



PEOPLE'S POWER

INDIA'S 100 CRORE VACCINE DOSES

A collection of articles





PM Narendra Modi gives a thumbs up to healthcare workers at Delhi's RML Hospital on the day India crossed one billion COVID19 vaccinations
21'Oct, 2021

Introduction

When the people and a government come together, even the seemingly impossible becomes possible. This has been proved once again in the way India has vaccinated its people with the COVID1-19 vaccines.

In early 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world, very few people had an idea how destructive it would be. It has been the greatest crisis that the world has faced in a century.

Yet, adversity brings out the true character of people and nations.

This is where India stands out as a leader in the world, in both skill and scale. The journey of India from made-in-India COVID-19 vaccines showed skill while the way it reached 100 crore (1 Billion) vaccine doses in just over nine months showed scale.

The leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had motivated and mobilised the whole nation to reach this landmark and aim beyond it too!

When this massive milestone was reached, a number of articles were written chronicling one of the most important moments of India's modern history. This book is a collection of such articles that were published in the mainstream media, throwing light on the various aspects surrounding this colossal feat.

Articles in English and Hindi have been included.

Happy reading!

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**MANISH KUMAR,
A SWACHH KARMi RECEIVES
INDIA'S 1ST VACCINATION SHOT
AT AIIMS, NEW DELHI**

JAN'16, 2021

PM Narendra Modi takes
the first dose of COVID-19
vaccine, AIIMS New Delhi
Mar'1, 2021



ENGLISH ARTICLES



MADE IN INDIA, MADE BY INDIA

NARENDRA MODI

India's 100 crore jabs milestone shows the power of collective effort



Written by: Narendra Modi
Indian Express, 23 October 2021

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

India completed the administration of 100 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine on October 21, 2021, in just about nine months since the start of the vaccination drive. This has been a tremendous journey in dealing with Covid-19, especially when we recall how things stood in early 2020. Humanity was dealing with such a pandemic after 100 years and no one knew much about the virus. We remember how unpredictable the situation appeared then, as we were faced with an unknown and invisible enemy mutating rapidly.

The journey from anxiety to assurance has happened and our nation has emerged stronger, thanks to the world's largest vaccination drive.

It has been a truly bhagirath effort involving multiple sections of society. To get a sense of the scale, assume that each vaccination took just two minutes for a healthcare worker. At this rate, it took around 41 lakh man-days or approximately 11,000 man-years of effort to reach this landmark.

For any effort to attain and sustain speed and scale, the trust of all stakeholders is crucial. One of the reasons for the success of the campaign was the trust that people developed in the vaccine and the process followed, despite various efforts to create mistrust and panic.

There are some among us who only trust foreign brands, even for simple everyday necessities. However, when it came to something as crucial as the Covid-19 vaccine, the people of India unanimously trusted "Made in India" vaccines. This is a significant paradigm shift.

The vaccine drive is an example of what India can achieve if the citizens and the government come together with a common goal in the spirit of Jan Bhagidari. When India started its vaccination programme, there were many people who doubted the capabilities of 130 crore Indians. Some said India would take three to four years. Some others said people will not come forward to get vaccinated. There were those who said there will be gross mismanagement and chaos in the vaccination process. Some even said that India will not be able to manage supply chains. But just like the Janata Curfew and subsequent lockdowns, the people of India showed how spectacular the results can be, if they are made trusted partners.

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THE VACCINE DRIVE IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT INDIA CAN ACHIEVE IF THE CITIZENS AND THE GOVERNMENT COME TOGETHER WITH A COMMON GOAL IN THE SPIRIT OF JAN BHAGIDARI.

When everyone takes ownership, nothing is impossible. Our healthcare workers traversed hills and crossed rivers across difficult geographies to vaccinate people. Our youth, social workers, healthcare workers, social and religious leaders, all deserve credit for the fact that India faces minimal vaccine hesitancy when compared to even developed nations.

There was a lot of pressure from different interest groups to give preferential treatment to them in vaccination. But the government ensured that, like our other schemes, there is no VIP culture in the vaccination drive.

In early 2020, when Covid-19 was rampaging across the world, it was clear to us that this pandemic will have to be eventually fought with the help of vaccines. We started preparing early. We constituted expert groups and started preparing a roadmap right from April 2020.

Till today, only a handful of countries have developed their own vaccines. More than 180 countries are dependent on an extremely limited pool of producers and dozens of nations are still waiting for the supply of vaccines, even as India has crossed 100 crore doses. Imagine the situation if India did not have its own vaccine. How would have India secured enough vaccines for such a large population and how many years would that have taken? It is here that credit should be given to Indian scientists and entrepreneurs for rising to the occasion. It is due to their talent and hard work that India is truly *aatmanirbhar* when it comes to vaccines. Our vaccine manufacturers, by scaling up to meet the demands of such a large population, have shown that they are second to none.

WHEN EVERYONE TAKES OWNERSHIP, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE. OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS TRAVERSED HILLS AND CROSSED RIVERS ACROSS DIFFICULT GEOGRAPHIES TO VACCINATE PEOPLE. OUR YOUTH, SOCIAL WORKERS, HEALTHCARE WORKERS, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ALL DESERVE CREDIT FOR THE FACT THAT INDIA FACES MINIMAL VACCINE HESITANCY WHEN COMPARED TO EVEN DEVELOPED NATIONS.

In a nation where governments used to be known to impede forward movement, our government has instead been an accelerator and enabler of progress. The government partnered with the vaccine makers right from day one and gave them support in the form of institutional assistance, scientific research, funding, as well as accelerated regulatory processes. All ministries of the government came together to facilitate the vaccine makers and remove any bottlenecks as a result of our “whole of government” approach.

In a country of the scale of India, it is not enough to just produce. The focus has to be on last-mile delivery and seamless logistics. To understand the challenges involved, imagine the journey taken by one vial of the vaccine. From a plant in Pune or Hyderabad, the vial is sent to a hub in any of

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the states, from where it is transported to the district hub. From there, it reaches a vaccination centre. This entails thousands of trips taken by flights and trains. During this entire journey, the temperature has to be maintained in a particular range that is centrally monitored. For this, over 1 lakh cold-chain equipment were utilised. States were given advance notice of the delivery schedule of the vaccines so that they

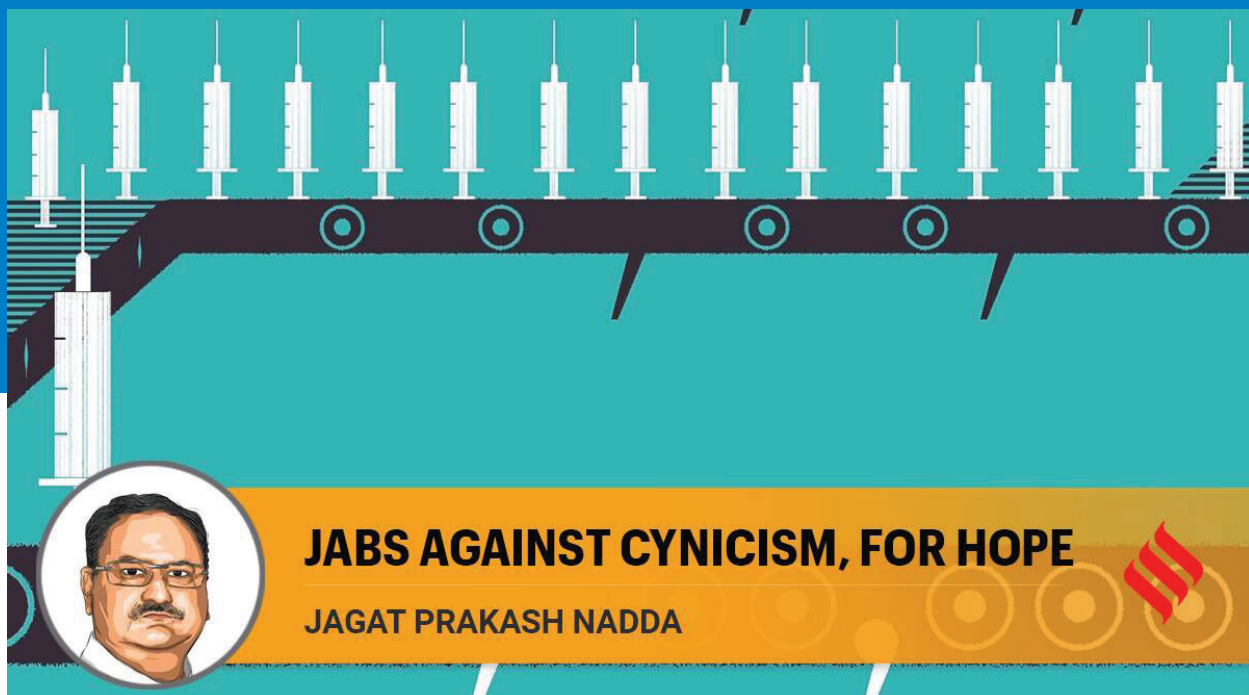
could plan their drives better and vaccines reached them on the pre-decided days. This has been an unprecedented effort in the history of independent India.

All these efforts were complemented by a robust tech platform in CoWIN. It ensured that the vaccine drive was equitable, scalable, trackable, and transparent. This ensured that there was no scope for favouritism or jumping the queue. It also ensured that a poor worker could take the first dose in his village and the second dose of the same vaccine in the city where he works, after the required time interval. In addition to a real-time dashboard to boost transparency, the QR-coded certificates ensured verifiability. There are hardly any examples of such efforts not only in India but also the world.

In my Independence Day address in 2015, I had said that our country is moving ahead because of "Team India" and this "Team India" is a big team of our 130 crore people. People's participation is the biggest strength of democracy. If we run the country through the participation of 130 crore Indians, our country will move ahead 130 crore steps every moment. Our vaccination drive has yet again shown the power of this "Team India". India's success in its vaccination drive has also demonstrated to the whole world that "democracy can deliver".

I am optimistic that the success achieved in the world's largest vaccination drive will further spur our youth, our innovators and all levels of government to set new benchmarks of public service delivery, which will be a model not only for our country, but also for the world.

OUR VACCINATION DRIVE HAS YET AGAIN SHOWN THE POWER OF THIS "TEAM INDIA". INDIA'S SUCCESS IN ITS VACCINATION DRIVE HAS ALSO DEMONSTRATED TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT "DEMOCRACY CAN DELIVER".



Celebrating India's remarkable Covid-19 vaccination drive



Written by: JP Nadda
Indian Express, 23 October 2021

Jagat Prakash Nadda, President, Bharatiya Janata Party

India began the world's largest vaccination drive on January 16, 2021, to inoculate its citizens against the Covid-19 virus. In just nine months, we have administered 100 crore doses. Over 74 per cent of the country's eligible population has received at least one dose of the life-saving vaccine.

India has managed to administer twice the number of vaccine doses as the US, which has administered just over 40.7 crore vaccine doses. This is despite our vaccine drive having started almost a month after the US.

While the world has administered close to 7 billion doses, India alone has administered 1 billion or 100 crore doses — this means that 14 per cent of the doses given were by India, even though our share of the world GDP is only about 3.2 per cent. Clearly, despite the many challenges before us, India managed to punch far above its weight. We have administered more vaccines than the entire European Union put together. Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Lakshadweep have managed to administer at least one dose to 100 per cent of their eligible adult population. States like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have more people who are fully vaccinated than the entire population of nations including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Australia, Peru and the UAE.

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In the last few weeks, India managed to cross the one crore daily vaccination mark at least five times. On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17, in a massive Jan Abhiyan, India set a new record by vaccinating 2.5 crore Indians on a single day. The pace of vaccinations has increased dramatically since the Centre took the drive into its own hands after observing that the decentralisation policy wasn't yielding the results it should have.

While the Covid battle so far has been primarily fought with the two made-in-India vaccines — Serum Institute of India's Covishield and the indigenously-developed Covaxin by Bharat Biotech — India has also developed the world's first DNA vaccine, ZyCov-D. But we need to also think about the gargantuan task undertaken by the country in the vaccination process. Imagine a vial of vaccine coming out of a plant in Pune or Hyderabad, going to the Central Drugs Laboratory in Kasauli for testing and then reaching a remote part of the country — all this while ensuring its temperature is in the desired range and being monitored centrally. Imagine the number of truck journeys and flights involved in the transportation process and the number of cold storage facilities required to store 100 crore vaccine doses. Imagine the number of syringes and needles transported to every part of the country.

Unlike in the past, this was a fast, time-bound and well-planned campaign. India developed what is perhaps the world's best technological tool to ensure an equitable process. PM Modi led from the front in ensuring that there is no VIP culture in vaccination and that the rich and powerful do not jump the queue. The CoWin platform ensured that one could take the two doses at different places

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without worrying. It also sent timely reminders for the second dose. India not only implemented the world's largest vaccination programme but also innovated at scale.

Unfortunately, even as India's priority was and continues to remain "corona virodh", some in the Opposition continue to prefer Modi virodh. Right from labelling the vaccines as "BJP vaccines" and spreading canards about their safety, which led to initial vaccine hesitancy, to the opportunistic flip flop by some state governments on the procurement of vaccines, and attempts to shift the blame for their own Covid mismanagement on to the central government, this brand of combative politics — as opposed to a much-desired consensual politics — could have been avoided.

An entirely sponsored campaign of calumny and propaganda was unleashed with the intention of tarnishing the efforts of the Modi government even if it harmed India's international reputation. The opposition parties' hypocrisy is unparalleled. To undermine India's historic milestones, they conveniently chose one parameter — measuring the number of vaccines administered relative to the population instead of the absolute number of vaccines. But when it was suggested that while comparing India's Covid management to the rest of the world, the same metric should be used — India's Covid fatalities relative to the population — they conveniently chose to measure absolute figures of fatality to once again paint a doomsday scenario.

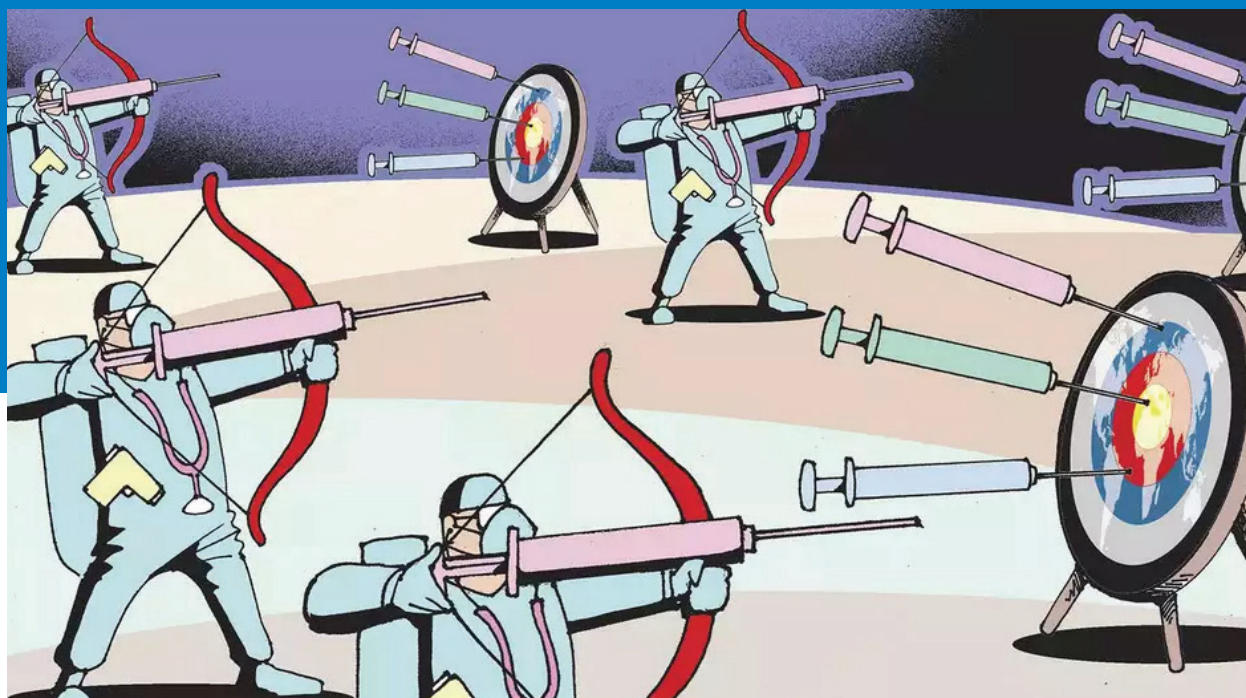
Take the example of UP. A state with a population of almost 24 crore has managed to contain the number of daily new Covid cases to under 50 for several weeks now and the total active cases are just around 100-odd. The number of fatalities in UP due to Covid is around 23,000. So, a state with 17-18 per cent of India's population has contributed just about 5 per cent of the total Covid fatalities. UP has managed to administer over 12 crore vaccine doses — the highest number by any state in the country — and has conducted the maximum number of tests at around 8 crore.

On the other hand, models that were much celebrated have been contributing almost 50-60 per cent of the Covid cases and fatalities for the last several weeks, despite representing just 11-12 per cent of India's population. Kerala, with a population of 3.5 crore — virtually one-seventh of UP's population — has unfortunately registered over 27,000 fatalities, despite its legacy of having better healthcare infrastructure. Yet, we see a fake narrative being painted against the Centre and BJP-governed states while there is an eloquent silence on the state of affairs in the non-BJP states, like Kerala. There is a concerted effort to target the Kumbh Mela and Kanwar Yatra but silence on the relaxations given during Eid in Kerala, which came under criticism from the Supreme Court as well.

Sadly, there is no vaccine for the pandemic of political cynicism, hypocrisy and intellectual dishonesty that tries to undermine the historic milestones of India by peddling half-truths and biased narratives. These milestones don't belong to one party or one government, but the entire nation. Disliking the person under whose leadership India is soaring to new heights shouldn't be reason enough to undermine the scientists, healthcare workers and people of India. Eventually, the contagion of lies and propaganda will be defeated by the vaccine of truth and facts.

One of the most effective tools against Covid-19 is social distancing. But in the battle against a pandemic, we must not distance socially and politically, we must unite. National interest is always better served by "sabka saath" and that should be the only driver of our public service during these times. So let us unite and celebrate India's achievement of giving 100 crore jabs of hope and let us continue to work together to defeat this pandemic.

IMAGINE A VIAL OF VACCINE COMING OUT OF A PLANT IN PUNE OR HYDERABAD, GOING TO THE CENTRAL DRUGS LABORATORY IN KASAULI FOR TESTING AND THEN REACHING A REMOTE PART OF THE COUNTRY – ALL THIS WHILE ENSURING ITS TEMPERATURE IS IN THE DESIRED RANGE AND BEING MONITORED CENTRALLY. IMAGINE THE NUMBER OF TRUCK JOURNEYS AND FLIGHTS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSPORTATION PROCESS AND THE NUMBER OF COLD STORAGE FACILITIES REQUIRED TO STORE 100 CRORE VACCINE DOSES. IMAGINE THE NUMBER OF SYRINGES AND NEEDLES TRANSPORTED TO EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY.



5 steps to 1 billion doses: India's vaccination achievement holds key lessons for other countries



Written by: Bill Gates
The Times of India, 21 October 2021

Bill Gates, Co-founder, Microsoft & Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

THIS VACCINE DRIVE IS THE LARGEST, AND ONE OF THE FASTEST, EVER. ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT MORE THAN 75% OF INDIA'S ADULT POPULATION HAS RECEIVED A FIRST DOSE AND OVER 31% HAS RECEIVED A SECOND DOSE; MORE THAN 48% OF WHOM ARE WOMEN. THIS PROGRESS IS CRITICAL NOT JUST FOR INDIA BUT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. GIVEN THE COUNTRY'S SIZE AND POPULATION, ITS TRANSMISSION LEVELS DIRECTLY IMPACT THE TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH THE WORLD CAN END THE CRISIS PHASE OF THIS BORDERLESS PANDEMIC.

Over and over again, I have been impressed by India's ability to address extremely difficult health challenges at the scale of a subcontinent with almost 1.4 billion people. Now, India has achieved another milestone: Administering more than 1 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

This vaccine drive is the largest, and one of the fastest, ever. Estimates suggest that more than 75% of India's adult population has received a first dose and over 31% has received a second dose; more than 48% of whom are women. This progress is critical not just for India but for the whole world. Given the country's size and population, its transmission levels directly impact the time frame within which the world can end the crisis phase of this borderless pandemic.

While the job is not yet complete, it is important to analyse the key ingredients of India's success, both so it can continue to build on its progress and so other countries can learn lessons from India's experience and adapt them to their own circumstances.

First, the political will has been strong from top to bottom. Led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to vaccinate all eligible Indian adults against Covid-19 by December 31, 2021, state and district leaders have responded with urgency. Highpowered committees set up in 2020 charted road maps for vaccine R&D and manufacturing, and the phased delivery of vaccines across India's adult population starting with those most at risk.

Second, India, which has successfully implemented many mass-immunisation campaigns, has leveraged its long-standing experience, knowledge and infrastructure to fight Covid-19. India's Universal Immunisation Programme is one of the world's most extensive public health programmes. It vaccinates over 27 million newborns with essential

India's over 2.3 million ASHA and Anganwadi women frontline workers were trained along with millions of doctors, nurses and auxiliary nurse midwives to ensure that Covid-19 vaccines are delivered equitably, everywhere in the country

primary doses and over 100 million children aged 1-5 years with booster doses every year. India has close to 27,000 cold chain facilities. These staggering numbers demonstrate consistent investment over the years to build a robust health system and deliver health services in the remotest locations of the country.

