

National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

Mains: GS II - Health

Why in News?

The NADCP has been successful in eradicating the diseases and improving the health of the livestock.

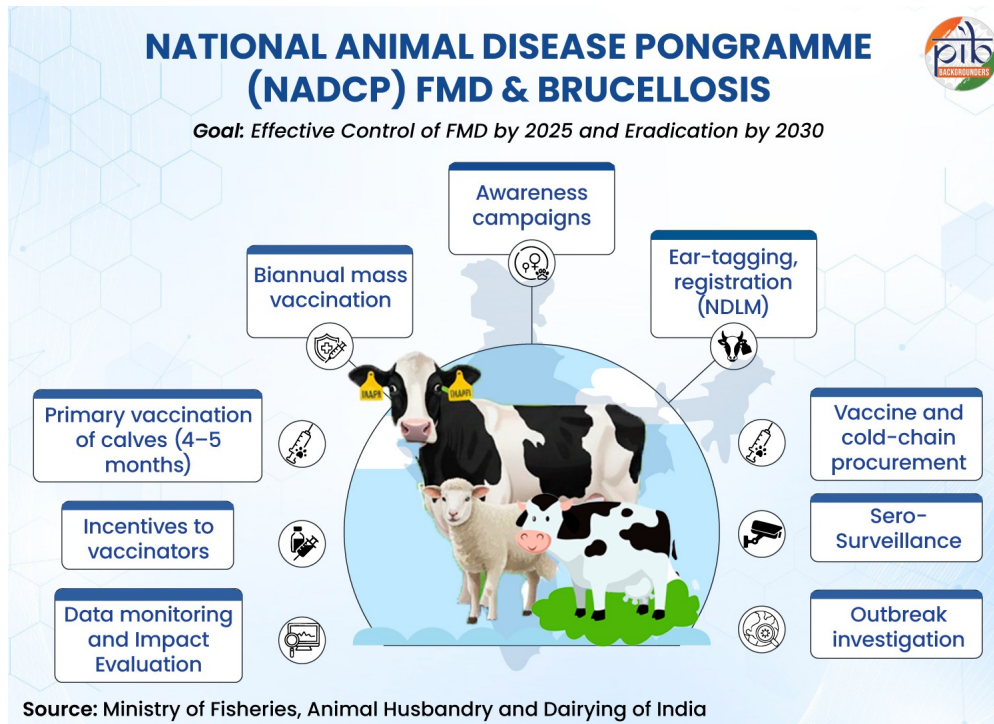
What is the background?

- **Importance of livestock** - Livestock is a crucial pillar of India's rural economy, providing income, nutrition, employment and livelihood security to millions of farmers.
- **Livestock population in India** - According to the **20th Livestock Census (2019)**, India had **535.78 million livestock**, including **302.79 million bovines**.
- **Concerns** - Diseases such as **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** and **Brucellosis** have historically imposed substantial economic losses through reduced milk yield, impaired reproduction, lower animal productivity and restrictions on trade.

What is the NADCP?

- **NADCP** - The Government launched the **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) in September 2019**.
- **Objective** - To control and eventually eradicate FMD and Brucellosis through mass vaccination, surveillance, digital monitoring and strengthened veterinary infrastructure.
- It has evolved into one of India's largest livestock-health interventions and an important component of the broader **One Health and pandemic-preparedness framework**.
- **Design of NADCP** - The programme follows a nationwide vaccination and surveillance strategy:
 - **FMD** - 100% vaccination of eligible susceptible livestock **twice a year**, with vaccination at six-month intervals.
 - **Brucellosis** - **One-time vaccination** of female bovine calves aged **4-8 months** during their lifetime.
- Disease surveillance through **sero-surveillance and sero-monitoring**.
- Procurement of vaccines and strengthening of **cold-chain infrastructure**.
- Outbreak investigation, virus isolation and typing.
- Regulation of animal movement through quarantine and check-posts.
- Ear-tagging and registration of animals on the **Bharat Pashudhan Portal**.
- Public awareness and training of field officials.

- Remuneration to vaccinators, with a minimum of **₹3 per vaccination dose**.
- Since 2024, FMD vaccination has also been extended to **pastoral sheep and goats** in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to reduce transmission along migratory routes.



What are the major achievements?

