



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Japanese encephalitis

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**Why is in news?** No neutralising antibodies after Japanese encephalitis vaccination

It is a disease caused by a **flavivirus** that **affects the membranes around the brain**.

**Japanese encephalitis virus** JEV is the most important cause of viral encephalitis in Asia.

Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is also a **major cause of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** in India.

The disease is transmitted to humans through **bites from infected mosquitoes of the Culex species**.

An infection found in **Asia and the west Pacific** that can **cause brain swelling**. It's **more common in rural and agricultural areas**.

**Migratory birds along with pigs** in the community also play an **important role in the transmission** of JE from one area to other areas.

Most people infected with JE **do not have symptoms or have only mild symptoms**.

However, a small percentage of infected people develop inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), with symptoms including sudden onset of headache, high fever, disorientation, coma, tremors and convulsions.

There is **no antiviral treatment for patients** with JE. Treatment, available, is supportive to relieve symptoms and stabilise the patient.

Safe and effective JE vaccines are available to prevent the disease.

In India, mass vaccination with JE vaccine was started in a phased manner subsequent to the major outbreak in 2005.

**JE vaccination is also included under the Universal Immunisation Program** of the Government of India.

In order to reduce morbidity, mortality, and disability in children due to JE/AES, Government of India under **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Japanese Encephalitis (JE)/ Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (NPPCJA)** has developed a multi-pronged strategy with the convergence of the concerned Ministries.

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