



**Vaccination for Kids & Booster to 60+, Two New Vaccines:
India's Fight Against Covid Variants Continues**

01 December–31 December, 2021

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved restricted emergency use authorization to two new vaccinations and a drug for COVID-19, taking to 12, the number of preventives and treatments licenced in India.

As Omicron variant spreads, India faces a policy dichotomy, whether to go for a booster dose or to increase vaccine coverage in India and continue supplying vaccines globally.

The Prime Minister stated that vaccination is a vital weapon in the fight against the pandemic. Even though children have been exposed to the pandemic's worst impacts, the enhanced transmissibility of omicron has raised disease risk. The decision to vaccinate children between the ages of 15-18 groups is likely to aid in education normalization in schools. PM also announced that from January 10, 2021, a precautionary dose will be provided for healthcare and frontline workers.

In this background, this fifth 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 December, 2021, specifically starting vaccination for kids of the age group 15-18 & booster dose to senior citizens and introduced two new vaccines.

	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1	<p>Karnataka to seek booster shots for frontline, health worker</p> <p>TNN</p> <p>December 2, 2021</p>	<p>Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said that he would speak to union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Delhi about giving Booster shots to healthcare <u>workers</u> and frontline workers in the state.</p>
2	<p>No Decision Yet On Vaccine For Kids, Booster Doses At NTAGI Meet</p> <p>E T Bureau</p> <p>By Teena Thacker</p> <p>December 02, 2021</p>	<p>The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), the leading Covid-19 advisory group in India, did not take any <u>decision</u> regarding jabs for children and booster shots for the immunocompromised at a meeting on Monday, people in the know told ET.</p>
3	<p>Not enough orders, may cut Covishield output by 50%: SII</p> <p>PTI</p> <p>ET Healthworld.com</p> <p>December 8, 2021</p>	<p>Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla said on Tuesday that the company is planning to cut monthly vaccine production by at least half due to a lack of orders from the center. SII has written to the <u>government</u> to clarify its requirements, if any, for usual two doses and booster doses for eligible patients.</p>
4	<p>Both India jabs lower mortality rate</p> <p>By Syed Akbar</p> <p>Times of India</p> <p>December 9, 2021</p>	<p>The death and recovery rates are similar for <u>people</u> vaccinated with either Covishield or Covaxin as both offer equal and similar protection in cases of breakthrough infection.</p>
5	<p>AZ to seek India nod for antibody cocktail</p> <p>By Viswanath Pilla</p> <p>ET Bureau</p> <p>December 10, 2021</p>	<p>The US Food and Drug Administration's EUA approval of AZD7442 for the prevention of Covid-19 is an important milestone globally... we have already initiated <u>engagements</u> with the relevant health authorities in India to provide them with the latest evidence," said Gagandeep Singh Bedi, managing director, AstraZeneca India Pharma.</p>
6	<p>Omicron no reason to rush booster decision</p> <p>By Sushmi Dey</p> <p>TNN</p> <p>December 14,2021</p>	<p>The clinical picture emerging worldwide is that Omicron is causing only mild disease. Even a third <u>dose</u> will not prevent acquisition of omicron.</p>
7	<p>Serum Institute's COVID-19 vaccine Covovax gets WHO approval for emergency use</p> <p>OpIndia</p> <p>December 17, 2021</p>	<p>WHO approved the emergency use for Serum Institute of India's <u>Covovax</u>, vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in partnership with the US-based Novavax, for showing excellent safety and efficacy?</p>

