



Covid-19 Vaccination: Higher Uptake in Rural Areas Boosting India's Vaccination Numbers

03 August – 29 September, 2021

Rural India administered a huge number of doses during the period of August-September, 2021 with more than double the number of jabs given in urban areas. On an average 45-46 lakh doses were given in villages every day during the period, whereas an average 21.21 lakh doses were administered in urban areas per day. Rural areas also registered higher week-on-week growth of over 18% in average daily vaccinations during the aforesaid period, as against the previous days. In urban areas, daily inoculation jumped by around 14% week-on-week.

With many still reluctant to take the Covid vaccine, the government needs to ensure an effective communication strategy with compelling storytellers to change people's perceptions. Originator Chief, Local Circles said that people stay reluctant to make the efforts, the cross country vaccination drive might burn out towards the finish of this current year, when the nation is relied upon to have sufficient vaccine stock.

Over the past month, the 30 most populous districts in India, accounting for roughly a sixth of India's population, have reduced the number of active Covid cases to 45,349. The number of deaths and weekly new cases have also dropped, enabling relaxation of lockdown rules. However, there still exist vaccination coverage differences, which raise concerns about resurgence in cases in some of these districts.

In this background, this second edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) captures various opinions expressed on this matter by way of selective write ups, op-eds, articles and news etc. in the month of August and September, 2021, specifically on vaccination uptakes in rural areas and also different opinion on reactions and safety aspects in mixing of two types of vaccines.

	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1	<p>What's causing delay in WHO's Covaxin approval? <i>By Mythreyee Ramesh</i> The Quint September 29, 2021</p>	<p>NDTV reported, quoting sources, that the World Health Organization (WHO) has further delayed the emergency use authorisation (EUA) for the vaccine, as it has more technical queries that Bharat Biotech needs to answer before it gets approval. This comes even as the health ministry hinted that EUA from the WHO was imminent.</p>
2	<p>In Perspective: The booster dose conundrum for India <i>By Binayak Dasgupta</i> Hindustan Times September 27, 2021</p>	<p>Last days, the United States became the latest country to allow booster doses of Covid-19 vaccines to be given to at least some people. The evidence does support that people in higher age groups and those with suppressed immunity should be offered a booster dose. But for a country, where less than a quarter of the eligible population has been fully vaccinated, this will not be an easy choice.</p>
3	<p>WHO nod for Covaxin likely this month ET Healthworld September 14, 2021</p>	<p>The World Health Organization's approval for the indigenous Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, developed by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, is likely to come this month.</p>
4	<p>75 crore vaccine doses a global beacon in fight against Covid-19 <i>By Mansukh Mandaviya</i> The Times of India September 14, 2021</p>	<p>With the massive support of state governments, India has been able to accelerate and expand its Covid-19 vaccination drive. The promise made by our PM of free vaccines for all is being met by Centre that is supporting all states and UTs with free of cost vaccines.</p>
5	<p>In Lancet review, scientists say boosters not needed for most The Times of India September 14, 2021</p>	<p>Published in Lancet medical journal, experts said that whatever advantage boosters provide would not outweigh the benefit of using those doses to protect the billions of people who remain unvaccinated worldwide. Booster may be useful in some people with weak immune systems, they said, but are not yet needed for the general population.</p>
6	<p>WHO envoy warns of increasing risk of Covid variants evading vaccines By Hindustan Times September 13, 2021</p>	<p>Variations that can beat the security presented by immunisations will undoubtedly arise all around the world in the coming months and a long time," David Nabarro, the WHO emissary, said in a meeting Monday, September 13, with Bloomberg TV.</p>