During the pandemic, this infrastructure has proved crucial. There are nearly 348,000 public centres and over 28,000 private centres currently administering Covid-19 vaccines in India, which cover the toughest terrains in the North and Northeast, including flood-prone areas. Further, India's over 2.3 million ASHA and Anganwadi women frontline workers were trained along with millions of doctors, nurses and auxiliary nurse midwives to ensure that Covid-19 vaccines are delivered equitably, everywhere in the country.

INDIA HAS HARNESSSED ITS EXPERTISE IN VACCINE AND DRUG DISCOVERY AND MANUFACTURING. BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, INDIAN VACCINES HAD ALREADY SAVED MILLIONS OF LIVES FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES LIKE MENINGITIS, PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHOEA.

Third, India has harnessed its expertise in vaccine and drug discovery and manufacturing. Before the pandemic, Indian vaccines had already saved millions of lives from infectious diseases like meningitis, pneumonia and diarrhoea. Our foundation has been proud to work with the government of India and many Indian manufacturers, including Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech, and BioE, to help make these safe and affordable vaccines available across India and to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Now, indigenously produced vaccines like Covishield and Covaxin are protecting Indians from Covid-19, and we have contributed, along with Gavi, to Serum's scaled-up production of Covishield and Covovax (still pending approvals) for India and LMICs around the world.

Fourth, India has used its IT prowess to digitally monitor the national vaccination effort. For example, CoWin – an open-source platform created in India – tracks vaccine appointments scheduling, provides verifiable digital vaccine certification and enables analysis of vaccine trends and breakthrough infections. I am excited by the platform's potential to improve other public health programmes in India, and I believe platforms like it can help other countries implement successful public health initiatives.

Fifth, the most important component of any health programme is people's participation, and the Indian people have made Covid-19 vaccination a success. Drawing on experience from

NOW, INDIGENOUSLY PRODUCED VACCINES LIKE COVISHIELD AND COVAXIN ARE PROTECTING INDIANS FROM COVID-19,

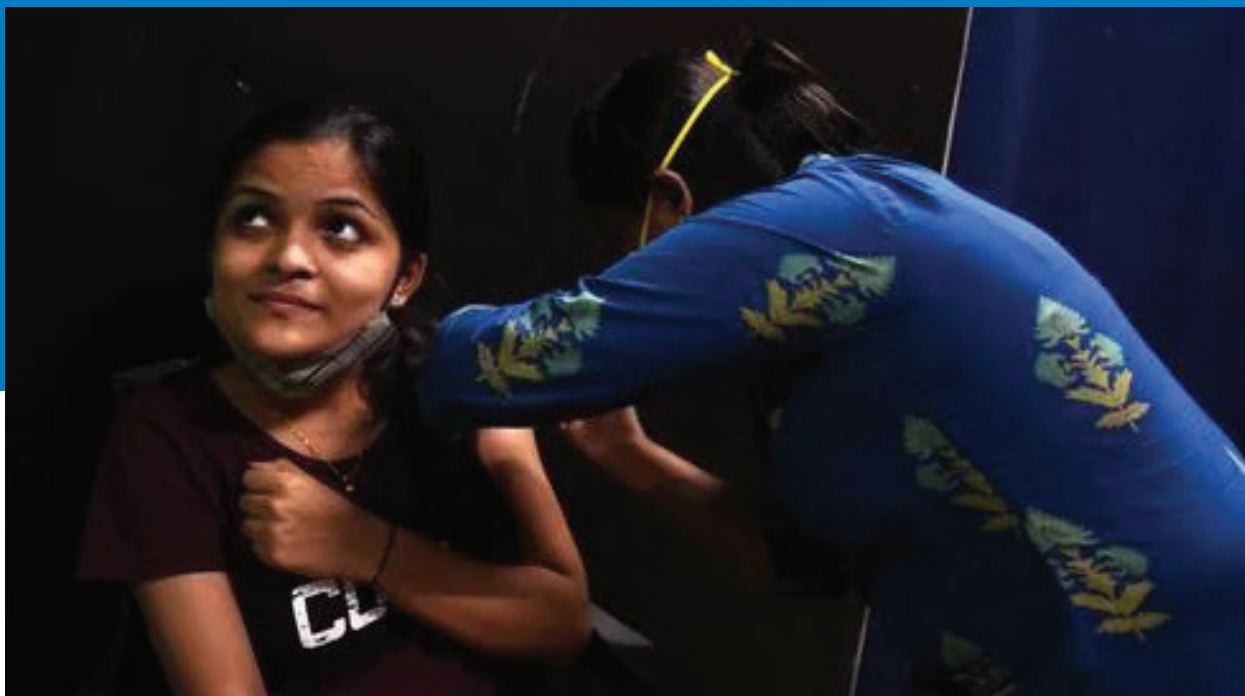
the polio-elimination programme, the Centre and state governments focussed on mobilising the population. It delivered messages through national and local influencers to address issues of hesitancy, engaged local government and self-help groups to generate demand, used sophisticated digital strategies to address misinformation and

disinformation, and conducted mass media campaigns and vaccine festivals or ‘mahostavs’. The Indian people responded.

Despite this progress, we know we can’t put the pandemic behind us until more people worldwide can get the vaccine, protecting them from the disease and slowing new variants. It is an outrage that vaccines are distributed inequitably: Less than 3% of people in low-income countries have received a dose. The answer lies in producing many more vaccines, and faster. This will require ramping up global manufacturing capacity for vaccines. India is poised to help with this as it accelerates vaccine exports, to increase access to Covid-19 vaccines for LMICs through the Covax and Vaccine Maitri initiatives.

India makes me hopeful because it shows how countries can, with strong leadership and consistent investments in health systems and R&D, protect the health of their people. There is no way to take back the tragic suffering of the past 18 months, but we can make sure the next 18 months are much, much different.

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One billion doses: India's leadership role in the world



Written by: Amitabh Kant
Hindustan Times, 20 October 2021

Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog

All signs indicate that the global economy is recovering much faster than expected. The key to this faster than expected global recovery has been vaccinations. Clearly, vaccines are the most potent weapon in this global battle against the pandemic.

India has been providing free vaccination doses to citizens, irrespective of their income status. Our target is to cover 940 million people aged 18-plus by December 2021. The vaccination drive commenced with vaccination to all health care workers. The programme was then expanded to include vaccination of frontline workers, citizens above 60 years, citizens above 45, and, eventually, citizens above 18. All vaccine doses were procured by the Government of India and provided free of cost to state governments. Those who can afford to pay and choose to do so have been free to use private vaccination centres, exemplifying the public-private nature of India's vaccine programme.

We have also developed two indigenous vaccines, a testament to our research and development (R&D) capabilities. India's DNA Covid vaccine, ZyCoV-D, is the world's first and heralds a wave of DNA vaccines for various diseases that are undergoing trials around the world. Similarly, India's first mRNA vaccine against Covid, developed by Gennova BioPharma, has got approval for Phase III trials. Our domestic vaccine manufacturing capabilities have been leveraged to serve the world.

As India touches the billion vaccinations mark, both the scale and speed of the rollout must be appreciated. Close to 300 million people will be fully vaccinated. That is more than the entire population of Indonesia, Pakistan or Brazil, the most populous countries in the world after China, India and the United States (US). In fact, it is close to the entire population of the US as well. This means that at India's pace, these countries would have been fully vaccinated by now.

At our peak, we administered 25 million doses in a day, a world record. To put it in perspective, this is equivalent to the entire population of Australia. Over the past month, we have averaged close to seven million doses every day. Again, for perspective, this rate suggests that a country with a population of 25 million would receive their first doses within three to four days, and be fully vaccinated within a few months.

ALL VACCINE DOSES WERE PROCURED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND PROVIDED FREE OF COST TO STATE GOVERNMENTS.

These numbers cannot be scoffed at. The enormous effort has been driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and encompassed the central and state governments and the private sector including the last health worker at the grassroots level. It is through the efforts of frontline workers in 70,000-plus vaccination centres across the country, that we have been able to achieve such feats.

INDIA HAS BEEN PROVIDING FREE VACCINATION DOSES TO CITIZENS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR INCOME STATUS. OUR TARGET IS TO COVER 940 MILLION PEOPLE AGED 18-PLUS BY DECEMBER 2021.

WE HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED TWO INDIGENOUS VACCINES, A TESTAMENT TO OUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) CAPABILITIES. INDIA'S DNA COVID VACCINE, ZYCOV-D, IS THE WORLD'S FIRST AND HERALDS A WAVE OF DNA VACCINES FOR VARIOUS DISEASES THAT ARE UNDERGOING TRIALS AROUND THE WORLD. SIMILARLY, INDIA'S FIRST MRNA VACCINE AGAINST COVID, DEVELOPED BY GENNOVA BIOPHARMA, HAS GOT APPROVAL FOR PHASE III TRIALS. OUR DOMESTIC VACCINE MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES HAVE BEEN LEVERAGED TO SERVE THE WORLD.

At the time of the rollout, the supposed digital divide was a key criticism of India's vaccination policy, with the argument that rural areas would be left out, as the information technology platform could only serve the urban, educated elite. However, these criticisms have now fallen flat. More doses have been administered in rural than in urban India. India's efforts in promoting digital literacy and connectivity have paid dividends. India's indigenously developed digital platform, CoWIN, has been a game-changer. It allows every resident in India the facility of conveniently and safely booking vaccine appointments, and also generates digital vaccine certificates in real time. Now, as travel opens up, citizens can also link their passports to their vaccination certificates, which allows them to generate international travel certificates. New features have been added so that foreign nationals residing in India can use the same platform easily to get vaccinated. The entire process is seamless, digital, and verifiable.

Not only is India producing enough vaccines for domestic use, but it is now able to export again. Before pausing exports owing to domestic requirements, India had exported nearly 66 million doses of vaccines, under the Vaccine Maitri Programme to 95 countries. Over 100 million doses have been sent to neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Iran. This is set to gather further pace in November.

These are huge numbers, especially since many countries continue to hoard vaccines or delay their administration. According to a report by Airfinity, the G7 nations and the European Union would have procured a billion more vaccine doses than they needed, and by the end of 2021, 10% of these are expected to expire. The United Nations secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, described the inequitable distribution of global vaccines as an "obscurity", calling it a "moral indictment of the state of the world". At a time when developed nations have shied away from taking the lead, India

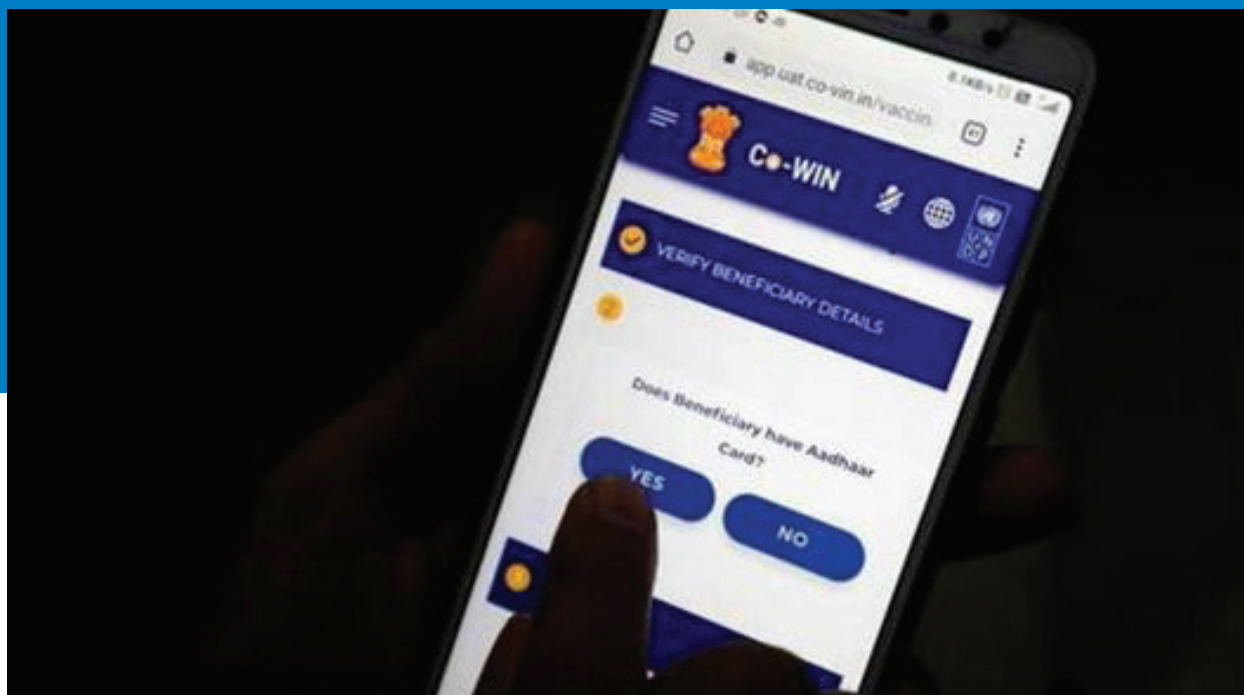
has been attempting to bridge this divide. India's efforts in ensuring vaccine equality need to be lauded, as it is taking responsibility which should have rightly been taken by the developed world.

MORE DOSES HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED IN RURAL THAN IN URBAN INDIA. INDIA'S EFFORTS IN PROMOTING DIGITAL LITERACY AND CONNECTIVITY HAVE PAID DIVIDENDS.

The best bet to resume normalcy is vaccines. India has made significant strides in ensuring a speedy and efficient vaccine rollout. As we continue to increase vaccination coverage, discretionary

services are also rebounding, boding well for the rest of the economy. This has been evident in the services purchasing managers index, a leading indicator of the economy, which has been above its long-term average in the past two months. Yet, there remains the issue of addressing global vaccine inequality. It is time for the global community to come together and ensure that vaccine inequality ends now. India has been taking the lead, but it is now time for developed nations to start walking the talk in reducing vaccine inequality.

AT A TIME WHEN DEVELOPED NATIONS HAVE SHIED AWAY FROM TAKING THE LEAD, INDIA HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO BRIDGE THIS DIVIDE. INDIA'S EFFORTS IN ENSURING VACCINE EQUALITY NEED TO BE LAUDED, AS IT IS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY WHICH SHOULD HAVE RIGHTLY BEEN TAKEN BY THE DEVELOPED WORLD.



CoWIN's inclusive and dynamic design can serve the world



Written by: RS Sharma
Hindustan Times, 21 October 2021

RS Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority, Ex-Chairman of TRAI, and Ex-Mission Director of UIDAI

As we cross the historic milestone of a billion vaccine doses, imagine what might have happened if we didn't have CoWIN.

Could we have expected every citizen to remember the vaccine they took, and adhere to timelines, when the recommended interval between doses itself was changing? Wasn't there a possibility of mix-up with two vaccines in a manual system? Didn't it help to give people the option of choosing any centre for their second jab? Isn't the value of digital certificates now evident, from international and domestic travels to keeping workplaces safe?

CoWIN not only enabled all of this, but it mastered scale and speed efficiently and transparently. It reduced the information asymmetry between people and the system, democratising the vaccination drive. From providing details such as the location of the nearest vaccine centres to almost obliterating the scope of any blackmarketing, CoWIN kept all stakeholders aligned and the system transparent.

From our experience, we know how scarce and valuable commodities become susceptible to leakage, rent-seeking, and other unfair practices. By tracing vaccines' end-to-end, accountability was built into the system by design. In a culture obsessed with VIPs, CoWIN also proved to be a great leveller,

by making sure that access to a life-saving resource is not determined by privilege, but by eligibility. The factors for eligibility always kept the most vulnerable at the forefront.

THE COWIN PLATFORM HAS ALSO BEEN LINGUISTICALLY INCLUSIVE, OFFERING SERVICES IN 17 LANGUAGES. WITH OVER 1.18 BILLION MOBILE CONNECTIONS, THE MOBILE NUMBER WAS CHOSEN AS THE REGISTRATION GATEWAY. AADHAAR WAS RECOMMENDED FOR IDENTIFICATION DUE TO ITS DIGITALLY ROBUST AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM AND COVERAGE OF OVER 1.3 BILLION, AND EIGHT MORE OPTIONS OF IDENTIFICATION WERE ALSO OFFERED FOR A TRULY INCLUSIVE APPROACH.

The system, while clear on the need for digitisation, was mindful of the digital divide. One set of people logged in and booked their appointments on the CoWIN portal. The other, larger subset of people, almost 70%, walked in without digital appointments, and was assisted with their registration and data digitisation at the Covid-19 vaccination centres. Over 240,000 Common Service Centres and a National Health Authority call centre also helped many more with registration for vaccinations in an assisted mode.

The CoWIN platform has also been linguistically inclusive, offering services in 17 languages. With over 1.18 billion mobile connections, the mobile

IN A CULTURE OBSESSED WITH VIPS, COWIN ALSO PROVED TO BE A GREAT LEVELLER, BY MAKING SURE THAT ACCESS TO A LIFE-SAVING RESOURCE IS NOT DETERMINED BY PRIVILEGE, BUT BY ELIGIBILITY. THE FACTORS FOR ELIGIBILITY ALWAYS KEPT THE MOST VULNERABLE AT THE FOREFRONT.

number was chosen as the registration gateway. Aadhaar was recommended for identification due to its digitally robust authentication system and coverage of over 1.3 billion, and eight more options of identification were also offered for a truly inclusive approach. Even the architecture of CoWIN is inclusive and has been made open and interoperable.

CoWIN was also designed to be dynamic. Its constant improvisations are based on the rules framed by the government, and ground-up feedback. The portability feature allowed the freedom to individuals to choose when and where they wanted to take their first and second jab. People were also using different mobile numbers to register for their first dose and second dose. Initially, the platform didn't have the system to de-duplicate. However, CoWIN evolved to subsequently allow them to merge and create a complete two-dose digital vaccination certificate.

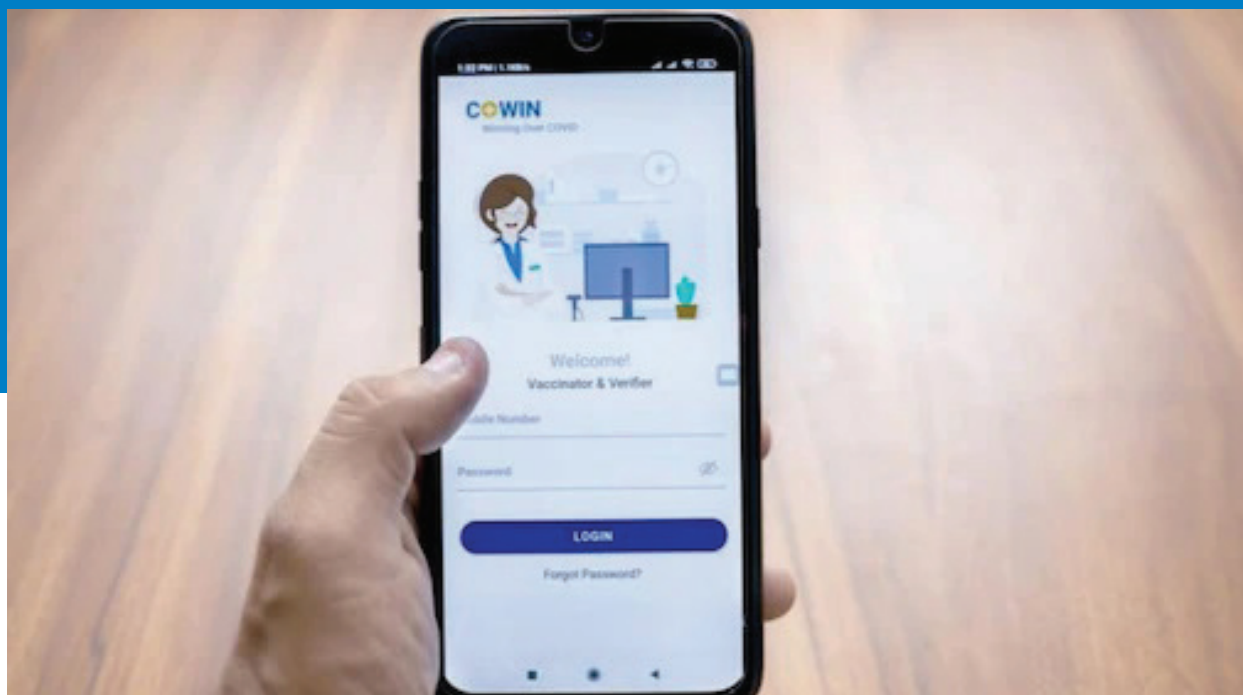
As economic activities gathered pace, employers, public transport authorities, travel establishments, and others wanted to verify the vaccination status of people to ensure safety for all. Our recently launched Know-Your-Customer's/Client's-Vaccination-Status [KYC-VS] feature, allows for that to happen, with the beneficiary's consent, with absolutely minimal data-sharing.

At a time when most countries were issuing manually signed hand-written certificates, even the first vaccination certificate issued in India was digitally signed and verifiable through CoWIN. When individuals needed their passport numbers to link with their vaccine certificates as per their convenience, a feature was added to allow them to do that as well.

