

### **3. PRET and the Big Catch-up**

#### **Why in News?**

- Recently, two initiatives – PRET and the Big Catch-up – have been launched to better prepare for future outbreaks of similar scale and devastation, as well as to boost vaccination rates among children.

#### **Highlights**

- The Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) Initiative was launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and operates under the aegis of the International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005, which is a critical international legal instrument for managing public health emergencies.
- The Initiative was announced at the Global Meeting for Future Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It focuses on improving pandemic preparedness for groups of pathogens based on their mode of transmission
- As part of its efforts, the WHO convenes an informal coordination forum known as the Respiratory Pathogens Partners Engagement Forum (R-PEF) which enables WHO and partners to exchange information on planned activities and other developments on planned activities
- It was launched by the WHO, UNICEF, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation along with Immunization Agenda 2030 and many other global and national health partners, a targeted global effort to boost vaccination.
- It aims to protect populations from vaccine-preventable outbreaks like -measles, diphtheria, polio and yellow fever – save children’s lives and strengthen national health systems
- The Initiative will pay special attention to the 20 countries – Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, DPRK, DRC, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Tanzania and Vietnam which are home to a majority of the children who have missed their vaccine doses