



**Covid-19 Vaccination Inequality is Deepening:  
Drive in India Needs to be More Transparent  
01-31 July, 2021**

According to the new dashboard, which is based on data from multiple agencies including the IMF, World Bank, UNICEF and Gavi, and the World Economic Outlook's analysis of GDP per capita growth rates, countries are expected to vaccinate richer people faster and to improve themselves economically recover faster from COVID19, while poorer countries have not even been able to vaccinate their health workers and most of the population at risk and may not reach pre-growth levels of strict social public health measures. The social, economic and health effects continue to worsen, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized people. Vaccine inequality threatens all countries and risks undoing hard-won advances towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

COVID-19 vaccine inequity will have a lasting and profound effect on socio-economic recovery in low- and lower-middle income countries without urgent action to enhance supply and guarantee equitable access for each country, along with through dose sharing, in step with new data launched nowadays by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Health Organization (WHO).

In this background, this Occasional News Wrap (ONW) captures the various opinions expressed on this matter byway of write ups, opeds, articles and news etc. in the month of July 2021. This is the first volume of CUTS ONW on this topic, focusing on the inequality of vaccination against COVID19 in richer and poorer countries and the situation of vaccination drive in India.

Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p><b>India Inc Looks Better Prepared for Covid-19 Third Wave</b>  <i>By Kala Vijayraghvan and Lijee Philip</i>  The Economic Times  July 31, 2021</p>	<p>Harsh Goenka, Chairman, RPG Group, said corporates have de-risked supply chains by ensuring wider sourcing and warehousing avenues. “There is much <a href="#">better preparedness</a> this time around. And yet there are concerns that a third wave might impact children more, which will cause panic,” Goenka said. “State governments are also collaborating more with corporations to ensure readiness, building medical infrastructure and oxygen availability.”</p>
<p><b>Panel for Mixing Covaxin and Nasal Vaccine in Trials</b>  <i>By Teena Thacker</i>  The Economic Times  July 31, 2021</p>	<p>The subject expert committee (SEC) under India's drug regulator gave its go-ahead to Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech to conduct the phase 2/3 clinical trials, administering a dose each of Covaxin and the adenoviral intranasal vaccine with an interval between the two. After detailed deliberation, the committee recommended grant of <a href="#">permission</a> for conduct of the proposed clinical trial removing the word 'interchange ability' from the study title.</p>
<p><b>ICMR Asks for List of Those Who Got Actual Jabs During Vaccine Trials</b>  <i>By Teena Thacker</i>  The Times of India  July 29, 2021</p>	<p>“ICMR is facilitating the process. We do feel that participants have all the right to get <a href="#">valid certificates</a> and we are very much supportive,” said Samiran Panda, head of epidemiology and infectious diseases at ICMR.</p>
<p><b>Govt. Ordered 100 cr. Vaccine Doses, 2/3rd in Last Fortnight</b>  The Times of India  July 29, 2021</p>	<p>According to the Ministry of Health’s response to Rajya Sabha’s questions, the government has <a href="#">ordered</a> approximately 100 Crore doses of Covid vaccine so far, two-thirds of which were ordered in the past two weeks. According to the response, 66 Crore doses were ordered on July 16, 2021</p>
<p><b>SII Gets Govt. Panel’s Nod for Covovax Trials on Children</b>  The Indian Express  July 27, 2021</p>	<p>There have been reports of serious diseases, including the deaths of vulnerable children. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandavia told BJP MPs that Covid vaccination for children may begin soon. “The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) deliberated on the revised study protocol application given by Serum Institute of India (SII) and recommended granting <a href="#">permission</a> to the firm for conducting phase 2/3 trial of Covovax on children aged 2 to 17 years,” a source said.</p>
<p><b>India Must Use, Share Covid Data Transparently</b>  <i>By Kiran Majumdar Shaw</i>  Economic Times  July 26, 2021</p>	<p>A lack of sufficient vaccines has hampered India’s drive to inoculate a majority of its population by year-end, according to Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, who emphasised the need to speedily ramp up domestic production of vaccines. Decrying the country’s <a href="#">“lack of scientific temperament”</a>.</p>

