

#### **4. H1N1 infection of Supreme Court Judges**

**Prelims Syllabus:** Governance- Judiciary

**Mains Syllabus:** GS-II Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector or Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

#### **Why in News?**

- Five judges of the Supreme Court of India have been affected by Swine Flu which is caused by the H1N1 virus.



#### **Highlights:**

- In order to prevent the further spread of the virus, many measures have been taken by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India:
- The First Aid Post (FAP) of CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) was strengthened at the Supreme Court
- All the judges were provided treatment as per the protocol. Prophylactic treatment was also given to all who have come in contact with them including their family members.
- All five judges were kept in home isolation. Of these, three Judges have already resumed their duty and two continue to be under home isolation/observation and are recovering.
- The courtrooms and residences are being sanitised.
- Awareness information regarding preventive measures was disseminated to all concerned.
- H1N1 is a seasonal infection which usually occurs every year with two peaks (One in January to March and other between July and September).

#### **Swine Flu (H1N1):**

- Swine influenza, also called pig influenza, swine flu, hog flu and pig flu, is an infection caused by any one of several types of swine influenza viruses. Swine influenza virus is any strain of the influenza family of viruses that is endemic in pigs.

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- Influenza A (H1N1) virus is the subtype of influenza A virus that is the most common cause of human influenza.
  - It is an orthomyxovirus that contains the glycoproteins haemagglutinin and neuraminidase. For this reason, they are described as H1N1, H1N2 etc. depending on the type of H or N antigens they express with metabolic synergy.
  - Haemagglutinin causes red blood cells to clump together and binds the virus to the infected cell. Neuraminidase is a type of glycoside hydrolase enzyme which helps to move the virus particles through the infected cell and assist in budding from the host cells.
  - Some strains of H1N1 are endemic in humans and cause a small fraction of all influenza-like illness and a small fraction of all seasonal influenza. Other strains of H1N1 are endemic in pigs (swine influenza) and in birds (avian influenza).
  - H1N1 influenza (or swine flu) is a highly contagious acute respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza in pigs. Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with swine flu have occurred.
  - Most commonly, these cases occur in people with direct exposure to pigs (e.g., children near pigs at a fair or workers in the swine industry). However, there have been cases of human-to-human spread of swine flu.

