

Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 01 - 15 Oct 2024

During the fortnight from **October 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 total of 138 news articles were found across English and Hindi news portals, offering insights from both national and international perspectives. These articles presented diverse viewpoints, encompassing positive, neutral, and multi-perspective stances on RI efforts.

Notably, approximately 45.6% of the coverage portrayed RI efforts positively. However, specific cases like death of children post vaccination, other adverse events after JE vaccination in UP and diphtheria outbreak in some states received attention, though they comprised only 1.4% of the overall coverage.

On the other hand, 52.8% 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 - 15 Oct. 2024)-at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 9	3	6			Covid, cervical cancer, vaccination, Diphtheria
Hindustan Times - 2		2			Diphtheria, AMR
Indian Express - 5	2	3			Pendamic, cervical cancer, Ayushman bharat,
The Hindu - 1		1			DPT
Deccan Chronicle - 1	1				Meningitis
The Statesman- 1	1				Universal Health coverage
Economic Times -2	2				Immunization, vaccine
The Print - 1	1				Measles and Rubela
Times Now - 2		2			MMR, vaccine
Bussiness Standard -2	1	1			vaccination, trachoma
India Today - 2	2				RSV, HPV
Dainik Bhaskar - 15	7	8			RI session, ULBs support, vaccine, Diphtheria, EPI, Immunization, ICDS, HIV, community engagement, cervical cancer, vaccination, BCG
Hindustan Hindi - 12	3	9			Diphtheria, TD, JE, vaccination, ASHA, UWIN, front line workers, women & children, RI
Prabhat Khabar - 5	1	3	1	child die after vaccination	RI, Diphtheria, Full immunization, vaccination
Amar Ujala - 12	5	6	1	child death due to vaccination	vaccination, Health wellness centre, vaccination, CMO, ANM, Diphtheria, RI session, DPT, Mobilization
International News					
The Guardian - 2	1	1			HPV, vaccination
Reuter - 1	1				Mumps
Nature - 1		1			Vaccination
Medical Dialogue - 4	3	1			Vaccine, HPV, AEFI, MMR
Newyork Times - 2		2			whooping cough, Polio
Relief Web -1		1			mpox
Gavi - 2		2			Meningitis, vaccination
WHO - 4	3	1			Immunization, MR, HPV, EPI
UNICEF - 7	4	3			Measles, childhood vaccination, vaccine, HPV, immunization, MMR
PATH -1		1			vaccine
Other web portal - 33	22	19			cervical cancer, Immunization, Polio, vaccination, Global health, Media, VPDs, HPV, Pneumonia, Diphtheria, Summit, RI, EPI

Important stories with highlights

The Statesman reports that Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda highlighted India's commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through a 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach, with a strong focus on strengthening primary healthcare and essential services. Speaking at the 77th session of WHO Southeast Asia Region (SEARO), he emphasized India's success with the CoWIN digital platform during the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on this, India has developed the UWIN online digital platform for the Universal Immunization Programme, which will register, track, and monitor all vaccination events.

Read more at:

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/indias-health-system-to-achieve-universal-health-coverage-nadda-1503350896.html>

Economic Times, in its healthcare news section, reports that Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri JP Nadda, during his address at the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA), praised India's pivotal role during the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted how the country is emerging as a global leader in health resilience and innovation, solidifying its status as the 'pharmacy of the world.' Reflecting on India's contributions during the pandemic.

Read more at:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/india-reaffirmed-its-role-as-the-pharmacy-of-the-world-during-covid-jp-nadda-at-international-conference-of-drug-regulatory-authorities/articleshow/114206289.cms?from=mdr>

Business Standard, in its health section, reports that India has been recognized by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem, making it the third country in the region to achieve this milestone after Nepal and Myanmar. Additionally, six other countries were recognized for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and global targets in reducing under-five mortality and stillbirth rates. "India's success is attributed to the strong leadership of its government and the dedication of ophthalmologists and health-care workers," the report noted.

Read more at:

https://www.business-standard.com/amp/health/who-felicitates-india-for-eliminating-trachoma-as-public-health-problem-124100800803_1.html

Medial Dialogue in its pharma news section reports that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and the National Regulatory Authority of India have successfully fulfilled the World Health Organization's (WHO) standards for a functional vaccine regulatory system. A team of international experts, coordinated by WHO's headquarters in Geneva, conducted an evaluation of India's vaccine regulatory system between September 16 and 20, according to a statement by the health ministry. The statement further noted that WHO has established global standards and benchmarks to ensure vaccine quality through the development of tools and guidelines, benchmarking National Regulatory Authorities (NRA), and its vaccine pre-qualification programme.

Read more at:

<https://medialdialogues.in/news/industry/pharma/indian-drug-regulator-meets-who-standards-for-functional-vaccine-regulatory-system-136436>

WHO SEARO in news reports that the 77 Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia concluded with Member States adopting key resolutions, including setting new targets for the elimination of measles and rubella and expanding the regional health emergency fund. Additionally, countries committed to creating adolescent-responsive health systems. The Member States agreed to extend the deadline for measles and rubella elimination to 2026. The resolution also endorsed the *Strategic Plan for*

Measles and Rubella Elimination and Sustenance in the WHO South-East Asia Region 2024–2028, aimed at achieving and maintaining elimination in the region.

Read more at:

<https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/10-10-2024-who-south-east-asia-region-sets-new-target-for-measles-and-rubella-elimination>

According to an article published by **UNICEF** Europe and Central Asia, the vast majority of children worldwide are vaccinated according to the recommended schedules. For instance, nearly 17 out of every 20 infants receive the three recommended doses of the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP) vaccine. However, some parents opt to change or delay vaccination schedules, believing it to be safer for their child. In reality, delaying or altering the vaccination schedule can put children at risk, as there is no evidence suggesting that postponing immunizations provides any short- or long-term health benefits.

Read more at:

<https://www.unicef.org/eca/stories/why-delayed-vaccination-schedules-can-be-harmful-children>

India Today, in its health section, reported that the World Health Organization (WHO) has prequalified a new human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, Cecolin, which can be administered in a single-dose schedule. Cecolin is the fourth HPV vaccine to receive this approval, following WHO's 2022 guidelines supporting the use of HPV vaccines in one dose. WHO's prequalification process ensures that vaccines and medications meet international standards of quality, safety, and efficacy. Once prequalified, a vaccine is deemed suitable for distribution in low- and middle-income countries. Cecolin, is the first HPV vaccine produced in China and offers complete protection against two strains of the virus for adult females.

Read more at:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/health/story/who-prequalifies-new-hpv-single-dose-vaccine-cecolin-2612503-2024-10-07>

The New York Times, in an opinion piece, highlighted the recent resurgence of polio in Gaza after over 25 years, with health officials confirming the first case in August. The case involved a 10-month-old unvaccinated baby whose lower left leg was paralyzed by the virus. The news evoked deep sadness and frustration, as polio — a highly contagious disease that can lead to paralysis, respiratory failure, cardiovascular collapse, and even death — has reappeared in Gaza despite being nearly eradicated globally. In response, the World Health Organization and other organizations launched a massive campaign to vaccinate over 640,000 children in Gaza.

Read more at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/14/opinion/gaza-polio-infectious-disease.html>