

Haemorrhagic Septicaemia

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in news?

At least 10 blackbucks have died at a zoo in Jharkhand's Jamshedpur due to a bacterial infection - Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS).

- **HS** - It is an acute, **highly fatal bacterial disease** that affects water buffaloes and cattle in tropical regions.
- **Caused by - Bacteria** - **Pasteurella multocida** serotypes B:2 (Asia) and E:2 (Africa). The disease is also known as **Pasteurellosis**.
- **Symptoms** - Fever, dullness, reluctance to move, profuse salivation, serous nasal discharge, severe respiratory distress, protrusion of the tongue, painful swelling of the throat, and diarrhoea.
- **Geography** - **Endemic** in India, Southeast Asia, Africa, Middle East; sporadic in Europe.
- **Host** - Mainly affects cattle and water buffaloes, occasionally it affects camels, elephants, horses, donkeys, yaks, various species of deer, pigs, sheep and goats, etc.
- **Transmission** - Ingestion or inhalation via direct contact, fomites, contaminated feed/water, through respiratory secretions, etc.
- **Seasonality** - Worst epidemics occur during monsoon rains (high humidity & high temperature).
- **Incubation Period** - Usually few hours to days but some animals can carry the organism for varying periods without symptoms.
- **Mortality rate** - Animals usually collapse and died within 6-48 hours, animals with clinical signs, particularly buffalo, rarely recover (May be **as high as 80%**).
- **Treatment** - Timely antibiotic treatment can cure clinical cases ***if started early***.
- Various sulfonamides, tetracyclines, penicillin, and chloramphenicol (where its use is permitted) are effective.
- **Prevention** - Key preventive measure, using inactivated P. multocida

vaccines, especially before monsoon, segregate the sick animal from healthy ones, avoiding overcrowding, etc.

In Humans - While *P. multocida* can infect humans, the specific serotypes causing HS (B:2, E:2) **haven't been confirmed** to infect people, but caution is still advised.

It is listed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as a **major transboundary animal disease**.

References

1. [The Hindu | 10 blackbucks die due to 'bacterial infection'](#)
2. [Indimmune | Haemorrhagic Septicaemia](#)
3. [MSD Veterinary | Hemorrhagic Septicemia](#)

