

## Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 17 - 30 Sept 2024

During the fortnight from **September 17 to 30, 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 131 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 56.4% of the coverage portrayed RI efforts positively. However, specific cases like death of children post vaccination, other infants die after immunization in Chhattisgarh and diphtheria outbreak in some district received attention, though they comprised only 2.2% of the overall coverage.

On the other hand, 42.2% 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 (17 - 30 Sept 2024)-at a glance**

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 7	5	2			Polio, Vaccination, MOHFW, mpox, Cervical Cancer, BMGF,
Hindustan Times - 1	1				zero dose
Indian Express - 1			1	Child dies after vaccination	Vaccination
The Hindu - 3	1	2			Vaccine, ICMR, SII, Covid
Deccan Herald - 3	2	1			Covid, UWIN, HPV
The Statesman- 1	1				vaccination program
Economic Times -2	1	1			Hexavalent, Healthcare
Financial Express - 1	1				child vaccination
Business World - 1	1				HPV
India Today - 3	2	1			Polio, Flu vaccine, Vaccination
Dainik Bhaskar - 22	11	9	1	fourth child dies due to vaccination in chhattisgarh	ASHA, Polio, Vaccination, AEFI, RI, Aarogya mandir, EPI, PW, UIP, HPV, DPT, Diphtheria, Immunization,
Hindustan Hindi - 15	9	6			EPI, ULB, vaccine hesitancy, Polio, Diphtheria, MIC, vaccination, DPT, ICDS, TD, vaccination corner
Prabhat Khabar - 2	1	1			Immunization, vaccination centre
ETV Bharat -1	1				vaccine development
Amar Ujala -10	2	8	1	child death due to vaccination	Diphtheria, vaccination, health worker, HPV, Td, ANM
<b>International News</b>					
The Guardian - 1		1			Polio
Reuter - 2	2				mpox, polio
BBC - 1	1				Flu vaccine, Immunization
News Medical - 1	1				Measles
Newyork Times - 2		2			cervical cancer, HPV
The Telegraph -2		2			Covid, vaccination
Relief Web -1	1				Polio
Gavi - 5	3	2			Malaria, Vaccination, Measles, UIP, Polio
WHO - 4	2	2			cervical cancer, HPV, vaccination
UNICEF - 3	3				Birth dose, HPV, Health care,
Other web portal - 36	22	14			Diphtheria, AMR, HPV, UWIN< Covid, vaccination, Urban immunization, MMR, Cervical cancer, zero dose, whooping cough, Measles, BMGF,

## Important stories with highlights

**Deccan Herald** reports that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is set to officially launch the U-WIN online vaccine management portal, which is currently in its pilot phase, in October. Union Health Minister Shri JP Nadda shared this update, highlighting that the portal has been designed to create a permanent digital record of vaccinations and medications for pregnant women and children, tracking them from birth until the age of 17. During a press conference marking the first 100 days of the third Modi government, health minister also announced that the expanded Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) will now cover all individuals aged 70 and above, regardless of their socio-economic status.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/pm-modi-to-launch-online-vaccine-management-portal-u-win-in-october-nadda-3199289>

**Times of India** reports that Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, highlighted the key achievements of the Union Health Ministry in the first 100 days of the current government. Among the notable initiatives is the launch of the U-WIN Portal, designed for the complete digitisation of vaccination services under the Universal Immunisation Programme. This platform will maintain comprehensive vaccination records for pregnant women and children from birth to 17 years. The U-WIN Portal offers citizen-centric services such as 'Anytime Access' and 'Anywhere' vaccination services, allowing self-registration through either the web portal or mobile application.

**Read more at:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/jp-nadda-lists-out-achievements-of-health-ministry-in-first-100-days-of-modi-3-0/articleshow/113555376.cms>

**Hindustan Times** reports that in a bid to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases, the state government has instructed four districts—Pune, Mumbai, Thane, and Nashik—to boost vaccination coverage for zero-dose children. These districts have a significant number of children who have not received any vaccines, according to officials. Zero-dose children in India are those who have not received the first dose of the pentavalent vaccine by the age of one year. The pentavalent vaccine is administered in three doses, with the first dose given after six weeks of birth, followed by the second and third doses at 10 and 14 weeks.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/pune-news/four-districts-in-maharashtra-directed-to-enhance-vaccine-coverage-for-zero-dose-children-101727286561390.html>

**Times Now**, in its technology and science news, reports that Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates, in an exclusive interview, discussed various pressing issues, including climate change, child healthcare, and agriculture. During the conversation, Gates spoke about the partnership between the Gates Foundation and the Indian government in the healthcare sector. He commended India's progress in vaccination coverage and attributed its success to the federal structure, which enables the distribution of more resources to the poorer states. However, Gates also pointed out that there are still regions in the country where vaccination rates remain low.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.timesnownews.com/technology-science/from-child-mortality-to-climate-action-bill-gates-talks-health-indias-role-and-global-challenges-exclusive-article-113702781>

**The Hindu** in its health section, reported on an open letter addressed to Bharat Biotech International Ltd and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), criticizing Bharat Biotech's defamation lawsuit against the authors of a research paper that examined the long-term effects of Covaxin. The letter, signed

by a group of scientists, researchers, ethicists, doctors, patients, and civil society members, called the company's legal action "short-sighted and punitive." The group argued that scientific disagreements should be addressed through constructive counterpoints in scientific forums, rather than forcing a journal to retract the paper or pursuing a ₹5 crore defamation lawsuit.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/scientists-civil-society-members-write-open-letter-to-bharat-biotech-and-icmr-over-prosecution-of-researchers/article68673048.ece>

**The Guardian** in its global development news, reports that Afghanistan is facing the threat of a polio outbreak, according to health officials, following the suspension of the vaccination campaign by the Taliban due to security concerns and restrictions on women's participation. The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed 18 new polio cases in the country so far this year, a sharp rise from the six cases reported in 2023. Local healthcare workers believe the actual number could be higher, as many cases remain undetected. A health official involved in the campaign told The Guardian that the Taliban had "temporarily suspended" polio vaccinations due to security risks and the involvement of women in administering the vaccines.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/sep/17/taliban-curbs-women-risk-polio-outbreak-vaccination-campaign-health-officials-warn>

**India Today**, in its health news section, reports that the United States has approved a nasal spray vaccine called FluMist for combating influenza (flu) caused by influenza virus subtypes A and B. The vaccine is approved for individuals aged 2 to 49. FluMist, which has been used safely and effectively for years, does not require administration by a healthcare provider and can be self-administered or given by a caregiver. It is the first influenza vaccine that does not need to be injected by a doctor or healthcare professional.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/health/story/us-fda-approves-first-nasal-spray-flu-vaccine-self-administered-2604934-2024-09-23>

**BBC** in news articles reports that letters are being sent to island residents who meet specific criteria, reminding them of their eligibility for free flu vaccinations. This includes pregnant women, who can receive their vaccine through maternity services, and children aged six months to 18 years who fall within clinical risk groups. All children are being offered a nasal flu vaccine, a spray alternative that eliminates the need for an injection. The next phase of the vaccination program will target children aged two, three, and four who have not yet started primary school, as well as all school children up to Year 11.

**Read more at:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cew1gdjdnjgo>