

## **Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 01- 16 May 2024**

During the fortnight spanning from **01 - 16 May 2024**, media tracking focused on the online editions of mainstream newspapers and various news portals, highlighting a spectrum of health-related topics such as Routine Immunization (RI), vaccine-preventable diseases, Measles and Rubella Elimination, Polio, HPV, Td, and AEFI.

A total of 104 news articles were identified across English, Hindi, and regional news portals, offering insights from both national and international perspectives. These articles presented a diverse range of viewpoints, including positive, neutral, and multi-perspective stances on Routine Immunization (RI) efforts.

Notably, approximately 39% of the coverage depicted RI efforts positively. However, specific cases, such as the increase in mumps cases in Delhi, the surge in post-COVID measles cases revealing significant vaccination gaps, and AstraZeneca's acknowledgment of rare side effects associated with its COVID-19 vaccine, Covishield, also received attention. Although these comprised only 3.8% of the overall coverage, they gained traction as these stories were also shared on various social media platforms, especially the news relating to Covidshield.

On the other hand, 57% of the coverage maintained a neutral or multi-perspective approach. Overall, the news related to immunization, policy perspectives, and stakeholder efforts was well represented in the general media landscape.

### **Reflection of News stories on Immunization during the fortnight (01- 16 May 2024)-at a glance**

<b>Name of Publication+F4:K23</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Mixed (Multi-perspective)</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Remark</b>	<b>Subject Covered</b>
Times of India -9	2	6	1	Spurt in post-Covid measles cases reveals big gaps in vaccination.	PCV, Covid, Measles, HPV
Hindustan Times - 2		1	1	Mumps cases rise in Delhi	Mump, Covid
Indian Express - 4		4			Mumps, Covid, Measles, Hep-A
The Hindu - 6	2	3	1	AstraZeneca admits Covishield's rare side effect	EPI, Covid, Polio, AEFI, Vaccine
Business Standard-2	1	1			U-Win, Mumps
Economic Times - 3		3			Measles, EPI, Vaccine
Business World -1			1	Measles Menace In Maharastra	Measles
Deccan Chronicle -1		1			Covid
The Tribune -2		2			HPV, RI
News 9 - 4		4			Mumps, Covid, EPI
Hindustan Hindi -1		1			Polio, EPI, Immunization
Dainik Bhaskar -4	4				RI, BCG, RVV
Amar Ujala- 3	1	1			TB, BCG
Gavi- 2	1	1			Imm,
BBC - 2		2			HIV, Measles
GPEI -2	1	1			Polio
WHO - 5	4	1			Malaria, EPI, Polio, HPV,
UNICEF- 4	2	2			Imm RI, Polio
Other web portal - 49	23	25			Covid, Mumps, Polio, HPV, U-Win, whooping cough, Measles, Vaccine, PHC

## Important stories with highlights

**The Hindu** reports that AstraZeneca has acknowledged in UK court documents that its COVID-19 vaccine can potentially cause TTS, a rare blood clotting side effect. However, doctors in India have indicated that this information is not new. They pointed out that the warning has been included in the vaccine inserts provided in India since its introduction to the general public. Indian doctors emphasize that AstraZeneca's court admission regarding Covishield's potential to cause blood clots does not present any new information.

**Read more:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/astrazenecas-submission-in-uk-court-nothing-new-say-doctors-over-covishields-potential-to-cause-blood-clots/article68125464.ece>

According to **Business Standard**, the government is planning to enable mothers to report any side effects from routine immunizations of their infants through the U-WIN platform. Previously, adverse events such as fever and rashes were recorded manually, with notifications sent to doctors. The U-WIN platform, part of the Universal Immunization Win initiative, aims to enhance public health by providing free vaccinations against 12 life-threatening diseases to millions of newborns and pregnant women each year. It also facilitates the registration and monitoring of routine vaccinations and immunizations.

**Read more:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/health/u-win-may-allow-mothers-to-track-and-report-vaccine-side-effects-on-babies-124050200330\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/health/u-win-may-allow-mothers-to-track-and-report-vaccine-side-effects-on-babies-124050200330_1.html)

**Hindustan Times** reports that following an outbreak in Kerala, mumps cases are now increasing in Delhi and the NCR, predominantly affecting children aged 6-7 years. The viral infection, caused by the paramyxovirus, results in a swollen face, painful salivary glands, fever, sore throat, and loss of appetite. Recently, cases have also been reported in Maharashtra, Hyderabad, and Telangana. Although the condition is usually self-limiting with manageable symptoms, in rare instances, it can lead to serious complications such as meningitis, which can be life-threatening, and deafness.

