



India's Celebration of 1 Billion Doses: A Tremendous Feat in Just Nine Months

01 October – 31 October, 2021

On October 21, India reached a milestone of 100 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccination, nearly nine months after the campaign began. Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked doctors, nurses, and everyone else who contributed to the achievement. "India writes history," he tweeted. We are seeing the victory of Indian science, business and 130 crore Indians' collective spirit. Congratulations on reaching the milestone of 100 million vaccines in India. Thank you to our physicians, nurses, and everyone else who helped us achieve our goal.

The figure is especially notable because more than 65 percent of all vaccines delivered in India were administered in rural areas, indicating better parity in vaccine access. In sharp contrast, while public health professionals have raised concerns about vaccination inequities, estimates show that just about 3% of people in low-income nations have received a single dose.

On the other hand, Social media divided along predictable lines. Pro-government commentators, Twitter handles and news media celebrated it with unbridled praise for the government, attributing the "achievement" to Modi's leadership and vision. Opposition voices pointed out the slow start, the disastrous second wave, and the obvious point that only a third of adults had been given both doses.

In this background, this third 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 October, 2021, specifically India's journey towards 100 crore vaccination feat in just nine months.

Article/Op-ed		Key Takeaway
1	<p>Vax certification: India hits UK with reciprocal action</p> <p>The Economics Times October 01, 2021</p>	British nationals arriving in India, irrespective of their vaccination status, will have to undergo 10 days of mandatory quarantine from October 4 as part of the reciprocal actions initiated by the government following the vaccine <u>certification</u> row between the two countries.
2	<p>For now, several nation adopt 1-dose vaccine strategy for kids</p> <p><i>By Apoorva Mandavilli</i> The New York Times October 6, 2021</p>	While parents in the United States face difficult decisions about whether or not to vaccinate their children against the <u>coronavirus</u> , families in other nations have been given a novel option: giving children only one dose of the vaccine.
3	<p>Regulator to review Covaxin trial data for use in children</p> <p><i>By Teena Thacker</i> The Economic Times October 08, 2021</p>	The company this week submitted "interim data" from its <u>vaccine</u> trial in children aged 2 to 18 years to the drug regulator, becoming the country's first company to have tested its Covid jab on children of this age group.
4	<p>India looks pacts with nations to get vax certificate recognised</p> <p>The Economics Times October 09, 2021</p>	India has mounted a major diplomatic effort to approach countries individually for stitching up country-specific bilateral arrangements to recognise Indian <u>vaccination</u> certificates, assuring reciprocal recognition to their certificate in return.
5	<p>Jabs find way to poor states finally as rich ones get nearly done</p> <p><i>By Tanay Sukumar</i> October 16, 2021</p>	The seven richest states have given 81% of their adults the first dose, while the seven poorest have covered just 69%. Almost 37% of adults in the <u>rich</u> group are fully vaccinated, but the share is 22% in the poorest states.
6	<p>More than 300 covid-19 vaccines are being developed: WHO</p> <p><i>By Neetu Chandra Sharma</i> Mint October 19, 2021</p>	According to the latest update of landscape of novel coronavirus vaccines candidate development worldwide, compiled and maintained by <u>WHO</u> , 126 vaccines are in clinical development and 194 vaccines are in pre-clinical development stages.
7	<p>FDA expected to allow 'mix & match' approach for boosters</p> <p>The Times of India October 19, 2021</p>	The government would not recommend one shot over another, and it may note that using the same vaccine as booster, when possible is preferable, people familiar with the agency's planning said. But vaccine <u>providers</u> could use their discretion to offer a different brand, a freedom that state to health officials have been requesting for weeks.

