



Mission Indradhanush

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The Government will launch the **second phase of nationwide immunisation drive** in the second week of December 2019 i.e. **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0**, with an **aim** to achieve at least **90% pan-India immunisation coverage by 2022**.

- **Mission Indradhanush**, that was launched in December 2014, has **increased** India's **immunisation coverage** significantly **to 87% from 67% in 2014**.
- However, **official data** on India's immunisation coverage is still **62%**, given as the **National Family Health Survey-4** (2015-16).

Immunization Programme in India

- Immunization Programme in India was introduced in **1978** as '**Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI)**' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- In **1985**, the Programme was modified as '**Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**'. The stated **objectives** of the Programme include:
 - Rapidly increasing immunization coverage,
 - Improving the quality of services,
 - Establishing a reliable cold chain system to the health facility level,
 - Introducing a district-wise system for monitoring of performance,
 - Achieving self-sufficiency in vaccine production.
- UIP prevents mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine preventable diseases. But in the past it was seen that the **increase in immunization coverage had slowed down** and it increased at the rate of 1% per year between 2009 and 2013.
- To accelerate the coverage, **Mission Indradhanush was envisaged** and implemented since 2015 to rapidly increase the full immunization coverage to 90%.
- The aim is to fully immunize more than 89 lakh children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated under UIP.
- It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunization.

- It provides **vaccination against 7 Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD)** i.e. diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B. In addition, vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B is being provided in selected districts of the country.
- It is a nationwide initiative with a **special focus on 201 high focus districts**. These districts accounted for nearly 50% of the total partially vaccinated or unvaccinated children in the country.
- The rate of increase in full immunization coverage increased to 6.7% per year through the first two phases of 'Mission Indradhanush'.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush

- The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was launched by the Government of India in **2017** to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women **who have been left uncovered** under the routine immunisation programme. Under IMI, **greater focus** has been given on **urban areas** which was **one of the gaps of Mission Indradhanush**.
- The target under IMI was to increase the full immunization coverage to 90% by December 2018. However, **only 16 districts in the country have achieved 90% coverage** so far.
- The **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0** will **target the districts** which have **immunisation coverage of 70% or below**.

Source: IE