

INDIA

#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE

Women truly can do anything they set their minds to. From politics to sports, entertainment to travel and business, there is no field where women have not made their mark. The subcontinent in particular has seen some fiery female leaders. Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka created history when she became the first female head of government in 1960. Later her daughter, Chandrika Kumaratunga took on the mantle of President of Sri Lanka in 1994.

Around the same time, Begum Khaleda Zia was holding office as the first woman prime minister of Bangladesh with Benazir Bhutto assuming the title in Pakistan. India's Indira Gandhi too made history when she became the country's first woman prime minister. Since then, women have played a pivotal role in the politics of the subcontinent and made their presence felt globally. They were the ones who decided to "ChooseToChallenge," way before it became a trending hashtag.

Today, women are leading on all fronts taking on roles of CEOs, entrepreneurs, social influencers, climate change activists, and so much more. No frontier is too distant for these fearless femmes and they are setting off on journeys across the world. On International Women's Day 2021, we have re-launched our women-only travel initiative "Through Her Eyes" with a focus of creating a product that provides exclusive immersive experiences for discerning female travellers.

An all-women team with a cumulative experience of 50 years in various fields of travel has designed the tours for women who are looking to escape alone or bond with other like-minded women. In our latest offering, we have scheduled the fixed departure dates to September 2022. Here is a short preview of what you can expect from our exclusive journeys. For further details, please do contact your relationship manager. [Through Her Eyes - AOT March 2021](#)

THE VACCI-NATION

India has crossed an important milestone in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic by administering over 35 million vaccine doses. As on Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 8 AM, the official figures of vaccine doses given stood at 3,50,64,536. Monday, 15 March 2021 recorded the highest number of vaccines administered in a day with the number standing at 30,39,394.

India is also emerging as a preferred choice for manufacturing and supplying the Covid-19 vaccine and has supplied close to 60 million doses to countries across the world. Various countries have requested India to supply the vaccine doses for their immunisation drive. India has supplied vaccines to over 70 countries while talks are on with several others to provide inoculation for their citizens.

India is manufacturing two Covid vaccines – Covaxin, co-developed by Bharat Biotech and Indian Council of Medical Research and Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield that the Serum Institute of India is manufacturing locally. With both government and private hospitals inoculating people, the vaccination drive is going full steam. India started its immunisation drive on 16 January 2021. Its success and the efficacy of the vaccines has earned our country worldwide accolades and appreciation.

For latest statistics and vaccination status, please [click here](#).

IN OTHER NEWS

India now has travel bubble arrangement with 27 countries with the latest addition of Seychelles and Uzbekistan. This comes as a part of the country's continuing endeavour to ease international travel restrictions. While scheduled international flights will remain banned till 31 March 2021, special evacuation mission flights are ferrying nationals stranded abroad.

International Air Transport Association (IATA) plans to launch the IATA Travel Pass, a mobile app to help passengers easily and securely manage their travels in accordance to the latest government guidelines and requirements. The initiative comes from the need for a global and standardised solution to different passenger travel requirements and regulations of countries. With hopes to launch the mobile app by end of March, IATA is in talks with the Indian authorities and carriers for using the pass in India.

A recent report by the PHD Chamber of Commerce predicted a likely double-digit growth trajectory for India's GDP in FY22. With economic activities picking up pace and renewed investor sentiment, the report predicts that the economy has the potential to grow at 11 per cent. This comes as good news after the worldwide economic slump over the past year.