Looking at the way CoWIN empowered our own vaccination drive, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested that this resource be shared with the world. CoWIN is India's digital gift to the world. Following his direction, we hosted a global conclave on Co-WIN on July 5, 2021, where 141 countries participated. We are in the process of signing an MoU with one such attendee country and are in discussions with almost a dozen others.

CoWIN is now being envisaged as a digital vehicle for universal vaccination, blood donation, and may also be considered as a platform for organ donation in the future. The possibilities are endless, but the focus remains on serving the larger public good — today for India, and tomorrow for the world.

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In 100-crore Vaccine Run, a Victory for CoWIN and Narendra Modi's Digital India Dream



Written by: Mohandas Pai
News18, 21 October 2021

TV Mohandas Pai, Director, Manipal Universal Learning & former CFO, Infosys

THE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE BEDROCK ON WHICH COWIN HAS BEEN BUILT AND WHICH, IN TURN, HAS ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO DELIVER 100 CRORE VACCINE SHOTS TO ITS CITIZENS.

The digital infrastructure is the bedrock on which CoWIN has been built and which, in turn, has enabled the Government of India to deliver 100 crore vaccine shots to its citizens. When the government embarked on the campaign to provide COVID-19 vaccination to every citizen, it realized that it has to build a digital system.

This digital system under R.S. Sharma was built in record time. Today, it is a repository of data—every citizen getting a COVID vaccine shot feeds their name and cell number as well as their Aadhaar number into the system, which then captures and stores the data. That the citizen has taken their second dose too is also added to the database. Therefore, this database contains information that is verifiable.

This digital system has enabled the government to scale up the vaccination drive to an unbelievable level—clocking a record 2.26 crore vaccine doses in a single day and 1 crore-plus doses on several days, and finally reaching the 100-crore landmark.

The digital system also allows people to download the vaccine completion certificate and carry it with them and show it to anybody when they travel, including authorities in India and overseas. This is truly an extraordinary feat. We have not seen a similar digital infrastructure created at this scale in any other country.

Even in developed countries like the UK and the US, people still get hand-written certificates, which is not in any database and not verifiable through any database either—in other words, it is a big mess. India is an exception where the COVID vaccination programme is digital, right from the beginning. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made sure that India had the digital infrastructure—this proved to be the foundation on which India's successful vaccination campaign was mounted.

Of course, Serum Institute of India and others who developed vaccines as well as the infrastructure needed to scale up the delivery to unprecedented levels also played a huge role in India achieving the 100-crore vaccination mark in such a short span.

Credit must also be given to the government and the health authorities, who enabled Covaxin to get registered and developed in India, for India.

THIS DIGITAL SYSTEM HAS ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT TO SCALE UP THE VACCINATION DRIVE TO AN UNBELIEVABLE LEVEL—CLOCKING A RECORD 2.26 CRORE VACCINE DOSES IN A SINGLE DAY AND 1 CRORE-PLUS DOSES ON SEVERAL DAYS, AND FINALLY REACHING THE 100-CRORE LANDMARK.

They also enabled Serum Institute to expand its facilities to develop vaccines.

The Government of India has also offered CoWIN as a digital infrastructure to other countries. And, I do feel that all other countries should look at CoWIN and white-label it for their use. This is a part of the Digital India dream that the Prime Minister gave us in 2015, and it has stood India in good stead. It enabled the country to successfully carry out a massive vaccination programme.

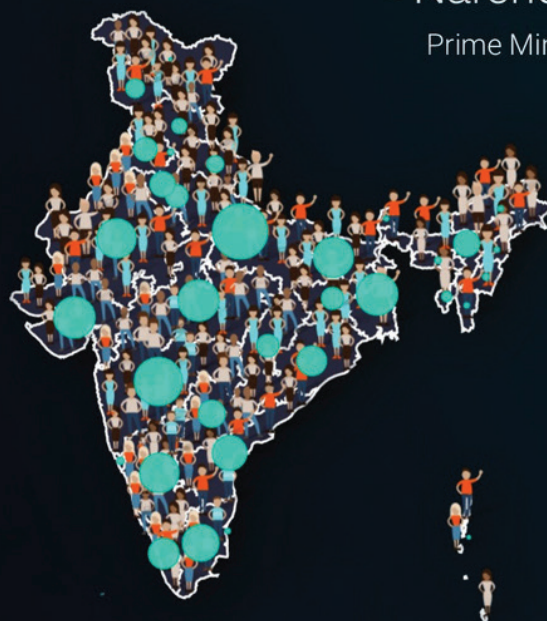
THE DIGITAL SYSTEM ALSO ALLOWS PEOPLE TO DOWNLOAD THE VACCINE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE AND CARRY IT WITH THEM AND SHOW IT TO ANYBODY WHEN THEY TRAVEL, INCLUDING AUTHORITIES IN INDIA AND OVERSEAS. THIS IS TRULY AN EXTRAORDINARY FEAT. WE HAVE NOT SEEN A SIMILAR DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE CREATED AT THIS SCALE IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

INDIA COUNTING DOWN TO 1 BILLION DOSES

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"Together, India will defeat COVID-19"

- Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



CO-WIN DASHBOARD ON COMPLETION OF 100-CRORE DOSES

21'OCT, 2021



A billion vaccines: India has proved that democracy can deliver



Written by: Akhilesh Mishra
Gulf News, 21 October 2021

Akhilesh Mishra, CEO, Bluekraft Digital Foundation

Today, on October 21, 2021, India achieved the momentous feat of administering 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines. For a democratic society, to be able to achieve this feat in such a short span of time — just over nine months — is a task worthy of not just admiration but also of deep analysis and case study for the world. So, what are the factors that made India achieve this feat?

Five different strands — Panch Amrit — that all came together into one beautifully woven thread, so emblematic of India, can be identified as the key drivers.

First, the science and the scientists. When the COVID-19 pandemic first started, it was an unknown entity except that the medical fraternity almost immediately recognized that it will have global repercussions.

The challenge was one which the world had never faced before, ever — create a vaccine against an unknown viral pathogen in just a few months else the world was looking at tens of millions of deaths!

Even as the global pharmaceutical companies raced to make a vaccine, Indian scientists and researchers, taking inspiration from ‘Aatmnirbhar Bharat’ mantra, undertook their own independent journey that culminated in the creation of two vaccines that would save the lives of not just millions of Indians but also millions of citizens across dozens of countries.

EVEN AS THE GLOBAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES RACED TO MAKE A VACCINE, INDIAN SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS, TAKING INSPIRATION FROM ‘AATMNIRBHAR BHARAT’ MANTRA, UNDERTOOK THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT JOURNEY THAT CULMINATED IN THE CREATION OF TWO VACCINES THAT WOULD SAVE THE LIVES OF NOT JUST MILLIONS OF INDIANS BUT ALSO MILLIONS OF CITIZENS ACROSS DOZENS OF COUNTRIES.

FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS FEAT IN SUCH A SHORT SPAN OF TIME – JUST OVER NINE MONTHS – IS A TASK WORTHY OF NOT JUST ADMIRATION BUT ALSO OF DEEP ANALYSIS AND CASE STUDY FOR THE WORLD.

In just a few weeks after the virus was first identified, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) isolated and sequenced the SARS-Cov2 virus. In partnership with Bharat Biotech, India’s first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine — Covaxin — was developed by June 2020 itself and subsequently processed into various phases of trials.

In parallel, Serum Institute of India collaborated with a global pharmaceutical company to mass produce the Covishield vaccine.

By end-November 2020, Serum Institute was ready with interim Phase-III trial results for Covishield; by mid-December 2020, Bharat Biotech was also ready with interim Phase-III trial results of Covaxin.

Finally, on January 3, 2021, less than year before the virus was first notified, two “Made in India” vaccines were approved for emergency use!

Second, the front-line workers. Inoculating a billion plus people, spread across a vast geography, settled in the remotest of places — from deserts to mountains and from coastal areas to deeply forested regions, was not going to be an easy task!

However, India’s administrative machinery was ready for the task.

A special task force comprising 19 Union ministries, 23 departments at the State and district level, and partners from associated fields came together to create the ‘COVID-19 Vaccines Operational Guidelines.’

The guidelines were released in December 2020 and detailed all aspects of the training of all health functionaries, preparing the eligible population lists, social mobilisers, vaccine storage, cold storage chain, up to the delivery of the vaccine.

Among other things, the document also laid out the training required for the handling of the vaccines and their transportation procedure by the health workers. Three dry runs were conducted nationwide before the launch of the vaccination drive and even before the first dose was administered,

more than 170,000 vaccinators and more than 300,000 vaccination team members were trained, spread across the nation.

A SPECIAL TASK FORCE COMPRISING 19 UNION MINISTRIES, 23 DEPARTMENTS AT THE STATE AND DISTRICT LEVEL, AND PARTNERS FROM ASSOCIATED FIELDS CAME TOGETHER TO CREATE THE ‘COVID-19 VACCINES OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES’.

THE GUIDELINES WERE RELEASED IN DECEMBER 2020 AND DETAILED ALL ASPECTS OF THE TRAINING OF ALL HEALTH FUNCTIONARIES, PREPARING THE ELIGIBLE POPULATION LISTS, SOCIAL MOBILISERS, VACCINE STORAGE, COLD STORAGE CHAIN, UP TO THE DELIVERY OF THE VACCINE.

This end-to-end exercise trained officials and health care workers on all aspects of vaccination, including administering of the vaccine, dealing with adverse effects, and collecting and storing real-time data in the home-grown platform IT platform CoWin.

As the vaccination drive picked up, the front line and health workers, doctors, nurses, police and other security forces worked selflessly 24X7 to maintain the momentum!

Even during the peak of the second wave during April-May 2021, the commitment, the zeal and the spirit of selfless service of the front-line workers did not diminish, and they carried out the vaccination drive with same vigor.

Think of the scale of what these front-line

THE “WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT” APPROACH, FIRST PIONEERED BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI DURING HIS CHIEF MINISTERIAL STINT IN GUJARAT, CAME IN HANDY IN MOBILISING THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY RIGHT DOWN TO THE DISTRICT AND LOCAL BLOCK LEVELS ACROSS 36 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES.

workers have been able to achieve — over 1 billion doses in just over nine months, multiple times administering more than 10 million doses in a day and also creating a world record of administering more than 25 million doses in one single day!

Third, the logistics and administrative machinery. The “Whole-of Government” approach, first pioneered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Chief Ministerial stint in Gujarat, came in handy in mobilising the entire government machinery right down to the district and local block levels across 36 states and union territories.

Representing India’s digital prowess, the Government also launched the indigenously developed CoWin platform. An end-to-end digital platform — the most advanced and transparent such platform in the world — CoWin enabled real-time monitoring of the vaccination process as well facilitating the people to book vaccination slots of their choice and download digital certificates at the click of a button.

Unlike paper certificates dispensed in many advanced countries, these digital certificates came equipped with unique QR codes and biometric authenticated data.

The planning was so complete that more than 300,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) were activated to digitally help those who may have needed it any aspect of the end-to-end vaccination process.

However, the most crucial element of being able to ensure seamless vaccination was the planning of the logistics network. Transportation of millions of vaccines “From the Factory to the Field” in a controlled environment was not an everyday job.

Specialised containers, which could maintain desired temperatures for more than 72 during transportation were mobilised. While Commercial airliners were used for the majority of the transportation, the government also used the transport fleet of the Indian Air Force to plug in any gaps.



IMAGINE, HUNDREDS OF PLANES FLYING TO MULTIPLE AIRSTRIPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY; THOUSANDS OF KILOMETRES OF TRAIN TRAVEL; AND LAKHS OF KILOMETRES OF ROAD TRAVEL – THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO ENSURE THAT THE VACCINES REACH EVEN THE REMOTEST PARTS OF INDIA EVERY DAY, DAY AFTER DAY, EVERY DAY!

The Air Force also provided landing facilities to commercial airliners at the military airfields including in remotest corner of the country.

The Indian Railways closed the loop where air connectivity was not available. Cold storage trucks carried the vaccines inland in the last leg. Finally, health carried the vaccines in portable containers into the rural pockets — either on foot or using any mode of transport available.

Imagine, hundreds of planes flying to multiple airstrips across the country; thousands of kilometres of train travel; and lakhs of kilometres of road travel — this is what it takes to ensure that the vaccines reach even the remotest parts of India every day, day after day, every day!

Where none of the modes of transport was available, ICMR's "Made in India" IDrone was used to deliver the vaccines to the farthest corners.

Fourth, the spirit of the people of India.

Unlike many democratic nations, including many developed countries, that have been forced to mandate COVID19 vaccination, India's fight against the virus has been entirely 'people driven' and absolutely voluntary!

"Tika Utsav" or Vaccination Festival became the buzzword as Indians collectively come forward in hundreds of millions to take part in the world's largest vaccination drive.

Amid the staggering amount of global suffering, the story of India's vaccination drive stands out! Every section of the society has contributed in this fight in their own way.

The Indian people imbibe the timeless spirit of India's civilizational heritage of coming together as one in times of crisis with the resolve to fight and defeat the enemy — in this case the pandemic. This timeless spirit manifested itself during this latest crisis as well.



UNLIKE MANY DEMOCRATIC NATIONS, INCLUDING MANY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THAT HAVE BEEN FORCED TO MANDATE COVID19 VACCINATION, INDIA'S FIGHT AGAINST THE VIRUS HAS BEEN ENTIRELY 'PEOPLE DRIVEN' AND ABSOLUTELY VOLUNTARY!

Fifth, the Leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As early as April 2020 itself, when the world was still struggling with the nature of the vaccine, the Prime Minister Modi, in a display of remarkable foresight, constituted a task force to conduct research on COVID-19 vaccines.

Administrative processes, bureaucratic approvals and financial supports were all fast-tracked to support the development of the vaccines. The mandate was that science will take its own time and that must not be short circuited. However, other processes that were in control of the government machinery must not become a hindrance but rather become facilitators.

More than \$120 million were allocated in mid-2020 itself under the Covid-19 Suraksha Mission for Research & Development of an Indian covid vaccine. As the vaccines reached mass production stage, the Union Budget for financial year, 2021-22 made provision of almost \$5 billion for the nationwide free vaccination programme.

Advanced financial support to the manufacturers, booking of vaccines in advance and fast-tracking approval processes were the systemic interventions mandated by the government. In a show of confidence and personal unstinted support to the scientists and researchers, Prime Minister Modi himself visited the facilities manufacturing the vaccines even before the first doses were administered.

21 meetings were held with Chief Ministers of the various states — the partners in this nationwide effort — that were chaired by Prime Minister Modi himself. Multiple other meetings were held at Health Minister levels and officials. Regular discussions with the States allowed the Central government to remove any roadblocks that would otherwise have arisen in the logistics and distribution chain.

As is his wont, a detailed plan was worked under Prime Minister's guidance which sequenced the priority groups that would be vaccinated. Front-line and health workers first, then those above 60, then those above 45 with comorbidities, then all above 45 and finally all above 18.

Setting an example. Prime Minister Modi awaited his turn to take the first dose of the vaccine and only when he became eligible as per priority sequencing, did he get himself inoculated.

But the leadership mettle shown by Prime Minister Modi was not just during vaccination phase but during the entire one and half years of India's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES, BUREAUCRATIC APPROVALS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORTS WERE ALL FAST-TRACKED TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VACCINES. THE MANDATE WAS THAT SCIENCE WILL TAKE ITS OWN TIME AND THAT MUST NOT BE SHORT CIRCUITED. HOWEVER, OTHER PROCESSES THAT WERE IN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY MUST NOT BECOME A HINDRANCE BUT RATHER BECOME FACILITATORS.

From personally shunning Holi festivities in March 2021 to set an example, when India had just about 100 cases, to motivating a billion plus people to observe a voluntary lockdown during Janata Curfew on March 22, 2020 to appearing in public with a face mask in April 2020 itself, Prime Minister Modi has put himself firmly in the front in this battle.

It was a risky strategy from a political point of view. If the Covid-19 battle had floundered, as it did in many countries, he would have had to take the entire blame for he put himself in the front. But that is what leadership is about. Not bothering about personal risks but putting the larger national interest first.

Prime Minister Modi displayed empathy when needed, firm resolve when required, foresight and planning when it mattered and undertook the role of a motivator and shoulder of support when required. They say true leadership stands out in times of crisis and it would not be an exaggeration to assert that Prime Minister Modi has passed this test with commendably.

In the end, the story of India administering 1 billion doses at the fastest pace in any democratic society, is a story of India's scientists, the front-line workers, the humongous effort of the logistics supply chain, the voluntary spirit of Indians to come together and get vaccinated, and the story of the entire government machinery led by Prime Minister Modi displaying firm resolve, encouragement, support and unstinted leadership!

As Prime Minister Modi has himself said in a different context, but so apt in the vaccination story as well — “India has proved that democracy can deliver”!

ADVANCED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE MANUFACTURERS, BOOKING OF VACCINES IN ADVANCE AND FAST-TRACKING APPROVAL PROCESSES WERE THE SYSTEMIC INTERVENTIONS MANDATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN A SHOW OF CONFIDENCE AND PERSONAL UNSTINTED SUPPORT TO THE SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS, PRIME MINISTER MODI HIMSELF VISITED THE FACILITIES MANUFACTURING THE VACCINES EVEN BEFORE THE FIRST DOSES WERE ADMINISTERED.



100 crore jabs: An Indian achievement



Written by: Akhilesh Mishra
Indian Express, 21 October 2021

Akhilesh Mishra, CEO, Bluekraft Digital Foundation

As India achieved the landmark of administering 100 crore Covid-19 vaccines on October 21, it is time to reflect on this momentous journey. Sceptics, naysayers, professional discord seeders, and other assorted disrupters tried in various ways to either halt this journey or at least disrupt it. However, it is to our credit as people that we overcame these challenges and achieved this landmark.

Consider for a moment the scale of 100 crore doses. The population of the US is just over 33 crore. This means India could have vaccinated the US population — not just adults but the entire population — with two doses and yet be left with a sufficient quantity of vaccines to give a booster dose to the entire population! Incidentally, the US has so far only managed to give 41 crore doses and has fully vaccinated just over 57 per cent of its population.

Or take Europe. With a combined population of approximately 75 crore, India could have given one dose to every European and administered a second dose to over 1/3rd of the population. Europe, incidentally, has so far administered just about 83 crore doses.

Why are these numbers significant? In the initial months, one of the comparisons used to underplay India's achievement was to count the percentage population partially or fully vaccinated. Because of the vast differential between the Indian population compared to any other country (except China), India seemed to fare badly. What this analysis missed was the fact that production capacities are finite and cannot be ramped up instantly to any number. No matter how elastic the production in a particular factory is, it can produce only finite quantities in a given time. If a country's adult population is two crore then it needs just about four crore doses to fully vaccinate its people. India needs almost 200 crore doses to fully vaccinate its adult population. The sheer time required to produce 200 crore doses, going by just common sense, is many times more than what is required to produce four crore doses. In the interval that it takes to produce such large quantities, India's percentage population coverage was obviously low — but for professional India bashers, this became another opportunity, albeit sans any understanding of the issue.

And yet, within no time, India has outpaced the entire world, except China, in not just production but also in the administration of vaccines.

Think of another statistic. The US, home to many vaccine producers and manufacturers, started administering vaccines almost a month before India. So far, it has administered about 41 crore doses in its country and exported another

IN THE INITIAL MONTHS, ONE OF THE COMPARISONS USED TO UNDERPLAY INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENT WAS TO COUNT THE PERCENTAGE POPULATION PARTIALLY OR FULLY VACCINATED. BECAUSE OF THE VAST DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN THE INDIAN POPULATION COMPARED TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY (EXCEPT CHINA), INDIA SEEMED TO FARE BADLY. WHAT THIS ANALYSIS MISSED WAS THE FACT THAT PRODUCTION CAPACITIES ARE FINITE AND CANNOT BE RAMPED UP INSTANTLY TO ANY NUMBER.

20 crores. By contrast, India has administered over 100 crore doses at home and exported an additional six crore doses under Vaccine Maitri in the first half of the year and a further 40 crore doses (10 crore each) in October to Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Iran.

If vaccine production is one end of this success story, the administering logistics supply chain is the other. The entire government machinery — from the central government right down to block and tehsil levels — came together to pull off this effort. State governments run by different political formations have all joined in this whole-of-government approach pioneered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. From Uttar Pradesh leading the vaccination charge to states like Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Maharashtra and many others, all have contributed significantly in India achieving this landmark.

The logistics supply chain from factory-to-field and the last mile administering capacity has performed, day after day, every day, for over nine months now. From the snow-clad mountains of the Himalayas, to the deserts of Rajasthan and from the rain-soaked forests of the Northeast to the backwaters of Kerala — the continental scale of India's delivery mechanism has been tested and proven itself once again and at a billion-plus scale. A painful second wave was also weathered during this vaccination exercise and yet, the frontline health workers have not let their dedication dim.

So, what explains this momentous feat? In an article a few weeks ago, I had analysed the one essential trait of Prime Minister Modi — Amrit Prayaas or Relentless Essayer — in the 20 years of him being the head of an elected government. The article had ended with these hopeful lines — “As we enter the Amrit Kaal — the year between the 75th and 100th year of India's Independence, imagine the scale of possibilities if all of us, in our little ways, become Amrit Prayaasis”. The vaccination landmark story is just a trailer of what our collective Amrit Prayaas can achieve. Imagine the possibilities if we imbibe this learning and become Amrit Prayaasis in all our endeavours.

