number of new infections, the total number of those who have been infected since January 2020, and the Covid-19 death toll are relegated to the background. There is a vague promise that there will be enough vaccines available and that by December 2021 the entire adult population of the country, which amounts to 93-94 crore people, would be vaccinated. On May 16, the Union health ministry told the court that 216 crore Covid-19 vaccines would be available, but in its affidavit filed on June 27, the government revised the figure to 135 crores, and details were given of the share of each of the vaccines available or to be made available in the market.

The info about the availability of vaccines keeps changing simply because the government is still negotiating with

The information about the availability of vaccines keeps changing simply because the government is still negotiating with foreign vaccine makers like Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson, and there is no clarity as yet on the outcome. It is understandable that the foreign manufacturers are bargaining hard, which is a shameful thing, and the government is in a helpless situation. That is why it wants to do make do with the vaccines available in the country, which have been developed and manufactured in India like Covaxin, or those which have been developed outside the country like Covishield and Sputnik V and are manufactured in India. But transparency has not been a virtue of the Modi government. There has been a continuous attempt to paint a picture of normality in abnormally stressful and distressful times.

The Prime Minister might be under the illusion that he is keeping panic under control, but he is only adding to uncertainty and anxiety among the people. He should have used his monthly radio talk "*Mann ki Baat*" to share information about the Covid-19 situation in the country and the difficulties that the government and people are facing. Unfortunately, even democratically elected leaders in India have the bad habit of hiding the truth from the people. It is in this kind of dubious situation that the Supreme Court is performing the yeoman service of compelling the government to share facts, to share information, something that the government should be doing on its own. The Supreme Court is thus ensuring the flow of crucial information to the people in this time of crisis.

Health Care Services (The Asian Age: 20210630)

http://onlineepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15680413

Doctors, too, need protection

The recent advisory of the Union home ministry to the state governments to invoke the stringent sections of the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2020, against those who indulge in assault on doctors and healthcare professional is welcome. As per the Act, a person proved to have assaulted doctors or healthcare professionals can be jailed for up to seven years and fined up to ₹5 lakh. The advisory becomes all the more relevant in the backdrop of the series of attacks on healthcare professionals during the pandemic; the latest being reported from Assam.

It must, however, be remembered that there is no lack of deterrent penal provisions against attacks on hospitals and people employed there: as many as 19 states have enacted special laws for their protection. But the real issue is the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the law enforcers to use the legal tools. The latest is the police inaction against a constable who assaulted a surgeon in a government hospital in Alappuzha district in Kerala alleging that medical negligence led to his mother's death though a police investigation report said the patient had died before reaching the hospital. The police advanced one reason or the other not to arrest the assaulter until he was granted anticipatory bail by the high court.

The danger of the state apathy towards the medical fraternity is that it could turn to defensive practice, which would impact the poorest sections of society.

The government must design a two-pronged strategy to address the issue as a whole. First, it must ensure that healthcare professionals are given adequate security and violators of the law must be brought to book without fail. Two, it must put in place a fair, transparent, fast and credible mechanism to process complaints of medical negligence. The issue demands urgent government attention and action, not just advisories.

COVID-19 vaccine to pregnant women

Coronavirus | Guidelines issued for administering COVID-19 vaccine to pregnant women (The Hindu: 20210630)

https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/guidelines-issued-for-administering-covid-19-vaccine-to-pregnant-women/article35031269.ece

On the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines, the fact-sheet stated that the COVID-19 vaccines available are safe and vaccination protects pregnant women against COVID-19 illness/disease like other individuals.

The Union Health Ministry has prepared a fact-sheet to guide frontline workers and vaccinators on counselling pregnant women about the value and precautions of the COVID-19 vaccine so that they can make an informed decision. Although more than 90% infected pregnant women recover without any need for hospitalisation, rapid deterioration in health may occur in a few and that might affect the foetus also, the document said.

Also read: Most drugs for treating adult COVID patients not recommended for kids: Government guidelines

“It is, therefore, advised that a pregnant woman should take COVID-19 vaccine,” it said.

However, pregnancy does not increase the risk of COVID-19 infection, the document stressed.

Symptomatic pregnant women appear to be at an increased risk of severe disease and death. In case of severe disease, like all other patients, pregnant women shall also need hospitalisation. Pregnant women with underlying medical conditions like high blood pressure, obesity, age over 35 years are at a higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19, the fact sheet said.

