



Cat Que Virus

Why in News

Scientists from the Pune-based **Maximum Containment Laboratory** and [Indian Council of Medical Research \(ICMR\)-National Institute of Virology](#) have noted the presence of antibodies against the Cat Que virus (CQV) in two human serum samples.

- This indicates that the CQV virus may become a public health pathogen and may lead to a **pandemic** if it spreads.

Key Points

- The positivity in human serum samples and the replication capability of CQV in mosquitoes points towards a possible disease-causing potential in the Indian scenario.
- CQV belongs to the **Simbu serogroup virus** of the genus **Orthobunyavirus**.
- It was **first isolated in 2004** from mosquitoes in northern **Vietnam**. It has also been reported in **China**.
- CQV comes under the category of **Arthropod-borne viruses**.
 - Arthropods are a group of invertebrate animals including insects, spiders etc.
- It is found in **pigs** and **Culex** mosquitoes. Birds such as the **Jungle Myna** may also act as a host.
 - Mosquitoes of Culex species also cause [Japanese Encephalitis](#).
- It infects both **humans and livestock species**.
- Humans are infected through **mosquito bites**.
- Other viruses that belong to the same genus as CQV and are similarly transmitted through mosquitoes include the **Cache valley virus** (causes meningitis), **La Crosse virus** (causes pediatric encephalitis), **Jamestown Canyon virus** (causes Jamestown Canyon encephalitis), and the **Guaroa virus** (causes febrile illness).

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