SO, WHAT EXPLAINS THIS MOMENTOUS FEAT? IN AN ARTICLE A FEW WEEKS AGO, I HAD ANALYSED THE ONE ESSENTIAL TRAIT OF PRIME MINISTER MODI – AMRIT PRAYAAS OR RELENTLESS ESSAYER – IN THE 20 YEARS OF HIM BEING THE HEAD OF AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT. THE ARTICLE HAD ENDED WITH THESE HOPEFUL LINES – “AS WE ENTER THE AMRIT KAAL – THE YEAR BETWEEN THE 75TH AND 100TH YEAR OF INDIA’S INDEPENDENCE, IMAGINE THE SCALE OF POSSIBILITIES IF ALL OF US, IN OUR LITTLE WAYS, BECOME AMRIT PRAYAASIS”. THE VACCINATION LANDMARK STORY IS JUST A TRAILER OF WHAT OUR COLLECTIVE AMRIT PRAYAAS CAN ACHIEVE. IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES IF WE IMBIBE THIS LEARNING AND BECOME AMRIT PRAYAASIS IN ALL OUR ENDEAVOURS.



LANDMARK, AND BEYOND

VIRANDER S CHAUHAN



We've achieved
100 crore
vaccinations.
Let's not slow
down



Written by: Virander S Chauhan
Indian Express, 23 October 2021

Virander S Chauhan, former Chairman UGC & former Director,
International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology

With more than 240 million reported cases and nearly 5 million deaths worldwide due to the Covid pandemic, mankind has not witnessed such devastation in living memory. Although scientific efforts to detect and combat the spread of the novel coronavirus moved at a fast pace, it is the development of efficacious vaccines that will remain perhaps the most outstanding achievement of collaborative science across the world. After several devastating waves of viral infections, dominated by more infectious and ultra-fast spreading mutants, there seems to be a halt in the spread of the pandemic, leading to cautious but definite moves towards normalcy. It is now abundantly clear that the vaccinations have greatly helped in halting the spread of the virus, saving millions of lives, and providing a lifeline to highly stressed healthcare systems.

Since December 8, 2020, when the 90-year-old Margaret Keenan received the first vaccine shot in the world, more than 7 billion vaccine shots have been administered. India which started its vaccination drive on January 16, 2021, continued its vaccination programme, despite witnessing perhaps the most ferocious second wave and has now achieved the landmark of administering 100 crore vaccines. Around 75 per cent of its currently eligible population (18 years and above) has received at least one dose of an approved vaccine, and at least 30 per cent are now fully vaccinated.

Another outstanding achievement in India has been the development and manufacturing of the first ever DNA-based Covid-19 vaccine by the Indian pharma company Zydus Cadila. Unlike other vaccines, this one uses a needle-free device that is pressed against the skin to deliver the vaccine formulation. This may be an additional advantage for vaccine acceptance, particularly for children. With the rollout of this efficacious vaccine, which is also being tested in children for its safety and efficacy, as well as two other recombinant protein-based vaccines slated to be produced in India, the country may soon not only have filled the initial supply and demand gap, but could become a major supplier of high quality and cost-effective vaccines, particularly to low and middle-income countries.

As more and more people get vaccinated, new information about questions around vaccination and the pandemic keep emerging for scientists and researchers to collect data and provide evidence-based answers. While it is very clear that Covid-19 vaccines have saved millions of lives and have remained by and large effective against all virus variants, it is also observed that the vaccines may not be as effective in stopping the spread of infections, as some initial studies had suggested. Further,

ANOTHER OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN INDIA HAS BEEN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING OF THE FIRST EVER DNA-BASED COVID-19 VACCINE BY THE INDIAN PHARMA COMPANY ZYDUS CADILA. UNLIKE OTHER VACCINES, THIS ONE USES A NEEDLE-FREE DEVICE THAT IS PRESSED AGAINST THE SKIN TO DELIVER THE VACCINE FORMULATION. THIS MAY BE AN ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE FOR VACCINE ACCEPTANCE, PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.

now that the vaccination drives in some countries are more than 10 months old, questions about how long the vaccine-induced immunity will last and whether booster doses will be required have been raised.

Multiple studies have suggested that vaccine-induced immunity tends to wane over a period of six to nine months. Immunocompromised and older people above the age of 60 may become more susceptible to infection and severe disease.

To boost or not to boost has become a key question in countries that have successfully vaccinated much of their adult population, even during the emergence and spread of the highly infectious Delta mutant. After initial hesitation and much discussion, including scientific, moral, and ethical, many countries have started providing booster doses to their populations, ignoring an earlier moratorium on booster doses issued by WHO. Recent studies have also shown that immunity in those fully vaccinated in many low-income countries, with the two WHO approved vaccines from China, has waned rapidly and has provided limited protection in the older population. WHO itself has recently advocated a booster dose of these vaccines.

The Covid-19 vaccine world has remained somewhat strange and certainly divided. Of the several WHO-approved vaccines, the US has used only three, and other Western countries, only four. Astonishingly, the Astra Zeneca vaccine, which is the most widely used vaccine in the world, is still not approved for use in the US. Covaxin, the inactivated virus vaccine produced in India by Bharat Biotech, and Sputnik V from Russia, which have been given to millions in many countries, still await WHO approval.

There are more than 20 Covid vaccines already approved for human use and many more are in late stages of development. Many developing countries have started producing their own vaccines. But many poor countries, particularly in Africa, have not yet reached vaccination rates beyond 5 per cent. On the other hand, rich countries have many times more vaccines than they need to immunise their populations. The unequal distribution of a life-saving scientific tool like vaccines has never been starker than what this pandemic has revealed.

Judging from the regularity of emergence of pandemics caused by viruses like HIV, Ebola, SARS CoV, in the past four decades, the threat of future viral pandemics is a reality. All these viruses have jumped from animals, and many are from bats. A recent study has shown that parts of South China, Northeastern India, Nepal, and many countries in South-East Asia are home to high populations of species of bats that harbour coronaviruses and may turn out to be hot-spots for future viral infections. An efficient surveillance system in these parts of the world must be put in place. Countries like India, and many others, must remember this lesson and gear up to develop large-scale production of vaccines, if and when they are needed next.

Finally, while there may be reasons to celebrate the achievement of administering 100 crore vaccines, the current pace of vaccination should not only continue but also be carried forward with enhanced vigour. All stakeholders should come together to achieve the vaccination goals sooner than later. Until then, social distancing must continue and masks too should not come off.

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STRESSED HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS.



As India Crosses 1 Billion Covid Jabs, Overcoming Rural-Urban Divide is the Real Success Story



Written by: Dr. Sudarshan Ballal
news18.com, 21 October 2021

Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman, Manipal Hospitals

The coronavirus pandemic is unlike anything we have witnessed in the last hundred years and the second wave was particularly devastating. Just as we start breathing easy, literally and figuratively, there is a fear of the third wave hitting us and disrupting our lives again.

It is clear that we will have to live with COVID-19 for quite some time and the only effective way to do it is through strict implementation of COVID-appropriate behaviour of masking, distancing, hand washing, avoiding large crowds, and mass vaccination of all eligible citizens at the earliest.

Fortunately, there were some very important lessons learnt from the second wave, which have shielded us from a potential third wave so far.

One of the most successful stories in our war against COVID-19 has been the advent of vaccination against the virus and the universal availability of the vaccine. There were many steps that we had to take urgently to make COVID vaccination a success, which were:

1. Vaccine availability at subsidized rates
2. Fighting vaccine hesitancy
3. Fixing the inequitable distribution of vaccines
4. Pushing rural vaccination drive

Fortunately, for us, all this has happened in quick succession and we have on many days vaccinated more than 1 crore people a day and averaged about 25 crore vaccinations in September, which is a phenomenal success story.

Vaccination is one of the most powerful tools in our arsenal to not only check the spread of COVID-19 but also reduce the morbidity and mortality of this viral infection.

INDIA AND CHINA ARE THE ONLY COUNTRIES TO REACH THIS FIGURE. KUDOS TO THE GOVERNMENT ON ACHIEVING THIS HERCULEAN TASK; A MAJORITY OF CITIZENS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVAIL OF FREE VACCINE DOSES.

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Though the vaccination process started in the right earnest in mid-January, we did have some initial hiccups. However, we overcame them rapidly and are now on the right track.

We have reached the landmark figure of administering 100 crore or 1 billion vaccine doses, which is more than the collective population of UK, US, Brazil and Russia. India and China are the only countries to reach this figure. Kudos to the government on achieving

this herculean task; a majority of citizens have been able to avail of free vaccine doses.

Mass vaccination, diligent surveillance in the form of aggressive testing and genomic analysis of the virus to detect any mutation to prevent a repeat of the catastrophic events that happened with the spread of the deadly Delta variant during the second wave, and COVID-appropriate behaviour are the only measures that can shield us from another round of devastation.

Almost 70 per cent of the Indian population now has COVID antibodies, either due to natural exposure or due to vaccination. As of now, 100 crore vaccine doses have been administered to about 70 crore people. More than 28 crore people are fully vaccinated to date. In other words, nearly 74 per cent or close to three-fourths of the adult population in India have received at least one dose, while 30 per cent have got both doses. These are very important factors, which will mitigate the effects of the third wave if and when it hits us.

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE VACCINE

One of the main concerns during the vaccination programme was the possible inequitable distribution of vaccine, especially to the rural areas, and overcoming the urban-rural divide.

Most of the large urban centers, including the metropolitan cities, have registered fairly good vaccine coverage. The requirement to get vaccinated in order to attend work or to travel or even shop coupled with relatively lower vaccine hesitancy could have played a role in a large number of people getting the shot. It is wonderful news that rural areas too, in general, are not lagging behind in vaccination. In fact, data show that many districts, on an average, have provided over 80 per cent of their population with at least one vaccine dose; the coverage of the second dose is about 30 per cent. Fortunately, there does not seem to be a sharp urban-rural divide in terms of vaccination coverage.

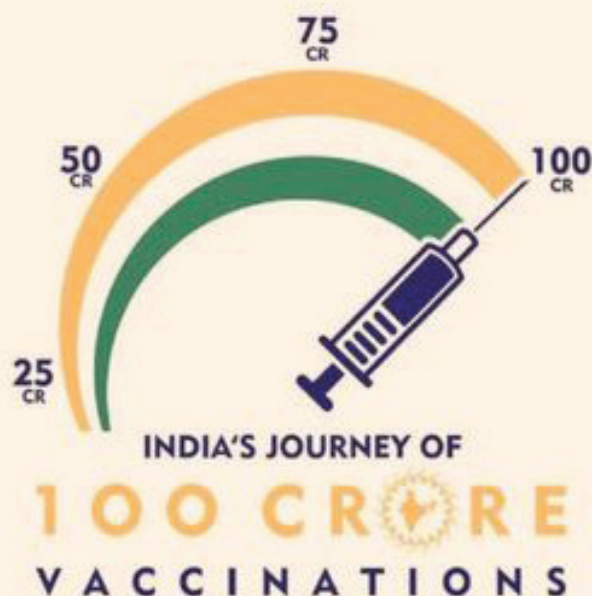
THE ROAD AHEAD

Despite the phenomenal work in speeding up vaccination in the last few months, there is still a steep climb ahead. India is aiming to fully vaccinate its entire adult population by the end of this year. That means an additional 90 crore doses have to be administered between now and December 31, which certainly is an uphill task. We need to consistently administer an average of 1.25 crore vaccines per day for the next two-and-a-half months to achieve this. We certainly cannot rest on our laurels and slow down the pace of vaccination till this happens.

After we achieve full vaccination of adults, the only section left behind will be children and hopefully with the expert committee giving emergency approval for Covaxin for children aged 2-18 years, this lacuna too will be taken care of, and we will be on the path towards universal vaccination. This, as the COVID pandemic is becoming endemic, unless the virus rapidly mutates to a more deadly form.

Though the overall situation seems optimistic, it is still necessary for us to not let our guard down and it is essential to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour of masking, distancing, hand washing and avoiding large crowds till we are absolutely sure we have conquered the COVID-19 virus.

IT IS WONDERFUL NEWS THAT RURAL AREAS TOO, IN GENERAL, ARE NOT LAGGING BEHIND IN VACCINATION. IN FACT, DATA SHOW THAT MANY DISTRICTS, ON AN AVERAGE, HAVE PROVIDED OVER 80 PER CENT OF THEIR POPULATION WITH AT LEAST ONE VACCINE DOSE; THE COVERAGE OF THE SECOND DOSE IS ABOUT 30 PER CENT. FORTUNATELY, THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE A SHARP URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE IN TERMS OF VACCINATION COVERAGE.



100 crore jabs: 'Down down' prophets of doom, India is now 'vaccination capital'



Written by: Nirendra Dev
The Organiser, 21 October 2021

Nirendra Dev, Special Representative, The Statesman

The 100 crore vaccination target is no small achievement. It is a more satisfying achievement actually because of more reasons than one.

“Aaj ekis October, 2021... Itihas mein darj ho gaya (Today’s achievement has ensured a permanent place for October 21, 2021 in the pages of history),” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

Firstly, the gigantic size of the country. At times, opposition-ruled states did not take the Vaccination drive on a mission mode for the initial months. Then the political scepticism resulted in vaccination hesitation among a large section of people too.

But, what counts in the ultimate analysis is the results, which came to Hardway bringing in smiles on the face of millions of health workers, the stakeholders in pharma companies and of course, other stakeholders in the government and country’s health system.

“Congratulations, PM Narendra Modi, the scientists, health workers & people of India, on your efforts to protect the vulnerable populations from COVID19 and achieve vaccine equity targets,” tweeted Tedros A. Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), giving a global pat on the back of those Indians who worked for this momentous occasion.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur sum up the national mood aptly when he says, “I congratulate everyone for achieving 100 crore vaccination mark. We achieved it despite an atmosphere of apprehensions.”

On Thursday, Union Health Minister Mansukhbhai Mandaviya launched a song and audio-visual film to celebrate the major milestone of achieving the 100 crores Covid-19 vaccination mark.

J P Nadda, BJP national chief, too was glad. “India has achieved 100 crore COVID19 vaccinations in less than 10 months. This shows our government’s commitment towards the health safety of every person in the country. I extend heartfelt thanks to PM Modi and express gratitude towards healthcare & frontline workers,” said Nadda, who was also Union Health Minister in Modi 1.0 for some time.

“CONGRATULATIONS, PM NARENDRA MODI, THE SCIENTISTS, HEALTH WORKERS & PEOPLE OF INDIA, ON YOUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS FROM COVID19 AND ACHIEVE VACCINE EQUITY TARGETS,” TWEETED TEDROS A. GHEBREYESUS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO), GIVING A GLOBAL PAT ON THE BACK OF THOSE INDIANS WHO WORKED FOR THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION.

“Bharat Biotech is proud to have contributed to this historic landmark. This is a unified effort of the Govt, vaccine manufacturers, healthcare workers and all the vaccinated citizens, making it a true success story of Atmanirbharta,” said Dr Krishna Ella, Chairman MD.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant too was enthusiastic about the achievement.

“Seeing scale and size we’ve achieved it in less time. It’s a result of our collective effort. Out of 100 crore vaccination doses, 30-35 crore are double doses-more than the population of countries like Indonesia, US; shows India as a vaccination capital.”

Announcements were made in airports, railway stations and elsewhere.

Overcoming the hurdles:

The achievement finally shows any determined effort is bound to bring in a satisfactory outcome.

“Rahul Gandhi ji asks where is the vaccine for our children. That vaccine is in the garbage in Rajasthan and profits are being made on that vaccine in Punjab,” thus spoke Union Minister and BJP leader Hardeep Singh Puri not long ago.

“..... This is the culture of Congress,” Puri had directed his ire against the Congress party for abusing vaccines, including dumping them in Rajasthan and, on the other hand, questioning the centre and BJP leadership about the efficacy of the system.

Citing the data of Covid-19 vaccination in Punjab, Puri had said the figures showed that the Congress dispensation in the northern state indulged in profiteering by overcharging for the vaccines.

One dose of Covishield vaccine, which costs ₹309, has been sold at ₹1,560 through private hospitals, Puri alleged.

Before that, there were leaders such as Akhilesh Yadav, a former UP CM and Samajwadi chief. He had called the vaccines’ Bhajpa (BJP) vaccines’, saying he would not take the shot. Very few top Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, have been seen photographed with vaccine jabs. Mamata Banerjee-ruled West Bengal had a vaccine scam, and even a Trinamool MP was supposedly ‘trapped’ to take a fake jab.

The police arrested Debanjan Deb on June 23 for allegedly posing as an IAS officer and organising a COVID-19 vaccination camp,

But in the CWC meet lately, Sonia Gandhi claimed most Congress leaders have been ‘vaccinated’.

Irony? - It’s a small word!

“INDIA HAS ACHIEVED 100 CRORE COVID19 VACCINATIONS IN LESS THAN 10 MONTHS. THIS SHOWS OUR GOVERNMENT’S COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE HEALTH SAFETY OF EVERY PERSON IN THE COUNTRY. I EXTEND HEARTFELT THANKS TO PM MODI AND EXPRESS GRATITUDE TOWARDS HEALTHCARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS”.

- J P NADDA, BJP NATIONAL CHIEF



Vaccine Century: How India overcame hurdles to hit 100 crore vaccination mark



Written by: Vanita Srivastava
CNBC TV18, 21 October 2021

Vanita Srivastava, Independent Science & Health Writer

Around nine months after the country kicked off its mammoth immunization drive, India crossed the milestone of administering 1 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses on October 21.

“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.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

WHO’s Regional Director, South-East Asia, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh said this extraordinary feat was not possible in a short span without “strong political leadership, inter-sectoral convergence, dedicated efforts of the entire health and frontline workforce.”

Singh said India’s progress must be viewed in the context of the country’s commendable commitment and efforts to ensure these life savings vaccines are accessible globally.

India has witnessed a flurry of research on vaccine development and some candidates were given an early nod from the regulator for emergency use. The early candidates included the three COVID-19 vaccines developed by Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute of India and Pfizer.

The countrywide COVID-19 vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16, 2021, with the inoculation of healthcare workers. The vaccination of frontline workers started a few weeks later from February 2. The next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination drive started from March 1 for those above 60 years of age and people aged 45 years and above with specified co-morbid conditions. A month later, the vaccination drive was expanded for all above 45 years of age. On April 28, India opened up registrations for anyone above 18 years of age for the rollout of the nationwide drive on May 1.

A good vaccine needs to be safe, offer long term protection, can be easily transported and stored at a manageable temperature, and is affordable.

The government set off the vaccination programme amongst the priority groups in the first two phases – frontline workers and healthcare professionals in the first phase and emergency workers in the second. From the third phase onwards, people with co-morbidity were given vaccines through registration on a monitoring app called CO-WIN created by the government.

The world’s largest producer of vaccines overall, India, suspended exports of COVID-19 vaccines in April to focus on inoculating its population following a sudden spike in infections. Last month, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced that India will resume the supplies abroad. Eminent virologist Gagandeep Kang describes this as fantastic news. “The government and vaccine companies have done a great job to get to us this milestone. It is, however, important, that we keep going for the next billion, even as we think about a new beginning to share Indian vaccines with the world.”

“This is certainly a morale booster,” K Srinath Reddy, President Public Health Foundation of India writes in an opinion piece. Progress in COVID vaccination is a tribute to the success in science in

producing effective vaccines in a record time and to the unprecedented mobilisation of resources to undertake the largest ever mass vaccination of adults, he says.

Bharat Biotech Chairman & Managing Director Dr Krishna Ella said, “Reaching the 1 billion mark of COVID-19 vaccinations in just nine months is a remarkable achievement for India. Bharat Biotech is proud to have contributed to this historic landmark. This is a unified effort of the Government, vaccine manufacturers, healthcare workers and all the vaccinated citizens of India, making it a true success story of Atmanirbharta.”

Challenging Canvas

The mammoth vaccination drive has been dotted with several challenges. While India had scripted a successful child immunisation programme, foraying into an adult immunisation landscape of such a mammoth scale was uncharted territory. A major challenge, experts said, was disseminating the right communication from the right people at the right time and building trust in the vaccination programme.

Another daunting challenge was to integrate the vast private sector health infrastructure into the COVID-19 vaccine delivery system. The private sector could provide the much-needed capacity augmentation in the area of supply chain and vaccine administration. The success of a vaccination program of this scale also required immense collaboration between the central and state governments.

Weathering the loopholes in logistics and transportation of the vaccines across the length and breadth of the country were some of the other challenges that had to be addressed. The vaccines require excellent cold chain management.

Affordability and equity in vaccination access at a global scale have played a pivotal role in the campaign. India is best positioned to produce the volumes required for the world at an affordable price, which is a good reflection of the strength of our science and technology landscape.

ANOTHER DAUNTING CHALLENGE WAS TO INTEGRATE THE VAST PRIVATE SECTOR HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE INTO THE COVID-19 VACCINE DELIVERY SYSTEM. THE PRIVATE SECTOR COULD PROVIDE THE MUCH-NEEDED CAPACITY AUGMENTATION IN THE AREA OF SUPPLY CHAIN AND VACCINE ADMINISTRATION. THE SUCCESS OF A VACCINATION PROGRAM OF THIS SCALE ALSO REQUIRED IMMENSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.



