Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes.

There is scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Zika can be passed through sex from a person with Zika to his or her partners.

In the meantime, the virus will have ample time to spread through the population unless public health interventions to control mosquitoes are implemented on a warfooting.

An additional area of concern is the difference between Zika and dengue or chikungunya on the other. While the latter conditions occur soon after a mosquito bite, the presence of the Zika virus will be known six months later, after the birth of microcephalic infants.

People with Zika virus disease can have symptoms including mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache. These symptoms normally last for 2-7 days.

India has high prevalence of malaria, dengue, chikungunya, etc. Now India is at risk of spread of Zika epidemic. The factors which add to vulnerability are:

- Lack of awareness
- Poor health facilities
- Lack of effective vaccination against Zika virus
- Lack of after care in case of microcephaly occurrence

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