

**Decoding The Hindu Article**

# SII, Bharat Biotech cut vaccine prices

Covishield, Covaxin to cost ₹225 per dose

**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN**  
NEW DELHI

Pharma majors Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech on Saturday announced a steep reduction in prices of their COVID vaccines – Covishield and Covaxin – available at private hospitals as the Union Health Ministry capped the service charges for the precautionary doses at ₹150.

Vaccination centres have to declare the price per dose

**Prices slashed** | The price of Covishield and Covaxin for private hospitals was reduced to ₹225 per dose, a day before India's precautionary dose drive begins



Vaccine	Old price	Revised price
Covishield	600	225
Covaxin	1,200	225
Sputnik V	948	NA
Corbevax	800	NA

\*Price excluding GST and service charge

*So far, 2.29 crore precautionary doses have been administered to healthcare workers, frontline workers, and those aged above 60*

charged by them on CoWIN.

In a tweet, Adar Poonawalla, CEO of SII, said: "SII has decided to revise the price of Covishield vaccine

for private hospitals from ₹600 to ₹225 per dose."

Suchitra Ella, co-founder and Joint Managing Director, Bharat Biotech, tweeted:

Cong. seeks free universal access

The Congress on Saturday said the government's decision to privatise access to COVID-19 booster shots is "brutal and unethical". The party has urged the government to provide universal access to vaccines free of cost. ▶ PAGE 10

"We have decided to revise the price of Covaxin from ₹1,200 to ₹225 per dose."

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## Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Steep	(Adjective): (of a price or demand) not reasonable; excessive.	अनुचित

## Static News

Serum Institute of India is an Indian biotechnology and biopharmaceuticals company, based in Pune. It is the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines. It was founded by Cyrus Poonawalla in 1966 and is a part of Cyrus Poonawalla Group

Bharat Biotech International Limited is an Indian multinational biotechnology company headquartered in the city of Hyderabad, India engaged in the drug discovery, drug development, manufacture of vaccines, bi-therapeutics, pharmaceuticals and health care products. It was founded in 1996 by Krishna Ella.

As of October 2021, 110.6 million people in India have received Covaxin. On 3 November 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) validated the vaccine for emergency use. As of 31 January 2022, Covaxin has been granted emergency use approval in 13 countries

## Grammar

News, innings, politics, summons, physics, economics, ethics, mathematics, mumps, measles, rickets, shingles, billiards, athletics are certain nouns that are plural in form but singular in meaning. They take singular verb.

Example: No news is good news.

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## Decoding The Hindu Article

# Greens fear draft rules on 11 tree species will spell disaster

They say the proposed exemption can encourage large-scale tree felling

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MYSURU

Greens in Karnataka have red flagged a draft notification by the State Forest Department seeking to exempt 11 species of trees from certain provisions governing the Karnataka Forest Rules, 1969.

If finalised and approved, the 11 species will join the existing list of nearly 40 other species of trees that are exempted from any permission for being transported under rule 144 of the Karnataka Forest Rules, 1969, and this could encourage large-scale tree felling.

Activist and former State Wildlife Board member Joseph Hoover suspects it could devastate vast tracts of tree cover in districts such as Uttara Kannada, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, and Shivamogga. "According to an estimate, at least 6 lakh trees could be harvested if the draft becomes a law and **denude** the tree cover in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats," he added.

Though the draft notification mentions that the ex-



Neem is among the tree species that is proposed to be exempted from certain provisions governing the Karnataka Forest Rules, 1969. •FILE PHOTO

emption is from the purview of rule 144 pertaining to permission for transportation, it indirectly **abets** felling as well because one cannot transport timber without axing the tree, he added.

**For those on private land** Sources in the Forest Department said the proposed exemption was only in case of trees grown on private land and would not apply to trees on public or government land. The list of species are neem, babool, mahogany, hulgal (honge), atti, ala, arali, shivani, bore, dowga bam-

boo, and medri bamboo.

The draft is still under discussion and no final decision has been taken but has been introduced for the benefit of farmers, according to officials. "Farmers with small landholdings are reluctant to grow trees as they cannot harvest and monetise them. The easing of such restrictions could encourage farmer to grow more short-duration trees whose environmental services can be utilised for eight to 10 years," the officials added.

However, Badagalapura Nagendra, president of the

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), said any rule **ostensibly** taken for the benefit of farmers is to be viewed with suspicion as the Government always has a vested interest behind such moves.

"Since the draft notification pertains to lifting restrictions on 11 species cultivated on private land, it is perhaps aimed at providing relief to corporate-owned large landholdings, plantations, etc. If not, the Government should stipulate the maximum size of the landholding for which the exemption becomes applicable," he added.

