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CURRENT AFFAIRS



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Mission Indradhanush

- Apart from successful COVID-19 vaccination, Odisha has the highest coverage of complete immunization in the country with 90.5% coverage.

Key point

- According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Odisha tops the list nationally in complete immunization coverage, with 90.5% coverage.
- During the review meeting on Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0, which was launched across the state on March 7, Additional Chief Secretary, Health, R.K. Sharma mentioned this.
- Twenty districts of Odisha were above 90 per cent in complete immunization, while the remaining 10 districts were below 90 per cent.

What is included in full vaccination?

- Complete immunization includes preventive doses against 12 different types of diseases. The disease includes tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, jaundice, tetanus, whooping cough, meningitis, HIV, measles, pneumonia, diarrhea, rubella, Japanese fever, and others.

Vaccination campaign

- The vaccination campaign under IMI will be conducted in three rounds, with different doses of different vaccines in each round. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated pregnant women as well as children below two years of age will be targeted first.

- Immunization will take place in three rounds, the first one will start from March 7, the second from April 4 and the third from May 2 this year, with each round lasting for seven days.

Mission Indradhanush

- Mission Indradhanush is a healthcare initiative of the Government of India. It was first launched on December 25, 2014. The scheme seeks to achieve 90% full immunization coverage in India and maintain it till the year 2022.
- Vaccination against whooping cough, diphtheria, polio, tetanus, severe forms of childhood tuberculosis, measles, and pneumonia and meningitis caused by hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type b is being provided as well in selected states and districts. Vaccination is also being done against Japanese encephalitis and rotavirus diarrhea.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush

- In order to further accelerate the vaccination program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) in October 2017. The government hopes to reach every child under the age of two, as well as all pregnant women left out of the routine immunization programme.
- The target of this special campaign was to boost vaccination coverage in some districts and cities with a target of reaching 90% coverage by December 2018 instead of 2020.

Intensive Mission Indradhanush 2.0

- Intensive Mission Indradhanush 2.0 was launched in December, 2019 to reach out to the unreached with all available vaccines and to accelerate the coverage of children and pregnant women in specified blocks as well as districts from 2019 December to 2020 March.
- It also aims to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of reducing avoidable deaths of children by 2030.

Intensive Mission Indradhanush 3.0

- Intensive Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 scheme was implemented to cover children and pregnant women who have missed out on routine vaccination due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Intensive Mission Indradhanush 4.0

- Intensive Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 was recently launched by the Ministry of Health.
- Ensure that non-vaccinated and partially vaccinated children as well as pregnant women receive regular immunization services. Children up to two years of age will be covered under this campaign.

Edible Oil: India

- Due to strict measures taken by the government, the prices of edible oil have been under control for the last two years, irrespective of the COVID situation.
- However, due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the prices of many commodities, including edible oils, are increasing progressively.

Related case:

- India's domestic production of sunflower oil accounts for less than a quarter of the demand, and most of its supply comes from Ukraine. With the Ukrainian war affected, this supply has come to a complete standstill.
- Due to less supply of sunflower oil, consumers are turning to groundnut and palm oil, thereby increasing their prices.

Recent rise in edible oil prices:

- Last year, the retail prices of six edible oils- groundnut, mustard, vanaspati, soya, sunflower and palm/palm oil had increased by up to 48 per cent. The reasons for this were the following:
- A jump in global prices, and lower domestic soybean production. Soybean is the largest oilseed crop in India.
- Excessive purchase of edible oil by China.
- Many major oil producers are aggressively pursuing biofuel policies, using edible oil crops to produce 'biofuels'.
- Government taxes and duties also constitute a major part of the retail price of edible oils in India.

India's dependence on edible oil imports:

- India is the world's largest importer of vegetable oil.

- India imports about 60% of its edible oil requirements, making the retail prices of edible oils in the country sensitive to the international market.
- The country mainly imports palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, soya oil from Brazil and Argentina and sunflower oil from Russia and Ukraine.

Key facts about edible oils:

- The primary sources of edible oil are soybean, white mustard (rapeseed) and mustard, groundnut, sunflower, safflower and niger. Secondary sources of edible oil are 'palm oil', coconut, rice bran, cotton seeds and tree-borne oilseeds.

Major challenges in oilseeds production in India:

- Production of oilseeds is mainly done in 'rainfed' areas (about 70% of the area),
- High cost of seeds (peanuts and soybeans),
- Small holdings with limited resources,
- Low seed replacement rate and low productivity.

Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana

- Recently, the Central Government has approved the continuation of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY) and its components for the financial year 2021-22 to 2025-26, for which the total financial outlay is has been fixed at Rs. 3,274.87 crore.

Background:

- The 'Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners Pension Scheme' was started by the Government of India in the year 1969 to honor the freedom fighters lodged in the Cellular Jail of Port Blair.
- A regular scheme of giving pension to freedom fighters was started in the year 1972 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of independence.
- Since 1980 a liberal scheme namely 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980' has been implemented.
- The name of the scheme has been changed to 'Swatantra Sainik Samman Yojana' from the financial year 2017-18.
- The amount of pension has been revised from time to time and dearness relief is also being provided from the year 2016.

About the plan:

- The scheme provides monthly honor pension to freedom fighters as a mark of respect for their contribution to the national freedom struggle.
- Pension is provided to the eligible dependents i.e. spouse and unmarried and unemployed daughters and dependent parents on their death as per the prescribed eligibility criteria and procedure.
- It is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Freedom Fighters Division).
- Under this scheme 23,566 beneficiaries are covered across the country.

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