Covishield doses gap

No need at the moment to change Covishield doses gap: Vaccine task force experts (The Tribune: 20210622)


'Basic principle is that our people should get the maximum benefit from every dose of the vaccine'

No need at the moment to change Covishield doses gap: Vaccine task force experts

The Chairman of the national Covid Vaccine Administration task force on Tuesday said there was no need felt at the moment to revisit the Covishield doses gap.

The Chairman of the national Covid Vaccine Administration task force on Tuesday said there was no need felt at the moment to revisit the Covishield doses gap of 12 to 16 weeks.

Member (Health), NITI Aayog and Chairperson, National Expert Group on Vaccines Administration VK Paul today said that no need was felt at the moment to change the interval.

“We are collecting data under the National Vaccine Tracking System - and doing real-time evaluation regarding effectiveness of vaccines, dose interval, region-wise impact, variants; at present, no need is felt for changing dose interval of COVISHIELD. The basic principle is that our people should get the maximum benefit from every dose of the vaccine. We find that the current dosages are proving to be beneficial,” he said.

Paul added that atthe same time, nothing was set in stone.

NK Arora, chairman of the National Technical Advisory group on Immunization also said at the moment there was no cause to change the gap.
The experts said India has the capacity to administer 1.25 crore doses a day and 22 crore doses were available for July.

“The target is to start inoculating over 1 crore people a day,” Arora said.

“Our aim is to vaccinate at least one crore people every day. Our capacity is such that we will easily be able to administer 1.25 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine every day,”

Arora said that this target was especially achievable in the wake of good support from private sector and this was proved on the very first day when revised guidelines came into force.

Speaking how India has been successful in the past as well, Arora said: “This is not unprecedented. In one week, we give polio vaccines to around 17 crore children. So, when India decides to do something, we are able to achieve it.” India's COVID-19 vaccination drive is becoming a prime example of how public and private sectors can join together to better address and solve problems faced by the nation.”

Asked to comment on whether or not a third wave will occur Paul said it is in our hands.

“The third wave can be stopped if COVID Appropriate Behaviour is followed and majority of people get vaccinated. Why will there be a third wave if we follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour and get ourselves vaccinated? There are many countries where even second wave has not arrived; if we follow COVID appropriate behaviour, this period will pass.”

**Delta strain**

**Delta strain was predominant during second Covid wave in Chandigarh, reveals PGI (The Tribune: 20210622)**


To study whether there is a change in the circulating strain in Chandigarh during the second wave, 25 stored positive samples of the period May 5 to May 24 were sent for whole genome sequencing to NCDC, New Delhi

PGI director Jagat Ram on Monday said that during the second wave delta (B.1.617.2) and alpha (B.1.1.7) variants were found present among 61 per cent and 30 per cent of the samples, respectively, which were sent for whole genome sequencing to NCDC, New Delhi.

Majority of these samples (92 per cent) belonged to Chandigarh residents. Thus, during the second wave in the UT, delta strain was the main circulating strain, he said.
Giving details, he said, “The Department of Virology has been carrying out Covid testing by RTPCR since March 2020 and till date more than 2.5 lakh samples have been tested. To study whether there is a change in the circulating strain in Chandigarh during the second wave, 25 stored positive samples of the period May 5 to May 24 were sent for whole genome sequencing to NCDC.”

“Majority of these (92 per cent) belonged to residents of Chandigarh. During the second wave, delta variant (B.1.617.2) and alpha variant (B.1.1.7) were found present among 61 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively. In two samples, sequencing could not be performed due to low content of genomic material, inferring that during the second wave in the UT delta strain was the main circulating strain,” Jagat Ram said.

Dean (Academics) GD Puri said the samples sent were of the patients admitted to the Nehru Hospital Extension Block where severe and critical Covid cases were admitted; and all samples belonged to the delta strain.

Sputnik V roll out delayed in Delhi

The Centre has fixed the price of the vaccine at Rs 1,145 per dose( The Tribune:20210622)


The roll out of Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V at Indraprastha Apollo and Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital in Delhi has been delayed for some days, officials said on Sunday.

A spokesperson of Apollo Hospitals said the facility in Delhi will tentatively start administering the two-dose vaccine by June 25.

An official had earlier said the hospital would start giving Sputnik V jabs by June 20

According to an official of Madhukar Rainbow Children’s Hospital, there is a delay on the part of the suppliers.

