



'HAR GHAR DASTAK 2.0' Campaign: Effective Monitoring Will Increase Vaccination Numbers in India

01 May–31 May, 2022

The Serum Institute of India (SII) dropped the price of each dosage of the vaccine from Rs. 900 to Rs. 225, excluding taxes, the day after its Covid shot, Covovax was added to the CoWIN site for inoculation of children aged 12–17 years at private vaccination centers.

Union Health Secretary, Rajesh Bhushan asked the states to follow the 'First Expiry First Out' principle, wherein vaccine doses that are approaching their expiry date should be used first. The Health Ministry will conduct a 'Har Ghar Dastak 2.0' campaign during June and July. The aim is to vaccinate eligible population groups for the first, second, and precaution doses through door-to-door campaigns. The Health Minister urged the states and union territories to undertake effective monitoring with micro-plans.

Acknowledging India's vaccination programme, Bill Gates has reflected on the lessons from the pandemic and how to prevent the next one in his new book, 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic.'

Prime Minister Modi has called for the reform of the UN agency and for streamlined vaccination and therapeutic approval procedures in order to ensure the global supply chain's stability.

In light of this, the tenth edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) captures a variety of viewpoints expressed through select write-ups, op-eds, articles and news etc. in the month of May 2022, with a focus on precaution dose price, a new campaign, Bill Gates' new book and a streamlined drug approval process.

	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1.	<p>India's Vaccination Record- One of the Best for its Income Level: Bill Gates</p> <p>By Bodhisatva Ganguli</p> <p>May 1, 2022</p> <p><i>E T Bureau</i></p>	<p>Since early 2020, the world has been rocked by successive waves of the Covid 19 pandemic. Fortunately, the severity of the disease caused by the virus has been significantly mitigated by widespread vaccination. The development of vaccines, notably in India, has benefited from funding by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In a new book, ' How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' the foundation's co-chairman Bill Gates reflects on the lessons from the pandemic and how to prevent the next one.</p>
2.	<p>Remove Curbs Against Unvaxxed for Now: Supreme Court</p> <p>By Utkarsh Anand</p> <p>May 2, 2022</p> <p><i>Hindustan Times</i></p>	<p>The Supreme Court of India asked governments and private institutions to consider recalling orders prohibiting access to services to people not vaccinated against Covid-19, even as it affirmed the efficacy of the vaccines in reducing the risk of mortality.</p>
3.	<p>Serum Institute Lowers Price of Covovax</p> <p>By PTI</p> <p>May 4, 2022</p> <p><i>Healthworld.Com/The Economics Time</i></p>	<p>The Director for Government and Regulatory Affairs, SII has communicated to the government that the firm is reducing the price of each dose from 900 to 225 plus goods and services tax (GST) for private hospitals.</p>
4.	<p>Govt. Unlikely to Allow Different Vaccine as Covid Booster</p> <p>By Teena Thacker</p> <p>May 11, 2022</p> <p><i>The Economics Times</i></p>	<p>The government is unlikely to allow a booster shot that is different from the primary Covid-19 vaccine, as a study conducted by Christian Medical College, Vellore.</p>
5.	<p>WHO Vax Approval Process Needs to be Reformed: Modi</p> <p>By Sushmi Dey</p> <p>May 13, 2022</p> <p><i>The Times of India</i></p>	<p>Amid an ongoing dispute between India and the World Health Organization, PM Narendra Modi called for reforming the UN agency and streamlining its approval process for vaccines and therapeutics to ensure stability of global supply chain.</p>

6.	<p>Flying Abroad? You Don't Have to Wait for Nine Months for Covid Booster</p> <p>May 13, 2022</p> <p><i>The Times of India</i></p>	<p>Indian citizens and students travelling overseas can now take the precaution dose as required by the guidelines of the destination country. People travelling abroad can now take the Covid-19 precaution dose, before the end of their stipulated nine month waiting period for the booster shot.</p>
7.	<p>More People Opting for Third Covid Dose in Delhi, since it was Made Free</p> <p>By Anonna Dutt May 17, 2022</p> <p><i>The Indian Express</i></p>	<p>There has been an increase in the number of people taking the third Covid precaution dose in Delhi after the government made it available for free across age groups, with the number of precaution doses administered over the last one week crossing doses one and two for the first time.</p>
8.	<p>Confusion as Vax Centres Seek Travel Proof for Boosters</p> <p>By Sumitra Deb Roy May 19, 2022</p> <p><i>The Times of India</i></p>	<p>The rules about administration of booster dose before nine months to those travelling abroad are mired in a lot of confusion. Primarily, the centre has said that those taking precautionary dose need not to produce any travel documents.</p>
9.	<p>Govt. Raises Flag Over Drop in Covid Vaccination</p> <p>By Priyanka Sharma May 20, 2022</p> <p><i>Mint</i></p>	<p>Covid-19 vaccine is a precious national resource and there should be no wastage of vaccines at any cost. This must be ensured through active monitoring and on basis of "First Expiry First Out" principle, where doses that expire earlier should be used for vaccination first</p>
10.	<p>As Pace of Jabs Slows, States Told to Plan for Door-to-Door Vax Drive</p> <p>May 21, 2022</p> <p><i>The Times of India</i></p>	<p>Raising concerns over considerably slow pace of Covid-19 vaccination across states and UTs, the centres has urged them to significantly step up pace and expedite full vaccination coverage to all eligible beneficiaries.</p>
11.	<p>Cowin to Host More Vaccine Programmes</p> <p>By Priyanka Sharma May 27, 2022</p> <p><i>Mint</i></p>	<p>Discussions are on to repurpose CoWIN platform to accommodate the universal immunization programme for providing vaccination to children and pregnant mothers against preventable diseases.</p>

<p>12.</p>	<p>NTAGI to Firm up its Vax Protocols for Kids</p> <p>By Priyanka Sharma May 27, 2022</p> <p><i>Mint</i></p>	<p>NTAGI's sub-committee meeting will be held in June to discuss the matter for kids' vaccination below 12 years of age," said a person in the know of the matter adding that no decision was taken in this regard in previous meetings.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Jabs Effective Against BA.4 & BA.5; Infections Are Mild: NTAGI</p> <p>By Nisha Nambiar May 30, 2022</p> <p><i>The Times of India</i></p>	<p>Studies indicate vaccination cuts risk of long Covid by nearly 30-40%. It said that the risk from new variants and sub lineages remains and complete immunisation will keep the infection mild, minimize possibility of hospitalization.</p>