



Yaravirus

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/yaravirus

Why in News

Researchers have discovered **an unusually small virus** in a lake in **Brazil**.

- The virus has been named **Yaravirus** after 'Yara', a water-queen figure in Brazilian mythology.
- The Yaravirus infects amoeba and has genes that have not been described before, something that could **challenge how Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) viruses are classified**.
DNA viruses are classified based on the protein that makes up their shell, or capsid. The Yaravirus' capsid doesn't resemble any previously known protein.
- The Yaravirus **does not infect human cells**.

Virus

- A virus is a small **parasite** that **cannot reproduce by itself**. Once it infects a susceptible cell, however, a virus can direct the cell machinery to produce more viruses.
- Most viruses have either Ribonucleic acid (RNA) or Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) as their genetic material.
- **Diseases caused by Virus:** HIV/AIDS, smallpox, Ebola, etc.

Source: IE