According to the document, a frontline worker or a vaccinator needs to counsel pregnant women about the availability, value and precautions of the COVID-19 vaccine. “This note provides you with the information that you need to educate and support pregnant women so that they can make an informed decision about getting the COVID-19 vaccine,” the note said.

Also read: COVID-19-affected should defer vaccination by three months: Health Ministry

The note is structured in the form of questions-answers to make it easier for frontline workers to inform pregnant women and their families about the most important issues related to COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant women. The note stated that over 95% newborns of COVID-19 positive mothers have been in good condition at birth. In some cases, COVID-19 infections in pregnancy may increase the possibility of premature delivery, the baby’s weight might be less than 2.5 kg and in rare situations, the baby might die before birth, it said.

It said pregnant women, older than 35 years of age, obese, having a pre-existing illness such as diabetes or high blood pressure and having a history of clotting in the limbs are at a higher risk of developing complications after COVID-19 infection.

In case a woman has been infected with COVID-19 during the current pregnancy, then she should be vaccinated soon after the delivery, the document stated.

On the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines, the fact-sheet stated that the COVID-19 vaccines available are safe and vaccination protects pregnant women against COVID-19 illness/disease like other individuals.

Like any medicine, a vaccine may have side effects which are normally mild. After getting the vaccine injection, a pregnant woman can get mild fever, pain at the injection site or feel unwell for 1-3 days. The long-term adverse effects and safety of the vaccine for foetus and child is not established yet. “Very rarely [one in 1-5 lakh persons], the pregnant women may experience some symptoms within 20 days after getting the COVID-19 vaccination which may require immediate attention,” it said.

Symptoms occurring within 20 days after receiving any COVID-19 vaccine may include shortness of breath (difficulty in breathing), persistent abdominal pain with or without vomiting , pain in limbs/pain on pressing limbs or swelling in the limb, small pinpoint haemorrhages or bruising of skin beyond the injection site, weakness/paralysis of limbs or any particular side of the body, severe and persistent headaches with or without vomiting (in absence of history of migraine or chronic headache) Seizures with or without vomiting (in the absence of previous history of seizures) among others are possible.

In order to protect themselves and those around from spreading the COVID-19 infection, pregnant woman and her family members should practice COVID-19 appropriate behaviour like wearing a double mask, practising frequent hand hygiene and maintaining physical distance and avoid crowded places. All pregnant women need to register themselves on the Co-WIN portal or may get themselves registered on-site at the COVID-19 vaccination centre.

Coronavirus | Five firms come together for trial of COVID-19 drug Molnupiravir

Coronavirus | Five firms come together for trial of COVID-19 drug Molnupiravir (The Hindu: 20210630)

https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/coronavirus-five-firms-come-together-for-trial-of-covid-19-drug-molnupiravir/article35045363.ece

First of its kind collaboration for testing COVID drug

Five pharma majors — Cipla, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Emcure, Sun Pharma and Torrent — will collaborate for the clinical trials in India of investigational, oral, anti-viral drug Molnupiravir for the treatment of mild COVID-19 .

Also read: Phase 3 trials of anti-COVID drug Molnupiravir begins

Describing their collaboration as a first of its kind in the Indian pharma industry, a release on Tuesday said the companies will jointly sponsor, supervise and monitor the clinical trial that is expected to take place between June and September this year. The trial, for which 1,200 patients are to be recruited, is to be conducted across the country.

The release said as directed by a Subject Expert Committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, Dr. Reddy's will conduct the clinical trial using its product and the other four pharma companies will be required to demonstrate equivalence of their products to the product used by Dr. Reddy's. On successful completion of the trial, each company will independently approach the regulatory authorities for approval to manufacture and supply Molnupiravir for the treatment of COVID-19 in the country.

Their move to collaborate follows the non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreement the five companies had individually entered into with Merck Sharpe Dohme (MSD) earlier this year to manufacture and supply Molnupiravir in India and over 100 low and middle-income countries.

Molnupiravir is said to inhibit the replication of multiple RNA viruses, including SARS-CoV-2.

MSD, as part of a collaboration with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, is conducting Phase III trial of the drug globally for the treatment of non-hospitalised patients with confirmed COVID-19, the release said.

