FRESS INFORMATION BUREAU দস মুদদা ক্রার্থানার GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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Vaccines can change children's future

India must give vaccine a push anti-diarrhoeal the anti-Hib and

Nata Menabde

complications. cases such as pneumonia, diar-rhoca, malnutrition and birth dia, nearly two million children still die from preventable dislife-threatening diseases. In Inweapon against disabling and powerful and single medical dis-covery has changed the future of children. Vaccination is a cost-effective

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cus) is also a threat to children's health worldwide. Streptococcus pneumoniae (S. Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) is a major cause of bacterial meningitis pneumoniae or pneumonia caused by Hib and pneumocoicwhile

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now gradually moving towards including these latest vaccines in the immunisation available to protect against these pathogens and India is sends thousands of children to the hospital and kills a large available to protect number too. New vaccines are Rotavirus-related diarrhoea

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programme.

of vaccines and advocacy for clared the 'Decade of Vaccines' acknowledged. the importance of vaccines is Awareness about the benefits by the global community. ing this period. The health and ing vaccines must increase durthe introduction of new lifesavfren will improve only when vell-being of millions of chil-In fact, 2011-20 has been deand rotavirus have gained popeas

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New vaccines against Hib

countries has been associated with safety concerns.

This

included reports of

to India)

(The author is WHO Representative vaccines to India's population. al government to enhance the ted to working with the nation-

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valent vaccine in some Asian PENTAVALENT SAFETY duced in six additional states. Since then, the pentavalent vaccine has also been intro-

The introduction of the penta-

benefits of safe and efficacious

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sive

sive benefits: 72,000 child leaths and nearly three million

cine was further reinforced af-

Faith in the safety of this vac-

India too would derive mas-

parts of the world almost disappeared in

nuge, since Hib diseases

these have

As a result, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Vietnam have resumed the

tween vaccination and infant death. ternational experts have not demonstrated a causal link becal governments, WHO and incountries, investigations by lo-

use of pentavalent vaccine.

And the benefits have been

Hib.

have adopted the pentavalent nisation programmes. Of the 194 WHO Member States, 185 be included in national immurecommended in 2006 that this

raccine that protects against

ry Group of Experts (SAGE), grammes in several countries after WHO's Strategic Adviso-

Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Vietnam

Because of these concerns,

emporarily suspended pentavalent vaccine use as a precaupro-

deaths shortly after vaccination in Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, Pa-

ldstan, Nepal and Vietnam.

Universal Immunisation Pro-gramme (UIP) in India offer children protection from just a culosis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, pohandful of infections – tuber-Vaccines provided under the will benefit children the most in the country are the pentavayet to be maximised in India. benefits of these vaccines are ularity in many countries. The The three new vaccines that

cine safety coordinated by the Indian Council of Medical Re-search (ICMR).

inised.

The WHO remains commit-

lives should not be compro-

childhood illnesses and saves immunisation that reduces sory Group on immunisation and a detailed review of vacdia's National Technical Advi-2011 after endorsement by In-

ue to ensure the safety of vac-

duce the vaccine in six states government's decision to introlent is safe and endorses the

While efforts should contin-

cines, the drive to introduce

in Tamil Nadu and Kerala in

The vaccine was introduced

more recently.

Immunisation

Programme

tempts to distort facts.

IAP maintains that pentava-

vaccine, and has denounced attion being spread about the

diatrics (IAP) has expressed concern about the misinforma-

cluded that it was safe. countries (Sri Lanka, Bhutan, reviewed the pentavalent vac-

The Indian Academy of Pae-

India and Vietnam) and con-

was included in the National ade in the private sector, and

also protects against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis
B) has been popular for a dec-

vaccine that contains Hib (and

In India, the pentavalent

across the country. Hib programme is established hospitalisations in India will be

cine safety data from Committee on Vaccine Safery ter WHO's Global Advisory

lour

prevented each year once the

across the country and Japa-nese encephalitis in some arlio, measles and Hepatitis B tection against

Hib;

Other countries have readily embraced these vaccines, and are deriving their benefits. Hib mococcus conjugate vaccine

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lent vaccine that confers pro-

rotavirus vaccine and the pneu-