

## **2. Pulse Polio Programme**

**Prelims:** Governance- Health; Social Issues

**Mains:** GS-II- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

### **Why in News?**

- ▶▶ 25 years of Pulse Polio Programme to be celebrated in October 2019.

### **Pulse Polio Programme:**

- ▶▶ The Pulse Polio Campaign was first started in 1994 in Delhi after the success of the first large-scale supplementary immunization campaign with OPV (oral polio vaccine).
- ▶▶ The campaign was inaugurated with the tagline 'Do Boond Zindagi Ki'.
- ▶▶ The campaign in Delhi reached nearly one million children up to the age of three years with two doses of OPV being administered on 02 October and 04 December through exclusive booth-based strategy.
- ▶▶ This strategy was later adopted and implemented by the Government of India all over the country as Pulse Polio Campaigns.
- ▶▶ India's attainment of polio-free status in 2014 was coined by the World Health Organization as "one of the most significant achievements in public health," and marked not just India but the entire South East Asia Region being declared polio-free.
- ▶▶ The last case of polio in the country was in 2011.
- ▶▶ The global initiative of eradicating polio was started by the WHO in 1988.
- ▶▶ Around 17.4 crore children of less than five years across the country are given polio drops as part of the drive of the Government of India to sustain polio eradication from the country.
- ▶▶ The Pulse Polio Initiative was started with an objective of achieving a hundred per cent coverage under Oral Polio Vaccine.
- ▶▶ It aimed to immunize children through improved social mobilization, plan mop-up operations in areas where poliovirus has almost disappeared and maintain a high level of morale among the public.