

Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distant future

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SII ships first set of malaria vaccine doses to Africa

Welcome to the latest edition of Far and Wide, where we embark on a journey to explore intriguing stories and global developments.

The Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, celebrated a significant achievement with the dispatch of its first batch of R21/Matric-M malaria vaccines to several African countries.

According to the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, Malaria remains a major health challenge in Africa, claiming the lives of nearly half a million children annually. The **R21/Matric-M vaccine has been Developed by the University of Oxford and SII**, with Novavax's adjuvant technology and offers a highly efficacious solution against malaria. It is the second malaria vaccine approved for use in children in malaria-endemic regions, demonstrating high efficacy and a strong safety profile.

SII has produced **25 million doses of the vaccine**, with a **production capacity of 100 million doses per year**. On 20th May'2024, the first shipment of 43,200 doses was sent to the **Central African Republic (CAR)** out of the 1,63,800 doses allocated for the region. Additional shipments will soon reach countries like South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. SII's CEO, Adar Poonawalla, emphasized the vaccine's affordability and accessibility, highlighting its specific design for the African continent where the malaria parasite is prevalent.

US Ambassador Garcetti praised the initiative for African children, lauding SII's global health commitment. Silvia Taylor, executive vice-president of Novavax, highlighted the vaccine's child mortality reduction potential, stressing public vaccine trust. This milestone represents a significant advancement in the fight against malaria and highlights the successful collaboration between the Serum Institute of India, Novavax, the University of Oxford, and international partners.

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India, UK reach FTA breakthrough on mobility of persons, electric vehicles



Source: Mint

[India, UK reach FTA breakthrough on mobility of persons, electric vehicles | Mint \(livemint.com\)](https://www.livemint.com)

India and the UK are nearing the finalisation of a **free trade agreement (FTA)** following recent breakthroughs in negotiations that have been underway since January 2022. Despite certain differences, progress has been made, with potential agreements on work visas for **Indian professionals in the UK and the importation of premium electric vehicles to India.**

The Union Ministry of Commerce has prioritized the conclusion of the FTA within its 100-day post-poll agenda.

Intensive negotiations, **including 13 rounds of talks, have taken place with recent visits by both UK and Indian delegations.** Smooth proceedings of negotiations will lead the FTA to be signed before the UK elections next January.

However, unresolved issues include the provision for accompanying spouses in work visas and India's request for exemption from the proposed carbon tax. While the FTA aims **to boost trade volumes in goods and services**, there is a perception that it may benefit India more from a services standpoint. Despite delays, efforts are ongoing to address remaining challenges, including professional visas, tariffs on goods, and migration concerns.

North America

Amul milk launches in US: Key details of its new products and history

Amul, the Indian cooperative powerhouse, has recently introduced its renowned Amul milk to the US market. In a recent advertisement, Amul announced the arrival of **its milk products in the USA**, maintaining the same diverse range available in India. This venture into the US market is made possible through a partnership between the **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)** and the **108-year-old Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA)**. While MMPA handles milk collection and processing, GCMMF takes charge of marketing and **branding Amul fresh milk.**

Initially, Amul milk will be available in **key cities like New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Washington, Dallas, and Texas**, with plans for further expansion nationwide

Additionally, GCMMF Managing Director Jayen Mehta expressed ambitions to **extend Amul's presence beyond the US** to other countries, building on its existing exports to over 50 nations, primarily serving the vast Indian diaspora.

Moreover, in a bid to diversify its product range, Amul is launching a 'super milk' in India with 35 grams of protein per glass. Furthermore, the cooperative is venturing into the organic spices market, with plans to introduce organic masalas, jaggery, sugar, and more. Already, Amul has introduced high-protein versions of lassi, milkshakes, buttermilk, and whey protein on its e-commerce platform in India.



Source: Business Standard

[Amul milk launches in US: Key details of its new products and history | India News - Business Standard \(business-standard.com\)](https://www.business-standard.com)



Australia

New Zealand's envoy visits waste processing facility in Dehradun, Uttarakhand

The New Zealand High Commissioner to India, Patrick Rata, embarked on a notable visit to the material recovery facility of Waste Warriors, an environmental NGO based in Harrawala, Dehradun on 23rd May'2024. The move strengthened the burgeoning collaboration **between international entities in addressing pressing waste management issues.**

The Associate Director of Waste Warriors, **Mr. Naveen Kumar Sadana** highlighted the significance of fostering **global partnerships to tackle broader waste management challenges**, not confined to Dehradun but extending across the nation. He further elaborated on the delegation's engagement with the facility, the visit served as a platform **for knowledge exchange and exploration of potential collaborative avenues** in combating environmental degradation through effective waste management strategies.

Source: The Times of India
[New Zealand's envoy visits waste processing facility in Doon | Dehradun News - Times of India \(indiatimes.com\)](https://www.indiatimes.com)

Such interactions build up on the growing recognition of the importance of cross-border cooperation in addressing environmental concerns. The engagement between the **New Zealand High Commission** and Waste Warriors holds promise for catalysing innovative approaches to Waste Management not only within Dehradun but also on a national and **potentially global scale.**



Africa

Global Impact: SII's Malaria Vaccine en-route to Africa's Frontlines

The Serum Institute of India (SII) achieved a significant milestone by shipping the first batch of **R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine doses to several African countries.**

Developed by the University of Oxford and SII in collaboration with Novavax, this low-cost vaccine **shows high efficacy in combating malaria**, a disease claiming the lives of hundreds of thousands of African children annually. SII, **with a production capacity of 100 million doses per year**, dispatched 43,200 doses to the Central African Republic initially.

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of SII, emphasized that this vaccine primarily targets Africa due to the parasite's absence in India

Meanwhile, the **US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti**, **praised** SII's humanitarian efforts and highlighted ongoing work on a dengue fever vaccine. The initiative signifies a global commitment to saving lives, with Novavax and SII's partnership serving as a beacon of Indo-US collaboration.



Source: Indian Express
[SII ships first set of malaria vaccine doses to Africa \(indianexpress.com\)](https://www.indianexpress.com)