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India produces over 60% of the total vaccines sold globally.

Free Universal Immunisation Programme was launched way back in 1985.

As Covid vaccination rolls out, let applause this great Indian success story, that must be handled with great care to ensure continued credibility

The vaccine production started in British times. Immediately after independence, a vast network of vaccine research and manufacturers was developed that made the success story possible

Table IV. Year of start of vaccine manufacturing units in India*

Year**	Milestone
1832-1890	Sporadic research in various setups for development of smallpox vaccine lymph in India
1890	Laboratory in Shillong started producing smallpox vaccine lymph
1897	Plague vaccine produced by Dr Haffkine in makeshift laboratory of 2 rooms in Grants Medical College, Bombay (Mumbai)
1899	Plague Laboratory, Bombay; later on named as Haffkine Institute (1925) Mumbai
1904/05	Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh
1907	Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu
1910-1930	Additional vaccine institutes established in India, majority of producing smallpox vaccine
1948	BCG Laboratory, Guindy, Madras
1952	Zydus Cadila,
1953	Biological E Ltd.
1966	Serum Institute of India Ltd.
1982	Indian Immunological Limited
1988	Panacea Biotec
1989	IVCOL and BIBCOL
1992	Shantha Biotechnic Ltd.
1996	Bharat Biotech Ltd.
2008	Green Bio-pharma Ltd.

*This is an indicative list only
**As per the information collected from the officials websites of the manufacturing units serum institutes for India: *www.seruminstitute*

Expanded Programme of Immunisation was launched in 1978.

People of my age remember the extensive free vaccination in schools and all still have marks of vaccination on our arms.

Small pox to Polio have been eradicated.

free universal immunisation was expanded in 2005

Table VI. Major milestone since launch of EPI in India (1978- till 2012)

Year	Vaccination efforts
1978	Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) launched in India.
1980	World declared smallpox free. It becomes the first disease to be eradicated from the planet.
1985	Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) launched in 31 districts of India with a plan for expansion to the entire country.
1986	Immunization became one of the five National Technology Missions in India.
1988	World Health Assembly passes a resolution to eradicate polio by the year 2000.
1989	First comprehensive review of UIP in India conducted.
1990	UIP universalized to cover the entire country.
1991	Cold chain maintenance was taken over by the State governments.
1992	UIP became part of Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) programme in the country. Another international review of UIP in India conducted.
1995	India conducted first National Immunization Day for Polio eradication.
1997	UIP became part of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme in India. National Polio Surveillance Project launched as WHO and the Government of India collaboration.
2000	Border District Cluster Strategy for immunization strengthening in border districts implemented; Immunization Strengthening Project (ISP) implemented.
2001	National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) in India formed.
2004	International review of UIP conducted.
2003/2004	First maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination (MNTE) validation done

This success story of vaccine development, manufacture and immunisation could happen because India laid a huge network of Research Institutes. A glance:

International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (ICGEB),Delhi

National Institute of Immunology (NII), Delhi 5/n

New Delhi

National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune

National Aids Research Institute (NARI), Pune

National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata

Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC), Chennai

Regional Medical Research Centre (BBSR), Bhuvaneshwar
6/n

Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow

Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) Chandigarh

Centre for cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad

Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad

Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata 7/n

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi

Indian Institute of Sciences (IISC), Banglore

Anna University, Chennai

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (MGIMS), Wardha

Indian Immunologicals Ltd. (IIL), Hyderabad
8/n

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, (SGPGIMS), Lucknow

Delhi university(DU), South Campus

Pasteur Institute of India, (PII), Coonoor

Haffkine Institute (HI), Mumbai

Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital (TMC), Mumbai
9/n

King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai

Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli

Hyderabad University, Hyderabad

Institute of Cytology & Preventive Oncology (ICPO), Delhi
10/n

Source:

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