



Covid-19 Endemicity

Why in News

According to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) India seems to be entering some stage of [Covid-19 endemicity](#) where there is **low- to moderate-level transmission**.

Key Points

▪ Endemicity:

- An endemic disease is a disease that is **always present in a certain population or a given geographical region**.
- Some examples of endemics include **chicken pox and malaria**, where there are a predictable number of cases every year in certain parts of the world.

▪ Endemic vs Epidemic vs Pandemic:

- Endemic diseases are often confused with epidemics. However, an **epidemic refers to an outbreak of a disease**. An epidemic occurs when a disease is spreading through one or more populations. In contrast, the endemic disease is one that is constantly present in a group or geographic area.
 - **Pandemics** are worldwide epidemics. A pandemic affects more people and takes more lives than an epidemic.
- Under certain circumstances, an **epidemic can lead to a disease becoming endemic**.

▪ Reason for Covid's Endemicity:

- Only those pathogens can be eradicated that **don't have animals (another species) as a reservoir**.
 - [Smallpox](#) and [polio](#) are human virus examples, **rinderpest** is a cattle virus.
- It means if there is a **virus/pathogen that is present in some animal reservoir** then it **can transmit again once the level of immunity wanes in the population** against the disease caused by it.
- In the case of **coronavirus disease**, it will **continue to circulate as it is present in the animal reservoir**.

▪ Implications:

◦ On Immunity:

- If **enough people are vaccinated or have been exposed** to the infection, then the **virus will cause symptomatic infection but not disease**.

◦ On Future Cases:

- As long as the **new variant does not come with much more transmissibility** than [Delta variant](#), it is more likely that **there will be a steady level of cases, with some regions**, especially of low prior seroprevalence and low vaccination rates, seeing spikes.

Source: IE

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