

## INYAS busts myths about COVID-19 vaccination with new campaign

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The COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaign is organized by Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS)

Secretary of Department of Science & Technology (DST) Prof Ashutosh Sharma has launched a multipronged nationwide mass awareness campaign with information packages to bust myths about COVID-19 vaccination in 11 languages, including English and Hindi, make the immunization programme successful.

The COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaign organized by Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS) will be carried out through COVACNEWS android-based mobile app made by INYAS for ensuring information at the fingertips.

A pan-India info-graphic video and audio competition with motivation to transform information into better readable and effective formats is also being organised along with the GYAN TEEKA webinar series dedicated to increase awareness about vaccines through eminent speakers and open statement on COVID-19 vaccination.

Launching the campaign, the DST Secretary highlighted the role of science communication in the present situation when the whole world is fighting against COVID-19.

"Lessons of past pandemics show that the second wave of any pandemic is a norm, and we cannot let our guard down at any stage. Communicating with the masses becomes very important in such a situation. It is our responsibility to tell people in simple waysthat will appeal to them psychologically. Our target is to reach out to the grassroots, rural population and focus on things which are relevant", Professor Sharma pointed out.