

# New Rotavirus Vaccine

April 28, 2020

**Context:** Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech launched its advanced version of rotavirus vaccine – Rotavac 5D, to tackle viral diarrhoea

## ▪ **Earlier vaccines**

- Not swallowed completely by children
- It occupied larger storage space
- Storage temp of -20 degree celsius
- Bharat Biotech has concentrated the larger dose into 0.5 ml quantity and will require between two to eight degrees celsius storage temperature,
- Rotavirus- It is a double-stranded RNA virus
- Rotavirus is transmitted by the faecal-oral route, via contact with contaminated hands
- Symptoms include
  - fever, nausea, and vomiting,
  - cough and runny nose.
  - Diarrhea, dehydration.

## Other

- WHO prequalifies new rotavirus vaccine
- WHO prequalified Rotasil, an oral rotavirus vaccine produced by Serum Institute of India.
- Rotasil is the first Rotavirus vaccine with heat stable characteristics, which makes it particularly suitable for use in low-income countries, where weak infrastructure and frequent lack of electricity make refrigeration very difficult.