

NATIONAL

Ministry to launch 'U-WIN' portal soon for immunisations

Learning lessons from the Co-WIN portal launched for Covid-19 vaccine management system during the pandemic, the Union Health Ministry will soon roll out 'U-WIN' portal, for maintaining an electronic registry of routine immunisations. The U-WIN programme has been designed to digitise the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and it is presently being run in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory. The platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses and all vaccination events thereafter, official sources told. U-WIN, which will replicate Co-WIN, was launched on January 11 in 65 districts across the country. Vaccination records under UIP are being maintained manually as of now. So this will do away with the hassle of keeping a physical record. It will enable the digitisation of session planning, and updating vaccination status on a real-time basis, an official said. Enlisting various issues in the present system, he said that for instance, multiple vaccines and doses lead to difficulty in monitoring and individual tracking. "There is also lack of awareness among beneficiaries about sessions, location and date, especially in urban areas and iniquity in immunisation coverage in states/Uts." Besides, another major issue is that immunisation at private health facilities is not recorded, the official explained. In contrast, the U-WIN is going to be the single source of information for immunisation services which will record pregnancy details and outcome, newborn registration and immunisation at birth. There will also be live updating of vaccination status, delivery outcome, and planning of RI (routine immunisation) sessions. "There will be digital registrations of all pregnant women and newborns for individualised tracking for vaccination, reminders for upcoming doses and follow-up of dropouts.

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Centre to stop sites from weaving 'dark patterns' to mislead buyers

The Centre has sought public comments on the draft guidelines for prevention and regulation of "dark patterns," on the Internet, particularly in e-commerce platforms. The guidelines include ways to prevent and regulate false urgency, basket sneaking, confirm shaming, forced action, subscription trap and more such "dark patterns". The public can comment on the guidelines uploaded on the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry's website till October 5. Dark patterns have been a prominent feature of many apps and websites over the course of the Internet's growth, and regulators around the world have started taking steps to limit them. In the European Union, for example, users complained that Amazon's Prime service was difficult to unsubscribe from online, as the firm would redirect users through a series of pages seeking to retain them. After talks with the European Commission, the company agreed last June to simplify the process.

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