

Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 17 - 31 Dec 2024

This 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 **December 17-31, 2024**. The analysis encompassed 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:** 56.5% of the articles presented RI initiatives in a positive light, highlighting their significance in public health.
- **Neutral/Multi-faceted Coverage:** 42.7% of the articles adopted a neutral or multifaceted perspective, acknowledging both the benefits and challenges of RI programs.
- **Limited 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 a Child, allegedly after vaccination.

Reflection of News stories on Immunization during the fortnight (17 - 31 Dec. 2024)-at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 13	6	7			Polio, Covid, Pragnant women, ANM, campaign, Pneumonia, CHC, BCG vaccine, environmental health,
Hindustan Times - 2	2				UIP, Pneumonia
Financial Express - 1	1				U-WIN
The Hindu - 1		1			HepB
Deccan Herald - 1		1			Polio
New 18 - 4	3	1			Flu, Mumps, Measles, MIC
Economic Times - 2		2			Covid, preventable diseases
Bussiness Standard - 2		2			Polio, Mpox
Medical Dialogue - 2	1	1			Vaccination, HepB,
Dainik Bhaskar - 17	12	4	1	Newborn baby dies after vaccination in surajpur in chhattisgarh	Vaccination, Polio, Immunization, task force, TT, vaccination session, U-WIN, DPT, Pneumonia, TD, MR, pragnant women, Newborn, HWC
Hindustan Hindi - 13	5	8			ANM, vaccination session, community meeting, Polio, UIP, Pvt vaccination, Rota, U-WIN, Urban Immunization, HWC, Diptheria
Prabhat Khabar - 4	4				MIC, UIP, vaccination, Review meeting
Amar Ujala - 6	1	5			HCW, whooping cough, PHC, ANM, polio, vaccination
International News					
Nature - 2		2			HPV, vaccination
The Guardian - 1		1			Measles
Medical Xpress/VAT- 2	2				vaccine development, child vaccination
The Tribune - 1		1			School Immunization
Newyork Times - 1	1				vaccination
Washington Post -1		1			Health
African -1	1				Pneumonia
CNN - 1		1			RSV
BBC - 3	3				Malaria, whooping cough, Flu
CDC - 1	1				Polio
Gavi - 8	5	3			Health workers, MR, summit, vaccination program, Immunization, partnership, malaria, community engagement
WHO - 3	3				Polio, vaccine, MR
UNDP -1	1				Digital immunization
Relief Web - 2	2				Cholera vaccine, TB
UNICEF - 3	3				Immunization, Polio, grant managemt.
Other web portal - 37	18	19			Universal health coverage, Adult BCG, cervical cancer, malaria, vaccination, MR, ICMR, AEFI, Meeting, Diptheria, whooping cough, pragnant women, HPV, polio, MMR, HepB, Immunization, Pertussis, Handbook, zero dose, Malaria, U-WIN, vaccine

Important stories with highlights

Times of India reports that after months of delay, Mumbai will start vaccinating high-risk adults with the BCG vaccine for tuberculosis (TB). The state health department has already vaccinated over 1 million individuals since September. The high-risk group includes those who had TB in the past five years, household contacts of TB patients within the last three years, self-declared diabetes patients, smokers, malnourished individuals, and people over 60 with co-morbidities.

Read more at:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/116447109.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

UNDP website reports that digital platforms are revolutionizing immunization and disease control in India, addressing challenges in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), which serves 30 million pregnant women and 27 million newborns annually. Despite its scale, timely vaccination remains a challenge, often leading to preventable diseases. Vaccines save over 150 million lives globally each year. Digital technologies, like U-WIN, a name-based immunization registry, enhance healthcare delivery by ensuring "anywhere access, anytime vaccination." U-WIN helps healthcare workers access vaccination records nationwide, ensuring continuous service and reducing dropout rates, thereby strengthening India's health system and improving last-mile impact.

