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New Delhi**

Awareness programme on Nipah Virus at PGIMER & Dr RML Hospital on 30 May 2018

Nipah Virus (NiV) is an emerging zoonotic disease of public health concern. Cases of NiV disease have recently been reported from Kerala.

To keep abreast with the current situation, update the knowledge on the emerging disease and preparedness, an awareness programme on Nipah Virus Disease was organised at PGIMER & Dr RML Hospital on 30 May 2018. Departments of Microbiology, Medicine and Neurology presented all the aspects of NiV disease. Over 150 faculty, residents and nursing staff participated in the programme.

Only four countries viz Malaysia, Singapore, Bangladesh and India have reported human cases of NiV infection since the discovery of the virus in 1999 following the outbreak in Malaysia in 1998. Two outbreaks (Siliguri 2001 & Nadia 2007) have been reported from our country in past. Outbreak response in these outbreaks was discussed. Clinical features, diagnosis, management and prevention and control based on the available literature were presented.

Case definitions and Sample collection, storage and transportation guidelines were presented as per the advisory issued by IDSP, NCDC through State Surveillance Officer, IDSP, Delhi.

Existing hospital infection control practices, availability and use of PPE, isolation ward facility, barrier nursing, hand washing, and waste management practices were reviewed.

Active discussions followed the presentations.

The Director & Medical Superintendent emphasised the need to be vigilant and follow the case definitions for suspect case and advisory diligently.

