

21– 02 – 2024

News: Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)

- Since the beginning of 2024, two individuals have lost their lives due to Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), a viral infection prevalent in Karnataka.

Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)

- Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) is caused by **KFD virus**.
- KFD is **endemic to the Indian state of Karnataka**.
- It was first identified in 1957 in a sick monkey from the Kyasanur forest in Karnataka.
- **Rodents, Shrews & Monkeys** are the common hosts of KFD Virus.
- It is transmittable **from animals to human** (Zoonotic disease).
- After an incubation period of 3-8 days, symptoms like **chill, fever, headache, severe muscle pain, vomiting, gastrointestinal symptoms & bleeding will occur. Sometimes, patients may feel abnormally lowered BP, Low RBC, WBC counts.**
- There is **no specific treatment** for KFD, although a **vaccine is available**.
- Recently, the Karnataka government has proposed to **establish a monkey park in Malnad region to contain the problem of crop-raiding primates.**
- Environmentalists fear that this will **increase the chance of spreading KFD.**