

# Rota Talk

## NEWSLETTER



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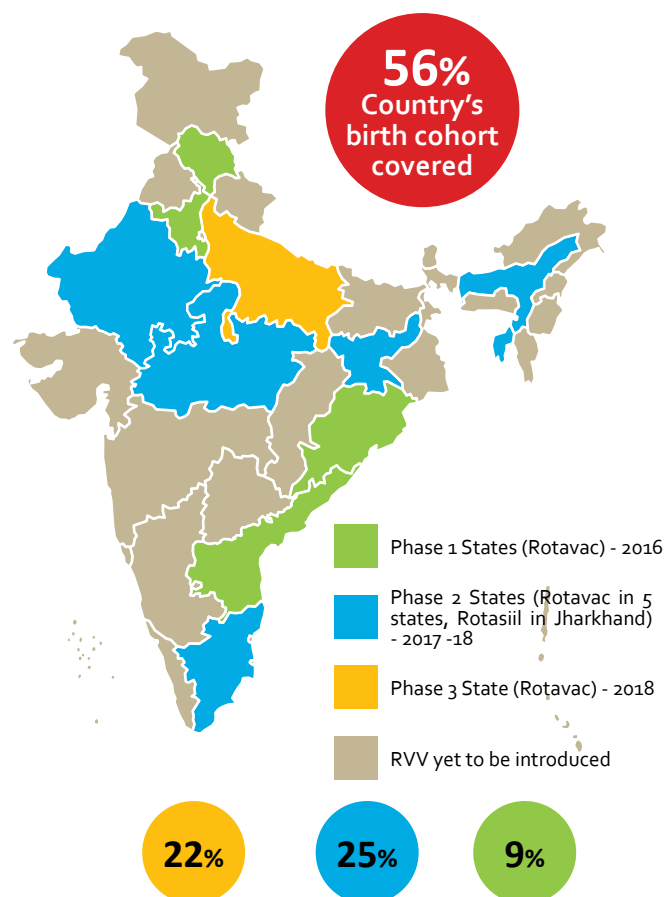
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Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for Tourism, Women, Child and Family Welfare, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, vaccinating a child with Rotavirus vaccine

## Rotavirus vaccine expansion: Uttar Pradesh becomes the 11<sup>th</sup> state to introduce Rotavirus vaccine in the Universal Immunization Program

Uttar Pradesh became the eleventh state to introduce Rotavirus vaccine (RVV) in the Universal Immunization Program (UIP). On 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Tourism, Women, Child and Family Welfare, Dr. Rita Bahuguna Joshi formally launched the vaccine by administering the first dose to a child at an event organized in Lucknow. With this a cumulative estimate of 56 percent of India's birth cohort is covered by RVV. On the same day, the vaccine was also launched in all the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh by public representatives and district authorities.



Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for Tourism, Women, Child and Family Welfare, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, addressing the media persons after the launch

**11 states have already introduced RVV by September 2018**



Dr. (Capt.) A. P. Chaturvedi, SEPIO, Uttar Pradesh interacting with media persons during launch of RVV in Uttar Pradesh

In Uttar Pradesh, it is planned to cover an estimated annual target of 5.7 million infants, which forms around 22% of the country's birth cohort.

This successful launch of RVV in the state of Uttar Pradesh was possible with meticulous planning, excellent leadership from the state government, support from the partner agencies like WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, GHS, BMGF, ITSU and able guidance from MoHFW. JSI is the lead partner in the RVV introduction in the country.

The planning for the introduction included preparedness assessment, capacity building of health staff and ensuring supply of vaccine to all the cold chain points. The capacity building efforts prior to RVV launch was a mammoth exercise. UP is the most populous state in India with 75 districts, 822 blocks and 568 urban planning units.

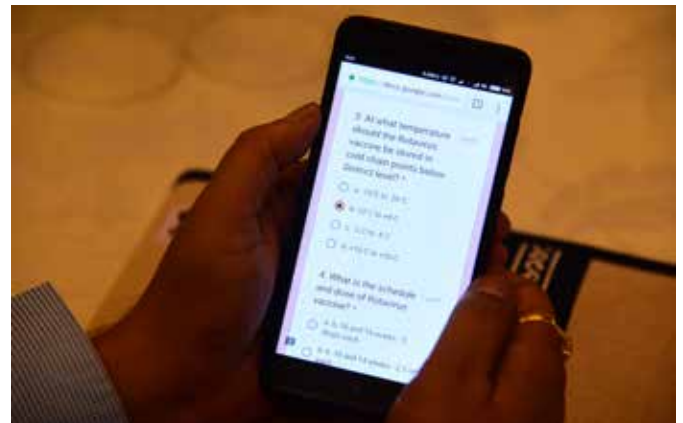
In order to cover such a huge number in a limited time period and also to maintain the quality, it was decided to adopt "Training of Trainers (ToT) approach and a state level trainers' pool was developed with support from MoHFW and partner

agencies from national / state level.