"We are expecting (roll out) next week," he said.

Fortis Healthcare, which had said it would make Sputnik V available at its Gurgaon and Mohali hospitals from Saturday, also has not started administering the Russian vaccine so far.

"The roll out did not happen on Saturday. We expect there will be some clarity on Monday," an official said.
The Centre has fixed the price of the vaccine at Rs 1,145 per dose. The maximum price of Covishield for private COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs) has been fixed at Rs 780 per dose, while that of Covaxin is Rs 1,410 per dose.

Russia's Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology has developed Sputnik V and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) is marketing it globally. Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories, the marketing partner for the vaccine in the country, has been importing the shots from Russia.

Coronavirus live updates | Rahul Gandhi releases white paper on COVID-19 (The Hindu:20210622)

A health worker collecting a swab sample from a girl at a COVID-19 testing centre in Vijayawada on Monday.

The daily rate of vaccination improved to 34 lakh doses between June 11 and June 20. However, if India is aiming to fully vaccinate all adults by 2021, 82.1 lakh daily doses are needed daily.

More than 82 lakh COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered on June 21, the highest-ever in a day since the inoculation drive began in India. A total of 82,70,212 doses were administered across the country, including the first and second shots, till 9 p.m.

According to the Union Health Ministry, the sharp spike was due to the “new phase of universalisation of COVID-19 vaccination which commenced from Monday”.

You can track coronavirus cases, deaths and testing rates at the national and State levels here. A list of State Helpline numbers is available as well.

COVID-19 victims

A time to give: On ex-gratia compensation to families of COVID-19 victims (The Hindu:20210622)

Families who lost breadwinners in COVID-19 need supportive policies and a safety net

The Centre’s stated position before the Supreme Court on paying a standard ex gratia compensation to families of those who died of COVID-19 shows poor appreciation of the fallout of an unprecedented disaster. After initially asserting that such payments were beyond the Government’s fiscal affordability, although there is a provision in the Disaster Management Act for compensation, and externalising the pandemic as a global, ongoing event, the Home Ministry has now averred that the issue was the manner in which funds were to be put to use. Clearly, lack of resources would be a legless argument when the Centre is pursuing expensive redevelopment projects such as the Central Vista. What the Government says it wants to do is to deploy funds in health care, enhance social protection and support economic recovery of affected communities, rather than give one-time compensation payments (₹4 lakh) or notified ex gratia sought by the petitioners. There is nothing wrong in keeping the focus on provision of essential supplies and additional health infrastructure. In fact, the second wave peak was made considerably worse by poor health infrastructure and low public health expenditure, and a policy failure recorded by the Economic Survey which called for higher public spending of 2.5%-3% of GDP on health. But lending a helping hand to families now impoverished should also be a priority. The Centre, after tying itself in knots on free vaccines, should now spell out its road map for a universal public health system.

The annual Budget included a raft of schemes under COVID-19 initiatives and claimed credit for Atmanirbhar Bharat packages, which, together with the RBI’s ameliorative steps, officially amounted to 13% of GDP. But the “above-the-line” relief in terms of health care and social protection, including cash transfers, are a small share of other spending such as credit provision to several sectors, as per some estimates. The IMF analysis of policy responses says that early in the pandemic, food, fuel and cash transfers to lower-income households came to 1.2% of GDP. With the second wave marked by many deaths and nationwide closures, a review of direct benefits is urgently called for. In court, the Home Ministry has said that confining solutions to compensation would be narrow. It is no one’s case that large direct cash benefits are the only good interventions. Families who have lost breadwinners need help while orphaned children need support. It also does not help that India’s pension system is weakening, bank deposits have low yields and official policy expects people to essentially fend for themselves. The Centre should not hesitate to review its tax basket to rely more on the wealthiest to compensate those who have been hit the hardest.
Pace of vaccinations to be raised by July-Aug: Shah

53K new cases in 1 day; 83 in Delhi ■ Free jabs for all begins

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

More than 80 lakh doses of anti-Covid vaccines were administered in one day as free vaccinations across India for everyone above 18 began on Monday. The free vaccination for the 18-plus age group is provided by the Centre under the “revised guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination”. Union home minister Amit Shah said the pace of vaccinations will be stepped up in July-August and the target to vaccinate almost all will be reached “very fast”.

