



## Destination Updates as on 20 August 2021

### INDIA

India's immunisation drive has picked up pace in the past few weeks to avoid a third wave. On 17 August, the country doled out a record 8.81 million doses in 24 hours, the highest single-day jab since the beginning of the vaccination process in January. Since 16 January, India has administered more than 565 million doses. Some 440 million people have received the first dose and another 125 million or so have received both doses so far.

The surge in inoculations came alongside a sharp decline in daily new infections that fell to 25,166, the lowest since 16 March according to the statement released by the Health Ministry.

With the decrease in the number of daily reported cases and a ramped up vaccination drive, countries across the world have also started to relax travel rules for Indian travellers and travel to India. Sri Lanka has now removed the temporary ban placed on travel from India including transit. Austria has lifted quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated travellers from India and the Netherlands too has updated travel requirements for Indian travellers from August 14 as India has been removed from the list of Virus Variant Countries to the list of Very High-Risk Countries.

The United States has eased its travel advisory to India to the second-lowest level and according to the Centre of Disease Control, India and other South Asian nations are now being considered under 'moderate level of Covid-19'. UK has moved India to the Amber List of travel countries and it has eased the rules for travel to and from India. British Airways has announced doubling of flights from India and there would now be 20 direct flights from Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bangalore to London, Heathrow. Air India has also announced the running of two special flights between Kolkata and London to assist students travelling to the west.

All these announcements and ease on travel restrictions come as a welcome boost to the country's morale and we are hopeful that international tourism to India will also resume soon.

For detailed and latest updates on vaccination and number of cases, please [click here](#).