



Lumpy Skin Disease

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Why in News

Recently, a **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)** has been infecting India's bovines.

The disease is being reported for the **first time in India**.

Key Points

- **Cause:**
 - The LSD is caused by infection of cattle or water buffalo with the **poxvirus Lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV)**.
 - The virus is one of three closely related species within the genus **capripoxvirus**, the other two species being **Sheeppox virus and Goatpox virus**.
- **Symptoms:**
 - It appears as **nodules of two to five centimetre diameter** all over the body, particularly around the **head, neck, limbs, udder (mammary gland of female cattle) and genitals**.
 - The lumps gradually open up like large and deep wounds.
 - Other clinical signs include **general malaise, ocular and nasal discharge, fever, and sudden decrease in milk production**.
- **Effect:**

According to the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** the mortality rate is less than 10%.
- **Vectors:**

It spreads through **mosquitoes, flies and ticks** and also through **saliva and contaminated water and food**.
- **Prevention:**

Control and prevention of lumpy skin disease relies on four tactics - **movement control (quarantine), vaccination, slaughter campaigns and management strategies**.

- **Treatment:**

There is **no treatment for the virus**, so **prevention by vaccination** is the most effective means of control.

Secondary infections in the skin may be **treated with Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatories (NSAIDs)** and also **antibiotics** when appropriate.

- **Global Spread:**

- LSD is endemic to **Africa and parts of West Asia**, where it was first **discovered in 1929**.

- In Southeast Asia the first case of LSD was reported in **Bangladesh in July 2019**.

- In India, which has the **world's highest 303 million heads of cattle**, the disease has spread to **15 states within just 16 months**.

In India it was first reported from **Mayurbhanj, Odisha in August 2019**.

- **Implication:**

This will have a **devastating impact on the country**, where most dairy farmers are either landless or marginal landholders and **milk is among the cheapest protein sources**.

Source:DTE