



Insignificant Takers for Booster Jabs: Government Worried With Unsatisfactory Response

01 June–30 June, 2022

India outperformed all other countries in COVID-19 vaccine coverage with 1.97 billion doses in such a short period of time. However, just 7% of people between the ages of 18 and 60 and 40% of people over the age of 60 have received booster doses. Adolescent vaccination coverage is around 62% in the 15–17 age group, but only about 26% of the 7.11 crore adolescents aged 12–14 have received both doses of the COVID vaccine.

The government is concerned about the low utilization of covid-19 booster doses, so the Health Ministry announced the start of the second leg of the "Har Ghar Dastak 2.0" campaign, or door-to-door vaccination drive, till July 31st. The aim is to accelerate the pace of COVID vaccination in the country.

On the other side, Corbevax became the first vaccine approved as a heterologous Covid-19 booster dose. The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) granted Corbevax as a COVID booster dose: adults fully vaccinated with Covishield or Covaxin can take Corbevax as their third or booster shot. Corbevax can be given six months after the administration of the second dose.

In light of this, the eleventh 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 June, 2022, with a focus on India's historical performance, second phase of campaign, and a first heterologous Covid-19 booster dose.

	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1	<p>Serious Adverse Cases Post-Covid Shots Just 2,160</p> <p>By Priyanka Sharma June 01, 2022 <i>Mint</i></p>	<p>India's top vaccine advisory body came across a total of 2,160 "severe and serious" adverse events after covid-19 vaccination over the last year and a half, accounting for only 2.7% of 80,000 Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) cases.</p>
2	<p>2nd Phase of Door to Door Covid Vax Drive</p> <p>June 02, 2022 <i>Medical Buyer</i></p>	<p>Being implemented in "Mission Mode", the Har Ghar Dastak 2.0 drive will continue till 31 July, and aim to cover all eligible beneficiaries of first and second dose of Covid vaccines.</p>
3	<p>Corbvax Gets DCGI's Nod as Covid Booster Dose for Adults</p> <p>By Meghna Sen June 04, 2022 <i>Mint</i></p>	<p>Pharmaceutical company Biological E Ltd (BE) stated that the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had approved their Covid-19 vaccine, Corbevax, as a booster shot for adults 18 and older following their initial immunisation with two doses of Covishield and Covaxin.</p>
4	<p>Amid Covid-19 Surge, Health Ministry Asks States Not to Lower Guard</p> <p>By Vasudha Venugopal June 10, 2022 <i>The Economics Times</i></p>	<p>Amid a spike in Covid-19 cases, the Union health ministry on Thursday wrote to the states asking them to step up surveillance and take pre-emptive measures to limit the spread of infection. It specifically flagged the surge in cases in Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and Karnataka and said these states were contributing over 81% to the daily tally of cases in the country.</p>
5	<p>Covaxin Booster Beats Back Delta, Omicron Variants: NIV</p> <p>By Sushmi Dey June 16, 2022 <i>The Times of India</i></p>	<p>According to a new study conducted on hamsters by Pune's National Institute of Virology, a booster dosage of Covaxin broadens its efficacy against the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and even protects against Omicron variants-BA.1.1 and BA.2.</p>
6	<p>Reduce the Gap for Covid Booster Dose to 6 Months: NTAGI</p> <p>June 17, 2022 <i>The Times of India</i></p>	<p>The Standing Technical Sub-Committee (STSC) of the NTAGI recommended reducing the gap between the second and precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines from the current nine to six months.</p>

7	<p>Covaxin Safe for Kids Aged 2-18, Found As Effective As in Adults</p> <p>By Teena Thacker June 18, 2022 <i>The Economic Times</i></p>	<p>Bharat Biotech's locally developed Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, has proven to be safe, well-tolerated and highly immunogenic in children aged 2-18 years in phase 2/3 trials, according to the results of the study published in the Lancet medical journal.</p>
8	<p>Coming Soon: World's First Nasal Covid Vaccine</p> <p>June 21, 2022 <i>The Times of India</i></p>	<p>The clinical phase III trials of the Covid-19 nasal vaccine of Bharat Biotech are now complete and the data will reportedly be submitted to the regulators next month.</p>
9	<p>Bharat Biotech's Covaxin Induces Wider Immune Response, Say Experts</p> <p>June 22, 2022 <i>Business Standard</i></p>	<p>The CMC Vellore study found out a third Covaxin after two Covaxin increases antibodies six times but from a very low base; a third Covishield after two Covishield increases antibodies 6.8 times but from a very much higher base; whereas a third Covaxin after two Covishield only increases antibodies 2.5 times.</p>
10	<p>Booster Jobs Find No Takers, Govt. Worried</p> <p>By Priyanka Sharma June 23, 2022 <i>Mint</i></p>	<p>The government is concerned about the low utilization of covid-19 booster doses, with only 7% of 18-60-year-olds and 40% of over-60s given the jab so far. Overall, India has administered 42.2 million booster doses, prompting the government to start planning a sensitization programme to encourage people to get the jab.</p>
11	<p>1.1L Doses Near Expiry, Mega Vax Drive Planned</p> <p>June 23, 2022 <i>ET Healthworld.Com</i></p>	<p>Indore health department is contemplating to run a mega vaccination drive once again to exhaust around 1.10 lakh doses in the stock before the same expires in next 45 days.</p>
12	<p>Vaccination May Have Prevented 19.8 Million Deaths</p> <p>Teena Thacker June 24, 2022 <i>The Economic Times</i></p>	<p>The first modelling study to quantify the impact of Covid-19 vaccines estimated that vaccines prevented 19.8 million out of a potential 31.4 million deaths globally in the first year after they were introduced.</p>

13	<p>Indian Scientists Studying Long-term Memory of Covid-19 Vaccination</p> <p>By Priyanka Sharma June 27, 2022 <i>Mint</i></p>	<p>Department of Biotechnology's (DBT) secretary Rajesh Gokhale said: "Given the large-scale covid-19 vaccination in the country, the study aims to understand long-term immune responses in the population.</p>
14	<p>Health Authorities Renewed an Urgent Plea for People to Take Covid-19 Booster Jabs</p> <p>By Priyanka Sharma June 28, 2022 <i>Mint</i></p>	<p>Health authorities renewed an urgent plea for people to take covid-19 booster jabs after research published in a prestigious scientific journal showed that the first two doses alone aren't enough to suppress the Omicron sub-variants that are surging in India.</p>
15	<p>Panel Recommends Emergency Nod for India's First mRNA Vax</p> <p>By Teena Thackar June 29, 2022 <i>The Economic Times Bureau</i></p>	<p>The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) under India's drug regulator has recommended granting the Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) to the country's first mRNA based Covid-19 vaccine.</p>