

Bhutan receives 150,000 doses of 'Made In India' vaccine from India

Bhutan is the first country to receive the vaccine from India



Staff Reporter
from Thimphu

Bhutan received 150,000 doses of the 'Made In India' vaccine from the Government of India (GoI) on Wednesday as a testimony to the special relationship and uniquely close friendship between India and Bhutan.

This vaccine consignment, which has been called a gift from the people and GoI to the people and Bhutan, was handed over by Ambassador of India Ruchira Kamboj to Prime Minister Dasho Dr Lotay Tshering in a ceremony held at Paro airport on January 20.

Receiving the vaccine, Lyonchhen Dasho Dr Lotay Tshering said it was a gift from a trusted friend, who

has been with Bhutan all through the decades and in this pandemic too.

"As we celebrate the arrival of vaccine as the new milestone in our battle to beat the pandemic at home, we applaud the gesture that signifies the compassion and generosity of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and the people of India for the wellbeing of the humanity," he said.

"It is the display of altruism at best, and an exhibit of India's sincerity in the relationship we cherish," the Prime Minister said, adding it comes despite enormous challenges India was facing due to the pandemic.

"It is of unimaginable value when precious commodities are shared even before meeting your own

needs, as opposed to giving out only after you have enough."

The dispatch of the vaccine was the testimony to India's commitment of "neighbourhood first" and its leadership in the global fight against the COVID-19, according to the PMO. These supports translate into hope and confidence for all the countries to successfully sail across the pandemic soon.

The contribution of 150,000 vaccines, according to the PMO, prepares Bhutan to wage forward to protect the people and heal from the destructions of the pandemic, together with the rest of the world. India has also extended timely and generous support through supply of medicines, medical equip-

ment and personal protective equipment since March last year.

Further, the PMO mentioned that the Indian government has assured to cover the two doses requirement of Bhutan's target population of slightly over 533,500 and has committed to deliver the remaining consignments soon.

Prime Minister said the government and the people of Bhutan are immensely grateful to the government and people of India for remembering us at this time. "These will all translate into the prayers and prosperity of the people of India, emanating from the grateful hearts of Bhutan," he said. "We thank you."

Meanwhile, an Indian aircraft AN32 carried the entire consignment of the 'Made In India' vaccine or the Covishield vaccines into Bhutan.

Vaccines in Bhutan have been received within five days of the launch of the world's largest vaccination drive in India under the leadership of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on January 16, 2021.

The Prime Minister of India had stated on this occasion: "We are committed that India's vaccines, our production capacity, serve the interest of the whole of humanity."

Prior to the delivery of the vaccine, according to the Embassy of India in Thimphu, a training program covering administrative and operational aspects was conducted on January 19-20, 2021 for immunization managers, cold chain officers, communication officers and data managers from Bhutan, both at the national and provincial levels.

As a reflection of the special bonds of trust and understanding between India and Bhutan that have existed over decades, the Government of India had reportedly also handed over ten consignments of medical supplies, portable X-Ray machine, essential medicines and medical equipment earlier.

According to the Embassy, going forward India will continue to stand by Bhutan in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.



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