



DATE: 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

1 Solar System (Source: The Hindu)

Our Solar System consists of the Sun and eight planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune), which are located in the Milky Way Galaxy.

Inner Planets

- **Mercury**
 - Mercury is closest to the Sun.
 - It has a temperature range of 427°C on its side facing the Sun and – 270°C, on its dark side.
 - It has no atmosphere.
 - Mercury is smaller than the largest natural satellite in the Solar System, Ganymede (the largest moon of Jupiter).
- **Venus**
 - It is the closest neighbour of the Earth.
 - It is the hottest planet, with a temperature of 480°C because the atmosphere has 96% carbon dioxide and poisonous gases like sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide.
 - It is the third brightest object visible from Earth after the Sun and the Moon.
 - It is the brightest among planets because it has the highest albedo due to the highly reflective sulfuric acid that covers its atmosphere.
 - Venus is sometimes called Earth's sister planet or Earth's twin because of their similar size, mass, proximity to the Sun, bulk composition, and presence of similar physical features.
 - It rotates in the opposite direction (clockwise) to most other planets.
- **Earth**
 - Earth is the only planet known to sustain life.
- **Mars**
 - It is called the Red Planet because of the reddish iron oxide prevalent on its surface.
 - It has 95% carbon monoxide and reddish dust.
 - It is a relatively very cold planet.

Outer Planets

• Jupiter

- It is the largest planet in the solar system.
- It is mainly a rapidly spinning ball of gas, especially clouds of ammonia, and has no solid surface.
- Jupiter's four large moons (Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto) are called the Galilean satellites because Galileo discovered them.

• Saturn

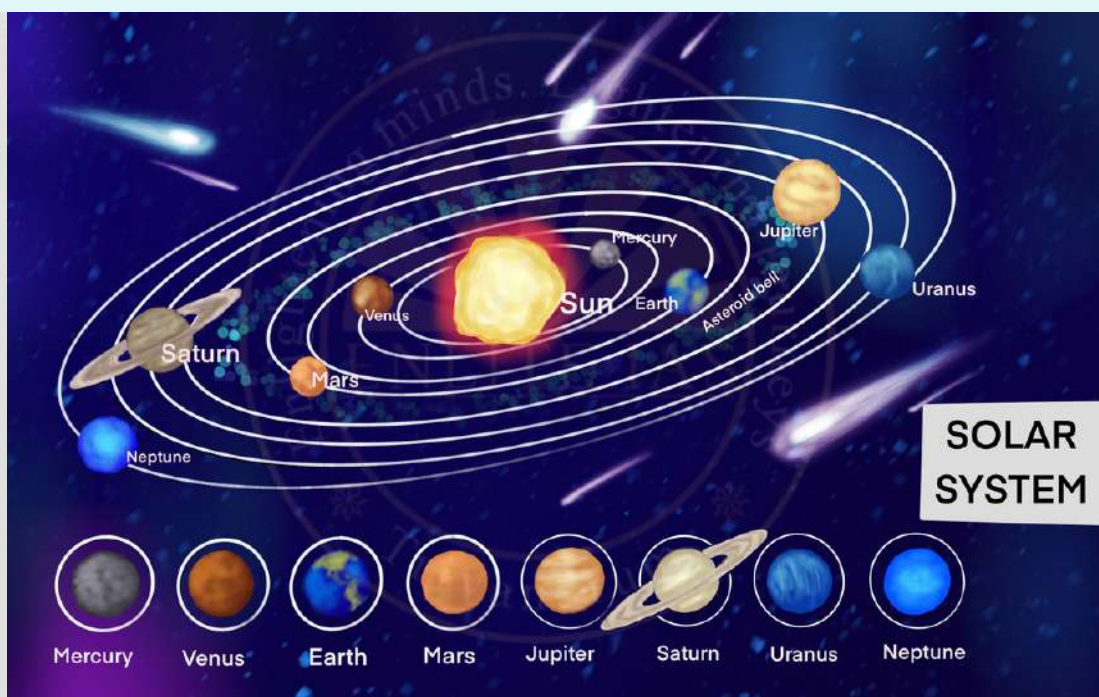
- It consists mainly of hydrogen and helium.
- Saturn's density is even less than water.
- Its rings are made up of billions of ice particles and ice-covered rocks.
- Titan is its largest satellite.

• Uranus

- It is also a very cold planet.
- Uranus is a distant planet in the solar system and is 7th in order from the Sun.
- Uranus and Neptune are the outermost planets of the solar system.
- Uranus has a highly tilted rotation axis.

• Neptune

- Neptune is cold and dark, with its surface coated with frozen methane.
- It is the furthest of the planets in our solar system.
- It is more than 30 times as far from the Sun as Earth is.
- Neptune is very similar to Uranus. It's made of a thick fog of water, ammonia, and methane over an Earth-sized solid centre.
- Its atmosphere is made of hydrogen, helium, and methane.





