

Editorial Analysis

22 Feb 2022



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Vaccine skirmishes: On production of COVID-19 vaccine

The article talks about vaccine production and the related IPR. The Biden administration's recent announcement to waive the IPR on covid 19 vaccines is on debate these days. It is significant to note that this relaxation proposal was placed way before the US election, where, while campaigning, Biden vowed to share vaccine technology with the needy countries.

Now that the US has come forward to fulfill its promise, it is being opposed by the EU nations. Germany argues that the move would lead to complications, while the French government has criticized "Anglo-Saxons" for obstructing the export of ingredients worldwide.

It is also argued that this IPR waiver would not solve the existent vaccine deficit. The author suggests that this waiver needs to be accompanied by technology transfer and the then manufactured vaccines must be accompanied by a scientific explanation of passing the safety test.

Also, the global supply chains need a regular check to avoid hindrances. Lastly, the countries need to share the extra stockpiles available with them. Also, the vaccine producers need to jointly address the deficit and help needy countries like India first.

Words to look out for

Rebuff:

- **Synonyms:** reject, spurn, repulse
- **Antonyms:** acceptance, welcome, accept
- **Word usage:** Since your offer does not benefit me, I will have to rebuff it and walk away empty-handed.

Skirmish:

- **Synonyms:** clash, battle, fight
- **Antonyms:** truce, peace, agreement
- **Word usage:** When the librarian wasn't looking, the children had a short skirmish over a book.

Salvo:

- **Synonyms:** volley, burst, barrage
- **Antonyms:** bit, drip, drivel
- **Word usage:** The soldier loaded his gun to complete the salvo.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/vaccine-skirmishes-on-production-of-covid-19-vaccine/article34529973.ece>

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The speedbreaker: Vaccine supply may trail demand for months. States must learn from Centre's missteps

The article focuses on the issue of vaccine deficit and production plans in the coming months. The policy of liberalization will surely take time to show up its effect. Meanwhile, the Centre's affidavit reveals that the production capacity of Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech has ramped up.

By July, the production is projected to exceed the target of producing 13 crore doses with 40 lakh jabs daily. The editor highlights the ambiguity and inconsistency in data and actual vaccine production worked against the country and with the opening up of the window for the 18+ age group, the target to get 59 crore population seems a distant reality.

The scenarios would have been different if the government had proper plans in place with upfront payments. The priority is now being given to the ones who have to take the second shot. Thus, the communication to the under-45 group needs to be passed on effectively that they need to wait.

The state governments must give out advance payments now and avoid grudging over it as the situation is too intense. India, during this wait time, needs to realize and practice the low-cost safety measure of masking and social distancing effectively.

Words to look out for

Earmark:

- **Synonyms:** set aside, allocate, reserve
- **Antonyms:** use, waste, decline
- **Word usage:** Politicians promised to earmark some of the budgets for the starting of new social programs.

Tack:

- **Synonyms:** fasten, nail, baste
- **Antonyms:** separate, disassemble, detach
- **Word usage:** We looked for several nails to hang the picture on the wall but could only find one small tack.

Futile:

- **Synonyms:** useless, pointless, vain
- **Antonyms:** productive, useful, fruitful
- **Word usage:** The losing team made a valiant but futile effort to catch up to their opponent.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/the-speedbreaker-vaccine-supply-may-trail-demand-for-months-states-must-learn-from-centres-missteps/>

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