Glanders

Prelims – *Current events of National and International importance| General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity.*

Why in News?

Recently, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, issued a revised national action plan on glanders.

- Glanders is a highly contagious and often ***fatal disease of equines***.

  Equines are a ***group of mammals*** *that belong to the family* ***Equidae.*** *Equines are known for their slender legs, hooves, and long faces with large, expressive eyes. Example Horse, Donkey, Mules.*

- It can also affect other animals and humans.
- It was caused by the bacterium ***Burkholderia mallei.***
- **Clinical Signs –** It causes nodules and ulcerative lesions in the respiratory tract and lungs.
- A distinct cutaneous form, known as ***'farcy',*** is also observed, marked by skin nodules and swollen lymph vessels.
- **Transmission –** Ingestion is the primary route of infection, especially through shared feeding or watering sources.
- It is *transmitted to humans* through contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals.
- The bacteria enter the body through cuts or abrasions in the skin and through mucosal surfaces such as the conjunctiva and nose.
- **Symptoms –** Fever with chills and sweating, Muscle aches, Chest pain, Muscle tightness, Headache, Nasal discharge, Light sensitivity (sometimes with excessive tearing of the eyes).
- **Global Occurrence –** It continues to appear sporadically in parts of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and South American countries.
- **Treatment –** Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX), A

sulphonamide combination.
- Piperacillin-tazobactam is being considered due to emerging resistance.
- **Legal Frame work –** Recognized as a ***notifiable disease*** under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act, 2009.
- It is a listed disease as described in the terrestrial animal health code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).
- **Recent Revised National Action Plan on Glanders**
- **Major Revisions**
    - Reducing the infected zone from 5 km to 2 km,
    - Redefining the surveillance area as 2-10 km instead of 5-25 km, and
    - Aligning the restrictions accordingly, which will now apply only up to 10 km.
- Enhanced Surveillance & Reporting.
- Strengthened Quarantine & Movement Control Rapid Response Mechanism.
- Capacity Building & Training.
- Public Awareness & Stakeholder Engagement.
- Research & Laboratory Support.

References

1. PIB| Revised Action Plan on Glanders
2. National centre for disease control| Glanders

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