



Chikungunya Vaccine

Why in News

Recently, **International Vaccine Institute (IVI)** has announced that **Bharat Biotech's Chikungunya vaccine candidate (BBV87)** has entered into [Phase II and III clinical trials](#). Currently, **there is no commercial chikungunya vaccine**.

Key Points

▪ About the Vaccine:

- BBV87 is an [inactivated virus vaccine](#), similar to [Covaxin](#).
 - Inactivated vaccines contain viruses whose genetic material has been destroyed by heat, chemicals or radiation so they cannot infect cells and replicate, but can still trigger an immune response.
- Bharat Biotech's Chikungunya vaccine candidate was developed in partnership with the **International Vaccine Institute (IVI)**.
- Development of Chikungunya Vaccine is an initiative of the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), as part of the **Global Chikungunya Vaccine Clinical Development Program (GCCDP)**.
- It was funded by the [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations](#) (CEPI) with support from the Ind-CEPI mission of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

▪ Chikungunya:

- **About:**
 - Chikungunya is a **mosquito-borne viral disease** first described during an outbreak in southern Tanzania in 1952.
 - The name is derived from the **local Kimakonde language** and means "to become contorted", evoking the stooped appearance of patients suffering acute joint pain.
- **Transmission:**
 - It is **transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito**.
 - It is most often spread to people by **Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes**. These are the **same mosquitoes that transmit dengue virus**.
 - Mosquitoes acquire the infection by biting infected humans or animals.
 - Weather conditions also affect their breeding and survival.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Include severe joint pain, muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rashes.
- **Treatment:**
 - Currently, there are **no vaccines or antiviral drugs available to cure**

Chikungunya, and the treatment is only focused on relieving the symptoms associated with the infection.

- **Reasons Behind the Spurt in Cases:** There has been an increasing incidence of vector borne diseases in urban, peri-urban and rural areas because of:
 - Haphazard **urbanisation**.
 - **Deficient water and solid waste management** leading to proliferation of mosquito breeding sites.
 - **Absence of specific antiviral drug** or vaccine.
- **Government Initiatives to Control Chikungunya:**
 - **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)** is a comprehensive programme for prevention and control of **vector borne diseases namely Malaria, Filaria, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis (JE), Dengue and Chikungunya**.
 - It works under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

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