

World Immunisation Week

World Immunisation Week is **coordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO)** and the campaign is celebrated every year in the **last week of April**. The objective of the day is to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against various diseases. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the significance of the week is even more today.

Facts about World Immunisation Week

Read the below-mentioned facts about World Immunisation Week; and aid your IAS Exam preparation along with other competitive exams' preparation.

Observed on	Last week Of April
National Immunisation Day	16 March
Theme of 2021	Vaccines bring us closer
Facts about Immunisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to WHO there are nearly 20 million unvaccinated and under-vaccinated children in the world even today.• The United Nations and other agencies have launched the Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA2030) during the World Immunisation Week.

About World Immunisation Week 2021

- Immunisation is accepted as the most **successful and cost-effective health invention** that has the potential to save millions of lives every year.
- The theme of the World Immunisation Week 2021 was "**Vaccines bring us closer**".
- The aim of the theme this year was to show how vaccination can connect people to achieve goals and moments that matter to us the most. Immunisation helps to improve the health of everyone, everywhere throughout life.
- The WHO has partnered with various organisations and individuals under theme to achieve the following:
 - To **increase trust** and confidence in vaccines.
 - To **increase investment** in vaccines and remove barriers.

Significance of World Immunisation Week, 2021

The goal of the week is to offer an unprecedented opportunity **to build public trust in the value of all vaccines**. The week is used to help build long-term support for immunisation. The **objectives** of the World Immunisation Week 2021 are-

- to **raise awareness** about the significance of full immunisation throughout life.
- To **highlight the importance of vaccines** and how they enable everyone to live a healthy and a productive life.
- The most significant aspect of this year's theme was to **build solidarity and trust in vaccination** as a public good that saves lives and protects health.

About Vaccination

- Vaccination is a way to train our immune system to **recognise new viruses that can cause diseases**. Vaccines help to produce antibodies against antigens of the pathogens.
- Not just this, vaccination also helps the **immune system to remember the antigens that lead to infection**. This way our immune system is able to respond faster to the same pathogen causing disease in the future.
- Thus, it can be said that while responding to the vaccine, our body **builds an adaptive immune system**, which helps the body to fight off the actual infection in the future.

- Vaccines-

A vaccine consists of two parts and most likely given through an injection.

- The **first part is the antigen**, which is a part of disease causing pathogen, one's body must learn to recognise.
 - The **second part is the adjuvant**, which sends a danger signal to the body and helps one's immune system to respond strongly against the antigen.
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- Although vaccines aren't a silver bullet, they help us progress on a path to a world where we all can be together. With evolving times vaccines themselves continue to advance, bringing us closer to a world free from diseases like tuberculosis and cervical cancer, and ending suffering from childhood diseases like tetanus and measles.
 - Vaccines are playing a critical role in the battle against COVID-19.

- Focus on investment and new research is making groundbreaking approaches to vaccine development, which are changing the science of immunisation forever, bringing us closer to a healthier future.

