

Hexavalent Vaccine

***Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | Health*

Why in News?

Recently, A study by the Union Health Ministry and partner organisations says introducing the hexavalent vaccine under the Universal Immunisation Programme could reduce the number of injections.

- **Hexavalent Vaccine** - A hexavalent (six-in-one) vaccine is a combination vaccine that protects infants against:
 - Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), and polio in a single injection.

Key Findings

- **Efficiency** - Hexavalent vaccine reduces injections, saves time, and eases frontline worker pressure.
- **Savings** - A 50% price reduction would make system-level savings outweigh higher procurement costs.
- **Impact** - Fewer injections for infants, reduced caregiver burden, lower cold-chain requirements, easier for health workers.

Implementation Scenarios

- **Primary Schedule** - Replace pentavalent + fractional IPV with hexavalent.
- **Booster** - Replace primary schedule + DTP booster with hexavalent booster.

Reference

[The Hindu | Hexavalent](#)



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