Four batches of state level workshops were conducted at Lucknow between 4th - 9th June 2018 covering 330 participants, simultaneously at two training venues. At the district level, 111 batches of trainings were conducted between 13th June to 7th July 2018 in which around 6800 participants (Medical Officers and Cold Chain Handlers) were trained. Similarly, in block level trainings 3,17,293 participants including ANMs, ASHAs and AWWs were trained. A total of 6000 operational guidelines, 7000 FAQ booklets (English), 32,000 FAQs (Hindi) and 0.4 million leaflets for mobilizers were printed and distributed to all the districts before the initiation of the trainings.

To make the trainings more interesting and increase the involvement of the participants, various innovative methodologies were adopted:

1. Real-time Pre and Post training assessments
2. Online Feedback forms
3. Use of Sticky notes (post-its)
4. Station approach



The mobile app developed for the Pre and Post training assessment during trainings in Uttar Pradesh



Launch of Operational Guidelines and other training material during the state level workshops for RVV introduction in UP





*State level trainings using station approach in Uttar Pradesh*



## Program Implementation review (PIR) of Rotavirus Vaccine introduction in Jharkhand

As part of Rotavirus vaccine (RVV) introduction in a phase-wise manner, Jharkhand was chosen to be the 10th state for expansion. In Jharkhand, a new type of oral, lyophilized RVV was introduced. The formal launch happened on 7th April 2018 following completion of all the required preparatory activities. In order to understand the field realities related to Rotavirus vaccine introduction in the state of Jharkhand in greater depth, MoHFW planned a multi-partner Program Implementation Review (PIR) of the activities related to the vaccine

introduction in selected districts of Jharkhand. Representatives from the partner organizations (WHO, UNICEF, UNDP & JSI) were involved in the review.



*Orientation meeting being conducted at Ranchi for PIR, RVVI- Jharkhand*

## Image gallery: Joint visit of BMGF and JSI team to Jharkhand

*(Dr. Duncan Steele, BMGF- USA, Dr. Arindam Ray, BMGF-India, Dr. Saumendra Nath Bagchi, JSI-India)*



*Partner meeting*



*Interaction with Ms. Nidhi Khare, Principal Secretary (Health), Jharkhand*



*Visit to cold chain point*



*Visit to session site*

## »» Stories from the Field

### Rota Vaccine helping to turn the tide.

Session Site: Anganwadi Centre Dwarka Puri, Sarvadaya Nagar (Kanpur), 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018.

Reshma, a 28 years old homemaker lives with her two daughters-9 years and 3 months of age, husband and in-laws in Kanpur city of Uttar Pradesh (UP). Traditionally, the residents of her locality avail health care services from private facilities. When she was pregnant with her second child, the ASHA and Anganwadi worker tried to convince her to avail antenatal services from government facilities, but her family continued with their preference for the private facility. Her second child was born at home and no vaccines were administered to her.



Reshma got her daughter vaccinated for RVV by Santosh (ANM) in presence of Poonam (ASHA) and Meena (AWW)

In the meanwhile, one of her relative had to incur a huge expenditure when their child had to be admitted in a private hospital with severe diarrhea. Coincidentally, during that time, Rotavirus vaccine was being introduced in UP and the ASHA worker had come to her home to explain about the new Rotavirus vaccine (RVV), which would protect the child from 'gambhir dast' (severe diarrhea). She wanted to protect her child from severe diarrhea but found out that she would have to spend a lot of money to get the vaccine at the private facility. She finally convinced her family to take the child to the nearest government immunization session site. On 23 October 2018, she came to the session site and her child got the first dose of RVV free of cost. The child was also administered the first dose of IPV, OPV and Hib containing Pentavalent vaccine. Now she is convinced that vaccines which are available in the government program are of high quality and free of cost and must be taken by the community to protect their children.



## FIELD INNOVATIONS

### Innovative mobile application for Supportive Supervision of Rotavirus Vaccine introduction in Uttar Pradesh

For providing mentoring support and overall system strengthening, JSI has developed a supportive supervision tool for Rotavirus Vaccine introduction. It is for the Vaccine and Cold Chain Handlers as well as Health workers at the cold chain points and session sites respectively. For this purpose a mobile application has been designed with the following features:



Mobile phone App developed for Supportive supervision of RVVI

- Captures real-time data
- GIS enabled data collection process helps in geographical mapping of the sites and the validation features helps to improve the accuracy and quality of data
- Weighted scores for the questions to obtain component-wise score as well as cumulative scores for each of the sites visited. This also helps in ranking the facilities and measuring the value addition by supportive supervision visits.
- Dashboard and analyzed indicators helps in advocacy with program officers at district and state level for faster decision making process.