Mr. Hoover said only the **timber mafia would benefit from such a relaxation and it was being tried since 2012 but was stalled repeatedly.** As it is, linear projects, hydroelectric works, mining, power line projects, etc. in the Western Ghats has led to axing of tens of lakhs of trees and the easing of restrictions could further abet denudation of tree and forest cover, he said in a memorandum to the department.

**Vocabulary**

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Denude	(Verb): strip (something) of its covering, possessions, or assets.	उघाड़ना
Abets	(Verb): encourage or assist (someone) to do something wrong, in particular to commit a crime.	शह मिलती है
Ostensibly	(Adverb): as appears or is stated to be true, though not necessarily so; apparently.	प्रकट रूप से

**Static News**

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, also known as KRRS or the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, is a farmer's movement. M. D. Nanjundaswamy was the president of the organisation. They are in the forefront of fighting multinational companies that try to sell seeds, like Monsanto Company

**Grammar**

A descriptive adjective is a word which describes nouns and pronouns. Most of the adjectives belong in this type. These adjectives provide information and attribute to the nouns/pronouns they modify or describe. Descriptive adjectives are also called qualitative adjectives.

The descriptive adjectives can be simply defined as the type of adjectives that are used to express the size, color, or shape of a person, a thing, an animal, or a place. They are used to provide more information to a noun by describing or modifying it.

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## Decoding The Hindu Article

# Congress: FBI in India to probe bitcoin scam?

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU

Several Congress leaders have sought to know if the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the U.S. was in India to gather information on the alleged bitcoin scam in Karnataka, which created a flutter in political circles last year.

A day after Congress in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala and the former Minister Priyank Kharage raised this issue on Twitter, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah tweeted on Saturday alleging the involvement of Karnataka BJP leaders in the scam and accusing them of transferring bitcoins to fill "Modi wallet".

"The chronology of the alleged bitcoin scam raised a lot of suspicion about the involvement of BJP leaders of the State. Why was the ED, CBI or Interpol not informed till it was reported by the media? Was it because the then Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai was scared of being exposed?" the Congress leader asked in a series of tweets.

Mr. Siddaramaiah further said the news of the investigation by the FBI on Indian soil was a matter of concern and it

raised questions on the efficiency of Indian intelligence agencies. "Is FBI's intervention a result of ED and CBI's failure? Or an outcome of a failed attempt by BJP leaders to cover up?" he asked.

Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged that transferred bitcoins were said to have been used to launder money and mobilise drug cartels, by "invisible hands in power". These activities, if proved, expose the "true anti-nationals of India", he said.

### No information

Meanwhile, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, when asked whether the FBI was in India to probe the bitcoin scam, said he was not aware of it.

"We do not have information on the FBI having come to New Delhi," he said.

On Congress leaders' demand that the BJP Government should come clean on the bitcoin case, the Home Minister said, "Everybody knows who is involved in the bitcoin scam. Even Congress knows. Maybe, the probe will start with them. With elections nearing, the Congress wants to defame the Government," Mr. Jnanendra said.

## Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Flutter	(Noun): a small bet.	स्पंदन

## Static News

Priyank M. Karge is an Indian politician representing the Indian National Congress. He is currently serving as a Member of Legislative Assembly from Chittapur Assembly Constituency in Kalaburagi District of Karnataka for the second time.

Siddaramaiah, also referred to by his nickname Siddu, is an Indian politician currently serving as the leader of the opposition in Karnataka Legislative Assembly since from 9 December 2019. He is a member of Congress Working Committee.

Araga Dnyanendra, is an Indian politician who is current Minister of Home Department Excluding Intelligence Wing of Karnataka from 04 August 2021. He is the Member of the Karnataka Legislative assembly from Thirthahalli constituency

## Grammar

Predicative adjectives go after the verb, in the second position. They often function as the object of the verb. Since the verb and the object are the predicate of the sentence, we use the term "predicative."

They are describing the subject of the sentence. These adjectives are essential information in the sentence - in fact, the goal of sentences is usually to share this information.



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**Decoding The Hindu Article**

# Improved GSLV to be ready by this year

Modifications have been made to its cryogenic upper stage as per panel's recommendations

**TIKI RAJWI**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with improvements added to its cryogenic upper stage (CUS) is expected to be ready in the second half of this year.

A high-level panel which examined last year's failed GSLV-F10/EOS-03 mission had recommended measures for making the CUS more robust. Indian Space Research Organisation's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is tasked with making the required modifications to the cryogenic engine-powered upper stage of the GSLV Mk II rocket.

A senior official of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre



**Fixed up:** The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle failed to inject into the orbit on August 12, 2021. • FILE PHOTO

(VSSC), ISRO's lead unit on launch vehicles, says the next GSLV flight will be held once the modifications are incorporated.