Crossing 1 Billion COVID Jabs & Winning IPL: What's Common to Narendra Modi and MS Dhoni?



Written by: Kartikeya Tanna
news18.com, 21 October 2021

Kartikeya Tanna, Immigration Lawyer who writes on current affairs, law and politics

Du Plessis scored 86, Uthappa and Moeen scored quick 30+ cameos, Shardul Thakur took three wickets, Jadeja and Hazlewood took two; yet, credit for the IPL 2021 win goes to Dhoni.

This is roughly what a post on social media looked like.

Vaccines were created by scientists, manufacturing companies risked their capital to produce it, healthcare staff across the country braved troubling conditions to administer it; yet, Modi takes the credit for India's impressive vaccination drive.

This pretty much sums up the reactions of Modi's rivals.

In both instances, what cynics see is the tangible moment of glory—the final presentation of an award or a rewarding pictorial. And, since both are captains of their respective teams, both get photographed holding the laurels.

Yet, in both instances, what cynics don't see is the assiduous 'boring' work done prior thereto.

Dhoni, with inputs from the franchise coach and others, selected these players. By picking them, Dhoni wasn't doing them a personal favour. He was indicating to them that he believes in their potential and their capabilities and that belief, in turn, inspired them to give their all—as countless players of Dhoni's teams have testified.

With the same players—some of them were wanted by no other franchise for they were too old, some of them didn't perform as well when playing for other franchises—Dhoni has time and again scripted remarkable performances.

Since his days as Gujarat chief minister, Modi repeatedly said that with the same laws, same rules, same officers, same people, same files, he has shown things can happen. Since the early stages of the unprecedentedly daunting COVID-19 pandemic, he backed India's indigenous vaccine production, giving all support that could be given.

Dhoni once said he wanted a team that can stand before an advancing truck. What he was perhaps getting at is needing a team that did not obsess over their own individual records and who held no fear of failure. By personally exhibiting these two aspects—by facing victory and defeat equally—he led Team India to become a world-beating team.

Modi may not have used the same advancing truck analogy, but he, too, prefers a team that displays no fear of failure nor abuses its position for personal glory.

Indeed, a nuance must be pointed out here. Unlike cricket in which selection decisions are made by a board, Modi government is formed out of the legislature which, in turn, requires the voters of the country to select it. This requires a proactive publicity drive—on social media, on hoardings and so on. In that regard, the use of faces of Modi and other popular leaders like Yogi Adityanath

on pictorials and hoardings is strategic—they are the ‘faces’ of electoral campaigns every five years. Yet, the fact that both make it a point to repeatedly attribute achievements to their respective teams is conveniently overlooked—a captain is as good as his team, a country is as good as every one of its 130+ crore citizens—Jan Abhiyan.

This isn’t to say there aren’t sycophants around both. Every time when a Cabinet expansion or reshuffle is around the corner, increased sycophancy ensues. That, however, seems to have no effect whatsoever as decisions are made in a seemingly cold, but elaborately calculated manner. If horses don’t fit the courses, they’re asked to rest.

Back in 2012, Dhoni famously demanded that certain senior stalwarts who no longer fit the shorter format of the game be expelled from the team. The sheer risk behind decisions like these cannot be underestimated. And the person who faces the blame if things go wrong is the leader.

Yet, Team India went on to win tournaments even after that. Those retained within the Modi cabinet as well as fresh faces continue to govern with dynamism, bringing India laurels and global recognition.

And, then, there is decision-making on the field, in real-time. Umpteen times, Dhoni’s decisions have baffled experts and analysts. The final over was given to Joginder Sharma in 2007, promoting himself up the order in 2011 and so on. Indeed, such decisions worked in his favour and India created history. Equally, however, these decisions could have backfired, leading to embarrassment.

Modi, too, made several audacious decisions—demonetization, surgical strikes and Balakot airstrikes, to name a few. These could have gone horribly wrong.

What’s common in both these leaders is, first and foremost, the courage to take the blame if things go wrong. Second, while one may disagree with these decisions, to think that these are rash decisions is a folly. Both Modi and Dhoni have the ability to get a total grip on themselves in order to think through the preparedness in real-time.

From their countless media statements, the thought process seems surprisingly simple. When the magnitude of the impacts of these decisions can be taken out of the equation—when the weight of these decisions cannot overwhelm you—one can think through them in an impartial, objective way.

If one finds himself on the top of a thin rocky walkway 8,000 feet high, one can either get overwhelmed by how deep the valley underneath is (and how fatal the fall will be), or back one’s stabilizing skills and focus on one step at a time—the process one has trained for.

That said, it inevitably happens that when India wins or achieves something, a majority of Indians are happy and immediately give credit to Modi and Dhoni respectively. When, on the other hand, India loses, a majority of Indians, while disappointed, don’t get much angry at the two.

Why? Let's answer that with a question.

Why has it been overlooked that they've consistently shown that they put their all—one-hundred percent— behind each effort? Why is it hard to see that it is this indefatigable drive which results in a situation where admiration for them is outcome-neutral?

Both aren't immune from criticism, but both Modi and Dhoni are an emotion to countless people. There must be a reason.

There are reasons. Easily visible reasons.

SINCE HIS DAYS AS GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER, MODI REPEATEDLY SAID THAT WITH THE SAME LAWS, SAME RULES, SAME OFFICERS, SAME PEOPLE, SAME FILES, HE HAS SHOWN THINGS CAN HAPPEN. SINCE THE EARLY STAGES OF THE UNPRECEDENTEDLY DAUNTING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, HE BACKED INDIA'S INDIGENOUS VACCINE PRODUCTION, GIVING ALL SUPPORT THAT COULD BE GIVEN.



100-crore COVID shots prove we are the vaccine champions of the world



Written by: Sandipan Sharma
News 9, 21 October 2021

Sandipan Sharma, Journalist

Celebrating India's 100-crore vaccine shots with poet Iqbal's words is fraught with risks. But, nothing else defines this historic moment better than his ode to India in Tarana-e-Hind, known to us as the poem that called our country Saare Jahan Se Achcha (the best in the world).

Unan-o-Misr-o-Ruma sab mit gaye jahan se
Ab tak magar hai baaki naam-o-nishan hamara
Kuch baat hai ki hasti mit ti nahin hamari
Sadiyon raha hai dushman daur-e-zaman hamara

(Greek, Egyptian and Roman civilisations got wiped out,
But our name and imprint is still there
There is something us that makes us indestructible,
Even when we have had enemies for ages)

**THERE IS INDEED
SOMETHING ABOUT
INDIA. AND OUR
RESPONSE TO THE
COVID CHALLENGE
PROVES IT.**

There is indeed something about India. And our response to the Covid challenge proves it.

When the pandemic began, Cassandras of doom had predicted the virus will rage through the country unchecked and wipe out millions. We can talk about our delayed response to the second wave that began in March this year and led to chaos and mayhem. But, apart from that temporary blot, we have done well.

On Tuesday (October 20, 2021), the total number of Covid cases in India was less than 15,000. This has been the daily average for many weeks now. In many states of India, the number of new cases has been zero. Everywhere life is returning to normal.

Compare this with a smaller country like the United Kingdom where the number of cases is touching 50,000 and there are warnings of a new peak and you'd know how well India has done.

And one reason we are sanguine about the future is our indomitable spirit exemplified by our vaccination programme.

Vaccine Champs

On Wednesday, the total number of vaccine shots administered across the world was around 6.75 billion. This means every seventh vaccine in the world was given to an Indian.

After China, whose figures and methods are suspect, India has the highest number of vaccinated people. That is something.

Our drive is based on shots that are totally home-grown. While Covaxin was made in India, the other — Covishield — was manufactured in our labs. This says a lot about the Indian enterprise as even today 99 per cent of the world's vaccines are imported, including by many developed countries. With a few more vaccines in the pipeline, we will soon become a vaccine-surplus nation and start exporting them to other countries.

OUR DRIVE IS BASED ON SHOTS THAT ARE TOTALLY HOME-GROWN. WHILE COVAXIN WAS MADE IN INDIA, THE OTHER – COVISHIELD – WAS MANUFACTURED IN OUR LABS. THIS SAYS A LOT ABOUT THE INDIAN ENTERPRISE AS EVEN TODAY 99 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S VACCINES ARE IMPORTED, INCLUDING BY MANY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

India's critics try to run down the drive by pointing at the lower percentage of people who have been fully vaccinated. But, this argument is specious. India has access to around 15 per cent of the global supply of vaccines. And this figure is more or less proportionate to India's total share in the world population — around 17.5 per cent.

The percentage of the population is deliberately highlighted to show India down. But percentages will always show up in smaller countries favourably. Israel is 80 per cent fully vaccinated, critics say, to argue India is far behind other countries with only around 27 per cent fully inoculated. But here is the thing: Israel has so far administered around 1.5 crore doses which is 30 lakh less than the number of shots given in Delhi alone.

INDIA HAS ACCESS TO AROUND 15 PER CENT OF THE GLOBAL SUPPLY OF VACCINES. AND THIS FIGURE IS MORE OR LESS PROPORTIONATE TO INDIA'S TOTAL SHARE IN THE WORLD POPULATION – AROUND 17.5 PER CENT.

So, the real figures to look at are the number of vaccines doses delivered and the speed. In less than 10 months India delivered 100 crore doses, whereas Israel administered just 1.5 per cent of it. So, even the worst detractors will have to swallow the reality: India is a vaccine champ.

India's vaccination drive is a triumph of science and medicine. But, it also highlights once again that when it comes to such mass drives, India knows how to ace it. A few decades ago, India eradicated

polio successfully with a unique programme that delivered vaccines at doorsteps. Apart from its reach and scale, it was funded by the government, and at a very low cost to the exchequer.

The COVID-19 vaccination has the same imprimatur of efficacy and affordability. When vaccination drives began across the world, the Indian government was excoriated for not placing orders in advance, like the US and some of the European countries. But, in hindsight, India did the right thing by not competing in the global market for a vaccine that would have been priced out of its reach.

By waiting for its own vaccine and relying on made-in-India shots, the government managed to roll out a programme that is not just the biggest and fastest but also the cheapest.

INDIA'S VACCINATION DRIVE IS A TRIUMPH OF SCIENCE AND MEDICINE. BUT, IT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS ONCE AGAIN THAT WHEN IT COMES TO SUCH MASS DRIVES, INDIA KNOWS HOW TO ACE IT.

In November 2020, when vaccines were being rolled out, Pfizer and BioNTech set the price at \$19.50 a dose. So, to vaccinate every person in the US with a double dose, the government spent \$39 per patient. In India, this cost was less than 10 dollars for the state-funded programme — a factor that helped the government cover 4 times more people than the US at the same cost.

There is indeed a lot of work left to be done on the COVID-19 front. It's a battle that will continue for a long time. But, the 100-crore mark is a milestone that should make us stop and celebrate the Indian spirit — and the fact that there is something about us that makes us different, even if not saare jahan se achcha.

**BY WAITING FOR ITS OWN VACCINE
AND RELYING ON MADE-IN-INDIA
SHOTS, THE GOVERNMENT MANAGED
TO ROLL OUT A PROGRAMME THAT IS
NOT JUST THE BIGGEST AND FASTEST
BUT ALSO THE CHEAPEST.**



The central government has done a phenomenal job and moved heaven and earth to get the oxygen to the hospitals – Devi Shetty



Written by: Chandra Srikanth
Moneycontrol, 14 May 2021

Chandra Srikanth, Editor, Tech, Start-ups & New Economy

Dr Devi Shetty, one of India's most respected cardiac surgeons, said India must move quickly to buy at least 300-400 million doses of vaccines through one channel and rope in private hospitals to accelerate the pace of inoculation, as the second wave of Coronavirus ravages India.

When asked about the centralised vs decentralised approach, Dr Shetty said, "I know a lot of people are criticising the government, but I can tell you, the number of COVID patients we have, (even) if we present this to the US government, there is no way they can manage it ... forget any other country. These are astronomical numbers that no country in the world has the infrastructure to manage."

He said the central government has done a phenomenal job and "moved heaven and earth to get the oxygen to the hospitals". "Of course, a lot of people have suffered, but if the whole country is falling sick there is no healthcare infra in the world that can cope."



PM Narendra Modi visits
the Zydus Biotech Park, in
Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Nov'28, 2020



हिंदी लेख



भारत का कोरोना टीकाकरण अभियान प्रमाण, नागरिक-सरकार जनभागीदारी की भावना से जुटें तो कुछ असंभव नहीं



Written by: Narendra Modi
Dainik Jagran, 22 October 2021

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

भारत ने टीकाकरण की शुरुआत के मात्र नौ महीनों बाद ही 21 अक्टूबर, 2021 को टीके की 100 करोड़ खुराक का लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिया। कोविड -19 से मुकाबले में यह यात्रा अद्भुत रही, विशेषकर जब हम याद करते हैं कि 2020 की शुरुआत में परिस्थितियाँ कैसी थीं। मानवता 100 साल बाद ऐसी वैश्विक महामारी का सामना कर रही थी। हम एक अज्ञात और अदृश्य दुश्मन का मुकाबला कर रहे थे, जो तेजी से अपना रूप भी बदल रहा था। चिंता से आश्वासन तक की यात्रा पूरी हो चुकी है और दुनिया के सबसे बड़े टीकाकरण अभियान के फलस्वरूप हमारा देश और भी मजबूत होकर उभरा है। इसे वास्तव में एक भगीरथ प्रयास मानना चाहिए, जिसमें समाज के कई वर्ग शामिल हुए हैं। मान लें कि प्रत्येक टीकाकरण में केवल दो मिनट का समय लगता है। इस दर से इस उपलब्धि को हासिल करने में लगभग 41 लाख मानव दिवस या लगभग 11 हजार वर्ष लगे।

भारत का टीकाकरण अभियान इसका एक उदाहरण है कि अगर यहां के नागरिक और सरकार जनभागीदारी की भावना से लैस होकर साझा लक्ष्य के लिए मिलकर साथ आएँ, तो देश क्या कुछ हासिल कर सकता है।

इस अभियान की सफलता के कारणों में से वैक्सीन तथा बाद की प्रक्रिया के प्रति लोगों का भरोसा था, जो अविश्वास और भय पैदा करने के विभिन्न प्रयासों के बावजूद कायम रहा। हम लोगों में से कुछ ऐसे हैं, जो दैनिक जरूरतों के लिए भी विदेशी ब्रांडों पर अधिक भरोसा करते हैं, लेकिन जब कोविड-19 वैक्सीन जैसी महत्वपूर्ण बात आई तो देशवासियों ने सर्वसम्मति से मेड इन इंडिया वैक्सीन पर पूरा भरोसा किया। यह एक महत्वपूर्ण मौलिक बदलाव है।

भारत का टीकाकरण अभियान इसका एक उदाहरण है कि अगर यहां के नागरिक और सरकार जनभागीदारी की भावना से लैस होकर साझा लक्ष्य के लिए मिलकर साथ आएँ, तो देश क्या कुछ हासिल कर सकता है। जब भारत ने टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम शुरू किया तो 130 करोड़ भारतीयों की क्षमताओं पर संदेह करने वाले कई लोग थे। कुछ ने कहा कि भारत को इसमें तीन-चार साल लगेंगे। कुछ ने कहा कि लोग टीकाकरण के लिए आगे ही नहीं आएंगे। वहीं कुछ ऐसे भी थे, जिन्होंने कहा कि टीकाकरण प्रक्रिया घोर कुप्रबंधन और अराजकता की शिकार होगी। कुछ ने तो यहां तक कहा कि भारत सप्लाई चेन व्यवस्थित नहीं कर पाएगा, लेकिन जनता कर्पूर और लाकडाउन की तरह लोगों ने यह दिखा दिया कि अगर उन्हें भरोसेमंद साथी बनाया जाए तो परिणाम कितने शानदार हो सकते हैं।

जब हर कोई जिम्मेदारी उठा ले तो कुछ भी असंभव नहीं है। हमारे स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों ने लोगों को टीका लगाने के लिए कठिन भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में पहाड़ियों और नदियों को पार किया। हमारे युवाओं, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं, स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों, सामाजिक एवं धार्मिक नेताओं को इसका श्रेय जाता है कि टीका लेने के मामले में भारत को विकसित देशों की तुलना में बेहद कम हिचकिचाहट का सामना करना पड़ा। अलग-अलग हितों से संबद्ध विभिन्न समूहों की ओर से टीकाकरण की प्रक्रिया में उन्हें प्राथमिकता देने का काफी दबाव था, लेकिन सरकार ने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि अन्य योजनाओं की तरह टीकाकरण में भी कोई वीआइपी संस्कृति नहीं होगी। 2020 की शुरुआत में जब दुनिया भर में

कोविड-19 तेजी से फैल रहा था तो हमारे सामने यह स्पष्ट था कि इस महामारी से अंततः टीकों की मदद से ही लड़ना होगा। हमने विशेषज्ञ समूहों का गठन कर अप्रैल 2020 से ही एक रोडमैप तैयार करना शुरू कर दिया और उस पर आगे बढ़े।

हमारे स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों ने लोगों को टीका लगाने के लिए कठिन भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में पहाड़ियों और नदियों को पार किया। हमारे युवाओं, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं, स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों, सामाजिक एवं धार्मिक नेताओं को इसका श्रेय जाता है कि टीका लेने के मामले में भारत को विकसित देशों की तुलना में बेहद कम हिचकिचाहट का सामना करना पड़ा।

आज तक केवल कुछ चुनिंदा देशों ने ही अपने स्वयं के टीके विकसित किए हैं। 180 से भी अधिक देश टीकों के लिए जिन उत्पादकों पर निर्भर हैं, वे सीमित संख्या में हैं। जहां एक ओर भारत ने सौ करोड़ खुराक का जादुई आंकड़ा सफलतापूर्वक पार कर लिया है, वहीं दर्जनों

देश अब भी अपने यहां टीकों की आपूर्ति की बड़ी बेसब्री से प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं। कल्पना कीजिए कि यदि भारत के पास अपना टीका नहीं होता तो क्या होता? भारत अपनी इतनी विशाल आबादी के लिए पर्याप्त संख्या में टीके कैसे हासिल करता और इसमें आखिरकार कितने साल लग जाते? इसका श्रेय भारतीय विज्ञानियों और उद्यमियों को दिया जाना चाहिए। उनकी उत्कृष्ट प्रतिभा और कड़ी मेहनत की बदौलत ही भारत टीकों के मोर्चे पर वास्तव में आत्मनिर्भर बन गया है।

एक ऐसे राष्ट्र में जहां सरकारों को देश की प्रगति में बाधक माना जाता था, हमारी सरकार तेजी से देश की प्रगति सुनिश्चित करने में सदैव मददगार रही। 'संपूर्ण सरकार' के हमारे दृष्टिकोण के परिणामस्वरूप सभी मंत्रालय वैक्सीन निर्माताओं की किसी भी तरह की अड़चन को दूर करने के लिए एकजुट हो गए।



कल्पना कीजिए कि यदि भारत के पास अपना टीका नहीं होता तो क्या होता? भारत अपनी इतनी विशाल आबादी के लिए पर्याप्त संख्या में टीके कैसे हासिल करता और इसमें आखिरकार कितने साल लग जाते? इसका श्रेय भारतीय विज्ञानियों और उद्यमियों को दिया जाना चाहिए। उनकी उत्कृष्ट प्रतिभा और कड़ी मेहनत की बदौलत ही भारत टीकों के मोर्चे पर वास्तव में आत्मनिर्भर बन गया है।

जबरदस्त मदद मिली। इसने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि टीकाकरण अभियान न्यायसंगत, मापनीय, ट्रैक करने योग्य और पारदर्शी बना रहे। इसने यह भी सुनिश्चित किया कि एक गरीब मजदूर अपने गांव में पहली खुराक ले सकता है और दूसरी खुराक तय समय पर उस शहर में ले सकता है, जहां वह काम करता है। पारदर्शिता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए रियल-टाइम डैशबोर्ड के अलावा, क्यूआर-कोड वाले प्रमाणपत्रों ने सत्यापन को सुनिश्चित किया। ऐसे प्रयासों का न केवल भारत में, बल्कि दुनिया में भी शायद ही कोई उदाहरण मिले।

वर्ष 2015 में स्वतंत्रता दिवस के संबोधन में मैंने कहा था कि हमारा देश 'टीम इंडिया' की वजह से आगे बढ़ रहा है और यह टीम इंडिया हमारे 130 करोड़ लोगों की एक बड़ी टीम है। जनभागीदारी लोकतंत्र की सबसे बड़ी ताकत है। यदि हम 130 करोड़ भारतीयों की भागीदारी से देश चलाएंगे तो देश हर पल 130 करोड़ कदम आगे बढ़ेगा। टीकाकरण ने एक बार फिर इस टीम इंडिया की ताकत दिखाई है। भारत की सफलता ने दुनिया को यह भी दिखाया कि लोकतंत्र हर उपलब्धि हासिल कर सकता है।

