

UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
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1. The recent launch of an Indigenously developed Cervical Cancer vaccine is a historic milestone in preventive healthcare. Explain.

Cervical cancer is the 2nd most risk factor next to breast cancer for women according to a study.

Cervical Cancer, in India

India accounts for 15% of global cases. It is estimated that 1 woman every 8 minutes is contracting the disease.

Causative factor

Human papilloma virus (HPV) - risk factor as it ^{for} causes 90% of the cervical cancer. Of these 70% of the cases are due to HPV-16, 18 strains

Current status

India - Importing vaccines from other countries.

Issue → High cost ⇒ ₹ 2500-3500 per vaccine.

1. High cost of pocket expenditure
2. Financial hardship & psychological distress
3. Remain out reach for major chunk of Population

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Risks

Adults are most prone to contract the virus. Most of the cases, occur after sexual contact. yet all women are prone to contracting.

Leeway

HPV is one of virus that can be treatable preventable.

India's new vaccine

CERAVAC - ^{India's} Indigenous vaccine for cervical cancer. costs ₹ 200-400/- making accessible to majority of population

Benefits

1. Reduction in the case - as the vaccine is Immune against - HPV 6, 11, 16, 18 strains
2. Reduce out of pocket expenditure. It is recommended for inclusion in Universal Immunisation program.

Way forward

1. Awareness generation - COVID Strategy - digitisation; Targeting vulnerable groups (9-14) and then higher groups upto 45 years.
2. Boost to R&D for further vaccine preventable disease
3. with target 4/11 cases can be achieved
4. Achieving SDG goal no. 4 Sust health well being