

## Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC)

*Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance*

### Why in the news?

Recently, India established its 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Piroplasmiasis, 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](#)

