

Vaccine Maitri

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In News: India's vaccine diplomacy is known as the "Vaccine Maitri" initiative.

About Vaccine Maitri-

- **Vaccine Diplomacy** is the use of vaccines to increase a country's diplomatic relationship with other countries.
- Under its Neighborhood First strategy, India pledged to **supply Made-in-India Covid-19 vaccines to its neighboring and main partner countries.**
- The vaccines were sent first to Bhutan and the Maldives, followed by Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, and the Seychelles.
- Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Mauritius and in total, **around 72 countries received doses** once regulatory approvals were received.
- Medicines have been supplied to 150 nations, 82 of them as grants.
- **Pakistan has not been identified as a country that will receive the vaccine.**
- India has also provided neighboring countries with **capacity-building and training workshops.**
- From supplying **hydroxychloroquine** to more than 100 nations to providing 64 million doses of vaccines to more than 80 nations, India's imprint on global health has been substantive.
- However, India is unlikely to resume the initiative for the neighborhood due to the sudden crunch in the availability of vaccines amidst a surge in COVID-19 cases.