



## Global Efforts Towards Immunization

**For Prelims:** [World Health Organization](#), [United Nations Children's Fund](#), [DTP Vaccine](#), [Covid-19 pandemic](#), [Human papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#), [Immunization Agenda 2030](#), [World Immunization Week](#), [Universal immunisation programme](#), [Mission Indradhanush](#).

**For Mains:** Status of Immunisation in India.

**Source:** DTE

### Why in News?

In a joint press release, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) announced that significant progress had been made in global immunization efforts during 2022.

- Over **4 million more children** were vaccinated in 2022 compared to the year before, reflecting the collective efforts of countries and international organizations to combat vaccine-preventable diseases.

### What is the Major Progress in Global Immunization Efforts?

- **Positive Trends in Immunization Coverage:**
  - **DTP3 Vaccine Usage as a Global Marker:**
    - The [DTP3 vaccine](#), protecting against **diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough)**, serves as the standard indicator for immunization coverage worldwide.
    - In WHO South-East Asia Region, the **number of zero-dose children** (those that have not received even the first dose of DTP vaccine) **halved to 2.3 million in 2022 from 4.6 million in 2021**.
    - The coverage rate for DTP3 in India rose to an **all-time of 93% in 2022**, surpassing the previous pre-pandemic best of **91%** recorded in 2019.
  - **Recovery from Pandemic-related Disruptions:**
    - Of the **73** countries that experienced significant declines in immunization coverage during the pandemic, **15** have recovered to pre-pandemic levels and 24 are on the road to recovery.
  - **HPV Vaccination Rates:**
    - [Human papillomavirus \(HPV\) vaccination](#) rates have returned to pre-pandemic levels, but they remain below the **90% target**.
- **Lingering Disparities and Ongoing Challenges:**
  - **Uneven Recovery and System Strengthening:**
    - While certain countries achieved remarkable recoveries, many smaller and poorer nations still face challenges in restoring immunization services.
    - **34 countries are stagnating or experiencing further declines in vaccination rates**, underscoring the need for ongoing catch-up and system strengthening efforts.

- **Measles Vaccination: A Cause for Concern:**
  - **Measles** (viral disease that typically affects children) vaccination rates have not rebounded as effectively as other vaccines.
    - This has increased the risk of measles infections for an additional **35.2 million children globally**.
  - First dose measles vaccination coverage improved to **83% in 2022**, but it remains lower than the 86% achieved in 2019.

## What are the Major Global Initiatives Related to Immunization?

- **Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030):** It sets an ambitious, overarching global vision and strategy for vaccines and immunization for the decade 2021–2030.
  - **By the end of the decade, IA2030 aims to:**
    - Reduce by 50% the number of children receiving zero vaccine doses
    - Achieve 500 introductions of new or under-utilized vaccines in low- and middle-income countries
    - Achieve 90% coverage for essential childhood vaccines
- **World Immunization Week:** It is celebrated every year in the last week of April.
  - **Theme 2023 - 'The Big Catch-up'**

## What is the Status of Immunization in India?

- **About:**
  - Annually, India vaccinates more than 30 million pregnant women and 27 million children through its **Universal immunization programme**.
  - A child is considered fully immunized if they receive all the required vaccines as per the **national immunization schedule within their first year of life**.
    - However, according to **UNICEF**, only **65% of children in India** receive full immunization during the first year of their life.
- **Major Immunization Programmes in India:**
  - **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):**
    - The program provides **free immunization against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases**.
    - **Nationally Against 9 Diseases:** Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B
    - **Sub-nationally Against 3 Diseases:** Rotavirus diarrhea, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Japanese Encephalitis
    - Two major milestones of the UIP have been the **eradication of polio in 2014** and the **elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus in 2015**.
  - **Mission Indradhanush:**
    - **Mission Indradhanush (MI)** was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) in 2014** with the aim to vaccinate all unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children under UIP.
      - It is being implemented in several phases.
  - **Other Supporting Measures:**
    - Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) rollout.
    - National Cold Chain Management Information System (NCCMIS).

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. 'Mission Indradhanush' launched by the Government of India pertains to (2016)

- (a) immunization of children and pregnant women
- (b) construction of smart cities across the country
- (c) India's own search for the Earth-like planets in outer space

(d) New Educational Policy

Ans: (a)

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