The overall fresh cases of Covid-19 fell to 53,000 in India after 98 days while the figure in Delhi came down to two digits (89).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said early on Monday that during Covid times, yoga was a source of inner strength. “Yoga not only focuses on physical health but also mental health. During Covid, several studies are going on, researching the benefits of yoga on our body and immunity. We see that yoga and breathing exercises are being done at the beginning of online classes. This is helping children in fighting the virus,” Mr Modi said.

With cases coming down, the Bihar government announced an easing of the restrictions. From June 23 to July 6, all government and private offices can function at 100 per cent capacity, shops can remain open till 7 pm, parks and gardens will open from 6 am to 12 noon, through night curfew will remain in force from 9 pm to 5 am.

In Karnataka, State Road Transport Corporation will restart bus services to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from June 22 with 50 per cent seating capacity. The Assam government allowed the movement of individuals in eight districts from 5 am to 5 pm. However, Mumbai, which has shown some improvement, will continue to remain under restrictions for some more time and

■ Turn to Page 4
People need vaccines, not advertisements: Sisodia

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

Taking a jibe at the Centre over its rigorous media publicity for free vaccines, Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia on Monday said “People do not need advertisements but vaccines.”

Sisodia pointed out that the city received only 37 lakh doses against the stipulated 2.94 crore needed on Monday.

Sisodia alleged that the Centre pressured officials in Delhi to publish advertisements in newspapers thanking it for providing free Covid-19 vaccines for all from June 21, while the city has got only 37 lakh doses so far against the 2.94 crore needed. He also said the Centre will supply only 16 lakh Covid-19 vaccine doses to Delhi in July and at this rate, it will take around 16 more months to inoculate the city’s entire population.

Sisodia said several BJP-ruled states have published advertisements in newspapers, thanking the Centre for providing free Covid-19 vaccines for all aged above 18 years from June 21. “They also asked officials in Delhi to publish advertisements in newspapers thanking (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi for the free vaccination. They sent this toolkit to Delhi government officials and pressured them to issue such advertisements,” he alleged during a digital press conference.

“People do not need advertisements but vaccines. I request the Prime Minister to supply 2.3 crore more doses in the next two months. I promise that we will do your publicity...publish advertisements in entire Delhi,” Sisodia said.

No mess-up in vaccination programme: City BJP

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

Hitting out at Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor on Monday said there is no mess-up in the country’s vaccination programme. It was going on in a planned phased manner when Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal demanded freedom to buy vaccines which the Central government allowed but failing to buy vaccine in international market he again demanded Centre’s help so it’s very clear that it was Arvind Kejriwal who created all the confusion.

Mr Kapoor said, the Central government had already announced schedule of vaccine distribution according to which not only Delhi but entire country will get two doses of vaccine by mid December 2021. It will be better if the Delhi government instead of creating further confusion adheres to Centre’s given time table.

15-16 more months to vaccinate the entire population of Delhi, he said.

“You have been saying India has been conducting the largest vaccination drive globally, but it has turned out to be the most mismanaged, derailed and messed up exercise in the world,” Sisodia alleged.

With the positivity rate dipping to all time low of 0.16 per cent since the pandemic began, Delhi on Monday reported 69 Covid-19 cases, the lowest since April 2020.
Health Care Services (The Asian Age: 20210622)
उपलब्धि: नई नीति के साथ महामिलन की जोरदार शुरुआत

14 घंटे में 84 लाख टीके का कीर्तिमान

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संदर्भ

भारत ने सोमवार को टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम रिकॉर्ड करने डाला। नई टीकाकरण नीति लागू होने के पर्यंत ही दिन 14 घंटे में करीब 84 लाख कोरोना टीके लगाए गए। एक दिन में यह अब तक की सबसे बड़ी संख्या है। इससे पूर्व एक दिन में रिकॉर्ड 43 लाख सुरक्षा दी गई थी।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने जयंति 7 जून को 18 से अधिक उपर के सभी लोगों को भी मुफ्त में टीका देने का ऐलान किया था। साथ ही, 21 जून से टीकाकरण की महा-अभियान का रूप में चलने की वात कही थी, जिसकी सीमा से जोरदार शुरुआत हुई। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के अफ़्सरों के अनुसार, इस दिन तक टीके की 84,07,420 खुदाई दी जा चुकी थी। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय सुनहरा आइकोनों को और अपडेट कराना, जिसमें यह अंकड़ा और बढ़ती ने उम्मीद है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के अनुसार, जून में 12 करोड़ टीकाओं की आपूर्ति हो रही है, इसमें 75 फीसद टीके केंद्रों को और से राज्यों को मुफ्त दिया जा रहा है जबकि 25 फीसदी टीके निजी अस्पतालों द्वारा सीखे कंपनियों से खरीदे जा रहे हैं।