Skincare

'I love to merge science and spirituality': skincare maven Dr Barbara Sturm(The Hindu: 20210630)

https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/luxury/dr-barbara-sturm-interview-nykaa-india-love-to-merge-science-and-spirituality/article35012822.ece

Dr. Barbara Sturm photographed in Los Angeles, California, USA | Photo Credit: Chris Singer Photography

German skincare specialist Dr Barbara Sturm who has forayed into India, talks merging science with spirituality, and why skincare is an inevitable investment

At the mere mention of retinoids, Dr Barbara Sturm is aghast, her crystal blue eyes wide with disappointment. During a virtual event ahead of the June 8 launch of Dr Barbara Sturm products on Global Store on Nykaa's mobile app, the internationally-acclaimed inflammatory doctor and skin specialist tells a virtual room of influencers and journalists that retinol is actually inflammatory and can do more harm than help. She does not beat around the bush when it comes to the urgent matter of skincare.

"Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate," she orders with a laugh, as she sits in her minimalist yet uber-modern home in Düsseldorf, Germany.

The 49-year-old disruptor shot to fame as the doctor who helped save late NBA champion Kobe Bryant's injured knee in a treatment that was known as 'Kobe Procedure'. A deep appreciator of Ayurveda, Dr Sturm tells The Hindu Weekend in an email interview that her love for skincare and holistic beauty comes from — like most people — her mother, who was a chemist, and her grandmother, who was a pharmacist.

Read More | Charlotte Tilbury on her best-selling Magic Cream and breaking into the Indian market

"They both loved milk baths and dry brushing, and would always mix creams for us as children; we would often go into the forest during my childhood and pick medicinal herbs and roots. They helped me with ingredient science and formulations, and are hugely inspirational to me," she recalls. "I was taught early on to use nature and ingredients found in nature for their healing properties and always to treat the skin gently. This is something that is deeply rooted in my skincare philosophy and skincare line."

According to Nayar

The Dr Barbara Sturm launch on the Nykaa Global Store is one success among many for Nykaa CEO & Founder Falguni Nayar. The platform already has big names such as Evolve, Rodial and Cosmedix, showcasing the shifting demands for luxury beauty. "We show brands the opportunity that India presents as a fast-growth, evolving market and spend considerable time and effort to assist them in bringing operations to the country. Seeing the overwhelming response we receive around these brands upon launch, we continue to work to build further access for the Indian consumer," says Nayar, adding, "Beauty is not an open market and brands require registrations to operate in India. The Global Store creates an opportunity for brands to test the market and build a customer base, before entering directly."

She shares that she merges science and spirituality, and it shows in quotidian routines, such as drinking warm water upon waking up and tongue scraping, and it also reflects in some of her products which have purslane in them.

Science of ingredients

But the framework of Dr Sturm's Germany-made line sits in that sweet spot between nature and science. To this day, she does not understand why marketing-based skincare even exists, adding, "Advanced ingredient science is what I build my skincare solutions around — potent, key ingredients that have been widely, clinically studied for their properties and efficacy. Skin has both overlapping and unique needs, and requires science and results-driven skincare to be healthy, functioning, but also look good."

That is why she has created so many 'white T-shirt' products such as the Hyaluronic Serum (₹10,660), Sun Drops SPF 30 (₹5,050), Brightening Face Cream (₹17,950), and Face Cream Rich (₹17,950) — all in her trademark sand-blasted glass bottles and tubs. A busy mom, she also has a well-received Baby & Kids line. One of her more novel and pandemic-ready inventions is her reusable Nano Silver Mask that both protects and cares for the skin (price TBC).

Dr Barbara Sturm's Darker Skin Tones Face Cream and Foam Cleanser

Dr Barbara Sturm's Darker Skin Tones Face Cream and Foam Cleanser | Photo Credit: Dr Barbara Sturm

She is also known for her Darker Skin Tones products that aim to even out and brighten rather than lighten the skin of melanin-active Indian consumers. Dr Sturm's products are also geared towards women's needs, such as her V Collection specifically for intimate skin care, and her pregnancy-safe line which has been lauded by American actor-dancer Jenna Dewan and model Ashley Graham.

Yes, the products are pricey. But she says such price tags on skincare are attributed to their development and ingredient concentrations, and she knows the Indian market is aware of this. She explains, "It is inevitably going to be 'luxury' because it is so expensive to make it that way. I do think people are beginning to appreciate and understand that process. But, at the same time, I think about how to democratise and bring great skincare to more people. I will do something about it soon."

The great equaliser

The skincare luminary has worked with some famous faces such as Jennifer Lopez, Venus Williams and Kim Kardashian, people who are under the gun to constantly look perfect. But Dr Sturm deems says skin health is an equaliser for her. "Skin is skin," she insists, "there is no difference between a celebrity's skin and yours. My fundamental advise never changes: protect and boost your skin barrier function, provide it with essential nutrition and hydration, and combat inflammation with skincare ingredient science. Avoid make-up, irritating and aggressive ingredients, acid peels and lasers. Heal and protect your skin and it will glow."

