

MISSION INDRADHANUSH & INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH (IMI)

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (HEALTH, GOVERNMENT POLICIES & INTERVENTIONS)

CONTEXT: The number of children in India who were unvaccinated or missed their first dose of **diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP)** combined vaccine doubled as revealed by the official data published by the WHO and UNICEF.

BACKGROUND

- The 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)'. 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%.

ABOUT MISSION INDRADHANUSH

- It was launched to fully immunize more than 89 lakh children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated under UIP.
- It provides vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) i.e. **diphtheria, Whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae type B infections, Japanese encephalitis (JE), rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and measles-rubella (MR).**
- However, vaccination against **Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B** is being provided in selected districts of the country.
- Mission Indradhanush was also identified as one of the **flagship schemes under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.**

ABOUT INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH (IMI)

- The **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)** was launched in 2017 by the Central Government with the objective of covering all children under the age of two and pregnant women for immunization who were not covered under the UIP.
- It focused to improve immunisation coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunisation to more than 90% by December 2018 instead of 2020.
- **IMI 2.0 was a nationwide immunisation drive to mark the 25 years of Pulse polio programme (2019-20).** It had targets of full immunization coverage in 272 districts spread over 27 States. It aimed to achieve at least 90% pan-India immunisation coverage by 2022.
- **IMI 3.0 was launched in 2021.** The focus of the IMI 3.0 was the children and pregnant women who had missed their vaccine doses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **IMI 4.0 was launched in February 2022** to ensure that **Routine Immunization (RI) services reach unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and pregnant women.** Children up to two years will be covered in this drive.

INDIA SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

Rise in the number of unvaccinated children

- The number of children in India who were either unvaccinated or missed their first dose of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP) combined vaccine doubled **from 1.4 million in 2019 to 2.7 million in 2021.**
- This is the first time ever that there has been a decline in evaluated coverage in immunization for India as a whole.

India was able to arrest the declining trend between 2020 and 2021

- Though immunization coverage continue to decline world over, India was able to arrest the trend between 2020 and 2021.
- The number of children with zero dose rose sharply to 3 million in 2020.
- A further backsliding was prevented due to catch up programmes such as the IMI 3.0.

GREEN ENERGY OPEN ACCESS RULES

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (GOVERNMENT POLICIES & INTERVENTIONS)

CONTEXT: The Union Government has notified the **Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Open Access) Rules 2022**, that will accelerate India's renewable energy programmes.

KEY POINTS

- The Green Open access is allowed to any consumer and the **limit of Open Access Transaction has been reduced from 1 MW to 100 kW for green energy**, to enable small consumers also to purchase renewable power through open access.
- Provide certainty on open access charges to be levied on Green Energy Open Access Consumers which includes transmission charges, wheeling charges, cross-subsidy surcharge and standby charges. Cap on increasing of cross-subsidy surcharge as well as the removal of additional surcharge, not only incentivise the consumers to go green but also address the issues that have hindered the growth of open access in India.
- Transparency in the approval process of the open access application. Approval to be granted in 15 days or else it will be deemed to have been approved subject to fulfilment of technical requirements. It will be through a national portal.
- **Determination of green tariff:** The tariff for the green energy shall be determined separately by the Appropriate Commission, which shall comprise of the average pooled power purchase cost of the renewable energy, cross-subsidy charges if any, and service charges covering the prudent cost of the distribution licensee for providing the green energy to the consumers.
- The Rules will help to streamlining the overall approval process for granting Open Access including timely approval, to improve predictability of cash flows for renewable power producers. It will also bring Uniformity in the application procedure.

- Banking of surplus green energy with the distribution licensee mandated.
- There shall be a **uniform renewable purchase obligation, on all obligated entities in area of a distribution licensees**. It has also included the Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia for fulfilment of its RPO.
- **Consumers will be given the green certificates** if they consume green power.
- Cross subsidy surcharge and additional surcharge shall not be applicable if green energy is utilized for production of green hydrogen and green ammonia.

SIGNIFICANCE

- These rules are notified for **promoting generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from Waste-to-Energy plants**.
- The notified Rules enable **simplified procedure** for the open access to green power. It will enable faster approval of Green OA, Uniform Banking, Voluntary purchase of RE power by commercial & industrial consumers, Applicability of OA charges etc.
- It will ensure the **access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and green energy** for all.
- It will help in **achieving India's commitment of 500 GW on non-fossil fuel by 2030**.

PRELIMS FACTS

PARTICIPATORY NOTES

- Investment in the **Indian capital market through participatory notes (P-notes) declined to rupees 80,092 crore** making it the lowest level in 20 months.
- Participatory Notes are the **instruments issued by registered Foreign Institutional Investor (FIIs) for the overseas investors who want to invest in the stock markets in India, without being registered under SEBI**.
- P-Notes are **Offshore Derivative Investments (ODIs) with equity shares or debt securities as underlying assets**.
- They **provide liquidity to the investors** as they can transfer the ownership by endorsement and delivery.
- While the FIIs have to report all such investments each quarter to SEBI, they need not disclose the identity of the actual investors.

RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION (RGM)

- The Rashtriya Gokul Mission was **launched in December 2014 as an initiative to develop and conserve the indigenous bovine breeds for improving the milk production and productivity in a scientific manner** which includes superior nutrition and farm management.
- The objectives of this mission are as follows:
 1. To develop and conserve the indigenous breeds.
 2. To initiate a breed improvement programme for improving the genetic makeup.
 3. To improve and increase milk production and productivity.

4. Use of elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi for upgrading nondescript cattle.
5. To distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.

WORMHOLE

- A wormhole is an **intergalactic structure connecting distant points in space-time**. It is also called **Einstein Rosen Bridge**.
- In 1957, **Physicist John Archibald Wheeler** introduced the name “wormhole”.
- **Physicist Ludwig Flamm** came up with a idea of wormhole while analysing some solutions to the equations of general relativity.
- However, no wormhole has been discovered till date.

NATIONAL CULTURE FUND (NCF)

- NCF was established as **Trust under Charitable Endowment Act, 1890** as funding mechanism distinct from existing sources and patterns of funding for arts and culture in India.
- It is **managed and administered by council headed by Union Culture Minister** and decides the policies.
- Its **Executive Committee is headed by Secretary, Ministry of Culture** which actualizes those policies.
- National Culture Fund (NCF) aims to-
 1. Establish and nurture partnerships in the field of Culture and Heritage with private and public sectors, government, non-government agencies, private institutions and foundations.
 2. Mobilize resources for the restoration, conservation, protection and development of India's rich, natural, tangible and intangible heritage.

BHIL TRIBE

- The Bhil are **one of the largest tribal groups, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan**.
- The name is derived from the **word 'billu', which means bow**.
- The Bhil are known to be excellent archers coupled with deep knowledge about their local geography.
- Traditionally, experts in guerrilla warfare, most of them today are farmers and agricultural labourers. They are also skilled sculptors.
- The **Bhil revolt of 1818**, one of the first uprisings undertaken by a tribal group in the country. The reason for the uprising was the brutal treatment of the Bhils at the hands of the East India Company who denied them their traditional forest rights and exploited them.