

Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 01 - 16 August 2024

During the fortnight from **August 01 to 16, 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 115 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 53.9% of the coverage portrayed RI efforts positively. However, specific cases like death of a newborn girl in a private hospital and measles and whooping cough outbreaks across countries received attention, though they comprised only 0.86% of the overall coverage.

On the other hand, 45.2% 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 Aug 2024)-at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 7	4	3			cervical cancer, Hep, Rota, Vaccine, Polio, Ayushman Bharat
Hindustan Times - 2	2				Hep B, HPV
Indian Express - 3	2	1			TB vaccine, Dengue, mpox,
The Hindu - 7	4	3			Diseases outbreak, Viral, adult vaccination, Immunization, HPV, Vaccination
Deccan Herald - 1	1				HPV
Business world -1	1				vaccination,
India Today -2	1	1			OPV, mpox
NDTV India -1		1			Cancer vaccine
Dainik Bhaskar - 16	9	7			zero dose, DPT, Immunization, Uwin, Covid, Td, Polio, BCG, Vaccination, whooping cough, HPV,
Hindustan Hindi - 9	4	5			BCG, zero dose, JE, Vaccination, polio,
Amar Ujala -10	3	6	1	Child died after vaccinated	ANM, HPV, Vaccination, DPT, Dengue, Hep-B, whooping cough,
Regional News - 2		2			Immunization, Measles
International News					
The Guardian -1		1			whooping cough
The Nature - 3	1	2			Vaccination, DPT, Measles
BBC - 2	2				New vaccine, Polio
CNN - 1	1	1			vaccination
Newyork Times - 2	2				childhood vaccination, Malaria
Washington Post - 2		2			childhood immunization, Polio
Gavi - 5	3	2			mpox, vaccine, Immunization, Malaria, Polio, vaccination,
WHO - 4	4				Polio, EPI, Outbreak,
UNICEF - 2	2				Polio, EPI, MNT,
CDC -2	2				vaccination, UIP
Other web portal - 29	14	15			Malaria, HPV, Vaccine, childhood vaccination, whooping cough, DPT, UIP, Polio, EPI, MMR

Important stories with highlights

The Hindu in its health section, reported that Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda announced the government's active consideration of launching the HPV vaccination program, as recommended by the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group. This program aims to prevent cervical cancer cases. Responding to questions in the Lok Sabha, the Minister noted that certain logistical issues must be addressed before rolling out the HPV vaccination program. "The first issue concerns the single-dose versus double-dose vaccine. The indigenous vaccine we have developed is a double-dose vaccine, whereas the vaccine supported by external agencies is a single-dose vaccine," Mr. Nadda explained.

Read More

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/logistics-issues-need-to-be-addressed-before-rollout-of-hpv-vaccination-programme-nadda/article68509041.ece>

According to **The Hindu**, the Christian Medical College (CMC) is set to launch an adult immunization clinic at its Vellore campus on August 1. The clinic will provide safe and accessible vaccination services to the public, with a focus on increasing vaccination awareness and reducing hesitancy, as stated in a press release. The clinic will offer vaccines against a range of infections, including Influenza, Pneumococcal, Chickenpox, Mumps, Measles, Rubella, Hepatitis A and B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Typhoid. It will also provide follow-up services for patients requiring multiple doses, such as Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis and annual vaccinations.

The clinic will operate from Monday to Friday between 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and will be located in room 24 of the Alpha Clinic area. All registrations will follow general charges, and additional services such as vaccine certification will be available, the release noted.

Read More

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/cmc-to-open-adult-immunisation-clinic-in-vellore/article68468607.ece>

Hindustan Times reports that India has launched the National Programme on Surveillance of Viral Hepatitis (NPSVH) at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to combat the increasing hepatitis epidemic. According to government data, the average prevalence of hepatitis B in the country ranges from 3-4%. India is making significant strides towards eliminating viral hepatitis B and C, in line with its global commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3. This goal focuses on ending the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases, as well as combating hepatitis, waterborne diseases, and other communicable diseases by 2030.

