

Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 01 - 15 Jan 2025

The current report analyzes media coverage of health-related themes, including Routine Immunization (RI), vaccine-preventable diseases, measles and rubella elimination, polio, HPV, Td, and adverse events following immunization (AEFI), across English and Hindi online newspapers and news portals during the period **January 01 - 15, 2025**. The analysis encompassed **138** articles covering a wide range of topics, including RI policies at national and international levels, stakeholder contributions, and broader public health discussions, which cover diverse perspectives.

Key Findings:

- **Positive Portrayal:** 42.0% of the articles presented RI initiatives in a positive light, highlighting their significance in public health.
- **Neutral/Multi-faceted Coverage:** 57.2% of the articles adopted a neutral or multifaceted perspective, acknowledging both the benefits and challenges of RI programs.
- **Negative Coverage:** During the fortnight under analysis, only one story, comprising 0.72% of the articles analysed was negative which focused on adverse events following immunization, which covered the death of two children, allegedly after vaccination.

Reflection of News stories on Immunization during the fortnight (01 - 15 Jan. 2025) - at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 7	2	5			Flu, HMPV, Cervical cancer, vaccination, Routine immunization
Indian Express - 2		2			HMPV, Pnumonia
Hindustan Times -2		2			Vaccination, Mumps, women health
The Hindu - 4	2	2			U-WIN, women health, cervical cancer, Mumps
The Week -2	2				Immunization, women health
Economic Times - 1		1			TB vaccine
Bussiness Standard - 1		1			ICMR
Medical Dialogue - 2		2			HMPV, BCG
Deccan Herald - 3		3			HMPV, vaccination, childhood diseases
Telegraph - 1	1				Vaccination shot
Dainik Bhaskar - 31	15	16			BCG, VHND, vaccination camp, Immunization, ASHA, AWW, session site, HWC, village vaccination, immunization corner, coverage, ANM, training, Birth dose, U-win, cervical cancer, Newborn, Pragnant women, Review meeting
Hindustan Hindi - 11	5	6			Pneumonia, Vaccination, Campaign, Review meeting, RI coverage, DTF, Immunization, ANM, Monthly Meeting
Prabhat Khabar - 3	1	2			Measles, HWC, MMR
Amar Ujala - 4	1	2	1	Child died due to vaccination in Ambedkar nagar, UP	Vaccination, ANM, TCV
Other_National -12	8	4			TB, vaccination, HMPV, vaccine, cervical cancer, child protection month, FOGSI, immunization, BCG, immunization corner
International News					
Nature - 3		3			Vaccine, Immunization, TB
The Guardian -1		1			Vaccination
BBC - 3		3			Flu, Anti Vaccine
Washington Post -1		1			Polio
New York Times - 5	2	3			Polio, Adult vaccination, child immunization
Medical Xpress -1		1			Measles
Gavi - 2	1	1			childhood vaccination
WHO - 3	2	1			KAP, MR, vaccination week
Nation -2		2			BCG, cervical cancer
Cureus, VAT-2	2				PCV, health worker
Other Int. web portal - 29	14	15			Whooping cough, cervical cancer, Yellow fever, Measles, Meningitis, Vaccine, Immunization, HPV, Malaria, Pertussis, travel vaccination, Diphtheria, TB, digital

Important stories with highlights

The Economic Times reports that while India's national immunization program includes the BCG vaccine, offering protection against severe TB, its efficacy in preventing TB or transmission in children over five is limited. The National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination (2017-2025) focuses on identifying and treating active TB cases and improving coordination between the TB program and private healthcare providers. Despite progress in reporting and reducing mortality rates, a school-based strategy for identifying active TB cases and addressing latent infections is still lacking.

Read more at:

<https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/fighting-active-and-latent-tb-in-schools-a-keystone-in-indias-tb-elimination-strategy/116987665>

Times of India reports that following Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu, new cases of human metapneumovirus (HMPV) have emerged in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda assured that India's surveillance network remains vigilant and prepared to address any emerging health challenges. Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava chaired a virtual meeting with States and Union Territories to review the status of respiratory illnesses, including HMPV cases. This meeting followed media reports of a surge in HMPV cases in China, prompting a discussion on public health measures for effective management.

Read more at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/hmpv-spreads-to-maharashtra-2-new-cases-identified/articleshow/117013045.cms>

Indian Express reports on increased surveillance in India for human metapneumovirus (HMPV) infections, raising questions about the necessity of pneumonia vaccines to protect against such respiratory viruses. HMPV typically causes flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, and nasal congestion, which usually resolve on their own. However, it can lead to severe lower respiratory infections in children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. Experts note that unlike COVID-19, HMPV has been around for decades, with most children exposed to the virus by age five, contributing to some level of natural immunity.

Read more at:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/hmpv-cases-preventive-pneumonia-vaccine-experts-9775852/>

The Hindu reports that the Kerala health department has stepped up surveillance and preventive measures in response to a mumps outbreak in Alappuzha. The outbreak has led to the 21-day closure of Government NS Lower Primary School, Eramalloor, and Government Lower Primary School, Perumbalam South, after 23 students at Eramalloor and nine at Perumbalam South tested positive for mumps. Additionally, two cases have been confirmed in children from Mannancherry grama panchayat. The health department is actively monitoring the situation to contain the spread of the infection.

Read more at:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/mumps-outbreak-triggers-school-closure-and-heightened-surveillance-in-alappuzha/article69088365.ece>

Hindustan Times reports that several private sector hospitals and nursing homes are experiencing a shortage of the hepatitis B vaccine. Even healthcare staff at medical colleges were being affected, according to doctors, reported the news story. Despite these claims, officials from the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) stated that they have an adequate supply of the vaccine provided by the government. The shortage raises concerns about the risks posed to both the public and healthcare workers due to limited vaccine availability.

Read more at:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/pune-news/pvt-med-centres-face-shortage-of-hepatitis-b-vaccine-101736626259312.html>

Telegraph published an article explaining that vaccination or immunization helped protect individuals, particularly children and pregnant women, from certain diseases. The story shared that before the availability of vaccines, illnesses like smallpox and tetanus caused many deaths. Thanks to concentrated efforts by the government and WHO, smallpox has been eradicated, and the incidence of many other diseases has significantly decreased. However, as generations grew up without witnessing these diseases, people tend to forget their severity. With widespread immunization, the transmission of some diseases slows, leading to complacency in maintaining timely vaccinations or booster doses, which are essential for sustaining immunity and preventing disease resurgence.

Read more at:

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/health/the-shot-that-keeps-disease-away/cid/2076130>

WHO EMR published news from Sudan that the World Bank, WHO, and UNICEF have signed an \$82 million agreement to enhance access to essential health services for over 8 million vulnerable people in Sudan and to strengthen the country's health system. In conflict-affected regions, more than 70% of hospitals and health facilities are non-operational due to damage or destruction and a lack of supplies. Frontline workers, including nurses and doctors, have not received salaries for months. Security issues and limited access have also disrupted the delivery of vaccine supplies and routine immunization activities.

Read more at:

<https://www.emro.who.int/sdn/sudan-news/world-bank-partners-with-who-and-unicef-to-boost-health-care-access-for-8-million-people-in-sudan.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) on its website shared that it offers regional and national strategies to aid countries in achieving measles control and elimination. These efforts are guided by key frameworks such as the Immunization Agenda 2030 and the Measles and Rubella Strategic Framework 2021–2030. These frameworks emphasize enhancing routine immunization programs to reach all children, close immunity gaps, and prevent outbreaks, all within the broader context of universal health care.

Read more at:

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240103399>