



Nipah Virus

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Why in News?

The [Nipah Virus](#) has made a resurgence in Kerala, India, with two fatalities.

- This marks the first **Nipah Virus outbreak in India since 2021 when a case was reported in Kozhikode during the [Covid-19 pandemic](#).**

What is Nipah Virus?

- **About:**
 - It is a [zoonotic virus](#) (it is transmitted from animals to humans).
 - The organism that causes Nipah Virus encephalitis is an RNA or [Ribonucleic acid virus](#) of the family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus, and is closely related to Hendra virus.
 - **Hendra virus (HeV) infection** is a rare emerging zoonosis that causes severe and often fatal diseases in both infected horses and humans.
 - It **first broke out in Malaysia and Singapore** in 1998 and 1999.
 - The disease is named after a village in Malaysia, Sungai Nipah, where it was first detected.
 - It **first appeared in domestic pigs** and has been found among several species of domestic animals including dogs, cats, goats, horses and sheep.
- **Transmission:**
 - The disease spreads through [fruit bats](#) or 'flying foxes,' of the genus Pteropus, who are natural reservoir hosts of the Nipah and Hendra viruses.
 - The **virus is present in bat urine** and potentially, bat faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.
- **Symptoms:**
 - The human infection presents as an [encephalitic syndrome](#) marked by fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, coma, and potentially death.
- **Prevention:**
 - Currently, there are **no vaccines for both humans and animals**. Intensive supportive care is given to humans infected by the Nipah virus.