

What is the Big Catch-up initiative?

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In news—Global partners including WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation “The Big Catch-up” to vaccinate millions of children and restore immunization progress lost during the pandemic.

About the initiative-

- It is a targeted global effort to boost vaccination among children following declines driven by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **This effort aims to reverse the declines in childhood vaccination recorded in over 100 countries since the pandemic**, due to overburdened health services, closed clinics, and disrupted imports and exports of vials, syringes and other medical supplies.
- **With over 25 million children missing at least one vaccination in 2021 alone**, outbreaks of preventable diseases, including measles, diphtheria, polio and yellow fever are already becoming more prevalent and severe.
- **The Big Catch-up aims to protect populations from vaccine-preventable outbreaks**, save children’s lives and strengthen national health systems.
- While calling on people and governments in every country to play their part in helping to catch up by reaching the children who missed out, **The Big Catch-up will have a particular focus on the 20 countries(including India) where three quarters of the children who missed vaccinations in 2021 live.**