

Anthrax

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Why in news?

- DRDO, JNU researchers are developing a more potent vaccine for anthrax, claiming that the new vaccine is superior to existing one since both anthrax and spores can generate an immune reaction.
- Anthrax is a **soil-induced disease** caused by the soil germ **Bacillus anthracis**.
- Animals such as horses, buffaloes, pigs, sheep get affected.
- Anthrax is **not transmitted directly to another contaminated animal or person but is distributed by spores**.
- Such fungi **can be borne by wearing clothes or shoes**.

Symptoms

- Within a week, the symptoms such as respiratory infections, acidity, blood diarrhea, bowel swelling develop.
- A **60-day antibiotic regimen is the standard treatment** for anthrax.
- If begun as soon as possible, therapy is most successful.
- By later stages the bacteria often create more toxins than pharmaceuticals can kill.