## Rotavirus Vaccine Introduction Multi-Country Workshop at Kathmandu, Nepal, 11-13 September 2018



*Dr. S. Bagchi, Technical Director, JSI-India making a presentation at RAVIN Workshop*



*Participants from RAVIN workshop at Kathmandu, Nepal*

Rotavirus Accelerated Vaccine Introduction Network (RAVIN), is a newly formed partnership between the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (lead institution), JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Saumendra Bagchi, Technical Director, JSI-India was invited to share the experience of Rotavirus Vaccine introduction and the innovative best practices from India on 11-13th Sep. 2018 at the RAVIN workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal. India's experience on two different types of Rotavirus vaccines created interest amongst the participants from various countries, who are planning to introduce RVV in the coming years.

## Thirteenth International Rotavirus Symposium-2018, Minsk, Belarus, 29-31 August, 2018

The 13th International Rotavirus Symposium was held between 29-31st August 2018 in Minsk, Belarus. It was a platform to bring together researchers, public health professionals, country policy makers, industry representatives and academicians to discuss and finalise the global expansion of Rotavirus Vaccine. It also provided an update on new evidences and data from relevant research across the world to enrich the public health domain related to prevention of Rotavirus gastroenteritis.

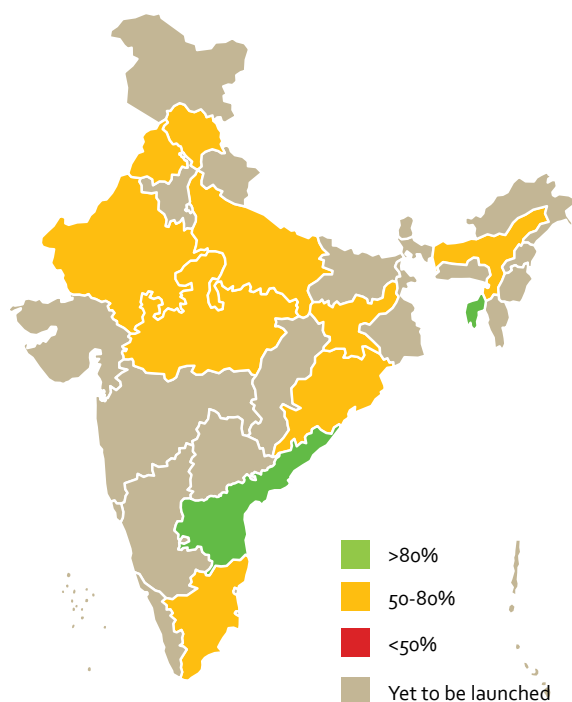
Immunization Division, MoHFW, BMGF and JSI jointly presented a poster in this symposium titled "Innovations in Rotavirus Vaccine Introduction in India: The Tablet Approach". This poster was based on desk review of RVV and other past vaccines introductions in India with special focus on the key characteristics and innovative elements of the RVV introduction processes across the core program domains. The TABLET approach was adapted from the DBOT (Design, Build, Operate and Transfer) model used in large Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) projects. The TABLET approach, which covers the following aspects like Technical Advice, Build capacity, Leverage partnerships, Engineer innovations and Transfer assets, was effectively used for Rotavirus Vaccine introduction in India.

This has the potential to show the transition pathway for the countries to build self-sustainable immunization program, in post-aid scenarios.



*Dr. Pradeep Halder, MoHFW, India, Dr. Raj Shankar Ghosh & Dr. Arindam Ray, BMGF-India, Dr. Duncan Steele, BMGF- USA, Dr. Saumendra Nath Bagchi, JSI-India at Minsk, Belarus for the Poster presentation*

## Rotavirus vaccine coverage dashboard



Doses	Coverage 2017-18 (in million)
RVV 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	7.92
RVV 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	7.34
RVV 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dose	6.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.23</b>

Source: HMIS data (April to Sep 2018)  
Map shows RVV 1<sup>st</sup> dose coverage.

### Rota quick facts

- ✓ As of August 2018, 96 countries have introduced RVV in their National Immunization Programmes.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh is the eleventh state in India to introduce RVV in the Universal Immunization Program.
- ✓ MoHFW has decided on further expansion of RVV to 25 remaining states / UTs to cover the entire country.

## Mind Power Games

### True or False:

1. The birth cohort of Uttar Pradesh is around 22% of India birth cohort. (T / F)
2. Each dose of Rotavirus vaccine is 1 ml. (T / F)
3. Rotavirus vaccine vial can be used up to a maximum of 4 hours after opening. (T / F)
4. The Rotavirus vaccine should be stored at -20°C at all levels. (T / F)
5. Maximum eligible age limit under UIP in India for 1<sup>st</sup> dose of Rotavirus vaccine in one year of age. (T / F)

### For answers:

Please scan the QR Code



### Editorial Board

- Dr. Pradeep Halder, MoHFW
- Dr. M K Agarwal, MoHFW
- Dr. Arindam Ray, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Dr. S N Bagchi, JSI
- Dr. Yashika Negi, MoHFW
- Dr. Arup Deb Roy, JSI
- Dr. Akshaya Kumar Mishra, JSI



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