A positive aspect of the fight against hepatitis B is that it can be effectively prevented with a safe and reliable vaccine. The vaccine is usually administered shortly after birth, followed by booster doses a few weeks later, providing almost 100% protection against the virus. Notably, the hepatitis B vaccine is already included in the national immunization program.

Read More

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/health/health-talk-why-hepatitis-b-elimination-in-india-needs-a-harder-push-101722699854590.html>

Indian Express reports that India's first phase-3, clinical trial for a dengue vaccine has commenced, with the initial dose administered at Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak. The vaccine, named DengiAll, targets all four dengue serotypes and has been developed by Panacea Biotech.

This trial will take place at 19 sites across 18 states and union territories, involving 10,335 healthy adult participants who will be monitored over a period of two years. Notably, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the primary funder of this large-scale clinical trial, with Panacea Biotech also

contributing to the expenses. This underscores the importance of developing a vaccine to combat dengue in India.

Read More

https://indianexpress.com/article/health-wellness/dengue-vaccine-phase-3-trials-effective-shield-9515563/?ref=latestnews_hp

Amar Ujala reports a tragic incident from Bandikui in Dausa district, Rajasthan, where a life-saving vaccine led to the death of a newborn girl in a private hospital. According to the family, about 20 minutes after her birth, the hospital administered BCG and Hepatitis B vaccines from the Serum Institute to the newborn. Soon after, the girl's condition began to deteriorate, ultimately resulting in her death. Following the incident, the family protested at the hospital, expressing their distress over the tragic loss.

Dr. Mukesh Goyal from the hospital stated that on August 8, there were two deliveries at the facility, and the Hepatitis B and BCG vaccines were given to the newborns.

Read More

<https://www.amarujala.com/rajasthan/dausa/rajasthan-news-girl-died-after-getting-vaccinated-family-members-blamed-hospital-in-dausa-2024-08-11>

CDC from the Newsroom release report that, recently marked the 30th anniversary of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, a significant milestone in enhancing children's health by providing recommended vaccines at no cost to eligible children. The VFC program was established to ensure that children living below the federal poverty level and those without health insurance have access to essential, life-saving vaccines to protect their health throughout their lives.

“For three decades, the Vaccines for Children program has been offering life-saving vaccines to our nation’s children free of charge,” stated CDC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Deb Houry. “Thanks to congressional support and the dedication of partners across the country, we have prevented more than 1.1 million deaths among children born during the VFC era.”

Read More

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/s0812-vs-vfc.html>

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has expressed deep concern over the worsening mpox emergency in Africa. Gavi welcomes recent initiatives announced by the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), which aim to foster a supportive environment for a comprehensive, region-led response. Gavi joins its partners in underscoring the need for international coordination following the declarations of a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security by the Africa CDC and a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the WHO.

Since 2022, Gavi has been closely monitoring the mpox situation in collaboration with countries and partners. Insights from the ongoing mpox crisis have influenced the development of Gavi's new innovative health security mechanisms, which are designed to address the systemic weaknesses identified during the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. These considerations will also shape Gavi's strategic priorities over the next five years

Read More

<https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-statement-mpox-emergency-africa>

The **BBC** reports that the World Health Organization (WHO) has announced plans to deliver 1.2 million polio vaccines to Gaza following the detection of the virus in wastewater. WHO's Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, revealed that the vaccination campaign would include two rounds, targeting 600,000 children under eight years old. The first round is scheduled to begin on August 17. Polio is a highly contagious disease that can cause fever, and in severe cases, may lead to paralysis or death. It is mainly transmitted through contact with fecal matter. The campaign comes as Gaza continues to

endure a 10-month-long Israeli military operation, which has severely impacted healthcare facilities, leaving only 16 out of the territory's 36 hospitals even partially operational.

Read More

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yd3g1vw79o>