8	<p>113 countries accept India's COVID-19 vaccination certificate: Govt. in Rajya Sabha <i>PTI</i></p> <p>December 17, 2021</p>	<p>Vaccination certificate with some of them having explicitly reached agreements for mutual recognition of certificates with India, while others have their own protocols which apply to all inoculated travellers, the government informed the Rajya Sabha.</p>
9	<p>Does India have enough vaccines to deliver Covid-19 booster shots? By Tabassum Barnagarwala December 17, 2021</p>	<p>With two doses of vaccines proving to be less effective against the newly-detected Omicron variant of the coronavirus, many countries in Europe have stepped up their booster dose campaigns. Studies have shown that a third vaccine shot strengthens the body's immune response against the virus significantly.</p>
10	<p>Most of the World's Vaccines Likely Won't Prevent Infection from Omicron</p> <p><i>New York Times</i> December 20, 2021</p>	<p>Preliminary research on the response of various Covid-19 vaccines on the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 suggests that most of them, while offering some degree of protection against serious illness due to Omicron, are unlikely to prevent infection from this new variant, according to a report in the <i>New York Times</i>.</p>
11	<p>60% Adults in India fully vaccinated</p> <p><i>Co-WIN Dashboard/National Commission for Population</i> December 23, 2021</p>	<p>A Little over six out of every ten adults in India have now received both doses of their Covid-19 vaccine, data shows. A look at what it means for India's battle against virus, especially at a time when the country is trying to fend off rising cases of the Omicron variant, which may need a third round of shots.</p>
12	<p>Covishield third jab works against Omicron variant, says Oxford By Sohini Das <i>Business Standard</i> December 24, 2021</p>	<p>This brightens the scope for Serum Institute of India (SII), which makes Covishield, the Indian version of the Vaxzevria. Experts are of the opinion that mixing vaccine shots may give better results to boost immunity. However, the University of Oxford has supported the use of Vaxzevria as a third booster dose against Omicron.</p>
13	<p>Two more vaccines and a drug join India's fight against COVID-19 By Jacob Koshy <i>The Hindu</i> December 27, 2021</p>	<p>India has approved two more vaccines under emergency use authorisation and an antiviral drug, Molnupiravir, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted on Tuesday. Currently, India uses Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V in its vaccination programme.</p>
14	<p>Covid vaccination: Children between 15-18 years can register on CoWin from Jan 1, on-site from Jan 3</p> <p><i>Times of India</i> December 28, 2021</p>	<p>Children between 15 and 18 years can register online on CoWin from January 1 or on site at vaccination centres to receive Covaxin shots from January 3.</p>

15	<p>A game-changing pill and two new vaccines will bolster India's fight against Covid variants</p> <p><i>The Economic Times</i> December 28, 2021</p>	<p>India has granted Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) to Serum Institute of India's Covovax, Biological E's Corbevax and antiviral Covid-19 pill molnupiravir in a significant move. The new vaccines could possibly be used as booster shots in the days to come. With this nod, the number of Covid vaccines which have received emergency use authorisation is now eight.</p>
16	<p>8 vaccines, 4 treatments in India's COVID-19 arsenal</p> <p>December 28, 2021</p>	<p>The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved restricted emergency use authorization to two new vaccinations and a drug for COVID-19, taking to 12 the number of preventives and treatments licenced in India.</p>
17	<p>Covovax better booster for Covishield-vaccinated people</p> <p><i>The Economic Times</i> December 29, 2021</p>	<p>According to current data, Covovax, one of the COVID-19 vaccines approved in India, would be a better booster for individuals who received Covishield jabs than another dosage of the same vaccine, according to prominent virologist</p>
18	<p>Omicron heats up debate over jabs for children</p> <p><i>The Financial Times</i> December 30, 2021</p>	<p>As Omicron-led infections surge across Europe, a drive to vaccinate children aged five to 11 against Covid-19 is dividing opinion: while some parents welcome the opportunity to protect their young, others are unconvinced of the benefits to their health.</p>
19	<p>Are India's latest covid-19 vaccines more effective?</p> <p><i>By Divya Rajagopal</i> <i>Mint</i> December 31, 2021</p>	<p>India now has one of the largest baskets of covid-19 vaccines in the world. Earlier this week, the country approved two new vaccine candidates, taking the total to eight.</p>