



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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A plan to combat monkeypox

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(GS Paper-II, Polity, Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations)

Source: The Hindu

What's the problem?

Monkeypox was deemed a global public health emergency by the World Health Organization (PHEIC).

About Monkeypox:

- A zoonosis is a disease that spreads from sick animals to humans, including squirrels, rats that were poached in Gambian, dormice, and several kinds of primates.
- It is brought on by the monkeypox virus, a species of the Orthopoxvirus family.
- The transmission and infection are thought to occur in African rodents and monkeys.
- Transmission happens when contaminated things come into contact with bodily fluids, lesions on the skin or internal mucosal surfaces, or respiratory droplets.

- Transmission from person to person is scarce.
- Monkeypox was once considered one of the neglected tropical illnesses.
- The monkeypox vaccines employed in the smallpox eradication operation also offered protection from that disease.
- Typically, monkeypox is a self-limiting illness with symptoms that last between two and four weeks.
- The case fatality rate has recently been between 3 and 6 percent.

PHEIC:

- PHEIC is the highest degree of alert that the global health organisation can issue, and it is one step away from being classified as a “pandemic.”
- Prior to monkeypox, only polio and SARS-CoV-2 were still being spread.
- The WHO Director-General deemed monkeypox to be a PHEIC following a divided decision of the IHR Emergency Committee on the matter.

The decision’s influencing factors

- Information supplied by nations
- Serious, abrupt, unusual, or unexpected bear ramifications for public health beyond the affected State’s national boundary and may necessitate rapid international action are the three requirements for reporting a PHEIC under the International Health Regulations.
- the Emergency Committee’s recommendations
- Uncertainty regarding scientific theories and data
- There is a health risk.

Consequences

- Several national leaders will now be alert for monkeypox and on the watch for it.
- The choice to designate it as a PHEIC also creates opportunities for additional sources of funding.
- The WHO may issue non-binding recommendations to nations, but if those nations deviate from them, they must provide a scientific justification.

What part did WHO play in keeping monkeypox under control?

- Supporting nations conduct risk assessments and launch public health initiatives
- developing and promoting testing capabilities
- involving and safeguarding the impacted communities
- stepping up public health and surveillance efforts
- In hospitals and clinics, improving clinical management and infection prevention and control
- accelerating study into the utilisation of medicines, vaccines, and other techniques

What approach needs to be taken to keep the disease under control?

- The COVID-19 pandemic experience has demonstrated that governments take action to prevent “panic.”
- To appropriately summarise and distribute the nature of the threat, the government must start working in concert with the States.
- In order to develop effective defences should the necessity arise, Indian labs and biotech corporations must intensify their research and mine their armoury.
- States that have recently imported instances of monkeypox in the human population must take action to stop the virus from spreading from person to person.
- It is planned to consult behavioural scientists, elected officials, members of civil society, and representatives of affected communities on strategies to prevent stigmatising those who are afflicted.
- It is necessary to step up surveillance for illnesses that are comparable to monkeypox and to report weekly updates to WHO.
- For the screening, triage, isolation, testing, and clinical assessment of suspected cases of patients with monkeypox, it is necessary to follow the advised clinical care pathways and protocols.

Vivek Raj

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

TOPIC IN NEWS :- India adds five more Ramsar sites (THE HINDU)

Other Important Points

- New Ramsar site :- 3 from Tamil Nadu, 1 each is in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram.
- Now in India total there are 54 Ramsar sites, or wetlands of international importance.
- New Ramsar sites are Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove in Tamil Nadu, the Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh and the Pala Wetlands in Mizoram.
- Total Ramsar wetlands in India are spread over 11,000 sq.km — around 10% of the total wetland area in the country — across 18 States.
- After designating a particular site as Ramsar site does not necessarily invite extra international funds, but the Centre & States government must ensure that these tracts of land are conserved and spared from encroachment.
- Acquiring this label also helps to boost the locale's tourism potential and its international visibility.
- National Wetland Inventory and Assessment compiled by the ISRO estimates India's wetlands to span around 1,52,600 square kilometers.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

- It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar sites (wetlands).
- It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the convention was signed in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- World Wetlands Day :- 2nd February.
- Presently 171 countries are the parties of Ramsar Convention. India is also a party, signed it on 1st February 1982.
- Any wetland site which has been listed under the Ramsar Convention that aims to conserve it and promote sustainable use of its natural resources is called a Ramsar Site.
- The Ramsar Convention works closely with six other organisations known as international organization partners (IOPs). These are: BirdLife International, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, WWF International, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT). These organizations also support the work

of the convention by providing expert technical advice, helping implement field studies, and providing financial support.

- The United Kingdom has the most number of Ramsar sites with 175. The country with the greatest area of listed wetlands is Bolivia, (148,000 square kilometers).

Ramsar site criteria

A wetland can be considered internationally important if any of the following nine criteria apply:

- It contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.
- It supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
- It supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.
- It supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
- It regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.
- It regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.”
- It supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and/or populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.”
- It is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.”
- It regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species.”

Source :- Ramsar.org

Ramsar Site in India

- Sundarbans is the largest Ramsar Site of India
- Chilika Lake (Orissa) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were recognized as the first Ramsar Sites of India
- Uttar Pradesh has the most number of Ramsar Sites in India. It has 10 Wetlands.

- Renuka Wetland (Area - 20 ha) in Himachal Pradesh is the smallest wetland of India.

Anoop Singh

