



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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ICMR seeks partners to develop antibody against Nipah virus

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The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible organisations, companies, and manufacturers for the development and production of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against Nipah viral disease.

About Nipah Virus

Nipah virus (NiV) is a **zoonotic virus** (transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.

The organism that causes Nipah Virus encephalitis is an **RNA** or Ribonucleic acid virus of the family Paramyxoviridae, genus **Henipavirus**, and is closely related to Hendra virus.

NiV initially appeared in domestic pigs, dogs, cats, goats, horses, and sheep. It spreads through **fruit bats** (genus Pteropus). The virus is found in bat urine, faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.

Symptoms: Causes encephalitic syndrome in humans, presenting with fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, coma, and potentially death.

Diagnosis: Diagnosis can be established through real-time polymerase chain reaction (**RT-PCR**) from bodily fluids and antibody detection via enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (**ELISA**).

Prevention: No vaccines available for humans or animals.

Monoclonal Antibodies?

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the behaviour of antibodies produced by the immune system to protect against diseases and foreign substances.

Monoclonal antibodies are specifically designed to target certain antigens.

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