



Lumpy Skin Disease

Why in News?

Recently, the Punjab State government has **airlifted 25 lakh doses of goat pox vaccine** to carry out a **free vaccination campaign** for early prevention of cattle from **lumpy skin disease**.

- **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)** had affected the cattle on a large scale in July, 2022. About **1.75 lakh cattle** were affected across the Punjab state and about **18,000 cattle died**.

What is Lumpy Skin Disease?

- **Causes:**
 - LSD is caused by infection with the **Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV)** in cattle or water buffalo.
 - The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** estimates that **its mortality rate is less than 10%**.
 - The **first reported outbreak of LSD occurred in Zambia in 1929**, and it was initially believed to be caused by poisoning or an allergic reaction to insect bites.
- **Transmission:**
 - LSD is primarily **spread between animals through the bite of vectors**, such as mosquitoes and flies.
- **Symptoms:**
 - The primary symptoms of LSD include **fever, discharge from the eyes and nose, drooling, and blisters** on the skin.
 - Also, affected animals may also **lose their appetite** and have difficulty in eating, leading to **reduced milk production**.
- **Prevention and Treatment:**
 - Currently, India is administering the **goat pox vaccine and sheep pox virus vaccines for LSD**.
 - It's a **heterologous vaccine that offers cross-protection** for cattle against the disease.
 - **Goat pox, sheep pox and LSD** belong to the same **capripoxvirus genus**.
 - **Lumpi-ProVacInd** is a live attenuated vaccine developed jointly by **ICAR's National Research Centre on Equines and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute**, which is targeted to protect cattle against the LSD virus, and **provides 100% protection**.
 - It is **expected to be commercially launched in a few months**.
 - There are **no specific antiviral drugs for treating LSD**, and treatment primarily involves supportive care for the affected animals.
 - This may include treating skin lesions with wound care sprays,
 - using antibiotics to prevent secondary infections,
 - administering anti-inflammatory painkillers to increase appetite.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/lumpy-skin-disease-2>