

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

During the fortnight from **September 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 141 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 58.1% of the coverage portrayed RI efforts positively. However, specific cases like death of two children post vaccination, two infants die after immunization and diphtheria outbreak in some district and whooping cough outbreaks across countries received attention, though they comprised only 2.1% of the overall coverage.

On the other hand, 39.7% 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 Sept 2024)-at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 10	5	3	2	Infants die after immunization	Polio, Immunization, TB, adult vaccination, pulse polio, vaccination centre
Hindustan Times - 1	1				Health care
Indian Express - 5	3	2			Polio, TB, DPT, BCG
The Hindu - 2	2				HPV, AMR
Mint -2		2			AEFI, Mpox
The Statesman- 2	1	1			JE, TB
Economic Times -2	2				Hexavalent, Mpox
The Print - 1		1			child vaccination
Dainik Bhaskar - 18	12	6			Cervical cancer, vaccination, HPV, zero dose, whooping cough, OPV, JE, EPI, Task force, RI, HWC
Hindustan Hindi - 16	6	10			Child vaccination, Immunization, ANM, Polio, HWC, RI, ASHA
Dainik Jagran -2	1	1			BCG, vaccination centre
Aaj Tak -2	2				whooping cough, JE
Amar Ujala -8	5	2	1	Case of death of two children	Vaccination, child immunization, Diphtheria, BCG, DPT, CHC
<b>International News</b>					
The Guardian -3	2	1			OPV, Polio, whooping cough
The Nature - 2	1	1			Vaccine, RI
BBC - 2	1	1			Polio, Immunization,
CNN - 1	1				Polio
Newyork Times - 1	1				OPV
The Telegraph -1	1				OPV
Relief Web -1	1				Malaria
Forbes -2	1	1			Mpox, whooping cough
ALJazeera -4	1	3			Polio, OPV, Mpox
Washington Post -1		1			Polio
Gavi - 3	2	1			HPV, RI, Cholera
WHO - 4	4				Vaccination, MR, Polio, Immunization
UNICEF - 2	2				RI, vaccination
JSI-1	1				EPI
Other web portal - 42	23	19			VPD, Chikenguniya, EPI, Mpox, TB, DPT, HPV, vaccination, MR, JE, Polio, whooping cough, Hep-B, covid, HepA, Cholera, DTF, PCV, RI, Rota, Measles

## Important stories with highlights

**Economic Times** reports that Panacea Biotech has announced an agreement with the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) for a long-term loan of up to \$20 million. The funding is intended for expanding the production capacity of Panacea's hexavalent vaccine, EasySix. This financing will accelerate the completion of the ongoing expansion, allowing Panacea to supply the vaccine to United Nations (UN) agencies for global childhood immunization. The hexavalent vaccine, which protects against six diseases, is anticipated to experience a significant rise in demand by 2030.

**Read more at:**

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com//industry/healthcare/biotech/panacea-biotech-gets-20-million-loan-from-us-government-for-hexavalent-vaccine-capacity-expansion/articleshow/113295234.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com//industry/healthcare/biotech/panacea-biotech-gets-20-million-loan-from-us-government-for-hexavalent-vaccine-capacity-expansion/articleshow/113295234.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

**News 18** reports that to protect India from the polio virus and maintain its polio-free status, the central government has been actively urging states and union territories to closely monitor travellers from the 11 countries where polio is still present. The Union Health Ministry has issued directives for both incoming and outgoing travellers to polio-affected countries. Once again, states and UTs have been reminded to stay vigilant at entry points. India has not reported any wild poliovirus cases since January 13, 2011, and was officially declared polio-free on March 27, 2014.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.news18.com/india/to-protect-indias-polio-free-status-modi-govt-asks-states-uts-to-monitor-travellers-from-11-affected-countries-9038642.html>

**Mint** reports that the National AEFI (Adverse Effects Following Immunization) guidelines, first established in 2005, have undergone revisions in 2010, 2015, and most recently in 2024. These latest updates come in response to deaths linked to COVID-19 vaccines in the UK.