Dr Barbara Sturm's Darker Skin Sun Drops SPF 50

Dr Barbara Sturm's Darker Skin Sun Drops SPF 50 | Photo Credit: Dr Barbara Sturm

But the coronavirus pandemic hit the beauty and skincare industry hard, and Dr Sturm found she and her teams had to pivot hard to a new normal. “For every business, the pandemic necessitated change and creativity in serving customers,” she shares. “For me, it caused an emergency acceleration [product development, expansion, etcetera] of the things that I intended to carry out anyway at my company to improve the customer experience. We all had to do our part. As a doctor, I wanted to provide education and information, and to talk with people about self-care, of both their skin and their overall health.”

One of the more popular ventures is Skin School, a series of free-to-attend, monthly live digital classes via Eventbrite focussing on the needs of young adult and teen skin; the series features celebrities such as model Hailey Baldwin, actor Colton Haynes, Nigerian singer-songwriter Tiwa Savage, and fashion designer Harris Reed. Full episodes can be seen on her YouTube Channel. A few of these sessions address cautionary truths against the TikTok-generation of ‘skincare experts’, overuse of SPF and, of course, retinoid consumption.

Vaccination (Hindustan: 20210630)

https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_893502_86935728_4_1_30-06-2021_0_i_1_sf.html

सुखद : आपात इस्तेमाल की मंजूरी, सिप्ला आयात करेगी

देश में मॉडर्ना समेत चार टीके मिलेंगे

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

कोरोना का चौथा टीका मिलने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। ड्रग कंट्रोलर जनरल ने अमेरिकी कंपनी मॉडर्ना की वैक्सीन को देश में आपात इस्तेमाल की इजाजत दे दी है। भारतीय कंपनी सिप्ला मॉडर्ना के कोरोना टीके का आयात करेगी और देशभर में उपलब्ध कराएगी।

टीका कब आएगा, स्थिति साफ नहीं : नीति आयोग के सदस्य डॉ. वीके. पॉल ने मंगलवार को यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि सिप्ला के माध्यम से आवेदन मिला था। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर विकसित इस टीके को आपात इस्तेमाल की मंजूरी नियामक ने प्रदान कर दी है। कोवैक्सीन, कोविशील्ड एवं स्पूतनिक के बाद यह चौथा टीका है जिसे मंजूरी दी गई है। उन्होंने कहा कि टीका कब से मिलेगा, कितनी मात्रा में आएगा, यह सब तय नहीं हैं। आने वाले दिनों में इन सब मुद्दों पर स्थिति साफ होगी।

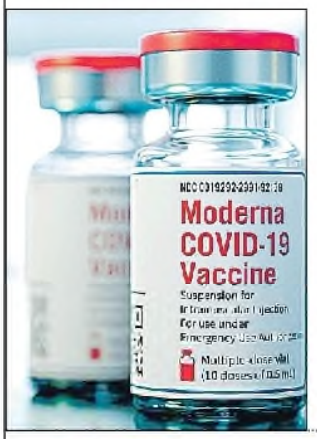
एमआरएनए तकनीक वाला पहला टीका: मॉडर्ना की वैक्सीन एमआरएनए तकनीक पर बनी है तथा इस प्रकार के पहले टीके को देश में मंजूरी मिली है। हालांकि, एमआरएनए तकनीक पर एक टीका देश में भी बन रहा है लेकिन अभी उसे मंजूरी मिलना बाकी है।

फाइजर से बातचीत जारी: डॉ. पॉल ने कहा कि फाइजर तथा जॉनसन एंड जॉनसन से भी सरकार की वार्ता जारी है। इन कंपनियों द्वारा व्यक्त की गई चिंताओं पर भी सरकार विचार कर रही है तथा उनके निराकरण के प्रयास कर रही है।

टीकों का उत्पादन बढ़ाएंगे: डॉ. पॉल ने कहा कि हम अपने देश में निर्मित किये जा रहे टीके का उत्पादन बढ़ाने पर भी गौर कर रहे हैं। मॉडर्ना ने डीसीजीआई को बताया अमेरिका कोवैक्स के तहत टीके की निश्चित खुराक भारत को देगी।

