



Global Vaccine Summit

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister of India addressed the **virtual Global Vaccine Summit**.

- The Summit was **hosted** by the **United Kingdom (UK)**. Almost 50 countries including the business leaders, UN agencies, civil society, government ministers, Heads of State and country leaders participated in the Summit.

Key Points

▪ Purpose:

- The Summit was intended to urge nations around the world **to pledge funding for vaccinations** to protect the world from **future outbreaks of infectious diseases**.
- The Summit was aimed at **raising USD 7.4 million** to immunise a further **300 million children in the world's poorest countries by 2025**.

▪ India's Contribution:

- India has pledged **USD 15-million** as India's contribution to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI).
 - GAVI is an **international organisation** which brings together public and private sectors to create equal access to vaccines for children.
- India had also mentioned that it has **shared its stocks of medicines with over 120 countries** in the wake of the pandemic.

▪ The Status of Vaccination in India:

- India is the **world's foremost producer of vaccines** and contributes to the immunisation of about **60% of the world's children**.
- India has also added **six vaccines** to its [Universal Immunization Programme \(UIP\)](#) to expand protection of vaccination in the country.
 - Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) was launched by the government in **1985**, to prevent mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against **12 vaccine-preventable diseases**.
 - Under UIP **free of cost vaccination** is provided against twelve vaccine-preventable diseases i.e. Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhoea.
- The Country has also **digitised the vaccine supply chain** and an electronic intelligence network has been developed to monitor the integrity of the cold chain.
 - But, recently the report released by the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) observed the [disruption of the Global Vaccination Programme in the country](#) in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Way Forward

- The Covid-19 pandemic has **exposed the limitations of global cooperation** and that for the first time in recent history, the human kind faces a clear common enemy.
- But GAVI is not just a global alliance but also a **symbol of international solidarity**. Thus, the whole world needs to stand together to come out of the pandemic.
- There is an urgent need to focus upon the **Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011-2020** that is a framework to prevent millions of deaths by 2020 through more equitable access to existing vaccines for people in all communities.
 - It is equally important for the countries to give importance to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 i.e. Good Health and Well being](#).
- There is a need for an immediate action plan to restart the vaccination programmes through **better health infrastructure** and **medical equipment** during the corona crisis.

[Source:TH](#)

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