

Evaluate  
Government's efforts to control the incidence of cervical cancer. (200 words)

Recently, Indian Central Government's announcement to roll out vaccination for girls aged between 9 and 14 years through schools, is a good step towards cutting the rising no. of cases of cervical cancer as India witnesses 21% of global cases.

### Cervical Cancer

It is a malignant tumour of the cervix; the lowermost part of the uterus (womb). It can be prevented by PAP smear screening, (Papanicolaou test) — A method of cervical screening to detect potentially precancerous & cancerous processes in the cervix, and HPV vaccine (Human Papillomavirus vaccine).

Measures taken by the Central Government  
on the line of WHO's (World Health Org.) said target to maintain an incidence rate of fewer than 4 new cases of cervical cancer per 1,00,000 women a. year, India has decided to start/roll out vaccination through schools.

through Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), which offers free vaccines for at least 12 diseases, Govt. plans to roll out vaccination drive.

India is expected to roll out the indigenously developed Cervarix vaccine by mid-2023.

It has received the Drugs Controller General of India's approval & has been cleared by the National Technical Advisory Group for Immunisation for use in the VIP programme.

The vaccination will be provided through schools & community outreach & mobile teams.

Studies show that there is a link between cervical cancer incidence & human development index values, with progressively lower rates observed as HDI rises, so community outreach is an important step.

Indeed, Screening programmes must be conducted to detect early signs of the disease to allow time for treatment.

Along with vaccination & screening, steps must be taken by the Govt. for Community Education, social mobilisation, treatment & pass of palliative care.