



Chandipura Virus

Why in News?

According to the **Madhya Pradesh** Health Minister, no case of **Chandipura virus** has been reported in the state.

- Earlier, the Union Health Ministry and experts reviewed cases of the viral infection and **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- According to the sources, Madhya Pradesh health department **possesses all the necessary equipment and facilities to identify the virus**, which is one of the causes of AES.
- **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** is a group of **clinically similar neurologic manifestations caused by several different viruses, bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals/ toxins, etc.**
 - The known viral causes of AES include **Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), Dengue, Herpes simplex virus, and West Nile** etc.

Chandipura Virus (CHPV)

- It is a member of the **Rhabdoviridae family** known to cause **sporadic cases and outbreaks** in western, central and southern parts of the country, especially during the monsoon season.
 - It is **transmitted by vectors such as sand flies and ticks**. It is to be noted that vector control, hygiene and awareness are the only measures available against the disease.
- The infection caused by the virus can then reach **the central nervous system** which can lead to **encephalitis** — inflammation of the active tissues of the brain.
- **Disease progression can be as rapid** as a patient reporting high fever in the morning, and their kidneys or liver being affected by the evening.
- This infection has largely remained **limited to children below 15 years**.
- **Symptoms:**
 - The CHPV infection presents initially with **flu-like symptoms** such as **acute onset of fever, body ache, and headache**.
 - It may then progress to **altered sensorium or seizures and encephalitis**.
 - Respiratory distress, bleeding tendencies, or **anaemia**.
 - The infection often progresses rapidly after encephalitis, which may then lead to mortality within 24-48 hours of hospitalization.
- **Treatment:**
 - The infection **can only be managed symptomatically**, as there is **currently no specific antiretroviral therapy or vaccine** available for treatment.

