

Considering the higher burden of infectious diseases and a dense population the chances of epidemics are dangerously high in a country like India. This reality emphasises on investing in developing indigenous vaccines.

Importance of immunisation:-

Immunisation is a powerful and a highly cost-effective public health intervention tool. For instance low income developing countries which invested in vaccine development & immunisation found that they saved \$16 for every one dollar in health expenditure by preventing disease, disability and death.

India and Immunisation:-

• Taking cue from the recent Ebola resurgence in Democratic Republic of Congo, India must

invest more than ever in vaccine development, introduction, availability and affordability.

- India's Universal Immunisation program already deals with 12 diseases and our expertise in making vaccine is evident from prequalification approval received from WHO.

So the necessary steps that must be taken includes

- Prioritizing Drug resistant Infections vaccine research
- widening the spectrum by including vaccine preparation for diseases like NIPAH, ZIKA etc.
- Partnering with Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiative (CEPI) and other initiatives in vaccine preparation.
- Trying out new technologies like CHIM (Combined Human Infection model) for early introduction of vaccines with strict regulatory practices.

Investing in vaccine development will help us attain the Sustainable Development Goal no. 3 is Good Health & wellbeing