The GSLV-F10 mission on August 12, 2021 was designed to place the earth observa-

tion satellite EOS-03 in a geosynchronous transfer orbit, but the upper stage of the rocket malfunctioned, forcing the space agency to abort the mission. A national-level Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) later concluded that a

leak in a Vent and Relief Valve (VRV) had led to a lower build-up of pressure in the Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) propellant tank, leading to a failed mission.

**To avoid leaks**

Modifications planned include a mechanism to ensure sufficient pressure in the tank before the engine burns and strengthening of the VRV to avoid leaks.

On Thursday, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply that computer simulations as well as multiple ground tests, "closely simulating the conditions in the GSLV-F10 flight, had validated the ana-

lysis of the FAC." He points out that the satellite for the next GSLV mission is expected to be ready for launch in the fourth quarter of 2022 and the mission failure is not likely to delay "related projects".

The FAC, whose report was published in March, points to a leak in the VRV as the underlying reason for the failure. Pressure build-up in the liquid hydrogen (LH2) propellant tank was low when the upper stage engine was to ignite. This caused the fuel booster turbo pump inside the LH2 tank, which feeds the main turbo pump of the engine to malfunction, affecting the flow of propellant into the engine thrust chamber.

## Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Robust	(Adjective): strong and healthy; vigorous.	मजबूत

## Static News

Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle is an expendable launch system operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation. GSLV was used in fourteen launches from 2001 to 2021, with more launches planned. Even though GSLV Mark III shares the name, it is an entirely different launch vehicle.

The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) is a major space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), focusing on rocket and space vehicles for India's satellite programme. It is located in Thiruvananthapuram, in the Indian state of Kerala. The centre had its beginnings as the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in 1962. It was renamed in honour of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, often regarded as the father of the Indian space program. H.G.S. Murthy was appointed as the first Director of Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station

## Grammar

Conjunctive adverbs are parts of speech that are used to connect one clause to another. They are also used to show sequence, contrast, cause and effect, and other relationships. It provides transitions between ideas and shows relationships. Conjunctive adverbs are also called connectors.

Examples:

It rained last night. Nonetheless, the final match has not been canceled



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**Decoding The Hindu Article**

# Dipika scripts a fairytale finish

Teams up with Joshna and Ghosal to triumph in women's and mixed doubles



**Double delight:** Ghosal, Dipika and Joshna created history by clinching the gold in the women's and mixed events at the World doubles squash championships. • TWITTER@MEDIA\_SAI

**SQUASH**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Less than six months after giving birth to twins, **Dipika Pallikal** made the mother of all comebacks on Saturday when she teamed up with brother-in-law Saurav Ghosal and long-time teammate

Joshna Chinappa to win the mixed doubles and women's doubles title at World Doubles Championships here.

Dipika, playing her first competitive event since October 2018, first **clinched** the mixed doubles title with Ghosal with a 11-6, 11-8 win over England's Adrian Waller and Alison Waters.

An hour and a half later, Dipika and Joshna triumphed in the women's doubles final after a hard fought 11-9, 4-11, 11-8 win over England's Sarah Jane Perry and Waters.

"Just happy to be back on court. I trained really hard (for the comeback). I was quite edgy at the start of the

tournament but got better as I "played more matches," Dipika said.

**Other results (semifinals):**

**Women's doubles:** Dipika Pallikal & Joshna Chinappa w/o. Joelle King & Amanda Landers Murphy (NZ)

**Mixed doubles:** Dipika & Saurav Ghosal bt Joel Makin and Tesni Evans (Wales) 11-9, 11-5.

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Clinched	(Verb): grapple at close quarters, especially (of boxers) so as to be too closely engaged for full-arm blows.	जीता

### Static News

Dipika Pallikal Karthik is an Indian professional squash player. She is the first Indian to break into the top 10 in the PSA Women's rankings. Dipika Pallikal came to prominence in 2011, when she won three WISPA tour titles. She broke into the top 10 in December 2012. She is the wife of Dinesh Karthik, Indian cricketer.

Saurav Ghosal (born 10 August 1986, in Kolkata, West Bengal) is a professional squash player from India and reached a career-high world ranking of World No. 10 in April 2019.

### Grammar

Adverbs of frequency are used to express time or how often something occurs. Adverbs of frequency can be split into two main groups. The first, adverbs of indefinite frequency, are terms that have an unclear meaning as to how long or how often something occurs: usually, always, normally. These adverbs will usually be placed after the main verb or between the auxiliary verb and infinitive.

Examples:

- ☑ The adverb is usually placed before the main verb.
- ☑ I can normally make the shot.
- ☑ I will always love



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