



सत्यमेव जयते

High Commission of India
Abuja

Press Release: Delivery of Covishield vaccines from Serum Institute of India to the Republic of Benin

A consignment of 1,44,000 doses of Covishield vaccine from the Serum Institute of India (SII) arrived at the Cotonou International Airport today, under the Covax scheme of GAVI. It is the first consignment of Covid-19 vaccines to reach the Republic of Benin.

On this occasion, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Benin H.E. Mr. Abhay Thakur, stated that the supply of vaccines to Benin is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment, made at the UNGA in September 2020, that 'India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help humanity in fighting Covid-19.' India-Benin ties are age-old, based on close friendship and mutual trust. The arrival of Covid-19 vaccines in Benin marks yet another milestone in our bilateral relations.

India has been at the forefront of the global fight against the pandemic and supports a collective approach in this battle. Guided by this philosophy, India, as the Pharmacy of the World, has supplied millions of doses of vaccines to many countries spread across the globe. As on 9 March 2021 (<https://mea.gov.in/vaccine-supply.htm>), India has supplied 57.889 million doses of Made-in-India vaccines to 63 countries and UN health workers and will be supplying to more countries soon. At a UNSC meeting on 17 February 2021, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar had reiterated India's approach and called for 'vaccine internationalism'. India's commitment to deploy its capabilities for the health and well-being of the entire humanity is not limited to vaccine supply alone, and it has provided critical medicines, ventilators and PPE kits to more than 150 countries, including Benin, Nigeria and Chad.

**Cotonou
10 March 2021**