एक खुराक काफी पेज 08

खासियत: वायरस के खिलाफ 94 फीसदी असरदार



-20
डिग्री तापमान पर सात महीने रखा जा सकेगा

2-8
डिग्री तापमान पर 30 दिन रख सकेंगे

कोरोना वायरस से बचाने में 94 फीसदी प्रभावी, अन्य टीकों की तरह इसकी भी दो खुराक लेनी पड़ेंगी, एक बूस्टर डोज भी उपलब्ध

नए रूपों पर भी असर

वायरस के नए स्वरूपों के खिलाफ भी कारगर, इंजेक्शन लगने वाली जगह पर क्षणिक दर्द व सिरदर्द या थकान के अलावा कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं

कई देशों में इस्तेमाल

अमेरिका-कनाडा व ब्रिटेन में बड़े पैमाने पर इस्तेमाल, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने भी इस पर अपनी मुहर लगाई

बच्चों पर 100% प्रभावी

मॉडर्ना की पहली खुराक 12 से 17 साल के बच्चों में कोरोना के खिलाफ 93% प्रभावी पाई गई है जबकि दूसरी खुराक लेने के दो हफ्ते बाद यह 100 फीसदी वायरस से बचाव करती है।

ट्रायल जरूरी

विदेशी टीकों को देश में मंजूरी के बाद पहले 1500-1600 लोगों पर परीक्षण करना पड़ता था पर 15 अप्रैल को केंद्र सरकार ने नीति बदल कर इसे 100 लोग तक सीमित कर दिया है। सिप्ला को 100 लोगों पर ट्रायल करना होगा।

संक्रमण घटा

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को बताया कि कोरोना के नए मामलों में औसतन 17 फीसदी तक की गिरावट दर्ज की गई। सात मई को आए पीक से तुलना करें तो यह गिरावट 91% से ज्यादा है।

ब्योरा पेज 08

Citomagalo Virus (Hindustan: 20210630)

https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_894248_85728304_4_1_30-06-2021_2_i_1_sf.html

चिंताजनक

साइटोमेगालो वायरस से एक शख्स की हुई मौत

कोविड से उबरने के बाद भी परेशानी खत्म नहीं हो पा रही है। दिल्ली के सर गंगाराम अस्पताल में संक्रमण से उबरने वाले मरीजों में साइटोमेगालो वायरस (सीएमवी) की पुष्टि हुई है। इसके कारण मल के रास्ते खून आने के पांच मामले सामने आए हैं। इनमें से एक मरीज की मौत भी हो गई है। देश में ऐसे मामलों को लेकर यह पहली रिपोर्ट होने का दावा अस्पताल ने किया है।

45 दिनों में पांच मामले

अस्पताल के इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ लिवर गैस्ट्रोएंट्रोलॉजी एंड पैन्क्रियाटिकोबिलरी साइंसेज के चेयरमैन प्रोफेसर अनिल अरोड़ा ने बताया कि कोविड-19 की दूसरी लहर में पिछले 45 दिनों के भीतर हमें कोविड मरीजों में सीएमवी संक्रमण के पांच मरीज देखने को मिले हैं। ये सभी कोविड-19 के उपचार के 20 से 30 दिनों के बाद पेट में दर्द और मल के साथ खून आने की शिकायत लेकर अस्पताल पहुंचे थे।

30 से 70 आयु वर्ग वाले

अनिल अरोड़ा ने बताया कि 30-70 वर्ष की आयु वर्ग के पांचों मरीज दिल्ली-एनसीआर के थे। चार मल में खून आने और एक आंत में रुकावट की परेशानी लेकर पहुंचा था। दो को अत्यधिक खून बह रहा था। एक को दाहिने तरफ कोलन की आपात सर्जरी की आवश्यकता थी, जबकि एक मरीज ने कोविड से संबंधित अन्य समस्या के कारण दम तोड़ दिया।

क्या है यह बीमारी

प्रो. अनिल अरोड़ा ने बताया कि सीएमवी एक सामान्य वायरस है। जो इंसान के शरीर में छिपकर बैठा रहता है। इस वायरस से लड़ने के लिए शरीर में एंटीबॉडी भी मौजूद होती है, लेकिन जब शरीर की प्रतिरोधक क्षमता कमजोर होती है तो यह वायरस प्रभावी हो जाता है। फिर वायरस खून, फेफड़ों, लिवर, आंतों सहित शरीर के दूसरे अंगों को प्रभावित कर सकता है। अस्पताल में जो मामले आए थे वह बड़ी आंत में जख्म होने के थे।