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<p><b>India's Vaccination Bill Nears Rs.100 Billion</b>  <i>By Nidhi Sharma</i>  The Economic Times  July 24, 2021</p>	<p>According to data from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the center spent 80,710.9 billion rupees on <a href="#">vaccine purchases</a>, and an additional 16.54 billion rupees for the running costs of vaccination. The first communication to the two vaccine manufacturers – Bharat Biotech and Serum Institute of India was sent on January 10, six days before the vaccination drive rollout.</p>
<p><b>What's India's Vax output? There's No Sure Shot Reply</b>  <i>By Rema Nagarajan</i>  The Times of India  July 24, 2021</p>	<p>According to the manufacturer's report, the monthly production capacity of Covishield vaccine will increase from 11 crore doses per month to more than 12 crore doses per month, and plans to increase Covaxin <a href="#">production capacity</a> from 2.5 crore doses to an increase in monthly doses.</p>
<p><b>Low Income Countries Can Add \$38 bn to GDP in'21 With Vaccine Equity</b>  <i>By Neetu Chandra Sharma</i>  Live Mint  July 22, 2021</p>	<p>There will be a lasting and profound impact on the socio-economic recovery in low- and lower-middle-income countries without urgent actions <a href="#">to boost supply</a> and assure equitable vaccine access for every country. Low-income countries would add \$38 billion (about ₹2.8 trillion) to their gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for 2021 if they had the same vaccination rate as high-income countries, showed new data released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the University of Oxford.</p>
<p><b>Delta's Dominant Also Causing Most Post-Vaccine Infections</b>  <i>By Sushmi Dey</i>  The Times of India  July 22, 2021</p>	<p>The Indian SARS-CoV2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) said the importance of vaccination and the need to continue Appropriate Covid Behaviours (such as wearing masks, maintaining physical distance and hand hygiene): "The ongoing epidemic in India is related to deltas, vulnerable populations, and opportunities for <a href="#">transmission-spread</a> and Vaccination is still critical.</p>
<p><b>Vaccine Inequality at Home and Across the World</b>  <i>By Rashmi Kundu</i>  Mint  July 22, 2021</p>	<p>The World Health Organization-backed Covax initiative was aimed at ensuring that poor countries would be able to access vaccines easily. However, the reality has been quite different. Data published by <a href="#">UNICEF</a> shows that of the 50 countries that have received the most number of vaccines through the initiative</p>
<p><b>67% of Indians have Corona Antibodies</b>  <i>By Neetu Chandra Sharma</i>  Live Mint  July 21, 2021</p>	<p>The latest national serological survey found that more than two-thirds of Indians (800 million) have developed antibodies against the coronavirus, indicating that the <a href="#">actual infection</a> may be seriously underestimated in the second wave of deaths.</p>

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<p><b>Face-off: Should India adopt compulsory vaccinations for the greater good?</b>  <i>By Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal and Parth J Shah</i>  The Times of India  July 16, 2021</p>	<p>Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal: “Extraordinary situations require extraordinary measures. Mandatory jabs can help us achieve herd immunity, protect the vulnerable as well as the capacity of the healthcare system”.</p> <p>Parth J Shah: “In a war, it is reasonable to let the state define public good. But <a href="#">Covid is different</a>. Why compel people when the success of the vaccine does not require each and every one to be vaccinated, just enough numbers to achieve herd immunity?</p>
<p><b>Number of Vaccination Sites Falls by 28% in July</b>  <i>By Rashmi Kundu</i>  Live Mint  July 16, 2021</p>	<p>Due to growing concerns about the third wave of Covid19 infections, India’s access to vaccination has deteriorated, and the average number of active vaccination centres in the country in the first two weeks of July has fallen by 28% <a href="#">compared to the past 10 weeks</a> (Paywall). In June, the Union government took over the distribution of vaccines in the states.</p>
<p><b>Take Vaccines to People Instead of Drawing Them to Vax Centres</b>  <i>By Anurag Behar</i>  Live Mint  July 15, 2021</p>	<p>Our capacity to vaccinate will soon affect our campaign to fight the pandemic. Vulnerable groups have been <a href="#">hit hardest</a> (Paywall). So far, the shortage of vaccines in India has masked the performance problems of our vaccination system and the public's demand for vaccination. As dose delivery improves, these gaps become more pronounced.</p>
<p><b>Vaccines for all by year-end looks like a hopeless dream</b>  <i>By Neetu Chandra Sharma</i>  Live Mint  July 13, 2021</p>	<p>Faced with <a href="#">insufficient vaccination</a> (Paywall) and limited vaccination options, the government's Target of fully vaccinating all adults before the end of the year seems to be a hopeless dream. The total people left to be vaccinated as of July 7, 2021 with dose one was 785 million, and with both the doses, it is 1.01 billion</p>
<p><b>Sanofi, GSK Get Nod for Phase3 Trial of Covid19 Vaccine in India</b>  <i>By Leroy Leo</i>  Live Mint  July 8, 2021</p>	<p>French pharmaceutical Sanofi and its British partner GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) said they have received the <a href="#">approval</a> of the drugs controller general of India to conduct a part of the global phase-3 effectuality trial of their collectively developed Covid-19 vaccine in India.</p>
<p><b>Won't recognise your vaccine certificates if you don't clear Covaxin, Covishield: India to EU</b>  <i>By Indrani Bagchi</i>  The Times of India  July 1, 2021</p>	<p>India will not recognise EU’s digital Covid certificate until the EU includes Indian vaccines Covishield and Covaxin in the certificate. In what is certainly the first diplomatic retaliatory move against vaccine nationalism, India has said it will <a href="#">only recognise</a> EU digital Covid certificate on a reciprocal basis. The EU “green Pass” is expected to come into effect from July 1. The EU Digital Covid certificate, known as the "Green Pass," will exempt those who are fully vaccinated with vaccine approved by EU from mandatory quarantine.</p>