आज रिकॉर्ड संख्या में हुआ टीकाकरण बढ़कर चला है। कोरोना से लड़ने के लिए टीका सबसे सकारात्मक हस्तियार है। उन सभी को व्यायाम जिन्हें टीका लगाया गया।

अग्नि प्रदेश शीर्ष पर गृह का तीसरा नंबर

मध्य प्रदेश में कोरोना संक्रमण का संख्या में वृद्धि निकली। 16.41 लाख, कर्नाटक में 11.06, गुजरात में 8.44, भारत में 46.3, बिहार में 33.7, महाराष्ट्र में 14.1 और उत्तर Pradesh में 7.5 लाख कोरोना टीके की खुदाई की गई।

कई देशों की आबादी के बराबर भारत ने सोमवार को जितने टीके लगाए उनमें में आचे स्थान या एक-दुनिया या दो नामित है। बीसीसीआई व बी द वॉर्ल्ड हेरिटेज व बी 10 मार्सको का पूरा टीकाकरण किया जा सकता है।

दिल्ली में इस साल लगेंगे कम केंद्र

दिल्ली में सोमवार तक 89 लोगों में संक्रमण की पुष्टि हुई। इस साल का यह सबसे कम अफ़ाक है। संक्रमण मामले भी 2000 से नीचे पहुंच गए।
दोसे छह वर्ष के बच्चों पर ट्रायल की तैयारी

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय वंचावता
कोरोना की संचालित तीसरी लहर के महत्वपूर्ण बच्चों के टीकाकरण को लेकर एम्स ने क्लीनिकल ट्रायल की प्रक्रिया जारी की है। एम्स ने दो से लेकर 12 वर्ष वाले बच्चों के टीकाकरण को लेकर स्क्रीनिंग की जाएगी। स्क्रीनिंग में स्वस्थ मिलने वाले बच्चों का टीकाकरण किया जाएगा।

टीकाकरण को तीन भागों में बांटा है: एम्स ने टीकाकरण के क्लीनिकल ट्रायल को तीन भागों में बांटा है। इसमें छह से 12 वर्ष वाले और 12 से 18 वर्ष की उम्र वाले के टीकाकरण को लेकर क्लीनिकल ट्रायल का पहला चरण हो गया है।

सतर्कता
- स्क्रीनिंग में स्वस्थ मिलने वालों का टीकाकरण किया जाएगा।
- देशभर के कई अस्पतालों में बच्चों पर ट्रायल किया जा सकता है।

525 बच्चों पर कोरेक्सीन को लेकर क्लीनिकल ट्रायल बना है।

बच्चों से ऊपर के बच्चों पर एम्स में टीकाकरण का ट्रायल हो रहा है।

बैक्सनी की पहली डोज लेने के बाद से कोई दुर्घटना का मामला सामने नहीं आया है। इन बच्चों को 28 दिन के बाद बैक्सनी की दूसरी डोज दी जाएगी।

बता दें कि देशभर के कई अस्पतालों में दो से लेकर 18 वर्ष के 525 बच्चों पर कोरेक्सीन को लेकर क्लीनिकल ट्रायल किया जा रहा है।

सकारात्मक परिणाम नवर आए हैं: एम्स कम्युनिटी मेडिसिन विभाग के प्रोफेसर डॉ. संजय राय ने इस संबंध में जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि वर्तमान समय में अस्पताल में दो से छह वर्ष की उम्र वाले बच्चों को लेकर क्लीनिकल ट्रायल किया जाएगा।

उद्घोषण शुरू होगी: उन्होंने बताया कि इसे लेकर गुरुवार से स्क्रीनिंग की प्रक्रिया शुरू की जाएगी। अभी तक हुए क्लीनिकल ट्रायल के सकारात्मक परिणाम देखने को मिले हैं।