



DENGUE, JE STRIKE AS ASSAM BATTLES COVID-19

Why in news?

- Assam is facing crisis through a series of viral and pest attacks, Districts from different parts of Assam have reported cases of dengue and acute encephalitis syndrome.
- The heavy rainfall in the northern parts of the State had seen two rivers – Jia-Bharali and Puthimari – flowing above the danger mark.
- 2,980 people across three villages having been affected by the flood.
- A major worry for the Animal Husbandry department is preventing African swine fever (ASF) from getting to domestic pigs in flood-prone areas.

Japanese encephalitis

- Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is a flavivirus related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses, and is spread by mosquitoes.
- JEV is the main cause of viral encephalitis in many countries of Asia with an estimated 68 000 clinical cases every year.
- JEV is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes of the Culex species (mainly Culex tritaeniorhynchus).
- There is no cure for the disease. Treatment is focused on relieving severe clinical signs and supporting the patient to overcome the infection.
- Safe and effective vaccines are available to prevent JE.

Dengue fever

- Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus.
- In a small proportion of cases, the disease develops into severe dengue, also known as dengue hemorrhagic fever, resulting in bleeding, low levels of blood platelets and blood plasma leakage, or into dengue shock syndrome, where dangerously low blood pressure occurs.
- Dengue is spread by several species of female mosquitoes of the Aedes type, principally A. aegypti.
- Dengue is essentially a tropical disease that occurs in the countries around the Equator,



hot weather and intermittent rainfall favour the sustenance of *Aedes aegypti* the vector transmitting the dengue virus

- Dengue is caused by virus (DENV of 4 types)
- National dengue day is observed on May 16th in India.

Dengue in India & World

Year-wise cases in State

EACH YEAR, CLOSE TO **50 MILLION** DENGUE INFECTIONS GET REPORTED GLOBALLY

- Out of these, **70%** of dengue cases are from Asia
- India contributes anywhere between **34% and 40%** of dengue cases in Asia
- A University of Oxford study says that India has maximum number of dengue cases in world

The study indicates there are 33 million dengue cases in India

- The first dengue case was reported in India way back in **1946**
- After that, there was no major outbreak for two decades
- First major epidemic occurred in Kolkata in **1963**

Year	Cases
2014	704
2015	1,831
2016	4,037
2017	5,369
2018	4,592
2019	1,500

(Till Aug first week)

PRECAUTIONS & PREVENTIVE METHODS

- Keep home, environment and surroundings clean
- Remove stagnant water from containers, dumped tyres, air-coolers etc.
- Use mosquito repellents, medicated screens, coils and sprays
- Observe dry day once a week
- Keep drains well maintained and repair chokes
- Avoid self-medication and consult a General Practitioner if high fever persists for more than 48 hours

-Source: The Hindu