

Reovirus

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In news— Mud Crab Reovirus (MCRV) has been found to be the reason for the mass mortality of wild crab (*Scylla serrate*) in Andhra Pradesh State.

About Reovirus-

- **Reovirus is a RNA virus, constituting the family Reoviridae, a small group of animal and plant viruses.**
- Member viruses have a wide host range, including vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, protists and fungi.
- Reovirus is a nonenveloped double-stranded RNA virus.
- This virus was initially not known to be related to any specific disease, and so **was named Respiratory Enteric Orphan virus.**
- They lack lipid envelopes and package their segmented genome within multi-layered capsids.
- **Characteristic features of structure, preferred hosts, and chemistry are the basis for dividing reoviruses into several genera,** of which *Orthoreovirus*, *Orbivirus*, *Rotavirus*, and *Phytoreovirus* are among the best known.

About MCRV-

- The **MCRV, known as Sleeping Disease,** has taken a toll on wild crab in Crab Fattening and Crab polyculture (in which shrimp and wild crab are cultured in the same pond and exclusive mud crab ponds).
- The viral pathogen mainly affects the connective tissue of hepatopancreas, gills, and intestine.