



Virovore

Why in News?

Researchers have found the first known "**Virovore,**" or **organism that eats viruses.**

- The new findings may change our **understanding of the role viruses play in the food chain at a microscopic level.**

What is Virovore?

- It has been identified as an **actual species of protist that feasts on viruses.**
- These virus-eating species of protists — which are their own kingdom on the tree of life and are not an animal, plant, or fungi — are now classified as Virovores.
- It is a species of **Halteria - microscopic ciliates** that populate freshwater worldwide.
 - The microbe Halteria is a common genus of protist known to flit about as its hair-like cilia propel it through the water.
- They're made up of nucleic acids, nitrogen, and phosphorus. It can eat **huge numbers of infectious chloroviruses that share their aquatic habitat.**
 - Chloroviruses are known to infect microscopic green algae.
- These organisms can sustain themselves **with viruses, consuming many and growing in size.**
- A virus-only diet, termed "virovory," is enough to fuel **the physiological growth and even population growth of an organism.**

[Source: HT](#)

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