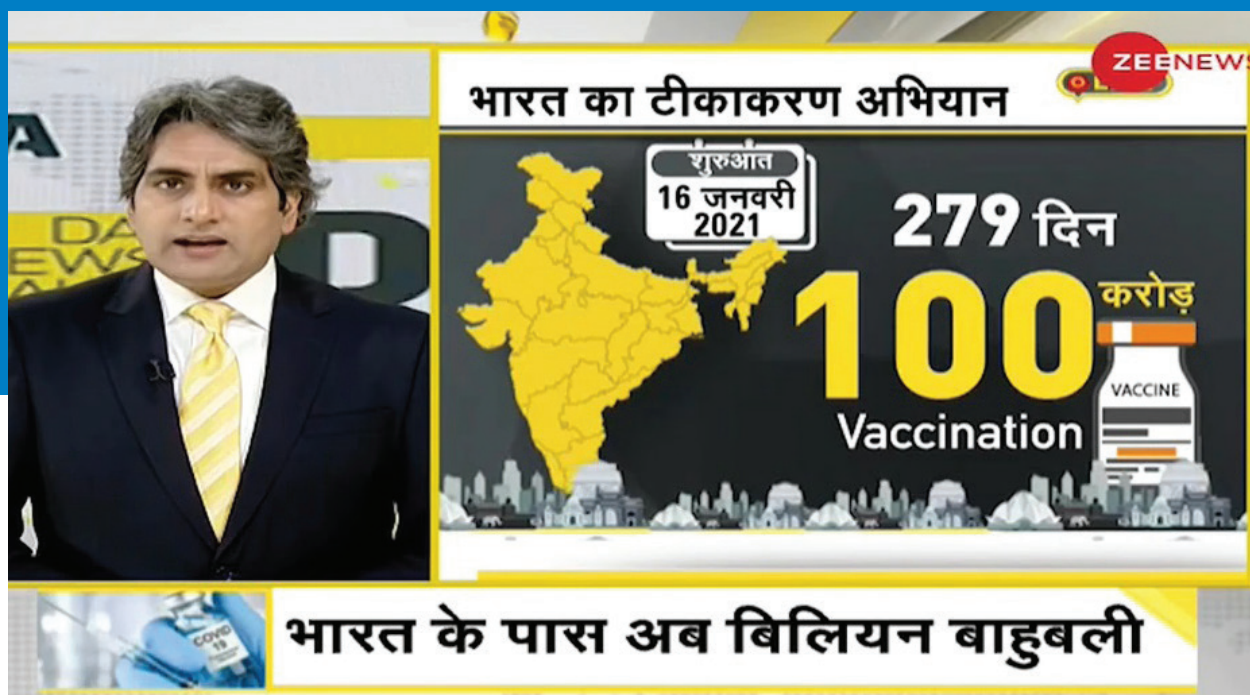
भारत जैसे विशाल आबादी वाले देश में सिर्फ उत्पादन करना ही काफी नहीं है। इसके लिए निर्बाध लाजिस्टिक्स पर भी फोकस होना चाहिए। पुणे या हैदराबाद स्थित संयंत्र से निकली शीशी को राज्य के हब में भेजा जाता है, जहां से इसे जिला हब तक पहुंचाया जाता है। वहां से इसे टीकाकरण केंद्र पहुंचाया जाता है। इसमें विमानों और रेलों के जरिये कई यात्रएं भी करनी होती हैं। टीकों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए इस दौरान तापमान को एक खास रेंज में बनाए रखना होता है। इसके लिए एक लाख से भी अधिक कोल्ड-चेन उपकरणों का उपयोग किया गया।

स्वतंत्र भारत के इतिहास में यह एक अभूतपूर्व प्रयास रहा। इन प्रयासों को कोविन के मजबूत तकनीकी मंच से

मुझे उम्मीद है कि दुनिया के सबसे बड़े टीकाकरण अभियान में मिली सफलता हमारे युवाओं, शोधकर्ताओं और सरकार के सभी स्तरों को सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण के नए मानक स्थापित करने के लिए प्रेरित करेगी, जो न केवल हमारे देश के लिए बल्कि दुनिया के लिए भी एक माडल होगा।



जनभागीदारी लोकतंत्र की सबसे बड़ी ताकत है।
यदि हम 130 करोड़ भारतीयों की भागीदारी से
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100 करोड़ कोरोना वैक्सीन डोज से विरोधियों के उड़े होश? भारत ने कैसे बनाया वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड?



Written by; Sudhir Chaudhary
Zee News, 22 October 2021

Sudhir Chaudhary, Editor-in-Chief & CEO, Zee News, WION & Zee Business

कोविड-19 (Covid-19) के खिलाफ मैच में भारत ने शानदार शतक बनाया है। चीन को छोड़ दें तो भारत कोरोना की 100 करोड़ वैक्सीन लगाने वाला दुनिया का पहला देश बन गया है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी (Narendra Modi) की कप्तानी में हमारे डॉक्टर्स और स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों की टीम ने ये शानदार शतक बनाया है। इसलिए आज हम सबकी तरफ से अपने देश की इस टीम को बहुत-बहुत बधाई देते हैं। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी दुनिया के ऐसे पहले नेता हैं, जिनके नेतृत्व में 100 करोड़ वैक्सीन लगी है। आज हम आपको बताएंगे कि 100 करोड़ वैक्सीन लगाने का मतलब क्या होता है।

सिर्फ 279 दिनों में 100 करोड़ वैक्सीन डोज

दुनिया के इस सबसे बड़े टीकाकरण अभियान की शुरुआत इसी साल 16 जनवरी को हुई थी और सिर्फ 279 दिनों में 135 करोड़ आबादी वाले भारत ने 100 करोड़ वैक्सीन डोज का लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिया। आबादी के मामले में चीन भारत से बड़ा है और वहां के लोगों को अब तक वैक्सीन की करीब 224 करोड़ डोज मिल चुकी है, लेकिन चीन ना तो एक लोकतांत्रिक देश है और ना ही चीन के आंकड़ों पर यकीन किया जा सकता है। जबकि भारत दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा लोकतांत्रिक देश है और कोरोना वायरस (Coronavirus) के खिलाफ वैक्सीनेशन (Vaccination) के मामले में आज हमारा देश दुनिया के सबसे ऊंचे पायदान पर खड़ा है।

वैक्सीनेशन में कौन सा देश कहां?

वैक्सीनेशन के मामले में कौन सा देश कहां खड़ा है। चीन को छोड़ दें तो भारत इस समय अमेरिका, ब्राजील, जापान, इंडोनेशिया, तुर्की, मैक्सिको और जर्मनी जैसे देशों से भी बहुत आगे हैं। भारत अमेरिका के मुकाबले वैक्सीन की दोगुना, जापान के मुकाबले 5 गुना, जर्मनी के मुकाबले 9 गुना और फ्रांस के मुकाबले 10 गुना ज्यादा वैक्सीन डोज अपने नागरिकों को लगा चुका है।

भारत में 18 साल से ऊपर के 75 प्रतिशत यानी करीब 70 करोड़ लोगों को वैक्सीन की कम से कम एक डोज

मिल चुकी है। ये अमेरिका की कुल जनसंख्या से दोगुना है, जबकि 18 वर्ष से ऊपर के भारत के 30 प्रतिशत यानी 29 करोड़ लोगों को वैक्सीन की दोनों डोज लग चुकी हैं। ये ब्रिटेन की मौजूदा 7 करोड़ की आबादी से 4 गुना ज्यादा है। फिलहाल भारत में हर रोज औसतन 80 लाख लोगों को वैक्सीन (Vaccine) लग रही है, जो इजरायल और स्विट्जरलैंड जैसे देशों की पूरी आबादी के बराबर है। वैक्सीन की 100 करोड़ डोज लगाने का लक्ष्य पूरा होने पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी (Narendra Modi) दिल्ली के राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल पहुंचे और वहां पर उन्होंने आम लोगों से बात की।

भारत इस समय अमेरिका, ब्राजील, जापान, इंडोनेशिया, तुर्की, मैक्सिको और जर्मनी जैसे देशों से भी बहुत आगे हैं। भारत अमेरिका के मुकाबले वैक्सीन की दोगुना, जापान के मुकाबले 5 गुना, जर्मनी के मुकाबले 9 गुना और फ्रांस के मुकाबले 10 गुना ज्यादा वैक्सीन डोज अपने नागरिकों को लगा चुका है।

भारत की इस उपलब्धि पर खामोश क्यों हैं विपक्षी नेता?

शुरुआत में जब टीकाकरण की रफ्तार धीमी थी तो हमारे देश के तमाम विपक्षी नेता बिना देरी के सरकार पर सवाल उठा रहे थे। लेकिन जब केंद्र सरकार ने वैक्सीन वितरण की कमान राज्यों से वापस लेकर अपने हाथ में ले ली और जब तस्वीर बदलने लगी तो ये तमाम नेता खामोश हो गए। आज भी ना तो राहुल गांधी, ना प्रियंका गांधी वाड्रा, और ना ही विपक्ष के किसी दूसरे बड़े नेता ने सरकार को इस उपलब्धि पर बधाई दी। ये सोच बताती है कि ये लोग सिर्फ मुश्किल समय में सरकार पर सवाल उठाना तो जानते हैं, लेकिन उपलब्धियों पर बधाई देने में इन्हें परेशानी होती है।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी (Narendra Modi) ने हाल ही में प्रशासन में 20 वर्ष पूरे किए हैं, लेकिन शायद इस दौरान उनके लिए भी सबसे कठिन लक्ष्य इतनी बड़ी आबादी वाले देश को वैक्सीन देने का रहा होगा, लेकिन अपनी बाकी योजनाओं की तरह उन्होंने इस मुश्किल लक्ष्य को भी हासिल किया और वैक्सीनेशन की रफ्तार ने कोरोना की तीसरी लहर की आशंका को भी पीछे धकेल दिया।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी (Narendra Modi) ने हाल ही में प्रशासन में 20 वर्ष पूरे किए हैं, लेकिन शायद इस दौरान उनके लिए भी सबसे कठिन लक्ष्य इतनी बड़ी आबादी वाले देश को वैक्सीन देने का रहा होगा, लेकिन अपनी बाकी योजनाओं की तरह उन्होंने इस मुश्किल लक्ष्य को भी हासिल किया और वैक्सीनेशन की रफ्तार ने कोरोना की तीसरी लहर की आशंका को भी पीछे धकेल दिया।

समय प्रबल है, कीर्तिमान बड़ा है

एक सौ करोड़ एक के आगे 9 शून्य लगते हैं तब जाकर एक सौ करोड़ होता है। विश्व की बड़ी-बड़ी महाशक्तियां भी वैक्सीनेशन की रेस में ये आंकड़ा नहीं छू सकी, लेकिन भारत के लिए सब संभव है। उस वक्त लगता नहीं था कि एक नया वायरस हुआ, नई बीमारी आई, उसके बाद वैक्सीनेशन डेवलपमेंट की कहानी शुरू हुई। नवंबर-दिसंबर में दुनिया में वैक्सीनेशन शुरू हुआ। इंडिया में जनवरी में शुरू हुआ। 10 महीने में शून्य से 100 करोड़ पर पहुंचे हैं। ये रिकार्डबल अचिवमेंट है।

16 जनवरी 2021 को शुरू हुआ था अभियान

भारत में विश्व के सबसे बड़े टीकाकरण अभियान की शुरुआत प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी (Narendra Modi) ने की थी। तारीख थी 16 जनवरी 2021। भारत में कोविड की पहली वैक्सीन अस्पताल में सफाई करने का काम करने वाले कर्मचारी मनीष कुमार को दी गई थी। वैक्सीनेशन के पहले दिन 3351 सेंटर पर 1 लाख 91 हजार 181 फ्रंटलाइन वर्कर्स को वैक्सीन दी गई थी। पहले दिन के औसत से अगर टीकाकरण होता तो अब तक सिर्फ 6 करोड़ लोग ही टीका ले पाते, लेकिन जैसे-जैसे समय बढ़ता गया, टीकाकरण की गति भी तेजी से बढ़ती चली गई।

भारत में वैक्सीन देने का औसत 49.90 प्रतिशत है और विश्व का औसत 47.60 प्रतिशत है। यानी भारत, यहां दुनिया से आगे है। 130 करोड़ की जनसंख्या वाले भारत में 18 साल या उससे ज्यादा उम्र के 77 प्रतिशत लोगों को वैक्सीन की कम से कम एक डोज लग चुकी है, जबकि 33 करोड़ की आबादी वाले संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में 65 प्रतिशत लोगों को ही वैक्सीन की एक डोज दी गई है। भारत में करीब 29 करोड़ लोग वैक्सीन की दोनों डोज ले चुके हैं, जबकि अमेरिका में ये आंकड़ा अब भी 28 करोड़ पर अटका है।

अतीत की ओर देखेंगे तो उपलब्धि बहुत बड़ी लगेगी

जरा याद कीजिए उन दिनों को जब कोरोना के सामने पूरा भारत असहाय दिख रहा था और पूरी दुनिया खौफ में थी। जब आप अतीत की ओर देखेंगे तो आज की उपलब्धि सचमुच बहुत बड़ी लगेगी। याद कीजिए उस समय को महसूस कीजिए हमारा भारत हमसे क्या कह रहा था।

जब शत्रु अधिक बलशाली था ।
मैं निहत्था था और घिरा हुआ भी ।
जब घर की आस, लाश बन गई ।
भीषण संहार में, उस हाहाकार में ।
मैं तब भी अड़ा था, खूब लड़ा था ।
मेरा संघर्ष देख, मेरा संकल्प देख ।
शत्रु के अंत का सही विकल्प देख ।
एक सीरिच अमृत से जिंदा हो उठा है ।
मैं वो भारत हूं, जो सबसे आगे खड़ा है ।

भारत में इस समय लग रही हैं तीन वैक्सीन

भारत ने बेहद कम समय में और कम लागत से अपनी स्वदेशी वैक्सीन बना ली । इस समय देश में तीन वैक्सीन लग रही हैं । नंबर 1 कोवीशील्ड है और ये वैक्सीन 100 में से 87 लोगों को दी गई है । नंबर 2 है कोवैक्सीन और ये स्वदेशी वैक्सीन 100 में से 11 लोगों को दी गई है । नंबर 3 है स्पूतनिक, जो रूस की वैक्सीन है और इसे भारत में हर 100 में से 2 लोगों को दी गई ।

भारत ने जब स्वदेशी वैक्सीन के ट्रायल शुरू किए तो वॉलंटियर्स खोजने मुश्किल थे । उस वक्त Zee Media रिपोर्टर पूजा मक्कड़ ने वॉलंटियर्स के रूप में काम किया था । फिर वैक्सीनेशन शुरू हुआ और लोग डर रहे थे । पूजा मक्कड़ ने वैक्सीनेशन से पहले चले ट्रायल में इसलिए हिस्सा लिया था, क्योंकि Zee Media की कोशिश अफवाह के उस बुलबुले को फोड़ने की थी, जिसने लोगों को भ्रमित कर दिया था । इसके बाद एक दिन में वैक्सीनेशन का वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड बनाया । इसके बाद अब भारत ने 100 करोड़ का कीर्तिमान पूरा किया है ।

पीएम मोदी ने खुद वैक्सीन लगवा दूर किया लोगों का भ्रम

सवाल ये था कि इस भ्रम से लोगों को कैसे बाहर निकाला जाए । तब प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी (Narendra Modi) ने कहा कि मुझे टीका लगाओ । प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 1 मार्च 2021 को को-वैक्सीन की पहली डोज लगाई और 8 अप्रैल को दूसरी डोज लगाई । धीरे-धीरे भ्रम का जाल फटने लगा । स्वास्थ्यकर्मी, बॉर्डर पर लड़ने वाले सैनिकों की तरह सबसे बड़े टीकाकरण अभियान को सफल बनाने में जुट गए । कहां-कहां नहीं गए ये लोग. कश्मीर के ऊंचे पहाड़ों में, खेत-खलिहानों में, दरिया से गुजरे, घर-घर तक पहुंचे । बीच में एक समय ऐसा भी आया, जब वैक्सीनेशन सेंटर पर कतारें लंबी थीं पर वैक्सीन नहीं थी, लेकिन ये सिर्फ दो-चार दिन की बात थी । वो समय भी लद गया ।

पीएम मोदी के जन्मदिन पर लगी थी 2.24 करोड़ डोज

17 सितंबर को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी (Narendra Modi) के जन्मदिन के मौके पर भारत ने एक दिन में 2 करोड़ 24 लाख से ज्यादा वैक्सीन लगाकर विश्व रिकॉर्ड बनाया था । उसके बाद से लगातार वैक्सीनेशन की पिच पर भारत शानदार स्ट्राइक रेट से खेल रहा है और आज इसी का परिणाम है कि भारत वैक्सीनेशन की रेस में 100 करोड़ पर खड़ा है ।



कठिन सफर का सुखद पड़ाव



Written by: Shashi Shekhar
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Shashi Shekhar, Editor-in-Chief, Hindustan

यह उन दिनों की बात है, जब दुनिया दो वैश्विक आपत्तों से एक साथ जूझ रही थी- स्पेनिश फ्लू और प्रथम विश्व युद्ध। हम हिन्दुस्तानियों की बिना मरजी के हमारे नौजवान यूरोप और अफ्रीका के तमाम मोर्चों पर अग्रिम पंक्तियों में धकेल दिए गए थे। कई मोर्चे ऐसे थे, जहां हुकूमत-ए-बरतानिया सिर्फ हिन्दुस्तानियों की हिम्मत की वजह से जीत रही थी। देश में हम बाहर से आए स्पेनिश फ्लू से मर रहे थे और परदेश में हमारे नौजवान विदेशी हुक्मरानों के लिए जान की बाजी लगा रहे थे। उन्हीं दिनों न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स ने लिखा था- 'भारत जो कुछ चाहता है, दुनिया को उसे पूरा करना चाहिए, क्योंकि भारतीयों के बिना युद्ध जीतना मुश्किल है।'

विनाशकारी जंगखत्म होने के बाद क्या भारत को वह मिला, जो करोड़ों भारतीय चाहते थे, आजादी? ऐसा नहीं हुआ, उल्टे अंग्रेजों ने अपना दमन-चक्र बढ़ा दिया। क्यों? शायद इसलिए कि हम हिन्दुस्तानी गर्व के क्षणों में भी अपने लिए आशंकाओं की कब्रगाहें खोद लेते हैं। तब से अब तक समूची शताब्दी बीत गई, पर हमारी यह आत्मघाती आदत खत्म होने का नाम नहीं ले रही। पिछले हफ्ते भारत ने 100 करोड़ टीकों का सुरक्षा कवच हासिल किया, पर क्या हम इस उपलब्धि से और बेहतरी की प्रेरणा ग्रहण कर रहे हैं? हम क्यों भूल गए हैं कि यह सफर कितना दुरुह था!

आठ महीने पहले तक खुद सरकारी मशीनरी संशय के दिन-रात जी रही थी कि हम टीकाकरण के इस महाभियान को निर्णायक मुकाम तक कैसे ले जाएंगे? पहला सवाल तो यही था कि भारत 130 करोड़ आबादी का विशाल देश है, इतने लोगों के लिए टीके आएं कहां से? धनी-मानी देशों ने अपने एकाधिकार का उपयोग करके सबसे पहले अपने देशवासियों के लिए टीके आरक्षित कर लिए थे। ये वे लोग हैं, जो कल तक 'ग्लोबल-विलेज' का नारा लगाया करते थे। विकासशील देशों में मौजूद सस्ते श्रम और कच्चे माल पर कब्जा करने के लिए लगाए जाने वाले इस नारे की कलाई खुल चुकी थी। ऐसा लगता था, जैसे इंसानियत एक अनाम मोड़ पर आकर ठिठक गई है। आगे की राह अबूझ थी। ऐसे में, जब प्रधानमंत्री हैदराबाद और पुणे की फार्मा कंपनियों में पहुंचकर टीका-निर्माण की गति की समीक्षा करते दिखाई पड़े, तब महामारी की मार से त्रस्त देश में सियासी कीचड़ की नई वर्षा शुरू हो गई। आरोप लगाने वाले बिसरा बैठे थे कि शुरुआत में असंभव लगने वाली यात्राओं के लिए भी पहला कदम तो उठाना ही पड़ता है।

टीका निर्माण की प्रक्रिया के बाद इसे एक निश्चित तापक्रम में हजारों किलोमीटर तक पहुंचाना, सहेजना और उपयोग करना नामुमकिन लगता था। हम अद्भुत भौगोलिक विषमताओं का देश हैं। कहीं बारहों महीने बर्फ से ढकी चोटियों के बीच बसे गांव हैं, तो कहीं चिलचिलाती मरुभूमि। कहीं छोटे द्वीप हैं, तो कुछ बस्तियों तक पहुंचने में नाव से दुरुह यात्रा करनी पड़ती है। उसी दौरान जानलेवा गरमी और बरसात का मौसम भी आया, पर हमारे स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ताओं ने हर तरह की दुश्चारियों से लोहा लेते हुए यह कर दिखाया।

मैं खुद उन दिनों कुछ पहाड़ी और मैदानी गांवों के प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों पर जमीनी हालात देखने पहुंचा था। उत्तर प्रदेश के एक गांव में तो उस समय धूल भरा अंधड़ चल रहा था। बिजली भी नहीं थी। वहां दो स्वास्थ्यकर्मी बर्फ के टुकड़ों से भरपूर 'आइस-बकेट' में टीके संभालते दिखे थे। मैंने उनसे पूछा था कि इतनी कोशिश के बावजूद क्या टीके सुरक्षित रह पा रहे हैं? उनका जवाब था कि शत-प्रतिशत। हम 'कोल्ड चेन' को बनाने और बचाने में कामयाब रहे हैं। इसी दौरान महाघातक दूसरी लहर ने हमारे दरों पर दस्तक दी थी। हमारे स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों ने तब भी हिम्मत नहीं हारी। वे कोरोना का शिकार होने के बावजूद डटे रहे। संकट के इन विकट क्षणों में हम हिन्दुस्तानियों में न जाने कहां से एक अनूठा जज्बा पैदा हो जाता है!

