

## Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 01- 16 June 2024

During the fortnight spanning from **01- 16 June 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 101 news articles were found across English, Hindi, and regional news portals, offering insights from both national and international perspectives. These articles presented a diverse range of viewpoints, encompassing positive, neutral, and multi-perspective stances on RI efforts.

Notably, approximately 63% of the coverage portrayed RI efforts in a positive light. However, in specific cases, Infants died under mysterious conditions, Gunmen killed polio workers in Pakistan, and Mumps cases surged, raising concerns about complications that received attention, though comprising only 2.9% of the overall coverage.

On the other hand, 34% of the coverage maintained a neutral or multi-perspective approach. Overall, the news regarding immunization, policy perspectives, and efforts by stakeholders resonated with the general news media landscape.

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

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India -5	3	1	1	Infant dies under mysterious condition	HPV, Measles, AEFI
Hindustan Times - 2	1		1	Mumps cases surge,	Mumps, RI,
Indian Express - 4	2	1	1	Gunmen kills a polio workers in Pakistan	HPV, Polio, RI, Measles,
The Hindu - 4	3	1			Polio, Vaccination, HPV
Business World - 1	1				Vaccination
Economic Times - 1		1			Covid
The Print- 1	1				Measle
Times Today-2	2				MMR, Covid
Navbharat Times-1	1				TB
Dainik Bhaskar - 4	3	1			Polio, HPV, BCG, Hep-B,
Amar Ujala- 1	1				PCV
The Telegraph - 1	1				Covid
Newyork Times -1	1				vaccine
CNN -1	1				HPV
BBC - 1	1				Covid
Washington Times-2	1	1			whooping cough, Hep-B, HPV
Mirror-1	1				PCV, TT, women health
Gavi- 3	2	1			EPI, Hep-B, Global Health, Ebola
BBC - 1	1				Covid
WHO - 3	3				Polio, RI, Measles, Vaccine
UNICEF- 2	2				Imm RI,
Other web portal - 59	32	27			HPV, Covid, RI, Measles, Vaccine, Imm, Polio, TB, Uwin, Dengue, MMR, Vaccination

## Important stories with highlights

**The Hindustan Times** reports that Pune city hospitals have seen an increase in mumps cases, an acute viral infection affecting children. According to doctors, five to six mumps cases have been recorded daily in May, up from an average of three to four daily cases in April. An official noted that the mumps vaccination is not part of the program as the infection is not considered life-threatening. Mumps typically affects the parotid glands on both sides of the face, and currently, there is a surge in cases among children under eight years old. This uncontrolled rise could lead to complications such as meningoencephalitis or pancreatitis. Additionally, mumps has potential long-term effects, including male infertility and mumps encephalitis. [Read More](https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/pune-news/pune-hospitals-witness-surge-in-mumps-cases-101717351416521.html)  
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/pune-news/pune-hospitals-witness-surge-in-mumps-cases-101717351416521.html>

**The Times of India** reports that a recent study by researchers at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam has emphasized the need for thorough investigations into the potential side effects of COVID-19 vaccines and their links to mortality rates. Published in BMJ Public Health, the study highlights over three million excess deaths in Western countries during the first three years of the pandemic. According to the research, 3,098,456 excess deaths were recorded across 47 countries between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2022. [Read More](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/study-suggests-covid-vaccines-may-have-contributed-to-excess-deaths/articleshow/110774538.cms)  
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/study-suggests-covid-vaccines-may-have-contributed-to-excess-deaths/articleshow/110774538.cms>

**India Herald** reports in a Polio news update that due to the spread of the polio virus, India has begun monitoring travel to various countries to mitigate the risk. With polio again posing a significant threat, the government has made monitoring mandatory for incoming travelers from certain regions. The Indian government is closely tracking movement from these countries to prevent the virus's spread. Notably, Afghanistan, Cameroon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, and Syria have been classified as endemic by the central government, while Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Congo, and DR Congo have been included in the category of poliovirus spread (Polio Affected Countries). [Read More](https://www.indiaherald.com/Politics/Read/994720310/Polio-again-became-a-threat-the-government-made-this-work-mandatory-for-those-coming-from-outside)  
<https://www.indiaherald.com/Politics/Read/994720310/Polio-again-became-a-threat-the-government-made-this-work-mandatory-for-those-coming-from-outside>

**Financial Express** reports on a recent study revealing that Rotovac, an indigenous rotavirus vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech, can lead to bowel complications. Published in the International Journal of Risk and Safety in Medicine, the study indicates that the vaccine, which is part of the government's immunization program, has been associated with an increased risk of intussusception in infants. Intussusception is a serious condition where one part of the intestine slides into the next, potentially resulting in bowel gangrene or even death without immediate treatment. [Read More](https://www.financialexpress.com/business/healthcare-bharat-biotechs-rotavirus-vaccine-to-increased-risk-of-bowel-gangrene-in-babies-heres-how-3526947/)  
<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/healthcare-bharat-biotechs-rotavirus-vaccine-to-increased-risk-of-bowel-gangrene-in-babies-heres-how-3526947/>

**Indian Express** reports from Pakistan that gunmen fatally shot a police officer assigned to protect polio workers in the country's northwest, according to an official statement on Monday. This year alone, at least 11 police officers have died while on security duty for vaccination campaigns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The attack occurred in the Wargari area of Lakki Marwat district,

where the gunmen fired at the vaccination team, said police official Sajid Khan. One of the attackers was also killed, while the remaining assailants fled. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the assault. Anti-polio campaigns in Pakistan frequently face violence, with militants targeting vaccination teams and their police protectors, under the false belief that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children. [Read More](#)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/pakistan/gunmen-kill-police-officer-assigned-protect-polio-workers-pakistan-9369671/lite/>

**Times Now** Health featured a report highlighting a surge in measles cases in the UK, with most infections occurring in unvaccinated individuals. This increase has led experts to urge parents to ensure their children receive the MMR vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps, and rubella. According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), there were 1,671 measles cases reported across Europe in April, with Romania, Poland, and Belgium being the most affected regions. [Read More](#)

<https://www.timesnownews.com/health/measles-outbreak-alert-experts-urge-parents-to-get-their-children-vaccinated-know-about-the-mmr-vaccine-article-110717544>

**Gavi** announced a historic initiative to make preventive Ebola vaccination a standard practice in the highest-risk countries. Additionally, Gavi will support lower-income nations with routine administration of the human rabies vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis, as well as multivalent meningococcal conjugate and hepatitis B birth dose vaccines. Dr. Sania Nishtar, CEO of Gavi, emphasized, “Gavi’s ability as an Alliance to protect health and save lives hinges on its ability to ensure vaccines are accessible, as quickly as possible, to those who need them the most. [Read More](#)

<https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-announces-launch-preventive-ebola-routine-multivalent-meningitis-human-rabies-hep-b-vaccination-programmes>

**The Star** reports that the health and future of our children are at risk. The International Rescue Committee (IRC)-led health service delivery operation in Kakuma refugee camp has nearly exhausted its buffer stocks of BCG, Oral Polio Vaccine, and Rotavirus vaccines. The remaining vaccine supplies will only last for a month, leaving children vulnerable. A similar crisis is unfolding in Hagadera at Dadaab refugee camp, where only 60 doses of the Oral Polio Vaccine remain. This shortage threatens to undo the progress made in expanding immunisation access and could lead to preventable disease outbreaks, resulting in lifelong disabilities or death among children. [Read More](#)

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/opinion/star-blogs/2024-06-01-vaccine-shortage-endanger-childrens-lives-in-remote-and-humanitarian-settings/>