



World Immunisation Day 2024

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, [World Immunisation Day](#) was observed on **10th November** to raise awareness about the **vital role vaccines** play in preventing **infectious diseases** and protecting public health.

- Immunisation is making a person **resistant to an infectious disease** by administering a vaccine to stimulate the **immune system**.

What are the Key Facts About Immunisation in India?

▪ Key Immunisation Programs in India:

- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):** Initially launched as the **Expanded Programme on Immunization in 1978**, it was rebranded as the **UIP in 1985** when coverage expanded from **urban to rural areas**.
 - In **1992**, the UIP was incorporated into the [Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme](#) and later, in **1997**, into the [National Reproductive and Child Health Programme](#).
 - Since **2005**, under the [National Rural Health Mission](#), the UIP has focused on ensuring **vaccine access for every child**, even in remote areas.
 - India's **full immunisation coverage** for FY 2023-24 stands at **93.23% nationally**.
- **Mission Indradhanush (MI):** [MI](#) was launched in **December 2014** with a goal of achieving **90% full immunisation coverage**.
 - It focuses on areas with **low immunisation rates**, including hard-to-reach regions and communities with **unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children**.
- **U-WIN Portal:** It is a digital platform designed to **streamline vaccine delivery** and record-keeping, enabling easy access and management of immunisation records.
 - It allows for **'Anytime Access'** and **'Anywhere'** vaccination, offering flexible scheduling options for recipients.
 - It also generates a universal **QR-based eVaccination Certificate** and provides the option to create an [Ayushman Bharat Health Account \(ABHA\) ID](#).

▪ Public Health Milestones:

- **COVID-19 Vaccination:** Between **16th January 2021** and **6th January 2023**, India had administered **over 220 crore doses**, covering **97%** of eligible citizens with at least one dose and **90% with both doses**.
- **Polio Eradication:** India was officially certified as **polio-free** in **March, 2014**.
- **Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNTE):** India eliminated **MNTE in April 2015**, well ahead of the global target of **December 2015**.
- **Yaws-Free:** India became the **first country** to be officially recognized as yaws-free by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#).
 - **Yaws** is a chronic **bacterial infection** affecting **skin, bone and cartilage**.
- **Smallpox:** **Smallpox** was eradicated in India in **1977**.
- **Leprosy:** Leprosy was eliminated in **2005**.
- **Kala-azar:** India is close to achieving the **elimination of Kala-azar** as a public health

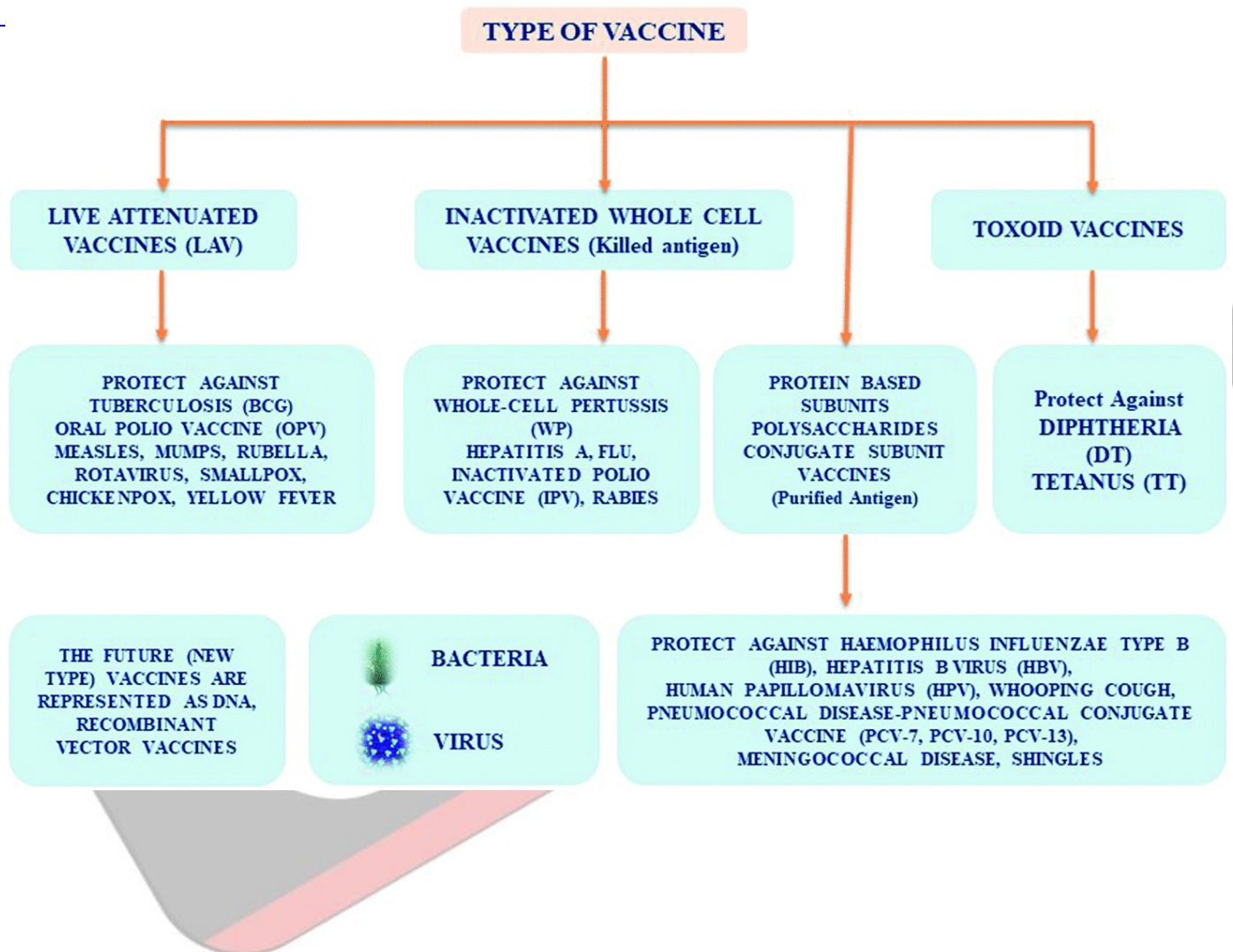
problem.

- India has achieved **WHO certification criteria** for **two consecutive years** and needs to maintain this level for **one more year** to qualify for the certification.

Note

- Under UIP, immunisation is provided free of cost against **12 vaccine preventable diseases**:
 - **Nationally against 9 diseases**: Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, **Polio**, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, **Hepatitis B** and **Meningitis & Pneumonia** caused by Haemophilus Influenzae type B.
 - **Sub-nationally against 3 diseases**: Rotavirus diarrhoea, **Pneumococcal Pneumonia** and **Japanese Encephalitis**.
- UIP has helped reduce the **under-5 mortality rate** from 45 per 1000 live births in 2014 to **32 per 1000 live births**.

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UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. With reference to recent developments regarding 'Recombinant Vector Vaccines', consider the following statements: (2021)

1. Genetic engineering is applied in the development of these vaccines.
2. Bacteria and viruses are used as vectors.

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: (c)

Q. Which one of the following statements is not correct? (2019)

- (a) Hepatitis B virus is transmitted much like HIV.
- (b) Hepatitis B, unlike Hepatitis C, does not have a vaccine.
- (c) Globally, the number of people infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses are several times more than those infected with HIV.
- (d) Some of those infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses do not show the symptoms for many years.

Ans: (b)

Q. Consider the following diseases: (2014)

1. Diphtheria
2. Chickenpox
3. Smallpox

Which of the above diseases has/have been eradicated in India?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Ans: (b)