India Invites Pakistan and Afghanistan to Join Front against Polio

India has extended a helping hand to its two key neighboring countries - Pakistan and Afghanistan - in an attempt to form a united front to completely eradicate polio.

NEW DELHI - The Indian ministry of external affairs (MEA), along with the health ministry, recently invited teams from the two countries to visit India and adopt an model for eradicating polio, an official said.

According to the official, a delegation from Afghanistan is expected on February 21. However, India is yet to hear from Pakistan on the issue.

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have high polio burdens and therefore, India acts a high risk of importing the virus. After an outbreak last year, most countries, including India, introduced extra health checks on prospective visitors from Pakistan, which alone accounts for over 75% of polio cases globally. This is the main reason why the government here has not been able to shed its guard against... (More on P4)