Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC)

***Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance*

Why in the news?

Recently, India established its 1st internationally recognized Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) at RVC Centre, Meerut.

- **EDFC** – It is a ***scientifically managed and biosecure zone***, where horses are kept free from specific equine diseases.

*The term '**Equine'** comes from 'equus' a latin word, means horse. Equine diseases are health illnesses caused primarily to horses, mules, monkeys etc.*

- **Coordination by**
  - Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
  - Directorate of Remount Veterinary Services, Ministry of Defence
  - Equestrian Federation of India (EFI)
  - Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Recognized by** - *World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)*, as it followed the standards outlined in the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

***World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)** was founded in 1924 as an intergovernmental organization. It focusses on transparently disseminating information on animal diseases, improving animal health globally and thus build a safer, healthier and more sustainable world.*

- The centre has been officially declared free from Equine Infectious Anemia, Equine Influenza, Equine Piroplasmosis, Glanders, and Surra.

India has historically remained free from African Horse Sickness since 2014.

- **Compartmentalization** - Segregates a defined sub-population of horses to maintain disease-free status.
- **24×7 Surveillance** - Continuous veterinary checks and real-time monitoring of equine health.
- **Biosecurity Measures** - Standard Operating Procedures for pest control, hygiene, waste disposal, and animal health monitoring.
- **Functions** – It supports the broader *development of horse-related activities* in the country.
  - **For example:** Sports, breeding, and high-value equine trade.
- It helps in strengthening India's biosecurity and disease preparedness framework.
- **Importance** – Indian sport horses from this facility can now be *eligible to travel and*

compete abroad.

- It enables the international movement of Indian sport horses in *compliance with global biosecurity* and animal health standards.
- It enhances India's compartmentalization approach to the poultry sector, with *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Free Compartments* to enable the safe export of poultry products.

Reference

PIB| Establishment of Equine Disease-Free Compartment

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