



## Yellow Fever Vaccine

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- Recently a controversy over the safety of yellow fever vaccine has come up.
- Yellow fever, a fatal disease, **spreads through mosquitoes**. It is often associated with jaundice, hence the name yellow.
- It is usually compulsory to get vaccinated before traveling to any of the yellow fever-endemic countries in parts of Africa, and Central and South America.
- Yellow fever vaccine which is known as **17D** and according to the World Health Organization (WHO) also it is safe and affordable. However, there are **reports of multisystem organ failure following vaccination**.
- Due to such reports, **vaccine hesitancy** is a growing problem the world over.

### Working of a Vaccine

- Many vaccines introduce a pathogen inside the body. For example, the yellow fever vaccine is a live, weakened yellow fever virus. Because it is live, the body responds to it the same way as in a full-blown infection.
- This ensures that the body knows the vulnerabilities of that virus for the rest of the person's life.
- Thus, whenever an invasion happens, blood cells that retain the memory of that virus immediately work towards defeating the nascent invasion much before it can go on to become a full-blown infection.

### Vaccine Hesitancy in India

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- Vaccine hesitancy refers to delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite the availability of vaccination services.
- Recently **Delhi High Court underlined the importance of parental consent** in vaccines given to children in school.
- The **Health Ministry** has **commissioned a study on vaccine hesitancy**, to be conducted by its Immunisation Technical Support Unit in association with GAVI, an international organization supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.