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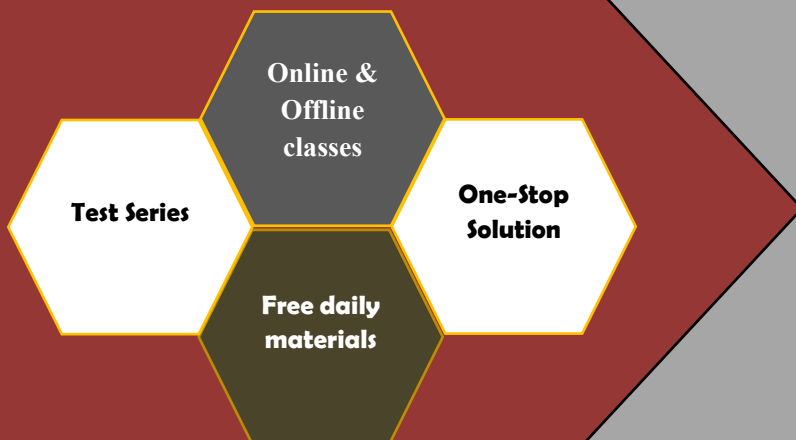
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Zika Virus Disease

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

Zika Virus Disease

About:

- Zika virus is a **mosquito-borne flavivirus** that was **first identified in Uganda** in 1947 in monkeys. It was later identified in **humans in 1952 in Uganda** and the **United Republic of Tanzania**.

Transmission:

- ZVD is caused by a virus **transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes (AM)**, mainly *Aedes aegypti*.
- This is the same mosquito that **transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever**.
- Zika virus is **also transmitted** from mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products, and organ transplantation.

Symptoms:

- Symptoms are generally mild and include fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache. Most people with Zika virus infection do not develop symptoms.
- Zika virus infection during pregnancy **can cause infants to be born with microcephaly** (smaller than normal head size) and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome.

Treatment:

- There is **no vaccine or medicine for Zika**. Instead, the focus is on relieving symptoms and includes rest, rehydration and acetaminophen for fever and pain.

Related Government Programme/Initiatives:

- **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme:** To strengthen/maintain decentralized laboratory based and IT enabled disease surveillance systems for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends.
- **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme:** The central nodal agency for prevention and control of six vector borne diseases i.e. Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya in India.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK):** An initiative under the **National Health Mission**, has a **surveillance for Microcephaly** (system

- for monitoring birth defects).

