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Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network

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Why in News

The **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)** is being used by the State/UT governments in India **to monitor the supply chain of Covid response material.**

This has been used **with the requisite customization** during the Covid pandemic for **ensuring continuation of the essential immunization services.**

Key Points

- **About:** It is an **indigenously developed technology system** that **digitizes vaccine stocks** and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
- **Objective:** It is **aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems** across the country.
 - eVIN aims to support the Government of India's **Universal Immunization Programme** by providing **real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures** across all cold chain points in these states.
- **Implemented by:** It is being implemented under the **National Health Mission (NHM)** by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in partnership with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- The integrated solution combines:
 - **Technology :** Online real-time information on vaccine stocks and storage temperature to facilitate **evidence-based decision-making.**
 - **Governance:** Systemizing record keeping, upgrading logistics and encouraging good practices to **ensure efficient vaccine logistics management.**
 - **Human Resources:** To **empower the state cold chain network** by building the capacities of handlers and managers at each stage of vaccine supply.

Universal Immunization Programme

- It was launched by **the government in 1985**, to prevent mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against **12 vaccine-preventable diseases**.
- Under UIP free of cost vaccination is provided against twelve vaccine-preventable diseases i.e. Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia , Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhoea.
- The programme is one of the largest health programmes in the world. Despite being operational for many years, UIP has been able to fully immunize only 65% of children under 1 year of age.

Way Forward

- This strong platform has the potential to be leveraged for **any new vaccine including COVID-19 vaccine**, as and when available.
- eVIN can be a powerful contribution to **strengthening health systems** and **ensuring equity** through easy and **timely availability of vaccines to all children, pregnant mothers and other vulnerable groups**.
- eVIN can be upscaled to build **VALUE (Vaccine and Logistics Utilisation Evaluator)**, which is a **held device for capturing the data of vaccines administered**, to monitor **reach till the last-mile beneficiaries**.
- It can help to **fully automate the process of indenting and supplying vaccines** based on **historic actual consumption of vaccines** and **forecasting**.

Source: PIB