

KARNATAKA'S SECOND MONKEY FEVER LAB

In News : Second KFD testing lab will come up in Sirsi soon

Key Highlights



Launched by : The Health Department is set to establish another Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) testing laboratory at Sirsi of Uttara Kannada district



New Lab at Sirsi
Uttara Kannada



Aim : to strengthen early detection and control of the disease.



The **first laboratory** is currently functioning in Shivamogga.



Benefits: new laboratory would benefit residents of Sirsi, Siddapur and surrounding areas by enabling quicker diagnosis, which, in turn, would help reduce mortality to zero

About Kyasanur Forest Disease

Origin : First identified in 1957 in Karnataka's Kyasanur Forest, it is commonly known as Monkey Fever.

Type: It is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever caused by the Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (family Flaviviridae).



Seasonality: Epidemics usually last from October to June, with a peak period between January and April.

Symptoms: Sudden high fever, headache, and vomiting; severe cases may involve bleeding (hemorrhagic) and neurological issues.

Transmission: Spread to humans via **tick bites** (mainly *Haemaphysalis spinigera*) or **contact with infected animals**, particularly sick or dead monkeys. No person-to-person transmission exists.

Prevention: A vaccine is available and widely recommended in affected regions of India.

Treatment: There is no cure; management relies on supportive care (hydration, oxygen, and maintaining blood pressure).

Mortality: The disease has a **fatality rate of approximately 5% to 10%.**