- **FMD Control** - The scale of the campaign is reflected in **147.16 crore cumulative FMD vaccine doses**, benefiting **8.04 crore farmers**.
- The programme has substantially improved herd immunity.
- Post-vaccination sero-monitoring shows average protective immunity of:
 - **78.1% for FMD serotype O**
 - **71.7% for serotype A**
 - **77.6% for serotype Asia1**
- Correspondingly, reported FMD outbreaks declined from **132 in 2019 to 40 in 2025**.
- Importantly, there has been **no reported FMD outbreak caused by serotype Asia1 for the last three years**.
- The **NSP antibody prevalence**, an indicator of virus circulation and exposure, declined from **20.8% in 2019 to 8.1% in 2025**.
- This provides evidence of reduced viral circulation alongside strengthened population immunity.
- **Progress in Brucellosis Control** - Brucellosis is a bacterial reproductive disease caused in bovines primarily by *Brucella abortus*.
- It can cause infertility, reproductive failure and reduced milk and meat production.
- Since there is **no curative treatment for bovines**, vaccination is central to sustainable control.
- Under NADCP, female bovine calves aged **4-8 months** receive a one-time lifetime vaccination.
- In 2025, post-vaccination monitoring recorded seroconversion rates of:

- **75.63% in cattle calves**
- **67.17% in buffalo calves**
- Reported Brucellosis outbreaks declined from **22 in 2019 to 15 in 2025**, indicating progress in disease control.
- **Digitalisation and Last-Mile Veterinary Services** - A major strength of NADCP is the integration of animal-health interventions with digital technology.
- The **Bharat Pashudhan Portal** provides each registered animal with a unique **12-digit Tag ID** and integrates livestock registration with FMD and Brucellosis vaccination data.
- By **July 2026, more than 39.00 crore livestock** had been registered on the portal.
- This enables real-time monitoring, vaccination traceability, improved animal identification and evidence-based planning.
- Last-mile healthcare has also been strengthened through **4,019 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs)** operating across **29 States and Union Territories**.
- Through the toll-free **1962** service, these units have provided doorstep veterinary services to **136 lakh farmers** and treated **276 lakh animals**.
- In addition, **39,810 Multi-Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (MAITRIs)** have been trained with financial support, strengthening rural veterinary and breeding services.
- **Livestock Productivity and Milk Production** - Disease control is closely linked with improved livestock productivity.
- Indigenous and non-descript cattle productivity increased from **927 kg per animal per year in 2014-15 to 1,343.2 kg in 2024-25**, a rise of **44.89%**.
- Buffalo productivity increased from **1,880 kg to 2,365.2 kg per animal per year**, representing a **25.80% increase**.
- Overall average bovine productivity rose from **1,640 kg to 2,250 kg per animal per year** between 2014-15 and 2024-25, an increase of **36.63%**.
- India's milk production also increased from **146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25**, registering a **69.4% increase** over the decade.
- The government aims to raise average milk productivity further to **3,000 kg per animal per year by 2030**.
- **Institutional and Financial Support** - NADCP is supported by ICAR institutions through research on vaccines, quality testing, surveillance, sero-surveillance, disease modelling and state-wise sampling.
- States and Union Territories receive assistance for vaccines, vaccination accessories and cold-chain infrastructure.
- Under the revised **Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)**, NADCP, the **Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC)** component and **Pashu Aushadhi** have been brought under a single umbrella framework.
- The **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund** also facilitates private-sector participation in veterinary vaccine and drug manufacturing.
- **One Health and Pandemic Preparedness** - The **One Health approach** recognises the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health.
- Better animal disease surveillance can reduce zoonotic risks, promote antimicrobial stewardship and strengthen preparedness for emerging infectious diseases.
- The **National One Health Mission**, approved by the Prime Minister's Science,

Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) in its **21st meeting on 7 July 2022**, seeks to coordinate and integrate One Health activities across ministries.

*The **2024 Pandemic Fund Project on “Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response”**, supported by the **G20 Pandemic Fund with US\$25 million**, is being implemented in partnership with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB), FAO and World Bank**.*

- It strengthens genomic and environmental surveillance, laboratory capacity and cross-border cooperation.
- The **Standard Veterinary Treatment Guidelines (SVTG)** promote scientific treatment, rational medicine use and antimicrobial stewardship, while the **Crisis Management Plan (CMP) for Animal Diseases** provides a framework for rapid outbreak response and recovery.

What could be done further?

- India's progress under NADCP demonstrates that mass vaccination, surveillance and digital traceability can substantially reduce livestock disease burden.
- However, sustained efforts are required to achieve progressive alignment with international standards for **FMD freedom**.
- Future priorities should include:
 - Expansion of **laboratory accreditation and genomic surveillance**.
 - Greater use of **AI-enabled disease intelligence and real-time dashboards**.
 - Climate-resilient surveillance systems.
 - Stronger biosecurity and regulation of animal movement.
 - Wider farmer awareness and community participation.
 - Deeper coordination under the **One Health framework**.
 - Continued investment in vaccine research, cold chains and last-mile veterinary services.

What lies ahead?

- Healthier livestock means higher productivity, stronger rural livelihoods, improved food and nutritional security, greater trade potential and reduced zoonotic risk.
- By integrating vaccination, digital traceability, veterinary infrastructure, scientific surveillance and One Health principles, NADCP is laying the foundation for a **healthier, more productive and globally competitive livestock sector**, contributing to the broader vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Reference

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