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8	<p>Why you will need one more shot to stay safe from Covid <i>By Abhilash Gaur</i> Times of India October 21, 2021</p>	Covid vaccines were made in the middle of a pandemic with the mantra of less is more but now that supplies have improved, experts say it's time to consider giving three <u>doses</u> for optimum protection.
9	<p>WHO considering solidarity trials for covid-19 vaccines <i>By Divya Rajagopal</i> Mint October 21, 2021</p>	The World Health Organization is in talks with vaccine makers to start a solidarity trial for covid-19 vaccines that is <u>modelled</u> on the lines of a global solidarity trial for therapeutics, said people aware of the development.
10	<p>A potential side-effect of India's billionth dose Mint October 21, 2021</p>	Coronavirus has granted us few moments to pat ourselves on the back, with past heaves of relief suffocated all too soon, but it is clearly <u>good</u> news that three-fourths of our adults have now been covered by at least a single dose.
11	<p>Covishield may offer over 90% protection against Delta: Study The Economic Times October 21, 2021</p>	During this period, 115,000 people tested positive for COVID-19 through a PCR test conducted in the community, rather than in hospital, and there were 201 <u>deaths</u> recorded due to the virus.
12	<p>India achieves 'protective shield' of 1bn vaccinations <i>By Neetu Chandra Sharma</i> Mint October 22, 2021</p>	India has administered more than one billion jabs since it started its <u>covid-19</u> vaccination drive in January. While more than 31% of the eligible population has been fully vaccinated, 75% have received their first dose, the government said on Thursday.
13	<p>India crosses 100-crore COVID-19 vaccination doses milestone The Hindi October 22, 2021</p>	<u>PM</u> , Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to doctors, nurses and all those who worked on crossing the milestone. He tweeted, "India scripts history. We are witnessing the triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore Indians.
14	<p>Vax inequity lingers as India crosses 1 bn jabs <i>By Rashmi Kundu</i> Mint October 22, 2021</p>	India crossed the key landmark of administering 1 billion covid-19 vaccine doses on Thursday, having given half its population at least one shot. The <u>scale</u> has helped it address some of the distribution inequities over time, but not in full measure, data shows.
15	<p>100 cr shots in the arm The Times of India October 22, 2021</p>	Almost 75% of the eligible population has taken at least the first dose, with eight states and UTs achieving 100% coverage of the first dose. Four more than 90% coverage of the <u>first</u> dose, according to government data.

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16	<p>Team India – Responding to adversity with achievement</p> <p><i>By Narendra Modi Blog</i></p> <p>The Times of India October 22,2021</p>	<p>India completed vaccination of 100 crore doses on 21st October 2021, in just about 9 months since starting vaccination. This has been a tremendous journey in dealing with Covid-19, especially when we recall how things stood in early 2020. Humanity was <u>dealing</u> with such a pandemic after 100 years and no-one knew much about the virus.</p>
17	<p>Critical 3 months after the one billion dose landmark</p> <p><i>By Vinod Paul</i></p> <p>The Times of India October 23, 2021</p>	<p>A billion vaccinations represent a landmark for the country. Initially there were just over 3000 <u>vaccination</u> centers across the country, today there are more than 1 lakh.</p>
18	<p>WHO’s advisory group to meet tomorrow to decide on Covaxin</p> <p><i>By Teena Thacker</i></p> <p>October 25, 2021</p>	<p>According to the WHO, the duration of the <u>EUL assessment</u> process depends on how fast the company can provide the required data and information for WHO to be able to carry out the assessment.</p>
19	<p>Centre, states to discuss second dose of vaccination</p> <p><i>By Nidhi Sharma</i></p> <p>The Economic Times October 27, 2021</p>	<p>Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya will hold a meeting with health ministers of all states and union territories on Wednesday to discuss second dose coverage of <u>eligible</u> beneficiaries, a possible increase in Covid-19 cases around festival time.</p>
20	<p>India’s celebration of 1 billion doses: Dubious claims, mixed messaging, definitely premature</p> <p><i>By Jammi N Rao</i></p> <p>October 27, 2021</p>	<p>By the government’s <u>OWN</u> data, as of the evening of October 21, a total of 296.25 million Indians had received two doses of a vaccine. Assuming a total population of people aged 18 and over of 850 million, that works out to a coverage of adults of 34.8 percent.</p>
21	<p>US panel recommends Pfizer vaccine for younger children</p> <p>NDTV October 28, 2021</p>	<p>A <u>medical</u> panel of US government advisors endorsed the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine in five-to-11-year-olds Tuesday, paving the way for younger children to get their shots within weeks. The independent experts concluded the known benefits, both directly to kids' health but also in ending school and other disruptions -outweighed the known risks.</p>
22	<p>Travel Cos Expect More Nations to Accept Covaxin</p> <p><i>By Anumeha Chaturvedi</i></p> <p>The Economic Times October 29, 2021</p>	<p>Travel service providers expect more countries to ease travel requirements for Indians vaccinated with Covaxin even as the World Health Organization (WHO) this week sought additional <u>clarifications</u> from Bharat Biotech before granting emergency use licence (EUL) for its Covid vaccine.</p>