यही नहीं, इस दौरान अफवाह नवीसों ने अविश्वास फैलाने की हर चंद कोशिश की, पर वे नाकामयाब रहे। हमारे देश में जहां पोलियो की दो बूंद हर बच्चे को पिलाने के लिए बरसों तक जद्दोजहद होती रही, वहां कोरोना के टीके को लेकर कोई बड़ा प्रतिरोध नहीं दिखाई पड़ा। क्या हम तरक्कीपसंद हो रहे हैं या इस महामारी ने हमें क्षणिक समझदारी प्रदान कर दी थी? इन तथ्यों पर नजर डाल देखें, नजर का धुंधलका साफ हो जाएगा। रूस जैसा देश इस मामले में फिसड्डी साबित हो रहा है। वहां सरकार के दावों और दबाव के बावजूद अभी तक लगभग 34 फीसदी लोगों ने ही टीका लगवाया है। इसी तरह, तरक्की के पर्याय अमेरिका के 'बाइबल स्टेट' कहे जाने वाले दस प्रांतों में अधिकतर में

टीकाकरण का औसत अन्य राज्यों के मुकाबले बदतर है।
रूस में नेतृत्व के प्रति अविश्वास और अमेरिका में धार्मिक
अंधविश्वास राह का रोड़ा साबित हो रहे हैं।

यहां यह भी ध्यान देना जरूरी है कि जब महामारी हम
पर टूटी, तब तक इसका टीका तो दूर, संक्रमण का पता
लगाने के लिए उंगली के पोरों के बराबर प्रयोगशालाएं
उपलब्ध थीं। स्वास्थ्य प्रदेश सरकार का विषय है। ऐसे
में, अगर नई दिल्ली की हुकूमत के हाथ में जादू की छड़ी
भी आ जाती, तब भी वह तुरत-फुरत कुछ नहीं कर पाती।
भारत राजनीतिक विद्वेषों का देश है। तमाम प्रदेश ऐसे थे,
जहां विपक्षी दलों द्वारा संचालित सरकारें थीं। उनसे तारतम्य बैठाना मुश्किल था। राजनीतिज्ञों के सामने सबसे बड़ी
दिक्कत यह होती है कि वे एक बार में अधिक से अधिक पांच बरस के लिए सत्ता में आते हैं, इसीलिए वे अक्सर आरोप-
प्रत्यारोप के दलदल में फंस जाते हैं। नई दिल्ली की केंद्रीय हुकूमत ने इस दीवार को तोड़ने की जी तोड़ कोशिश की।
कई मुख्यमंत्री ऐसे थे, जिनसे खुद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने बार-बार बात की। यही वजह है
कि यह तेरी-मेरी नहीं, बल्कि सबकी लड़ाई बन सकी और हम इस मुकाम तक पहुंच सके।

**इस दौरान अफवाह नवीसों ने अविश्वास
फैलाने की हर चंद कोशिश की, पर
वे नाकामयाब रहे। हमारे देश में जहां
पोलियो की दो बूंद हर बच्चे को पिलाने
के लिए बरसों तक जद्दोजहद होती रही,
वहां कोरोना के टीके को लेकर कोई बड़ा
प्रतिरोध नहीं दिखाई पड़ा।**

भारत जैसे देश में दिक्कतें जब आती हैं, तो वे अकेली नहीं होतीं। इसी दौरान चीन ने सीमाओं पर अशांति पैदा कर दी,
जिसकी वजह से नई दिल्ली का ध्यान बंटना स्वाभाविक था। 15 जून को हुआ गलवान का हादसा, जिसमें हमारे 20
जांबाजों को प्राणों की आहुति देनी पड़ी थी, पहली लहर के बीच हुआ था। जब सारे साधन कोरोना में झोंके जा रहे हों,
तब यह निश्चित तौर पर एक बड़ा आघात था, लेकिन भारत ने यहां भी पलकें नहीं झपकाईं। आप चाहें तो यहां पहले
विश्व युद्ध और स्पेनिश फ्लू के साझा आक्रमण के साथ न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स की टिप्पणी और उसके बाद की घटनाओं को
याद कर सकते हैं।

इस शुरुआती, पर शानदार सफलता के बावजूद हमें भूलना नहीं चाहिए कि 100 करोड़ टीकों के सुरक्षा कवच के बाद
भी लड़ाई अभी जारी है। प्रधानमंत्री ने सही चेताया है कि कोरोना अभी गया नहीं है और तीसरी लहर का खतरा बना हुआ
है। महामारी के बाद के दुष्परिणामों से उपजी आर्थिक मंदी ने लोगों की कमर तोड़ दी है। कोरोना से लड़ाई में हमने जो
सामूहिकता प्रदर्शित की है, उसका असली इम्तिहान अभी शेष है।

**कई मुख्यमंत्री ऐसे थे, जिनसे खुद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने बार-बार
बात की। यही वजह है कि यह तेरी-मेरी नहीं, बल्कि सबकी लड़ाई बन सकी और हम इस
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इस शुरुआती, पर शानदार सफलता के बावजूद हमें भूलना नहीं चाहिए कि 100 करोड़ टीकों के सुरक्षा कवच के बाद भी लड़ाई अभी जारी है। प्रधानमंत्री ने सही चेताया है कि कोरोना अभी गया नहीं है और तीसरी लहर का खतरा बना हुआ है।



आत्मनिर्भर भारत का एक और नमूना, 100 करोड़ वैक्सीनेशन करके दुनिया को दिखा दिया ये सदी हमारी है



Written by: Sanyam Shrivastava
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Sanyam Shrivastava, Deputy Editor, TV9

वैक्सीनेशन के मामले में भारत ने 100 करोड़ का अद्भुत आंकड़ा पार कर लिया है। 16 जनवरी से शुरू हुआ टीकाकरण अभियान आज अपने चरम स्तर पर है। 9 महीने के बाद भारत ने आज यह आंकड़ा पार किया है। कोरोना महामारी की वजह से भारत ने गंभीर परिस्थितियों का सामना किया। लॉक डाउन की वजह से लाखों की तादाद में मजदूरों का पैदल पलायन हो या फिर लाखों की तादाद में लोगों की मौत। भारत ने इन तमाम भयावह परिस्थितियों को पार कर आज वैक्सीनेशन के मामले में दुनिया के कई देशों को पीछे छोड़ दिया है।

जैसा कि केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से आश्वासन था कि 100 करोड़ का आंकड़ा पार करते ही एक बड़ा जश्न होगा, अब उसकी तैयारी भी शुरू हो चुकी है। इसके साथ ही केंद्र सरकार ने वैक्सीनेशन सॉन्ग भी लॉन्च किया है जो 16 अक्टूबर को कैलाश खेर की आवाज में जारी कर दिया गया था। केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री मनसुख मंडाविया आज लाल किले से गायक कैलाश खेर द्वारा लिखे गए एक गीत और एक फिल्म का शुभारंभ करेंगे। कोरोना महामारी न सिर्फ भारत के लिए बल्कि पूरी दुनिया के लिए एक वैश्विक आपदा बनकर सामने आई थी। क्योंकि बीते 100 वर्षों से इस तरह की महामारी नहीं आई थी। इसलिए दुनियाभर के तमाम बड़े देश भी इससे निपटने के लिए तैयार नहीं थे।

इस महामारी ने दुनिया के उन देशों को भी घुटने पर ला दिया जो अपने आप को सर्वश्रेष्ठ समझते हैं। बल्कि अगर यूं कहें कि उन सर्वश्रेष्ठ देशों- अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, फ्रांस, जर्मनी से भारत कोरोना को हराने में और उससे लड़ने में ज्यादा सक्षम साबित हुआ तो गलत नहीं होगा। भारत भले ही आज विकासशील देश है, लेकिन जब दुनिया को कोरोनावायरस से लड़ना हुआ तो सबको भारत की ही याद आई।

यही वजह थी कि इस महामारी ने दुनिया के उन देशों को भी घुटने पर ला दिया जो अपने आप को सर्वश्रेष्ठ समझते हैं। बल्कि अगर यूं कहें कि उन सर्वश्रेष्ठ देशों- अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, फ्रांस, जर्मनी से भारत कोरोना को हराने में और उससे लड़ने में ज्यादा सक्षम साबित हुआ तो गलत नहीं होगा। भारत भले ही आज विकासशील देश है, लेकिन जब दुनिया को कोरोनावायरस से लड़ना हुआ तो सबको भारत की ही याद आई। सबसे पहले भारत ने ही हाइड्रोक्सीक्लोरोक्वीन जैसी दवाइयों से कोरोना का इलाज करने की कोशिश की। जिसके बाद पूरी दुनिया ने भारत से इस दवा की मदद मांगी। और जब बात वैक्सीनेशन की आई तब भी भारत ने तेजी से वैक्सीन का उत्पादन कर ना सिर्फ स्वयं को कोरोना से सुरक्षित किया। बल्कि दुनियाभर के तमाम देशों को भी वैक्सीन उपलब्ध कराई।

100 करोड़ तक वैक्सीनेशन का सफर कठिन रहा

100 करोड़ का आंकड़ा हमें जितना बोलने और सुनने में आसान लगता है, असल में उस आंकड़े तक पहुंचना भारत के लिए बहुत कठिन रहा। इस अद्भुत आंकड़े तक पहुंचने में भारत ने कई परेशानियां झेलीं। कई फ्रंटलाइन वर्कर्स की जान चली गई। यहां तक कि उसे वैक्सीन के प्रोडक्शन में भी खूब समस्याएं हुईं। क्योंकि वैक्सीन का उत्पादन करने के लिए भारतीय कंपनियों को विदेशों से कच्चा माल भी नहीं मिल रहा था। हालांकि तमाम समस्याओं से निपटते हुए आज भारत अपने 100 करोड़ देशवासियों को वैक्सीन लगा चुका है। जो अपने आप में अविस्मरणीय है।

भारत की वैक्सीन डिप्लोमेसी की पूरी दुनिया में तारीफ

भारत ने जहां अपने 100 करोड़ नागरिकों को वैक्सीन की डोज दी। वहीं दूसरी ओर अपनी वैक्सीन डिप्लोमेसी के तहत उसने दुनिया के तकरीबन 90 देशों को करीब 6 करोड़ 60 लाख से ज्यादा वैक्सीन की डोज दिए। वैक्सीन डिप्लोमेसी में भारत ने उन देशों को भी पीछे छोड़ दिया जो अपने आप को दुनिया का तथाकथित विकसित और ताकतवर देश बताते हैं। भारत ने ना सिर्फ ब्रिटेन, अमेरिका, सऊदी अरब और कनाडा जैसे बड़े देशों को वैक्सीन उपलब्ध कराई। बल्कि इस

भारत ने जहां अपने 100 करोड़ नागरिकों को वैक्सीन की डोज दी। वहीं दूसरी ओर अपनी वैक्सीन डिप्लोमेसी के तहत उसने दुनिया के तकरीबन 90 देशों को करीब 6 करोड़ 60 लाख से ज्यादा वैक्सीन की डोज दिए। वैक्सीन डिप्लोमेसी में भारत ने उन देशों को भी पीछे छोड़ दिया जो अपने आप को दुनिया का तथाकथित विकसित और ताकतवर देश बताते हैं।

वैक्सीन डिप्लोमेसी के तहत भारत ने बांग्लादेश, म्यांमार, नेपाल, भूटान, श्रीलंका, मालदीव और कई अफ्रीकी देशों को भी वैक्सीन उपलब्ध कराई जिनकी कोई मदद करने को आगे नहीं आ रहा था।

यहां तक कि ब्राजील के राष्ट्रपति जायर बोलसोनारो ने कोरोना वैक्सीन के 20 लाख खुराक मिलने पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को हनुमान जी की एक तस्वीर शेयर करते हुए धन्यवाद भी कहा था। इस तस्वीर में हनुमान जी संजीवनी बूटी लेकर जाते हुए दिख रहे हैं। बीबीसी की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारत ने दुनिया के कुल 90 देशों को करीब 6 करोड़ 60 लाख वैक्सीन की डोज दिए हैं।

राज्यों को 100 करोड़ से अधिक डोज पहले ही पहुंचा दी गई थी

केंद्र सरकार द्वारा देश के तमाम राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को निशुल्क और राज्य सरकार सीधे खरीद माध्यमों से कोरोनावायरस की 100 करोड़ से अधिक वैक्सीन की डोज पहले ही पहुंचा दी गई थी। यही वजह रही कि वैक्सीनेशन के 100 करोड़ का आंकड़ा पार करने में इतनी जल्दी हो सकी। इसके साथ ही देश में कोरोना जांच के दायरे को भी तेजी से बढ़ाया गया है। पहले जहां 24 घंटे के भीतर एक लाख से दो लाख ही कोरोना के टेस्ट हो पाते थे। आज यह आंकड़ा 10 लाख पार कर चुका है। अब तक देश में 58 करोड़ से ज्यादा कोरोना सैंपल्स की जांच की जा चुकी है। और यह आंकड़ा तेजी से बढ़ता जा रहा है।

फुली वैक्सीनेटेड होने में अभी भी वक्त है

भारत ने भले ही अपने सौ करोड़ नागरिकों को वैक्सीन लगा दी हो। लेकिन जब हम बात करते हैं फुली वैक्सीनेटेड लोगों की तो भारत अभी भी दुनिया भर में 6वें स्थान पर है। जबकि चीन दुनिया में इस लिहाज से नंबर 1 है। उसने अपने 71 फीसदी नागरिकों को वैक्सीन की दोनों डोज दे दी है। वहीं फ्रांस ने भी अपने 67 फीसदी नागरिकों को वैक्सीन की दोनों डोज लगा दी है। जबकि ब्रिटेन में 66 फीसदी, जर्मनी में 66 फीसदी और अमेरिका में 56 फीसदी लोगों को वैक्सीन की दोनों डोज लग चुकी है। हालांकि यह भी पूरी तरह सच है कि दुनिया में अब तक सिर्फ चीन ही था जिसने अपने सौ करोड़ नागरिकों को वैक्सीन लगाई थी। भारत इस लिस्ट में अब दूसरे पायदान पर है।

भव्य आयोजन के साथ सुरक्षा का भी रखना होगा खयाल

वैक्सीनेशन के सौ करोड़ का आंकड़ा पार करने के बाद जिस तरह का जश्न पूरे हिंदुस्तान में मनाया जा रहा है, वह जायज़ है, भारत ने एक बड़ी सफलता हासिल की है, तो दुनिया को इसके बारे में बताना भी बनता है। शायद इसीलिए रेलवे स्टेशनों और एयरपोर्ट्स और हर उस जगह पर इसकी घोषड़ा हुई जहां से यह बात हर भारतवासी तक पहुंच सके। लेकिन इन सबके बीच हमें यह भी नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि कोरोना अभी खत्म नहीं हुआ है। ऐसे में हमें अब भी उसे लेकर सतर्क रहने की जरूरत है। क्योंकि हमारा अतिउत्साह में उठाया गया कोई भी गलत कदम भारत को कोरोना की तीसरी लहर के नजदीक पहुंचा देगा।

100 करोड़ का आंकड़ा हमें जितना बोलने और सुनने में आसान लगता है, असल में उस आंकड़े तक पहुंचना भारत के लिए बहुत कठिन रहा। इस अद्भुत आंकड़े तक पहुंचने में भारत ने कई परेशानियां झेलीं। कई फ्रंटलाइन वर्कर्स की जान चली गई। यहां तक कि उसे वैक्सीन के प्रोडक्शन में भी खूब समस्याएं हुईं। क्योंकि वैक्सीन का उत्पादन करने के लिए भारतीय कंपनियों को विदेशों से कच्चा माल भी नहीं मिल रहा था। हालांकि तमाम समस्याओं से निपटते हुए आज भारत अपने 100 करोड़ देशवासियों को वैक्सीन लगा चुका है। जो अपने आप में अविस्मरणीय है।



कैसे हासिल हुआ.. '100 करोड़' वाला करिश्मा ?



Written by: Satya Narayan
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Satya Narayan, Deputy Editor, News Nation

आत्मनिर्भर भारत की उपलब्धि की सुनहरी तस्वीर आज पूरे देश ने देखी। लाल किले से लेकर देश के अलग अलग हिस्सों में तिरंगे की गौरवशाली उड़ान का जश्न मनाया गया। दरअसल ये कोरोना की खौफनाक कड़वी यादों के बाद सफलता की मिठास है। वजह बेहद खास है। भारत में कोरोना के खिलाफ 100 करोड़ टीकाकरण का ऐतिहासिक रिकार्ड पूरा हो चुका है। 16 जनवरी से शुरू हुए अभियान को वक्त के साथ धार मिली है। शुरुआत धीमी रही, लेकिन वक्त के साथ टीकाकरण अभियान को रफ्तार मिली। 16 जनवरी 2021 से शुरू हुए टीकाकरण की औसत दैनिक टीकाकरण यानि रोज़ाना दिए जाने वाले टीके की बात करें तो 16 जनवरी से 20 जून के बीच जहां 17.73 लाख लोगों को टीका दिया गया था। वहीं 21 जून से लेकर 21 अक्टूबर के बीच ये तीन गुना से ज्यादा बढ़कर 61.12 लोगों तक पहुंच गया। इसी का नतीजा है कि मुल्क ने 100 करोड़ की उपलब्धि हासिल कर ली है।

ये सफलता उन लाखों स्वास्थ्यकर्मी, स्कूल शिक्षक, हिन्दुस्तान के लाखों गांवों में रहने वाली आशा और आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं के नाम है, जिन्होंने चुपचाप बिना किसी पब्लिसिटी की चाहत के इस मिशन को अंजाम तक पहुंचाया।

कोरोना वॉरियर्स का खून-पसीना लगा

इस मुकाम तक पहुंचने में लाखों कोरोना वॉरियर्स का खून-पसीना लगा है। इन्हीं कोरोना वॉरियर्स का अथक प्रयास है जिन्होंने तमाम चुनौतियों को पार करते हुए देश के दूरदराज इलाकों में भी पहुंचकर सरकार की कोशिशों को सफल बनाया। ये सफलता उन लाखों स्वास्थ्यकर्मी, स्कूल शिक्षक, हिन्दुस्तान के लाखों गांवों में रहने वाली आशा और आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं के नाम है, जिन्होंने चुपचाप बिना किसी पब्लिसिटी की चाहत के इस मिशन को अंजाम तक पहुंचाया। कोरोना महामारी के दौरान इन्होंने अपने आंखों के सामने साथियों की मौत देखी लेकिन कभी हिम्मत नहीं हारी। इन्हीं की कोशिशों की वजह से हिन्दुस्तान ने इतिहास रचा है।

भारत टीकाकरण में महाद्वीपों से आगे

इन्हीं स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों की वजह से भारत टीकाकरण में महाद्वीपों से आगे है। आज भारत में औसत दैनिक टीकाकरण 30.07 लाख है, वहीं दक्षिण अमेरिका में 20.23 लाख, उत्तरी अमेरिका में 18.49 लाख, अफ्रीका में 12.68 लाख और यूरोपीय संघ में 6.71 लाख है। 100 करोड़ वैक्सीन डोज की उपलब्धि बेमिसाल है। भारत के टीकाकरण के मुकाम की दूसरे देशों से तुलना करें तो अमेरिका में 41.01 करोड़, ब्राजील में 26.02 करोड़, जापान में 18.21 करोड़, जर्मनी में 11.12 करोड़ और रूस में 9.98 करोड़ डोज लगे हैं। बेशक इन तमाम देशों की आबादी भारत के मुकाबले काफी कम है लेकिन फिर भी उपलब्धि बड़ी है। ये 9 महीने की मेहनत का परिणाम है। इस उपलब्धि की बाकी देशों से तुलना करें तो भारत में अमेरिका की आबादी से 3 गुना ज्यादा, ब्राजील से 5 गुना ज्यादा, जर्मनी से 10 गुना, फ्रांस से 15 गुना, कनाडा से 25 गुना और यूएई से 100 गुना ज्यादा वैक्सीनेशन हुआ है। जिस मुल्क में गरीबी है, अशिक्षा है, अंधविश्वास है, वहां कोरोना वैक्सीन को लेकर हर तबके का भरोसा जीतना भी आसान नहीं था। ज़मीन पर काम करने वाले स्वास्थ्यकर्मी ही थे, जिन्होंने लोगों को भरोसा जीता है।

आज भारत में औसत दैनिक टीकाकरण 30.07 लाख है, वहीं दक्षिण अमेरिका में 20.23 लाख, उत्तरी अमेरिका में 18.49 लाख, अफ्रीका में 12.68 लाख और यूरोपीय संघ में 6.71 लाख है। 100 करोड़ वैक्सीन डोज की उपलब्धि बेमिसाल है।

