

Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 16 - 31 Oct 2024

During the fortnight from **October 16 to 31, 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 146 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 54.7% of the coverage portrayed RI efforts positively. However, specific cases like death of children post vaccination, other adverse events of the death of children post vaccination and diphtheria outbreak in some states received attention, though they comprised only 2.0% of the overall coverage.

On the other hand, 43.1% 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 (16 - 31 Oct. 2024)-at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 9	5	4			Rotavirus, Ayushman Bharat, U-WIN, TB vaccine, HWC, Mumos, cervical cancer, cholera
Hindustan Times - 4	2	2			JE, Immunization, vaccine, U-WIN
Indian Express - 1		1			Diphtheria
The Hindu - 4	3	1			Polio, AFP, WPV
Deccan Herald - 3	3				Polio, Digital health
The Statesman- 1	1				JE vaccine, AES
Economic Times - 1	1				Typhoid vaccine
The Print - 1	1				Co-WIN
Mint - 3	3				PCV, U-Win
Bussiness Standard -3		3			Rotavirus, Universal Health Coverage, HPV
PM India - 1	1				U-WIN
Dainik Bhaskar - 16	11	5			Hep B, ANM, Religious leaders, VHSND, Diphtheria, UIP, TD, DPT, Immunization, HPV, Pragnant women, Rota
Hindustan Hindi - 15	8	6	1	Death of 4-month old child post vaccination in Khagaria, Bihar	Monitoring, U-Win, Hep-B, Digital Health, Immunization, RI, Diphtheria, vaccination, Namste vaccine, HWC, workshop
Prabhat Khabar - 4	2	1	1	child die after vaccination in muzaffarpur Bihar	Vaccination, FIC, U-Win, vaccination
Amar Ujala - 11	3	7	1	child death due to vaccination in Lakhimpur kheri, UP	Diphtheria, DPT, vaccination, NHM, caregiver, ANM
News 18 TV - 3		3			Diphtheria, Hep-B
International News					
The Guardian - 1		1			Vaccination
Reuter - 2	2				Polio
Nature - 2	1	1			zero dose, vaccine reminder
Medical Dialogue - 1	1				Degue vaccine
Newyork Times - 1	1				Polio
Relief Web -1		1			Polio
Forbes-1	1				zero dose,
Washington Post - 1		1			whooping cough
CNN -1		1			Polio
Gavi - 1	1				Vaccination
WHO - 6	5	1			vaccination, polio, immunization review
UNICEF - 4	3	1			vaccination, Digital health, HPV, Polio
CDC -1		1			vaccine
Other web portal - 43	21	22			MR, whooping cough, Diphtheria, Hep-B, Meningitis, Immunization, Measles, Malaria, Rota, DTF, Polio, Committee, small pox, RI, AMR, HPV, U-win, Microplan, cholera, Gender, VPDs, vaccination, vaccine, Haj vaccination, zero dose, tetnus vaccine,

Important stories with highlights

The Hindustan Times highlights the critical role of vaccines in disease prevention since the first smallpox inoculation in 1796, saving over 150 million lives in the past 50 years alone. India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), the story shares, protects 26 million newborns annually against 12 preventable diseases, including measles, diphtheria, and polio, which pose serious health risks. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the story points out the government prioritizes health and nutrition for women and children, aiming to leave no child or pregnant woman unvaccinated. To expand vaccine coverage, the Ministry of Health, the story reflects has launched U-WIN, a digital platform that tracks vaccination for all pregnant women and children nationwide.

Read more at:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/digital-push-to-universalise-immunisation-101730123683138.html>

The Statesman reports a remarkable achievement in Uttar Pradesh, where no deaths from Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) or Japanese Encephalitis (JE) have been reported this year, as per data from the Jal Jeevan Mission. In 2018, the death toll for these diseases stood at 149, with 137 AES and 12 JE-related fatalities. State data show a significant decline in cases, with AES cases dropping from 1,472 in 2018 to just 116 in 2024, and JE cases decreasing from 174 to only 5 over the same period.

Read more at:

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/up-wins-battle-against-aes-and-je-as-no-death-reported-so-far-this-year-1503354578.html>

The Times of India reports that Bengal is among the first states to introduce the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) at the community level. In collaboration with ICMR-NIRBI (formerly NICED) and the state health department, the story reveals, a pilot project has been launched in the cholera-prone Bishnupur block II of South 24 Parganas using Euvichol-Plus, a vaccine from Korea. The project aims to vaccinate around 50,000 people, with a second dose to follow. Those vaccinated will be monitored for two years to evaluate the vaccine's effectiveness and longevity.

Read more at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/west-bengal-launches-groundbreaking-oral-cholera-vaccine-pilot-project-targeting-50000-residents/articleshow/114517637.cms>

The Economic Times reports that Zydus Lifesciences has received preliminary approval from the World Health Organization (WHO) for its typhoid vaccine, ZyVac TCv. This WHO prequalification makes ZyVac TCv eligible for procurement by United Nations (UN) agencies. Developed and produced at the Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad, the vaccine is intended for active immunization against *Salmonella typhi* infection in individuals aged 6 months to 65 years.

Read more at:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/zydus-lifesciences-gets-who-prequalification-for-typhoid-vi-conjugate-vaccine/articleshow/114492728.cms?utm_source=Google_Newsstand&utm_campaign=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=Referral

The Tribune, in its state news, reports that a district task force has been established following several suspected diphtheria cases. The story quoting Civil Surgeon Dr. Jai Bhagwan Jatain stated that the district-level task force was formed after nine potential cases emerged in recent weeks. Lab results have since ruled out six cases, while results for the remaining three are still pending. The decision comes after similar cases were reported in neighbouring districts in Rajasthan. Diphtheria is a contagious disease, especially affecting children, and can spread quickly if not contained.

Read more at:

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/diphtheria-scare-task-force-set-up-to-boost-immunisation/>

Forbes reports that since its establishment in 2000, Gavi has vaccinated over 1 billion children in some of the world's poorest regions, preventing more than 17.3 million deaths. The organization provides vaccines for 20 diseases, including measles and HPV. Earlier this year, Gavi introduced its investment appeal, titled "Protecting Our Future," which outlines its strategy through 2030. The plan seeks at least \$11.9 billion in funding to help Gavi vaccinate an additional half a billion children over the next five years.

Read more at:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jenniferlotito/2024/10/22/with-global-leadership-gavi-aims-to-vaccinate-500-million-children-by-2030/>

In a press release on World Polio Day, **UNICEF** reported that of the 541 children affected by polio globally in 2023, 85% reside in 31 fragile, conflict-affected, and vulnerable countries. A new UNICEF analysis shows polio cases in these regions have more than doubled over the past five years, with routine childhood immunization rates falling from 75% to 70%—far below the 95% needed for community immunity. The data serve as a strong warning that polio remains prevalent in areas where conflict, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises hinder the delivery of essential healthcare.

Read more at:

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/85-cent-children-affected-polio-2023-lived-fragile-and-conflict-affected-countries>

Reuters reports that the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has announced the need for additional funding and extended its target for eliminating all forms of polio by three years. The coalition now aims to eradicate the wild virus by 2027 and the vaccine-derived variant by 2029, moving the previous deadline of 2026 for both. While global health efforts to eliminate polio have been ongoing since 1988, and mass vaccination campaigns have greatly reduced cases, achieving complete eradication has proven challenging, with the first missed target occurring in 2000

Read more at:

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/more-time-money-needed-wipe-out-polio-global-group-says-2024-10-17/>
