

Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 01 - 15 Nov 2024

During the fortnight from **November 01 to 15, 2024**, media tracking focused on the online editions of mainstream newspapers and various news portals, highlighting a range of health-related topics such as Routine Immunization (RI), vaccine-preventable diseases, Measles and Rubella Elimination, Polio, HPV, Td, and AEFI.

A review of 144 news articles from English and Hindi portals revealed diverse insights into Routine Immunization (RI) efforts, reflecting both national and international perspectives.

The coverage varied, with **51.3%** presenting RI initiatives positively. Instances such as the death of children post-vaccination, other adverse events, and diphtheria outbreaks in some states garnered attention but accounted for only **0.7%** of total coverage. Meanwhile, **47.9%** of the articles adopted a neutral or multi-perspective stance.

Overall, the media highlighted immunization policies and stakeholder efforts, aligning with the broader news narrative on public health and vaccination.

Reflection of News stories on Immunization during the fortnight (01 - 15 Nov. 2024)-at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 15	8	7			vaccination, HPV, Immunization, whooping cough, MR, immunization day, Mumps, Pneumonia,
Hindustan Times - 1	1				Polio
Indian Express - 3	2	1			Measles, Meningitis, vaccine
The Hindu - 2	2				Cervical cancer, BCG, TB
Deccan Chronicle - 2	2				Immunization, Malaria
Times Now - 3	2	1			MR, cervical cancer, RI
Economic Times - 4	2	2			vaccine, Dengue, IITF, UIP
The Print - 1	1				Influenza
Mint - 1	1				Flu vaccine
Bussiness Standard - 1	1				Adloescent vaccination
PIB - 2	2				IITF, UIP
Cureus - 4	3	1			MCV, Nutrition, vaccine, Hep B
Dainik Bhaskar - 22	11	10	1	2 month old child dies after vaccination in Banda UP	UIP, TB, PW, NB, vaccine centre, RI, ASHA, ANM, VHND, HWC, U-WIN, Immunization day, session, strategy, PHC, SC, vaccination, UIP
Hindustan Hindi - 9	5	4			Polio, RI, vaccine, session, ASHA, Immunization, MR, Pneumonia, Meeting
Prabhat Khabar - 2		2			Immunization, Pneumonia, RI
Amar Ujala - 7	5	2			CHC, UIP, vaccination, RI, U-WIN, hesitancy, Immunization
ETV Bharat - 2		2			Hep-B, ASHA
International News					
Nature - 2	1	1			vaccine delivery, Immunization
Medical Dialogue - 3	3				TB, BCG, One Health
AlJazeera - 1		1			Polio
Relief Web - 1		1			TD
Gulf News - 4		4			Measles, MR, Immunization, RI
Path - 1		1			Child Health
Gavi - 2	2				Measles. Pneumonia,
WHO - 11	6	5			TB, Cervical cancer, MR, Measles, NV, Malaria, Polio
UNICEF - 2	2				Td, RI, Polio
CDC - 1		1			Measles
Other web portal - 35	12	23			Immunization, MR, Vaccine, TB, cervical cancer, Polio, Tetnus, RSV, New vaccine, Rota, RI, UIP, immunization day, HPV, Global Health, vaccine reserach, workshop, Pneumonia, Malaria, Measles

Important stories with highlights

The Indian Express in its health and wellness section, reported that India was among 57 countries that experienced significant measles outbreaks in 2023. With 65,150 reported cases, India ranked second globally, following the Democratic Republic of Congo, as per the latest data from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Globally, measles cases surged by 20%, with a total of 10.3 million infections recorded in 2023. The report also highlighted an 8% rise in estimated measles-related deaths worldwide, reaching 107,500 during the year.

Read more at:

https://indianexpress.com/article/health-wellness/who-flags-measles-outbreak-india-second-nations-hit-9671475/?ref=newlist_hp

Times Now, in its health section, emphasized the critical role vaccinations play in protecting children from various diseases, viruses, and bacteria. Dr. Gaurav Jain, Senior Consultant in Neonatology and Paediatrics at New Delhi, highlighted that timely vaccinations can provide up to 90% immunity against vaccine-preventable illnesses. Administering vaccines from birth to age 12 is essential, as children remain susceptible to communicable diseases during this period.