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2 Zika Virus (Source: The Hindu)

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus (genus Flavivirus, family Flaviviridae) transmitted mainly by day-biting Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes

Fact To Know

- First identified in 1947 in Zika Forest, Uganda, in a rhesus monkey; human cases were confirmed in the 1950s in Africa.

Other Ways of Transmission

- It can also spread through sexual contact, blood transfusion, and from an infected mother to her baby during pregnancy or childbirth.

Common Symptoms

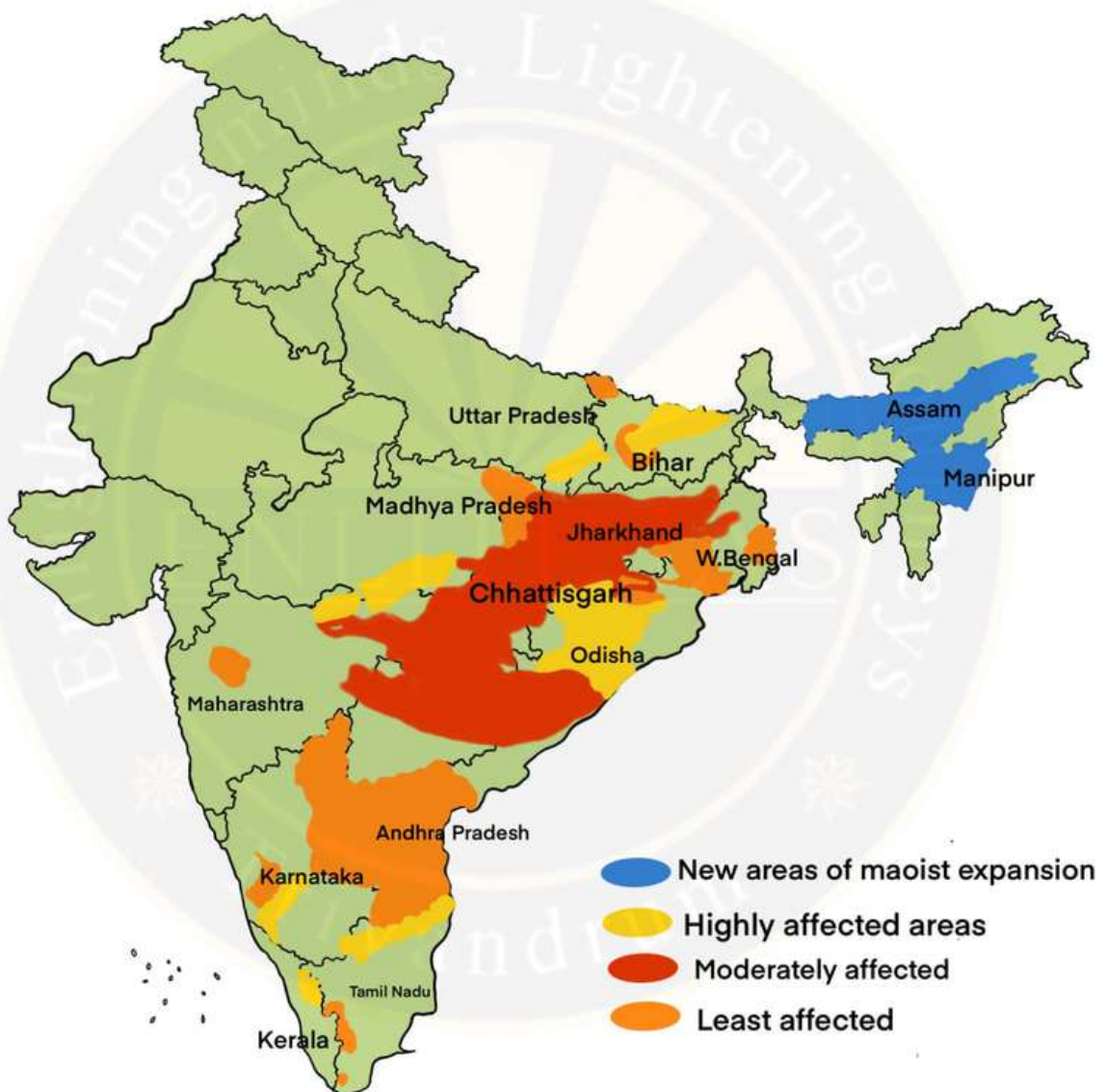
- Low-grade fever, maculopapular rash, conjunctivitis (red eyes), muscle and joint pain, headache, malaise.

Diagnosis and Treatment

- **Diagnosis:** RT-PCR (early), serology (IgM/IgG) as per guidelines.
- **Treatment:** No specific antiviral, no licensed vaccine; supportive care only

3 Red Corridor (Source: The Indian Express)

Red Corridor





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