

Langya virus

- Dozens of people in China have fallen ill with a new virus that is also found in shrews, a report has said, but there is so far no evidence of human-to-human transmission.
- The virus is called Langya henipavirus or LayV,
- Research findings suggested shrews may be a natural reservoir for the pathogen.
- The study adds that Langya's genome organization is "identical to that of other Henipaviruses", and that it is closely related to the "Mojiang Henipavirus, which was discovered in southern China".

Henipavirus

- Henipavirus is a genus of negative-strand RNA viruses in the family Paramyxoviridae, order Mononegavirales containing six established species, and numerous others still under study.
- Henipaviruses are naturally harboured by several species of small mammals, notably pteropid fruit bats (flying foxes), microbats of several species, and shrews.
- Henipaviruses are characterised by long genomes and a wide host range.

- Their recent emergence as zoonotic pathogens capable of causing illness and death in domestic animals and humans is a cause of concern.

THE HINDU

ILO report on Youth Employment

- India experienced severe working-hour and employment losses in 2020 and 2021, and Indian youth employment deteriorated in 2021 compared with the 2020 situation, according to the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022 report released by the International Labour Organisation on Thursday.
- The recovery in youth employment is still lagging globally, the report says confirming that COVID-19 has hurt young people more than any other age group.
- It finds that the pandemic has worsened the numerous labour market challenges facing those aged between 15 and 24.
- "The total global number of unemployed youth is estimated to reach 73 million in 2022, a slight improvement from 2021 (75 million), but still six million above the pre-pandemic level of 2019,
- Unemployment rate of young people in the Asia and Pacific region is projected to reach 14.9% in 2022,

the same as the global average, although there are important divergences between Subregions and countries.

- In India, the report added that school closures lasted 18 months and among the 24 crore school-going children, only 8% of such children in rural areas and 23% in urban areas had adequate access to online education.
- “Given the deeply unequal access to online resources in developing countries, children from socio-economically disadvantaged families, which are the large majority, had almost no access to education,” the report said.
- It said school closures not only prevented new learning, but also led to the phenomenon of “learning regression”, that is, children forgetting what they had learned earlier.
- “In India, 92% of children on average lost at least one foundational ability in language and 82% lost at least one foundational ability in mathematics.

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NACO AND HIV ACT

- The NACO, functioning under the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry, is a nodal agency responsible for overlooking and

coordinating activities of the National AIDS Control Programme

- India’s AIDS Control Programme is globally acclaimed as a success story.
- The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), launched in 1992, is being implemented as a comprehensive programme for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in India.
- NACP I was implemented with an objective of slowing down the spread of HIV infections so as to reduce morbidity, mortality and impact of AIDS in the country.
- National AIDS Control Board (NACB) was constituted and an autonomous National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) was set up to implement the project.
- The first phase focused on awareness generation, setting up surveillance system for monitoring HIV epidemic, measures to ensure access to safe blood and preventive services for high risk group populations.
- In November 1999, the second National AIDS Control Project (NACP II) was launched with World Bank credit support of USD 191 million.
- The policy and strategic shift was reflected in the two key objectives of NACP II:
- To reduce the spread of HIV infection in India, and

- To increase India's capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS on a long-term basis. Key policy initiatives taken during NACP II included: adoption of National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy (2002); Scale up of Targeted Interventions for High risk groups in high prevalence states; Adoption of National Blood Policy; a strategy for Greater Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS (GIPA); launch of National Adolescent Education Programme (NAEP); introduction of counselling; Launch of National Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) programme; and setting up of the National Council on AIDS, chaired by the Prime Minister; and setting up of State AIDS Control Societies in all states.
- In response to the evolving epidemic, the third phase of the national programme (NACPIII) was launched in July 2007 with the goal of Halting and Reversing the Epidemic by the end of project period.
- The HIV & AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017
- The HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017 is a central legislation protecting and promoting the rights of persons infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS.
- The Act came into force on September 10, 2018 with the objective to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS and for reinforcing the legal and human rights of persons infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS. It also seeks to protect the rights of healthcare providers.
- The Act addresses stigma & discrimination and strives to create an enabling environment for enhancing access to services.
- It provides for diagnostic facilities related to ART and opportunistic infection management to people living with HIV and AIDS.
- The Act also provides for a robust grievance redressal mechanism in the form of Ombudsman at the State level and Complaints Officer at the establishment level aiming to provide speedy redressal.

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(UNMOGIP)

- United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Rios of Argentina as the Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
- The Karachi Agreement of July 1949 firmed up the role of UN-level military observers and permitted supervision of the Ceasefire Line established in Jammu and Kashmir.

- India officially maintains that the UNMOGIP's role was "overtaken" by the Shimla Agreement of 1972 that established the Line of Control or the LoC which with "minor deviations" followed the earlier Ceasefire Line.
- Pakistan, however, did not accept the Indian argument and continued to seek cooperation from the UNMOGIP. As a result of this divergent policies.
- In view of the difference of opinion between India and Pakistan, the UN has maintained that the UNMOGIP could be dissolved only with a decision from the UN Security Council.


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The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

- The story so far: The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 provides legal sanction to law enforcement agencies for "taking measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation of criminal matters".
- While the legislation was enacted earlier this year, the Ministry of Home Affairs notified it to come into effect from August 4, 2022.
- It also repeals the existing Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920.

What is the use of identification details in criminal trials?

- Measurements and photographs for identification have three main purposes.
- First, to establish the identity of the culprit against the person being arrested, second, to identify suspected repetition of similar offences by the same person and third, to establish a previous conviction.



A comparison between the two Identification Acts

The previous Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 and the freshly notified Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 have similarities as well as major differences. A quick look at how "measurements" of convicts and arrested persons will be collected from now on

Identified provisions	Identification of Prisoners Act	Criminal Procedure & Identification Act
Persons whose measurements can be taken	Should be convicted of an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment of one year or upwards should be arrested for an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment of one year or upwards If directed by the Magistrate for measurements to be taken for the purposes of investigation of proceedings under the CrPc, provided the person has been arrested in connection with such investigation previously	If convicted of an offence punishable under any law If arrested for an offence punishable under any law or if detained under preventive detention laws If directed by the Magistrate for measurements to be taken for the purposes of investigation of proceedings under the CrPc or any other law in force, there is no requirement for the person to have been arrested in connection with such proceedings previously
Measurements that can be taken	Finger impressions, foot impressions, measurements and photographs	Finger impressions, palm-prints impressions, foot-prints impressions, photographs, iris and retina scan, physical, biological samples and their analysis, behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting or any other examination referred to in section 53 or section 53A of the CrPc, 1973
Destruction of measurements	In case of acquittal, discharge or release, if not previously convicted of any offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment of one year or upwards	In case of acquittal, discharge or release, if not previously convicted of any offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment for any term. For convicts, records are to be destroyed from 75 years of collection

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