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7	<p>Private hospitals offer discount on vaccines <i>By Neetu Chandra Sharma</i> Livemint September 10, 2021</p>	A few private vaccination clinics across India are offering limits on Coronavirus antibodies that are moving toward expiry dates, as individuals decide to get free hits from government focuses.
8	<p>One dose is 96% effective in preventing death, shows data The Economic Times September 10, 2021</p>	The information shows that a single shot of Coronavirus vaccination is 96.6% viable in forestalling demise. This productivity turns out to be better as it increments to 97.5% with the two antibodies. "Inoculation is the main safeguard against the infection ," said VK Paul, Niti Aayog member (health).
9	<p>The challenges of our vaccination drive's final stretch <i>By Anurag Behar</i> Livemint September 09,2021</p>	To revive the speed of Coronavirus vaccination and its impartial conveyance, we are working with more than 500 Essential Medical services Places (PHCs) across 12 states.
10	<p>HUL ties up with the Centre for study on vaccine efficacy <i>By Sagar Malviya</i> The Economic Times September 07, 2021</p>	The country's greatest shopper products firm will support just as loan its exploration office to assist with understanding safe reactions to SARS-CoV-2 among inoculated individuals.
11	<p>PM cautions against Covid threat even as vaccination drive gathers steam Livemint August 30, 2021</p>	In excess of 62 crore (620 million) vaccine doses have been managed in the nation, yet at the same time we must be cautious, be watchful," Modi said in his monthly radio address 'Mann ki Baat', and urged individuals to get inoculated and play it safe.
12	<p>Half of India's adults have now got at least one dose of vaccine <i>By Sushmi Dey</i> The Times of India August 27, 2021</p>	Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan featured that the centre has asked states to increase vaccination, especially inclusion of second portion of the dose, with better availability of vaccines.
13	<p>We need more Covaxin to meet our vaccination target <i>By Rashmi Kundu</i> Livemint August 27, 2021</p>	India has completely vaccinated 10% of its populace and to some degree inoculated 34% of its populace up until now. Starting at 25 August, 525 million Covishield portions and 73 million Covaxin dosages (Paywall) have been controlled.

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14	<p>Let science decide whether to vaccinate kids or not <i>By Chandrakant Lahariya</i> Livemint August 24, 2021</p>	<p>Patients, who required no medicine were regularly endorsed a scope of antibiotic, steroids and even blood thinners. This was demand driven (people were effectively demanding treatments like improving plasma) just as supply.</p>
15	<p>Government to bar placebos in trials of new Covid jabs <i>By Teena Thacker</i> The Economic Times August 21, 2021</p>	<p>The Government intends to prohibit the utilisation of fake treatment in clinical preliminaries of forthcoming Corona virus antibodies and, all things being equal, organisations can utilise a current immunisation to evaluate the immunogenicity and viability of the new vaccine, people aware of the development told ET.</p>
16	<p>Drug regulator okays Zydus' three-dose Covid-19 shot <i>By Teena Thacker</i> The Economic Times August 21, 2021</p>	<p>The Indian drug regulator has given emergencies use authorisation (EUA) to Zydus Cadila's three-portion Coronavirus antibody, the Ministry of science and innovation said.</p>
17	<p>Pfizer, Astra Zeneca jabs less effective against Delta variant, says study Business Standard August 19, 2021</p>	<p>The researcher, notwithstanding, noticed that with Delta, Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and Oxford-AstraZeneca preventive, known as Covishield in India, actually offer great assurance against new infections. Two dosages of either immunisation actually gave basically a similar level of security as having had Corona virus before through natural disease, they said.</p>
18	<p>Trials on mixing of vaccine need cautious interpretation: WHO <i>By Neetu Chandra Sharma</i> Livemint August 12, 2021</p>	<p>The WHO expert panel is likewise looking into arising proof on the requirement for and timing of an extra vaccine dose -booster dose 1--for the currently available covid-19 vaccines.</p>
19	<p>SC refuses to intervene on plea against making vaccine must <i>By Amit Anand Choudhary</i> The Times of India August 10, 2021</p>	<p>The bench refrained from passing any direction on other issues relating to vaccine, saying it may seed doubt in the minds of people. Advocate Prahant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, said he did not seek any direction to stop the vaccination drive, but it should not to be mandatory.</p>

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20	<p>Mixing of Covishield, Covaxin safe; elicits better immunity: ICMR study <i>By Neetu Chandra Sharma</i> Livemint August 08, 2021</p>	<p>Vaccination with a combination of first dose of Covishield followed by second dose of Covaxin isn't just protected yet additionally inspires better immunogenicity, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said referring to its preprint research.</p>
21	<p>J&J single-dose Covid vax gets emergency use nod <i>By Sushmi Dey and Rupali Mukherjee</i> The Times of India August 08, 2021</p>	<p>As of now, the government is not inclined to give indemnity to foreign manufacturers. We have our own manufacturers and vaccines, there is no reason why we should be arm-twisted, a senior official told TOI.</p>
22	<p>How faith and politics mix with vaccines <i>By Tauseef Shahidi</i> Livemint August 03, 2021</p>	<p>Those lower on the income and education ladder lag behind in vaccination, the latest round (Paywall) of the YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey shows.</p>