100 करोड़ का लक्ष्य हासिल किया

ये वक्त अपनी उपलब्धियों पर नाज करने का है। लेकिन अभी भी चुनौतियां कम नहीं हैं। भारत में अभी 31 फीसदी आबादी को ही डबल डोज लगा है। यूपी, बिहार जैसे बड़े राज्यों समेत झारखंड में महज 12% आबादी पूरी तरह वैक्सीनेट हुई है। बच्चों को भी वैक्सीन लगाने की बड़ी चुनौती है। चुनौती अभी खत्म नहीं हुई है हालांकि बढ़ते वक्त के साथ भरोसा भी कायम हुआ है। भरोसा है कि जिस तरह 100 करोड़ का लक्ष्य हासिल किया है उसी तरह वैक्सीनेशन से जुड़ी बाकी गंभीर चुनौतियों पर भी जीत हासिल कर लेंगे।

जिस मुल्क में गरीबी है, अशिक्षा है, अंधविश्वास है, वहां कोरोना वैक्सीन को लेकर हर तबके का भरोसा जीतना भी आसान नहीं था। ज़मीन पर काम करने वाले स्वास्थ्यकर्मी ही थे, जिन्होंने लोगों को भरोसा जीता है।

भारत के टीकाकरण के मुकाम की दूसरे देशों से तुलना करें तो अमेरिका में 41.01 करोड़, ब्राजील में 26.02 करोड़, जापान में 18.21 करोड़, जर्मनी में 11.12 करोड़ और रूस में 9.98 करोड़ डोज लगे हैं। बेशक इन तमाम देशों की आबादी भारत के मुकाबले काफी कम है लेकिन फिर भी उपलब्धि बड़ी है। ये 9 महीने की मेहनत का परिणाम है। इस उपलब्धि की बाकी देशों से तुलना करें तो भारत में अमेरिका की आबादी से 3 गुना ज्यादा, ब्राजील से 5 गुना ज्यादा, जर्मनी से 10 गुना, फ्रांस से 15 गुना, कनाडा से 25 गुना और यूएई से 100 गुना ज्यादा वैक्सीनेशन हुआ है।



भ्रम-भ्रांतियों के बीच सौ करोड़ टीकाकरण



Written by: Professor Manoj Dogra
Divya Himachal, 25 October 2021

Professor Manoj Dogra, Writer

भ्रम, भय और चुनौतियों के बीच सौ करोड़ लोगों को कोविड वैक्सीन का लक्ष्य हासिल करना भारत की कोरोना लड़ाई में सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि है। आज वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत ने एक नया कीर्तिमान स्थापित किया है। सबसे बड़े वैक्सीनेशन अभियान में एक ऐसा आयाम स्थापित किया है, जोकि अन्य राष्ट्रों के लिए एक मार्ग प्रदान करेगा। लेकिन अभी भी कोरोना का डर दिलो-दिमाग से नहीं निकला है। भारत में जब कोरोना फैला था तो ऐसा लग रहा था मानो आम जनमानस का जीना दूभर हो जाएगा, लेकिन भारत सरकार ने सभी चुनौतियों को स्वीकार किया और देश के कोने-कोने में टीका लगवाने के लिए लोगों को प्रेरित किया।

हर जगह जागरूकता अभियान चलाए गए जिसमें जहां स्वास्थ्य वर्कर और स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं ने जो सहयोग दिया, उसका नतीजा रहा कि लोग टीकाकरण के लिए आगे आए और इस बीमारी से मुक्त हुए। बहुत सी घटनाएं घटीं, लाखों लोगों की जानें चली गईं, लेकिन फिर भी भारत सरकार ने अपना लक्ष्य जो आज पूरा किया है, उसके ऊपर पूरे देश को नाज है क्योंकि इसमें देश का हर नागरिक शामिल था, लेकिन अभी भी कुछ राज्यों में इस भयभीत बीमारी का प्रकोप चला हुआ है। यह तब तक समाप्त नहीं हो सकता है जब तक हम कोरोना के निरोधक उपायों को नहीं अपनाएंगे, तब तक हम सुरक्षित नहीं हैं। आज देश में हर जगह से आंकड़े एकत्रित किए जाएं तो मृत्यु अभी भी हो रही हैं और अभी भी कोरोना संक्रमण से लोग जूझ रहे हैं। हमें अभी भी आवश्यकता है कि भीड़भाड़ के क्षेत्रों में नहीं जाना चाहिए, दो गज की दूरी है जरूरी, हाथ धोना अपने आप को सुरक्षित रखना इत्यादि पंक्तियों को दैनिक व्यवहार में लाने की आवश्यकता है। इन उपायों को पूरा करना जरूरी है, चाहे व्यापार का क्षेत्र हो, शिक्षा का क्षेत्र हो या प्राइवेट सेक्टर हो। हर जगह आर्थिक रूप से नुकसान हुआ है। अभी भी कुछ एक सेक्टर में काम शुरू नहीं हुए हैं। शिक्षा का क्षेत्र बहुत पीछे चला गया है। प्राइमरी स्तर, आंगनवाड़ी स्तर इतना पिछड़ गया है कि बच्चों में स्कूल जाने का भय पैदा हो गया है।

सबसे बड़े वैक्सीनेशन अभियान में एक ऐसा आयाम स्थापित किया है, जोकि अन्य राष्ट्रों के लिए एक मार्ग प्रदान करेगा।

भारत सरकार के साथ-साथ राज्य सरकारों को, देश-प्रदेश के अभिभावकों को आगे आना होगा और अपने बच्चों को शिक्षा के सुचारु संचालन में दोबारा जागरूक करना होगा। तभी छोटे बच्चे स्कूल में आ पाएंगे। ऑनलाइन शिक्षा भारत के प्रत्येक राज्य में चल रही है, लेकिन बहुत सी कठिनाइयां भी हो रही हैं। जब तक बच्चे स्कूल के आंगन में स्कूल की घंटी में पढ़ाई नहीं करेंगे, तब तक उनका न तो बौद्धिक विकास होगा, न ही व्यक्तिगत विकास हो सकता है। भले ही आज के समय में हम 100 करोड़ का लक्ष्य पूर्ण कर गए हैं, लेकिन आगे भी बहुत सी चुनौतियां अभी हमारे सामने हैं। उनके निदान के लिए भी भारत के हर नागरिक को सोचना होगा और सरकार की ओर से तय किए गए नियमों का पालन करना होगा। तभी हम और ज्यादा लक्ष्य टीकाकरण का भी हासिल कर सकते हैं और इस बीमारी से भी निजात पा सकते हैं। आज भारत को सौ करोड़ टीकाकरण का सुरक्षा कवच कोरोना महामारी की लड़ाई में प्राप्त हो चुका है। कोरोना वैश्विक महामारी ने जहां लोगों को भयभीत कर रख दिया था, वैक्सीन...वैक्सीन की हवा चारों ओर दौड़ने लगी थी, कब आएगी वैक्सीन और कब होगा टीकाकरण...ऐसा महसूस होने लगा था जैसे वैक्सीन को आते-आते दुनिया खत्म हो जाएगी...वर्ष 2025 से पहले वैक्सीन नहीं आएगी, जैसी कई बातें प्रचलन में आईं लेकिन इन सब बातों से परे वैक्सीन भी आई और आज 100 करोड़ लोगों का टीकाकरण का लक्ष्य हासिल कर भारत ने विश्व मंच पर दर्शा दिया कि भारत अब नया भारत है।

कोरोना वैश्विक महामारी ने जहां लोगों को भयभीत कर रख दिया था, वैक्सीन...वैक्सीन की हवा चारों ओर दौड़ने लगी थी, कब आएगी वैक्सीन और कब होगा टीकाकरण...ऐसा महसूस होने लगा था जैसे वैक्सीन को आते-आते दुनिया खत्म हो जाएगी...वर्ष 2025 से पहले वैक्सीन नहीं आएगी, जैसी कई बातें प्रचलन में आईं लेकिन इन सब बातों से परे वैक्सीन भी आई और आज 100 करोड़ लोगों का टीकाकरण का लक्ष्य हासिल कर भारत ने विश्व मंच पर दर्शा दिया कि भारत अब नया भारत है।

स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा व सामाजिक मैनेजमेंट में पूरे विश्व का नेतृत्व आज भारत कर रहा है। भारत एक बार फिर विश्वगुरु भारत बनने की राह पर अग्रणी स्थान पर कायम है जोकि पूरे विश्व के लिए एक सीख है। देश में कोविड-19 वैक्सीनेशन का आंकड़ा 100 करोड़ के पार पहुंचने पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी ने भी हौसला अफजाई करते हुए बधाई दी। प्रधानमंत्री ने अपने ट्वीट में लिखा, 'हमारे डॉक्टरों, नर्सों और उन सभी को धन्यवाद जिन्होंने इस उपलब्धि को हासिल करने के लिए काम किया है। वास्तव में ही यह 100 करोड़ वैक्सीन का कवच भारत के उन सभी कोरोना योद्धाओं की दिन-रात की कड़ी मेहनत का परिणाम है जिन्होंने राष्ट्र के लिए अपनी जान को जोखिम में डाल कर विषम परिस्थितियों में भी कार्य करना नहीं छोड़ा, घर में बच्चों को छोड़कर स्वास्थ्य की परवाह किए बिना देश के कोरोना योद्धा प्रथम पंक्ति में कोरोना की लड़ाई में डटे थे। आज इस मुकाम पर टीकाकरण अभियान का पहुंचना उन सभी की कड़ी मेहनत से ही संभव हो पाया है। ऐसे समस्त देश के सुपर हीरो को सलाम है जो अभी भी कोरोना के खिलाफ युद्ध में योद्धा बनकर राष्ट्र के लोगों की स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा के लिए डटे हैं।' बेशक हमने यह उपलब्धि हासिल कर ली है, लेकिन कोरोना की तीसरी लहर की आशंकाएं अभी भी बरकरार हैं। कोविड प्रोटोकॉल का पालन कर हम इस लहर को रोक सकते हैं। अपनी तथा अपने लोगों की सुरक्षा के लिए जरूरी है कि हम कोविड प्रोटोकॉल का पालन करते रहें।

स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा व सामाजिक मैनेजमेंट में पूरे विश्व का नेतृत्व आज भारत कर रहा है। भारत एक बार फिर विश्वगुरु भारत बनने की राह पर अग्रणी स्थान पर कायम है जोकि पूरे विश्व के लिए एक सीख है।

आज भारत को सौ करोड़ टीकाकरण का सुरक्षा कवच कोरोना महामारी की लड़ाई में प्राप्त हो चुका है। कोरोना वैश्विक महामारी ने जहां लोगों को भयभीत कर रख दिया था, वैक्सीन...वैक्सीन की हवा चारों ओर दौड़ने लगी थी, कब आएगी वैक्सीन और कब होगा टीकाकरण...ऐसा महसूस होने लगा था जैसे वैक्सीन को आते-आते दुनिया खत्म हो जाएगी...वर्ष 2025 से पहले वैक्सीन नहीं आएगी, जैसी कई बातें प्रचलन में आईं लेकिन इन सब बातों से परे वैक्सीन भी आई और आज 100 करोड़ लोगों का टीकाकरण का लक्ष्य हासिल कर भारत ने विश्व मंच पर दर्शा दिया कि भारत अब नया भारत है।



उन लाखों योद्धाओं को सलाम जिन्होंने 100 करोड़ का लक्ष्य दिलवाया



Written by: Madhurendra Sinha
Jansatta, October 21, 2021

Madhurendra Sinha, Senior Journalist & Columnist

भारत ने वह कर दिखाया जो दुनिया के किसी भी देश के लिए एक सपना है। 100 करोड़ लोगों को कोरोना का टीका लगाकर हमने एक कीर्तिमान बनाया है। यह संख्या यूरोप-अमेरिका और जापान की कुल आबादी से भी ज्यादा है। इसे आप भारत की जनता की प्रतिबद्धता कहें या चाहत, बात साफ है कि सब ने मिलकर यह बीड़ा उठाया। और फिर दुनिया ने देखा कि भारत ने एक कमाल कर दिखाया।

दूसरी ओर विघ्नसंतोषी इस बात की चर्चा तक कर रहे थे कि भारत में यह संभव नहीं है। कई भारतीय विद्वान भी इसी तरह की बातें कर रहे थे लेकिन देश की करोड़ों जनता ने सभी को करारा जवाब दिया। जनवरी में जो अभियान शुरू हुआ वह अक्टूबर के मध्य में आते-आते इस जादुई आंकड़े तक जा पहुंचा है और यह सारी आबादी तक अगले साल तक पहुंच जाएगा।

स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों, आशा, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं ने किया कमाल

लेकिन जिन लोगों ने इस महाअभियान में जी-जान से चुपचाप शिरकत की बिना किसी पब्लिसिटी की चाहत के इसे इस अंजाम तक पहुंचाया, उनमें लाखों स्वास्थ्यकर्मों, स्कूल शिक्षक और भारत के हजारों गांवों में रहने वाली आशा, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताएं भी हैं जिन्होंने कोरोना महामारी के दौरान भी अपना स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम जारी रखा। हजारों की मौत इस घातक बीमारी से हुई लेकिन उन लोगों ने हिम्मत नहीं हारी। यह सफलता उनके नाम है।

यहां आशा और आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं के बारे में चर्चा किए बगैर बात पूरी नहीं होगी। ये देश के कोने-कोने में स्वास्थ्य, पोषण और मातृत्व के कार्यों में अपना काफी समय लगाती हैं। इनकी कुल तादाद 8 लाख से जरा ही ज्यादा है और ये तीन-चार हजार रुपये औसतन प्रति माह के मानदेय पर काम करती हैं।

गांव-गांव जाना और वहां लोगों में संदेश फैलाना और फिर उन्हें टीका केंद्रों तक लाने का बीड़ा उन्होंने उठाया। उनके महती प्रयासों से इस अभियान का गांव-गांव में प्रसार संभव हुआ। अगर इन लोगों ने प्रतिबद्धता नहीं दिखाई होती। तो सरकारी तंत्र असहाय रह जाता। सबसे बड़ी बात है कि इन लोगों ने उस मिथ्या प्रचार को खत्म करने में बड़ी भूमिका निभाई जिसमें कोरोना के टीके को लेकर तमाम तरह की निगेटिव बातें कही जा रही थीं। लेकिन इन लाखों आशा और आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं ने समझदारी और प्रेम भाव से लोगों को समझाया-बुझाया, आश्वस्त किया।

लेकिन जिन लोगों ने इस महाअभियान में जी-जान से चुपचाप शिरकत की बिना किसी पब्लिसिटी की चाहत के इसे इस अंजाम तक पहुंचाया, उनमें लाखों स्वास्थ्यकर्मों, स्कूल शिक्षक और भारत के हजारों गांवों में रहने वाली आशा, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताएं भी हैं जिन्होंने कोरोना महामारी के दौरान भी अपना स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम जारी रखा।

इन कर्मवीरों ने कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी और अपनी जान पर खेल गई। यह कोई आसान काम नहीं था क्योंकि देश के कई राजनीतिक दल और कई धार्मिक गुट भी अपने क्षुद्र स्वार्थ में आकर इन टीकों के खिलाफ जहर उगल रहे थे। विदेशी दवा कंपनियां भी इसी अभियान में लगी हुई थीं कि किसी तरह भारत बने में टीकों को लोग रिजेक्ट कर दें ताकि उनके महंगे टीके उनकी शर्तों पर बिकें।

दुनिया के कई देशों को टीका बनाने वाली विदेशी कंपनियों ने घुटने टिका दिए। कई निगेटिव रिपोर्ट दुनिया के नामी-गिरामी अखबारों में छपे ताकि भारत के टीका उत्पादन और उसे लगाने के कार्यक्रम को जबर्दस्त धक्का लगे और विदेशों में बने पांच गुने से भी ज्यादा महंगे टीके बेचे जा सकें। उनकी यह मंशा पूरी न हो सकी क्योंकि हमारे करोड़ों स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों और समझदार जनता ने उनके फरेब का जाल तोड़ दिया और भारत ने आज एक अभूतपूर्व उपलब्धि पा ली।

भारत टीके बनाने में अक्ल रहा

कोविड टास्क फोर्स के एक महत्वपूर्ण सदस्य डॉक्टर एनके अरोड़ा ने कहा कि पोलियो के विरुद्ध सफल लड़ाई ने हमें इस अभियान को हाथ में लेने और उसे पूरा करने का मंत्र दिया था। उन्होंने इस युद्ध के योद्धाओं को बधाई दी और कहा कि उनके प्रयासों से ही यह संभव हुआ क्योंकि इस बार यात्रा न केवल कठिन थी बल्कि इसमें जान का खतरा भी था। सच तो है कि लाखों लोगों की जान भी चली गई। लेकिन अपनी हिम्मत से उन सभी ने इसे सफल बनाया।

एक एक्सपर्ट पैनल भी बनाया गया जिसने टीके के दुष्प्रभाव की निगरानी की और सही समय पर सही सुझाव दिए। इस पैनल में तमाम तरह के डॉक्टर, शोधकर्ता, वैज्ञानिक थे जिन्होंने समय-समय पर अपने अनमोल सुझाव दिये। इनके सुझावों से ही सौ करोड़ की आबादी में नगण्य संख्या में दुष्प्रभाव देखने को मिले।

डॉक्टर अरोड़ा ने बताया कि भारत बच्चों के लिए टीके बनाने में मामले में दुनिया में अक्ल था लेकिन इस तरह के टीके बनाने के बारे में उस पर बहुत संदेह था लेकिन उसने पिछले दो दशकों में उसने बड़ी छलांग लगाई और इसका टीका भी बना दिया। दरअसल इन वर्षों में भारत में वैज्ञानिक रिसर्च के लिए बहुत बड़ा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर खड़ा कर दिया।

पिछले साल मार्च में केंद्र सरकार ने बहुत बड़ी राशि टीके के विकास के लिए जारी की थी। इस बड़ी राशि से ने केवल रिसर्च और निर्माण में मदद मिली बल्कि इंटरनेशनल पार्टनरों और लोकल मैनुफैक्चरर्स तथा स्थानीय लैब से करार करने में आसानी हुई। इसका ही नतीजा था कि भारत ने महामारी शुरू होने के सिर्फ दस महीनों के कम समय में देसी टीका तैयार कर लिया।

एक एक्सपर्ट पैनल भी बनाया गया जिसने टीके के दुष्प्रभाव की निगरानी की और सही समय पर सही सुझाव दिए। इस पैनल में तमाम तरह के डॉक्टर, शोधकर्ता, वैज्ञानिक थे जिन्होंने समय-समय पर अपने अनमोल सुझाव दिये। इनके सुझावों से ही सौ करोड़ की आबादी में नगण्य संख्या में दुष्प्रभाव देखने को मिले। टीके लेने वाले हर व्यक्ति को टीका केंद्र में रोके रखने के पीछे मकसद यही था कि किसी भी तरह के दुष्प्रभाव का पता तुरंत लगाया जा सके।

इस अभियान की एक और बड़ी बात यह थी इसमें पब्लिक प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप काम आया। दोनों पक्षों ने मिलकर टीकाकरण के इस महती कार्य को सफल बनाने में मदद की। प्राइवेट कंपनियों ने न केवल टीके का विकास किया बल्कि उसे लगाने बीमारी के इलाज में भी हाथ बंटाय। दूसरी ओर डब्ल्यूएचओ और यूनिसेफ जैसी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं ने भी बड़ा योगदान किया। डब्ल्यूएचओ ने टेक्निकल और लॉजिस्टिक्स सपोर्ट दिया जिस वजह से टीके को कोल्ड चेन सप्लाय सिस्टम के तहत देश के सभी हिस्सों में ले जाना संभव हुआ।

अभी जंग जारी है

इस देश में 94 करोड़ वयस्क हैं और उनके लिए कुल 190 करोड़ टीके की डोज चाहिए ताकि पूरे देश को इम्युनाइज किया जा सके। जहां तक इतनी तादाद में टीकों की बात है तो वर्तमान उत्पादन रफ्तार से हम यह लक्ष्य अगले साल के मध्य तक पा लेंगे। लेकिन वो लोग जो टीके न लेने पर अड़े हुए हैं उन तक पहुंचना कठिन होगा। इससे वह सुरक्षा चक्र नहीं बन पाएगा जो इस दुष्कर बीमारी में जरूरी है।

फिर हमारी उम्मीदें उन लाखों स्कूल शिक्षकों, स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों, आंगनवाड़ी और आशा कार्यकर्ताओं पर टिकी हुई हैं। उन्होंने ही यहां तक का रास्ता तय करने में निस्वार्थ भाव से जान पर खेलकर हमारी मदद की है। उनमें से कई तो इस दुनिया में नहीं हैं। लेकिन आज वह वक्त है कि हमें और देशवासियों को उनका शुक्रगुजार होना चाहिए।

इस अभियान की एक और बड़ी बात यह थी इसमें पब्लिक प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप काम आया। दोनों पक्षों ने मिलकर टीकाकरण के इस महती कार्य को सफल बनाने में मदद की। प्राइवेट कंपनियों ने न केवल टीके का विकास किया बल्कि उसे लगाने बीमारी के इलाज में भी हाथ बंटाया।



**PM NARENDRA MODI
OBSERVES AS THE 1-BILLIONTH JAB
IS ADMINISTERED TO A DIVYANG
AT RML HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI**

21'OCT, 2021



BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

6 - A, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg,
Near ITO, Railway Colony,
Minto Bridge Colony, Barakhamba,
New Delhi, Delhi 110002