**Read more:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/lifestyle/health/mumps-cases-rise-in-delhi-ncr-watch-out-for-these-top-symptoms-preventive-tips-101714644657127.html>

**Hindustan Times** reports that amid concerns over TTS, a rare complication associated with Covishield, the Serum Institute of India (SII) had disclosed these side effects, including TTS, in the vaccine's packaging insert in 2021. Emphasizing safety as a priority, the company highlighted Covishield's role in saving millions of lives globally. The pharmaceutical giant has begun withdrawing the vaccine, citing a "surplus of available updated vaccines" in the market that target new variants of the virus.

**Read more:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/pune-news/disclosed-all-side-effects-of-covishield-vaccine-serum-institute-101715192361313.html>

**Business World** reports a concerning trend regarding measles vaccinations in Maharashtra. Over the past five years, more than 1.72 lakh children in the state missed their measles vaccinations, with the highest number of missed doses occurring in Malegaon, Greater Mumbai, Latur, Nanded, Solapur, Kolhapur, Bhiwandi, and Thane, according to a state health department survey. An official from the health department revealed that of the 1.72 lakh children who missed their vaccine shots, 81,882 missed the first dose and 90,510 missed the second. The state has documented 26 measles outbreaks, resulting in 6,421 suspected cases, 503 confirmed cases, and 8 fatalities.

**Read more:**

<https://businessworld.in/article/measles-menace-in-maharashtra-6421-suspected-cases-503-confirmed-cases-8-fatalities-454757>

**NDTV** reports on its online platform that the Supreme Court is set to hear a petition concerning a rare side effect associated with the COVID-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, and manufactured by the Serum Institute of India under the name Covishield. Although a hearing date has not yet been established, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud has acknowledged the issue. The petition calls for the formation of an expert panel to investigate the side effects and demands compensation for families of individuals who may have died after receiving the vaccine. However, an early hearing of the petition has been ruled out.

**Read more:**

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/covishield-side-effect-tts-supreme-court-agrees-to-hear-plea-over-covishield-side-effect-concern-5599239>

**Times of India** reports that more than one in nine eligible children across the nation did not receive any dose of the measles vaccine during the 2019-21 period, and nearly 30% received only one dose. This alarming statistic emerged after frequent measles outbreaks post-COVID prompted researchers from the health ministry's immunization division, Banaras Hindu University, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to scrutinize vaccination data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). In certain districts in Uttar Pradesh with high birth rates, the prevalence of zero-dose children was particularly high, reaching 34.2% in Prayagraj and 32.2% in Hapur. Additionally, almost all northeastern states reported a zero-dose prevalence of approximately 25%.

**Read more:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/spurt-in-post-covid-measles-cases-reveals-big-gaps-in-vaccination/articleshow/109959350.cms>

**The Telegraph** reports a shocking revelation that a US laboratory, responsible for a tragic incident that killed 10 children and infected 40,000 people with polio, later sold contaminated blood products to the NHS, resulting in widespread infection. Cutter Laboratories, the California-based company, was behind the tainted drug Factor VIII, which caused haemophiliacs to contract HIV and hepatitis C in the 1970s and 1980s. This same laboratory had previously produced a defective polio vaccine in the 1950s, leading to an outbreak of man-made polio cases in what became known as the "Cutter Incident." Pharmaceutical companies, including Bayer, which now owns Cutter, are expected

to face severe criticism in the final report of the Infected Blood Inquiry, set to be published on May 20. Approximately 1,250 people contracted HIV from infected blood products supplied by US pharmaceutical firms and sold to the NHS.

**Read more:**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/05/12/infected-blood-companys-cost-cutting-caused-polio-epidemic/>

**GPEI** reports in its news stories: “Red Card Against Polio.” Goal!!! The ball sailed past the goalkeeper’s outstretched hand, nestling into the top right corner, and the stadium erupted in euphoria. Capitalizing on this excitement, the country launched a unique initiative to combat a more insidious adversary – the variant poliovirus (cVDPV), which has paralyzed over 750 children in the past three years alone.

**Read more:**

<https://polioeradication.org/news-post/red-card-against-polio/>