"Conditions like HPV, tetanus, whooping cough, and diphtheria, though less common, still persist," Dr. Jain noted, vaccinations not only prevent these diseases but also safeguard children from severe health complications.

Read more at:

<https://www.timesnownews.com/health/life-saving-vaccines-your-child-cant-afford-to-miss-in-india-article-115244310>

In a guest post for **Deccan Chronicle's** Health and Wellbeing section, it was highlighted that vaccination campaigns over the past 50 years have played a pivotal role in eradicating numerous vaccine-preventable diseases. Recognized as one of the most significant life-saving interventions in history, vaccines help the body produce antibodies to defend against harmful pathogens. Importantly, acquiring immunity through vaccination is much safer than developing it by contracting the disease itself. This year marks 50 years of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), which has been instrumental in combating life-threatening diseases. Once-dreaded illnesses like smallpox and polio have been successfully conquered during this time.

Read more at:

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/lifestyle/health-and-well-being/immunisation-for-all-is-humanly-possible-1836809>

Times of India reports that the Health Department is set to launch a focused campaign to protect abandoned children up to five years old from measles-rubella (MR) infection. District Immunization Officer Dr. U.B. Singh stated that ASHA workers will prepare a comprehensive registry of these children. Scheduled from November 25 to December 6, the campaign will target children aged zero to five years in specific blocks and urban areas of the district.

Read more at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/launch-of-comprehensive-measles-rubella-vaccination-campaign-for-children/articleshow/115027906.cms>

Mint reports that the government has recommended health professionals administer a flu vaccine protecting against four strains as winter approaches, a time when influenza often claims lives. The Union Health Ministry has advised using the Southern Hemisphere 2024 quadrivalent vaccine (SH24), following guidance from the World Health Organization.

India has recorded 15,000 influenza cases and 239 deaths as of August, with the peak season still ahead. Seasonal influenza, a highly contagious disease, can lead to severe health complications. The SH24 vaccine aims to provide comprehensive protection against the disease during this critical period.

Read more at:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/quadrivalent-flu-vaccine-sh24-who-health-ministry-seasonal-influenza-11730882929473.html>

Economic Times reports that the Union Health Ministry's Health Pavilion at the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF), starting November 14, focus on the theme "One Health." This holistic concept underscores the interconnectedness of human, animal, plant, and ecosystem health. By acknowledging these interdependencies, the "One Health" approach aims to unite diverse sectors, disciplines, and communities to foster well-being and address health and environmental challenges effectively.

Dr. V.K. Paul, Member (Health) of NITI Aayog, was inaugurate the Health Pavilion on November 14 at Bharat Mandapam.

Read more at:

<https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/health-pavilion-at-iitf-to-centre-around-one-health-theme/115260298>

A joint news release by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed a global surge in measles cases in 2023, with an estimated 10.3 million cases—a 20% increase compared to 2022. The rise is attributed to insufficient immunization coverage worldwide.

Despite measles being preventable with two vaccine doses, over 22 million children missed their first dose in 2023. Global data shows that 83% of children received their first measles vaccine dose, while only 74% received the recommended second dose, highlighting the gap in vaccine coverage.

Read more at:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/14-11-2024-measles-cases-surge-worldwide--infecting-10.3-million-people-in-2023>

In a **News Medical** article, Esther Nakkazi highlights the critical role of comprehensive hexavalent vaccine coverage in preventing whooping cough and polio, thereby averting potential disease resurgences. Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, remains a significant threat, claiming the lives of over 150,000 children under five annually, predominantly in low- and middle-income countries. Referred to as the "100-day cough," this bacterial infection severely affects the lungs and airways, causing prolonged illness in babies and young children. Experts emphasize that widespread use of the hexavalent vaccine, which offers protection against six diseases, could significantly reduce the prevalence of this debilitating illness.

Read more at:

<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20241107/Hexavalent-vaccine-can-reduce-spread-of-whooping-cough.aspx>