



Destination Updates as on 9 July 2021

BHUTAN

In welcome news, Denmark has stepped up to provide 250,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines as a goodwill gesture to help the Himalayan country in its time of need. Bhutan had received its first lot of Covishield doses from India in March as a part of the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative of the Indian Government. However, with the deadly second wave hitting India with unprecedented intensity, export of the Indian manufactured AstraZeneca vaccines to Bhutan has been delayed indefinitely.

The global COVAX alliance has also promised to provide Bhutan 20% of its requirement of AstraZeneca vaccines. However, that might arrive only by August. There is also uncertainty regarding the exact date of arrival of the 16 million doses of US manufactured Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines promised to Asian countries including Bhutan. In such a situation, Denmark's gesture will ensure that Bhutan's citizens can avail their second dose of vaccine.

In an effort to encourage, people to remain safe and use sanitizers and masks, Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck has been walking and travelling on horseback and car throughout the eastern and southern borders of the country delivering the message of hope and vigilance. This effort on the part of the king comes as a heartening gesture for the people of Bhutan.

The number of Covid-19 cases of the Delta variant has been on the rise in Bhutan raising concerns amongst the people of the country. However, there has been only one Covid-related death as on date.

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