

Q- In order to rebuild the devastating effect of pandemic, India needs to prioritise universal vaccinations. Discuss (200 words.)

→ Universal vaccination is the process of providing vaccines to all individuals in timely manner. There are inherent issues that forces its implementation such as

- Vaccine inequality between urban areas and rural areas as well as between well-offs & vulnerables.
- Rapid mutation of virus makes complete vaccination our only option to overcome the pandemic.
- Capitalistic values of private sector has forced it towards profit, thus limiting vaccination process.

The major benefits of universal vaccination will be

- Increase vaccine equality in terms of access, availability & affordability.

- fastening the process of tackling the spread of virus as vaccinated ones will act as a barrier.
- Upliftment of multiple restriction which can lead to quick recovery, that will also be enhanced due to availability of healthy & productive individuals.

Challenges

- Dismal state of health infrastructure especially in rural areas where many PHCs are non-functional.
- Availability of skilled workforce i.e. human infrastructure
- vaccine hesitancy & limited awareness.
- Availability of vaccines

Way forward

- Public expenditure in health must be increased upto 2-5% of GDP to boost health infrastructure as recommended in National Health Mission.

- Compulsory licensing should be invoked along with decreasing regulatory red tapism on manufactures to boost production.
- Incentivize private sector to cooperate in universal vaccination.
- Tie ups between local hospitals & societies, corporates, unions should be promoted.

A successful universal vaccination will not only help overcome the pandemic as well as it could be utilized as an opportunity to rebuild the entire health sector.