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News: Monkeypox is ‘public health emergency’

- The World Health Organization has declared the global monkeypox outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC), one step below that of a “pandemic”.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

- A Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) is defined in the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) as, “an extraordinary event which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response”.

This definition implies a situation that is:

- Serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected, carries implications for public health beyond the affected State’s national border; and may require immediate international action.

- The declaration of PHEIC would lead to **boosting public health measures, funding and resources to prevent and reduce global spread. It could include recommendations on trade and travel, although the WHO generally tries to avoid disruptive trade restrictions.**
- The Emergency Committee, made up of international experts, provide technical advice to the WHO Director-General in the context of a PHEIC.
- The **WHO has declared six global emergencies in the past decade, including the Covid Pandemic.**

The International Health Regulations (2005)

- The International Health Regulations (2005) represents a **binding international legal agreement involving 196 countries across the globe, including all the Member States of the WHO.**
- Their aim is to **help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide.**

World Health Organization (WHO)

- World Health Organization (WHO), the **United Nations' specialized agency for Health** was founded in 1948.
- Its headquarters are situated in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- There are **194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices**.
- It is an **inter-governmental organization** and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.
- The World Health Organisation shares a common funding model with other United Nations agencies.
- WHO gets its funding from two main sources: **Member States paying their mandatory or assessed contributions** (countries' membership dues), and **voluntary contributions** from Member States and other partners.
- This includes **mandatory or "assessed contributions"** from the member countries, which are determined by each country's income level and population.
- This is **supplemented by "voluntary contributions"** from both member states and non-governmental organisations.
- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is the **joint collaboration of FAO and WHO**.

- The WHO provides leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.
- It began functioning on April 7, 1948 – a date now being celebrated every year as World Health Day.
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in partnership with World Health Organisation (WHO), implements the World Food Safety Day on June 7th of every year on behalf of UNGA.
- Recently, China has been declared Malaria – Free by WHO.
- The WHO said China is the first country in the Western Pacific region to be declared malaria free in more than 30 years, following Australia in 1981, Singapore in 1982 and Brunei in 1987.
- The eradication of a disease is permanent and global, while the elimination of a disease is an achievement restricted to a specific geographic area.
- Anti-Microbial Resistance has been declared as a global public health threat by WHO.
- Recently, Madhya Pradesh has become the second state after Kerala to develop an action plan to manage antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

- World Health Organisation endorses four diseases – specific days to generate awareness: **HIV-AIDS** (1st December), **TB** (24th March), **Malaria** (25th April), and **Hepatitis** (28th July).
- Recently, **NITI Aayog** has released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled ‘**Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals**’ along with **WHO India and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Recently, WHO endorsed the world's first malaria vaccine Mosquirix.

Objectives

- To act as the **directing and coordinating authority on international health work**.
- To establish and maintain effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups and such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate.
- To provide **assistance to the Governments, upon request, in strengthening health services**.
- To **promote cooperation among scientific and professional groups which contribute to the advancement of health**.
- Recently, WHO announced the eradication of Measles and Rubella from Sri Lanka and Maldives.

- **Moscow Declaration on WHO emphasis need for fixing multi-sectoral responsibility towards ending TB by 2035**, the global target. It recognises need for multi-sectoral accountability framework to end TB, which is both political and technical.

News: Culling of pigs to begin today in Wayanad farm

- The Wayanad district administration is preparing to cull pigs on a farm at Kattimoola, near Tavinhal, in the district where two cases of African swine fever have been confirmed.

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.

News: Industry tag for Rajasthan tourism units

- The ‘industry’ status has been accorded to the tourism and hospitality sector in Rajasthan.
- The power tariff and other taxes levied on tourism operators have now been brought on a par with other industries, against the much higher commercial rates levied earlier.
- Kerala was the first state to recognize tourism as an industry.
- Likewise, Mizoram has accorded industry status to ‘Sports’.