

# Monkeypox

July 28, 2021

**In news-** A rare case of monkeypox was detected in Texas, USA recently.

## **About the Monkeypox-**

- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease, caused by monkeypox virus, a **member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae and** belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox.
- It was **first discovered in 1958** when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease were recorded in colonies of monkeys kept for research.
- The **first case of monkeypox in humans was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo** during a period of intensified effort to eliminate smallpox.
- It is a rare but potentially serious viral illness that is **characterised by flu-like symptoms and swelling of the lymph nodes.**
- The condition gradually progresses to a widespread rash all over the face and body.
- It is mostly **transmitted to people from wild animals such as rodents and primates,** but **human-to-human transmission also occurs** by contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.
- Eating inadequately cooked meat and other animal products of infected animals is a possible risk factor.
- Scientists have so far discovered **two distinct genetic groups** of monkeypox virus – **Central African and West African.**
- A new **third generation vaccinia vaccine** has now been approved for prevention of smallpox and monkeypox.
- Smallpox had a higher fatality rate than monkeypox.
- The most recent case detected in the US has been

infected by the type of virus found in parts of West Africa, including Nigeria.

- The United Kingdom, Israel and Singapore have also recorded cases of monkeypox in passengers, all of whom were returning from Nigeria.