Read more at:

<https://www.undp.org/india/stories/revolutionizing-healthcare-digital-platforms-are-transforming-immunization-and-disease-control-india>

India Today reports that IIT Bombay researchers, from the Department of Aerospace Engineering, have developed a groundbreaking needle-free drug delivery system. This innovative device uses shockwaves to create a liquid microjet that gently and quickly penetrates the skin, eliminating the need for needles. The microjet travels at nearly twice the speed of a commercial airplane during takeoff, making the process almost painless and reducing skin trauma. This advancement provides new hope for patients with chronic conditions like diabetes, making frequent injections less intimidating.

Read more at:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/iit-bombay-designs-needle-free-shock-syringe-for-painless-injections-2656151-2024-12-27>

The Hindu reports that Tamil Nadu, which currently records around 150 mumps cases monthly, has urged the Government of India (GoI) to include the mumps vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). In a letter to the Union Health Ministry, the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine requested the provision of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine for routine immunisation to curb the spread of these diseases in the State. This request was prompted by the rise in mumps cases across various health unit districts from February last year.

Read more at:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-sought-adding-mumps-vaccine-in-uip/article69005062.ece>

The Statesman reports that the actual burden of vaccine-preventable diseases among adults in India remains uncertain, ascribing it to infectious disease experts. While childhood vaccination coverage, the story writes, is deemed robust, adult vaccination has lagged significantly over the years. Experts emphasize the urgent need for greater focus on adult immunisation, as viruses and bacteria responsible for various infections continue to mutate with each season, posing ongoing health risks.

Read more at:

<https://www.thestatesman.com/bengal/vaccine-preventable-diseases-still-uncertain-experts-1503379724.html>

The Indian Express in its city News reports that the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has launched an adult Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination drive to combat Mumbai's tuberculosis (TB) crisis. On December 23, nearly 1,990 individuals were vaccinated across 12 wards. Traditionally given to newborns, this initiative now includes adults through a phased rollout. BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani urged residents to participate, emphasizing its importance in the fight against TB. Eligible residents, identified by ASHAs through surveys, can receive the vaccine voluntarily with written consent. This effort aligns with India's goal to eliminate TB by 2025 under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme.

Read more at:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/bmc-adult-bcg-vaccination-campaign-tb-9741052/>

UNICEF's MENA report highlights strengthening immunization through gender equity by engaging fathers in child's health. Across the region, UNICEF promotes positive parenting programs that encourage fathers to share responsibility for child health, fostering gender-responsive parenting. These initiatives aim to increase immunization demand and address barriers in zero-dose communities. By creating stronger parenting alliances, UNICEF strives for equitable family outcomes, improving immunization rates and overcoming challenges related to access and service delivery in underserved areas.

Read more at:

<https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/strengthening-immunization-children>

Gavi in its vaccine work online portal, reports on honouring healthcare workers killed in conflicts worldwide, despite international humanitarian laws protecting medical personnel, facilities, and supplies. These workers, who dedicated their lives to saving others, were tragically lost, leaving a significant void in their communities. Their deaths represent not only the loss of individual professionals but also the loss of decades of life-saving care they would have provided. Gavi extends heartfelt condolences to the families and communities of these heroes. Their sacrifices are remembered, and Gavi continues to support the surviving health workers who carry on their legacy, ensuring their life-saving work endures.

Read more at:

<https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/memorial-vaccineswork-remembers-health-care-workers-killed-2024>

CNN in its health section reports that whooping cough, or pertussis, has been surging in the United States, with over 32,000 cases reported so far this year, according to the US CDC. This is about six times higher than last year at the same time, marking the highest number since 2014. The highly contagious respiratory illness often begins with cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, sneezing, and low-grade fever, followed by a painful, full-body cough after a week or two. Despite the alarming rise, there are currently no signs of the outbreak slowing down, according to CDC data.

Read more at:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/12/25/health/whooping-cough-cases-surg-ing-united-states/index.html>