

What is Ozempic?

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In news— The dramatic weight loss of Kim and Khloe Kardashian and other celebrities has been rumoured to be the work of an **injectable drug, Ozempic**, that's been called 'Hollywood's worst kept secret'.

About the Ozempic-

- **Ozempic, Wegovy and Rybelsus are the brandnames for an anti-diabetes medication called semaglutide.**
- Developed by Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk, **the drug is used to treat patients with type-2 diabetes.**
- **Wegovy**, which contains a higher-dose of semaglutide, was approved as an **anti-obesity drug.**
- **Semaglutide is a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA) drug** that increases the secretion of insulin (which helps decrease blood sugar levels) after a meal while reducing the production of glucagon (which helps increase blood sugar levels).
- **Besides regulating glucose levels in the body, the drug also aids in weight loss**, lowers the risk of hypoglycemia, and improves heart health and kidney function.
- The drug was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2017.
- According to a 2018 study, semaglutide specifically showed greater weight loss in subjects than other GLP-1 RA drugs.
- It roughly reduced body weight by 4kgs, as compared to other drugs.
- **Apart from regulating glucose, it also increases gastric emptying time**, meaning food takes longer to pass through the gastrointestinal tract and it makes you feel full for a longer period of time.
- **The difference between Ozempic and Wegovy is the dosage.**
- Ozempic is given at a lower dose. It starts with 0.25 mg

per week and increases over a period of time. For Wegovy, you start with 0.2 mg per week and slowly increase it to 2.4 mg.