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1 Hantaviruses (Source: The Hindu)

It is a zoonotic illness carried by specific rodents, including deer mice, white-footed mice, and cotton rats.

- Humans predominantly contract the virus through aerosolisation- inhaling airborne viral particles from disturbed infected rodent waste (urine, droppings, or saliva)

Effect on Body

- **Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS**): It is a respiratory illness and has a high fatality rate of about 40%.
- **Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS)** : Impact kidney.

Symptoms

- Hantavirus usually begins with flu-like symptoms, such as fatigue and fever, one to eight weeks after exposure.
- Four to 10 days later, coughing, shortness of breath and fluid in the lungs appear.

Treatment:

- There is no specific therapy for hantavirus infection, so treatment focuses on supportive care, including rest and fluids.

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2 Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI) (Source: The Hindu)

FPI refers to securities and financial assets passively held by foreign investors, without acquiring management control or long-term interest.

Contributions of Rabindranath Tagore to

- FPI instruments are **Stocks & Bonds, Mutual Funds, Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs), American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs).**
- It is part of the **Capital Account under Balance of Payment (BoP).**
- It is referred as **'hot money'** because it is high liquidity and tendency to exit at early signs of economic instability
- Regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

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3 Flash Flood and GLOF (Source: The Hindu)

Flash Flood

A flash flood is a sudden, rapid flooding event that occurs within minutes to a few hours.

- **Causes**
  - Cloudburst or intense localised rainfall.
  - Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in Himalayan regions.
  - Dam or embankment failure.
  - Urbanisation leading to impervious surfaces and blocked drainage.
  - Deforestation and slope destabilisation in hill areas.

- **Areas Generally Affecting**
  - Hilly Terrain: Flash floods in the Himalayas (Uttarakhand) and Afghanistan.
  - Urbanised Region: Flash flood in an urban region like Chennai.
  - Arid and Semi-Arid: Rajasthan dry river beds

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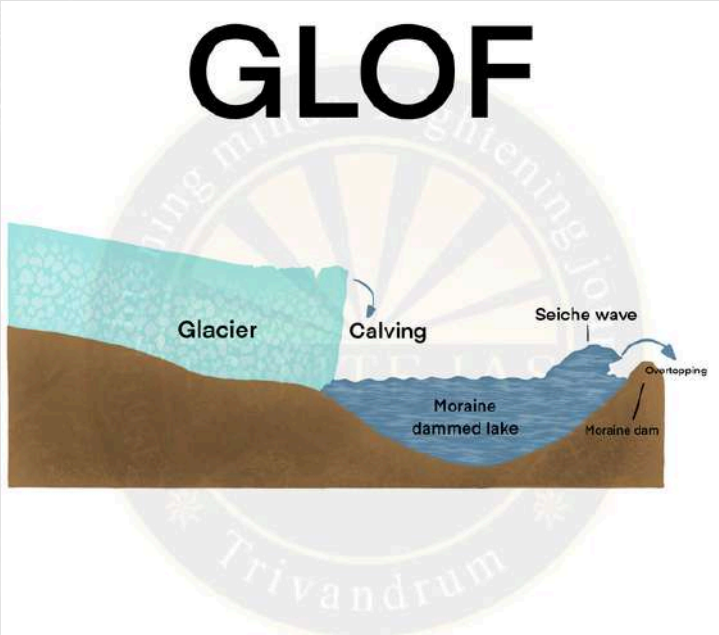
Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)

A GLOF is a sudden and catastrophic release of water from a glacial lake, typically caused when the natural dam (usually ice, moraine, or landslide debris) containing the lake fails.
Example : Example: South Lhonak Lake GLOF, Sikkim (2023)

- **Causes**
  - Melting of glaciers due to global warming and climate change.
  - Earthquakes or landslides can cause a dam breach.
  - Ice or rock avalanches into the lake, creating surge waves.
  - Sudden glacier calving (chunks breaking off).
  - Intense rainfall or rapid snowmelt increases lake volume.
  - Unregulated development in glacial valleys.
  - Deforestation reducing natural flood barriers.



- **Vulnerable Regions in India**
  - Mostly in the Himalayan States: Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh.