

National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme: Notes for UPSC Exam

The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is an umbrella programme for prevention and control of vector borne diseases and is subsumed under the National Health Mission. Directorate of NVBDCP is the central nodal agency for the prevention and control of vector borne diseases i.e. Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya in India. It is one of the Technical Departments of the Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India.

Programmes under NVBDCP

Various programmes under NVBDCP are:

- 1. Kala Azar control programme:** Kala-azar or visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is a chronic disease caused by an intracellular protozoan (*Leishmania* species) and transmitted to man by bite of female phlebotomus sand fly. Currently, it is a main problem in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and some parts of Uttar Pradesh.
 - It is a centrally sponsored programme in endemic states in 1990-91. A tripartite MoU has been signed between India, Bangladesh and Nepal for achieving Kala Azar from the South East Asia Region.
 - All programmes are being implemented by the NVBDCP.
 - It has a target of reducing the annual incidence of Kala Azar to less than one per 10000 population at the block PHC level.
- 2. National Filaria Control Programme:** Bancroftian filariasis caused by *Wuchereria bancrofti*, which is transmitted to man by the bites of infected mosquitoes - *Culex*, *Anopheles*, *Mansonia* and *Aedes*. Lymphatic filaria is prevalent in 18 states and union territories. Bancroftian filariasis is widely distributed while brugian filariasis caused by *Brugia malayi* is restricted to 6 states - UP, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Gujarat.
 - The National Filaria Control Programme was launched in 1955. It has the objective of controlling Lymphatic Filariasis in un-surveyed areas and urban areas through anti parasitic and anti larval measures.
 - The National Health Policy 2017 envisages the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis. 2020 is the target year for Global elimination of the disease.
- 3. Japanese Encephalitis Control Programme:** Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a zoonotic disease and caused by an arbovirus, group B (Flavivirus) and transmitted by *Culex* mosquitoes. This disease has been reported from 26 states and UTs since 1978, only 15 states are reporting JE regularly.

- A task force is constituted by the Government of India for the control of Japanese Encephalitis. The Directorate of NVBDCP monitors the situation of Japanese Encephalitis in the country.
- Objective of the programme is early diagnosis of the disease and sincere case management.
- 4. **Dengue Control:** Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a zoonotic disease and caused by an arbovirus, group B (Flavivirus) and transmitted by Culex mosquitoes. This disease has been reported from 26 states and UTs since 1978, only 15 states are reporting JE regularly.
- Objective of the programme is surveillance and Dengue outbreak control, vector control through community participation especially in the pre monsoon period as the transmission is correlated to monsoon and capacity building to ensure timely treatment.

In addition to these programmes there is also the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Elimination of Malaria. Malaria is one of the serious public health problems in India. At the time of independence malaria was contributing to 75 million cases with 0.8 million deaths every year. The plan has set its goal to totally eliminate Malaria by 2027 three years ahead of 2024 which is the global deadline for elimination of Malaria.

Questions related to NVBDCP

What is the meaning of NVBDCP?

The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is an umbrella programme for prevention and control of Vector borne diseases. Earlier the Vector Borne Diseases were managed under separate National Health Programmes, but now NVBDCP covers all.

When was NVBDCP started?

The programme was initiated in the year 2003.

How are vector borne diseases spread?

Vector-borne diseases are infections transmitted by the bite of infected arthropod species, such as mosquitoes, ticks, triatomine bugs, sandflies, and blackflies. Arthropod vectors are cold-blooded (ectothermic) and thus especially sensitive to climatic factors.