



Japanese Encephalitis Outbreak in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

According to the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, eight people have died after **Japanese Encephalitis (JE)** infection in Madhya Pradesh since 2019.

Key Points

- Due to the rise in JE cases in Madhya Pradesh the situation is being closely observed as it poses a **direct risk to public well-being**.
 - Earlier in 2024, Japanese Encephalitis was **identified in 29 districts of Madhya Pradesh**.

Japanese Encephalitis

- **About:**
 - **Japanese Encephalitis (JE)** is a **viral infection** that can cause inflammation in the brain.
 - It is caused by a flavivirus that **belongs to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses**.
 - Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is also a major cause of **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** in India.
- **Transmission:**
 - The disease is transmitted to humans through bites from **infected mosquitoes** of the **Culex species**.
 - These mosquitoes breed mainly in **rice fields** and large water bodies rich in **aquatic vegetation**.
- **Treatment:**
 - There is **no antiviral treatment for patients** with JE.
 - Treatment, available, is **supportive to relieve symptoms** and stabilise the patient.
- **Prevention:**
 - **Safe and effective JE vaccines** are available to prevent the disease.
 - **JE vaccination** is also included under the **Universal Immunisation Program** of the Government of India.