



Measles

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, there has been a significant spike in measles cases and fatalities in Delhi, attributed to **under-reporting of cases during the Covid-19 lockdowns** in the previous years.

- The Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, the **focus and resources were primarily directed towards managing the pandemic**, leading to **weakened surveillance for measles** and other diseases, **contributing to measles cases**, along with challenges related to vaccine acceptance, even among some affluent segments of society.

What is Measles?

- **About:**
 - Measles virus is an enveloped, **ribonucleic acid virus** of the **genus Morbillivirus**.
 - Measles is highly contagious, and an infected person will often transmit the virus to over 90% of unprotected close contacts.
 - The virus infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body. Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.
 - Measles can be entirely prevented through a **two-dose vaccine and has been officially eliminated in many countries** with advanced healthcare systems.
- **Treatment:**
 - **No specific antiviral treatment** exists for measles virus.
 - Severe complications from measles can be avoided through medical care that ensures good nutrition, adequate fluid intake, and treatment of dehydration.
- **Prevention:**
 - Routine measles vaccination for children, combined with **mass immunization campaigns** in countries with high case and death rates, are key public health strategies to reduce global measles deaths.
- **Cases of Measles in India:**
 - Measles cases **dropped by 62% between 2017 and 2021**, from 10.4 to 4 cases per million population.

What are the Initiatives to Tackle Measles?

- **The Measles & Rubella Initiative:**
 - Launched in 2001, the Measles & Rubella Initiative (M&R Initiative) is a global partnership led by the **American Red Cross**, United Nations Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [UNICEF](#) and [WHO](#).
 - The Initiative is committed to **ensuring that no child dies from measles or is born with congenital rubella syndrome**. We help countries to plan, fund and measure efforts to stop measles and rubella for good.
- **Measles-Rubella (MR) Vaccination:**
 - It targets around 41 crore children across India, covering all children aged **between 9 months and less than 15 years and will** be given a single shot of Measles-Rubella (MR)

vaccination irrespective of their previous measles/rubella vaccination status or measles/rubella disease status.

- Other Initiatives include [Universal Immunization Programme \(UIP\)](#), [Mission Indradhanush](#) and [Intensified Mission Indradhanush](#).

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Adenoviruses have single-stranded DNA genomes whereas retroviruses have double-stranded DNA genomes.
2. Common cold is sometimes caused by an adenovirus whereas AIDS is caused by a retrovirus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/measles-10>

