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News: African swine fever (ASF)

- Recently, Thailand has detected African swine fever in a surface swab sample collected at a slaughterhouse.

African swine fever (ASF)

- African Swine Fever (ASF) is a **severe viral disease that affects wild and domestic pigs typically resulting in an acute haemorrhagic fever.**
- The disease has a **case fatality rate (CFR) of almost 100 per cent.**
- Its routes of transmission include **direct contact with an infected or wild pig (alive or dead), indirect contact through ingestion of contaminated material such as food waste, feed or garbage, or through biological vectors such as ticks.**
- African Swine Fever (ASF) **does not affect humans** but can be catastrophic for pigs.
- The disease is characterised by **sudden deaths in pigs.**

- Other manifestations of the disease include **high fever, depression, anorexia, loss of appetite, haemorrhages in the skin, vomiting and diarrhoea** among others.
- Even so, while ASF is lethal, it is **less infectious than other animal diseases** such as foot-and mouth disease.
- But as of now, there is **no approved vaccine**, which is also a reason why **animals are culled to prevent the spread of infection**.