The revised guidelines recommend using digital vaccination recording software to improve the reporting of all side effects, including minor ones. They emphasize strengthening the adverse effects surveillance system for both the introduction of new vaccines under routine immunization and those authorized for emergency use.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/post-covid-deaths-india-adverse-vaccination-regulation-11725523156634.html>

**Mint** reports that the Union Health Ministry has instructed states and union territories to implement preventive measures to curb the spread and reduce the risk of fatalities from Mpox, following the first suspected case in India.

Health Secretary Apurva Chandra issued an advisory urging local authorities to assess public health facilities and increase awareness among the public and healthcare workers, particularly those in skin, sexually transmitted diseases, and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) clinics. The advisory highlights the need to focus on common symptoms, diagnosis, isolation, transmission methods, timely reporting, preventive actions, and treatment for those affected by the virus, formerly known as Monkeypox.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/test-trace-contact-centre-issues-advisory-for-states-as-who-declares-public-health-emergency-amid-mpox-scare-11725871456893.html>

**The Statesman** News Service reports that Japanese Encephalitis (JE), once a major threat to children in Purvanchal, Uttar Pradesh, is now nearing eradication due to decisive actions taken by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after taking office in 2017.

The Chief Minister implemented a comprehensive strategy to protect the region from JE outbreaks. He directed the Health Department to ensure 100% vaccination coverage while promoting public awareness about the importance of JE immunization through campaigns like the Dastak Abhiyan.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/up-govt-ramps-up-vaccination-drive-against-japanese-encephalitis-1503341701.html>

**The Hindu** in its sci-tech section reports that Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech has entered into a collaboration with U.S. biotechnology firm Alopexx Inc. to co-develop and commercialize the anti-microbial vaccine AV0328 in India and other low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

AV0328, a proprietary broad-spectrum vaccine candidate developed by Alopexx, is a synthetic vaccine targeting poly N-acetyl glucosamine (PNAG), a compound found on the surface of various bacterial, fungal, and parasitic pathogens. Under the agreement, Alopexx will receive one-time upfront and milestone payments, as well as royalties from future sales in the licensed regions, according to Bharat Biotech.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/bharat-biotech-alopexx-to-collaborate-for-anti-microbial-vaccine-av0328/article68629494.ece>

**The World Health Organization (WHO)** has announced that the MVA-BN vaccine is the first vaccine for mpox to be added to its prequalification list. This approval is expected to enhance access to the vaccine in communities with urgent needs, helping to reduce transmission and contain outbreaks.

The WHO's prequalification process is based on data provided by the vaccine's manufacturer, Bavarian Nordic A/S, and a review conducted by the European Medicines Agency.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, stated, "This first prequalification of a vaccine against mpox is a significant milestone in our efforts to combat the disease, both in current outbreaks in Africa and in the future."

**Read more at:**

<https://www.who.int/news/item/13-09-2024-who-prequalifies-the-first-vaccine-against-mpox/>

**The BBC** reports that the WHO has exceeded its goal in the first two days of its polio vaccination campaign in central Gaza. Dr. Rik Peeporkorn, the UN agency's representative in the Palestinian territories, shared that 161,030 children under the age of 10 were vaccinated, surpassing the initial target of 156,500. He attributed the higher number to an underestimation of the densely packed population in the region.

Israel and Hamas had agreed to localized pauses in hostilities to allow health workers to administer vaccines after Gaza's first confirmed polio case in 25 years left a 10-month-old partially paralyzed the previous month.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8xwxjy4y7o>

**The Guardian** reports that Israeli soldiers stopped a UN convoy involved in the ongoing polio vaccination campaign in Gaza, detaining two staff members for questioning. The incident, which took place at the Al Rashid checkpoint, involved live shots being fired and a bulldozer damaging vehicles, according to a statement from Muhannad Hadi, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Palestine.

Hadi emphasized that the lives of the 12 UN staff members in the convoy were put at risk, despite their movement being fully coordinated with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), with all necessary details shared in advance. The convoy was en route to North Gaza to support the third phase of the polio vaccination drive.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/sep/10/un-says-lives-of-staff-endangered-in-israeli-halt-of-gaza-polio-vaccine-convoy>