

**16-08-2022**

## **Langya Virus**

### **Why in Newspapers?**

A new zoonotic Langya henipavirus has raised concerns among cases of COVID-19 and monkeypox.

### **Quick Issue?**

- The first case of Langya virus was reported in the year 2019. Langya virus is classified among the biosafety level-4 (BSL4) pathogens.
- Langya virus is a zoonotic virus which means it can spread from animals to humans.
- Langya is part of the genus Henipavirus, which has a single-stranded RNA genome with a negative orientation.

### **Other Key Facts?**

#### **Biosafety Level**

- BSL is used to identify protective measures needed in a laboratory setting to protect workers, the environment and the public.
- Activities and projects conducted in biological laboratories are classified by biosafety level.
- The four biosafety levels are BSL-1, BSL-2, BSL-3 and BSL-4, with BSL-4 being the highest (maximum) level of control.

### **Historical Background?**

- Unique features of the Henipavirus Paramyxovirinae are their large genome, long uncharacterized region that is an emerging cause of zoonosis in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Novel Langya Virus:** The newly discovered Langya virus is a 'phylogenetically distinct henipavirus'.
- Other viruses of the previously discovered Henipavirus type are Mojiang, Ghanian, Cedar, Nipah and Hendra. Of these, Nipah and Hendra are known to cause fatal diseases in humans.
- The genome organization of langya is "similar to that of other henipaviruses" and is closely related to the "Mojiang henipavirus", which was discovered in southern China.
- **Symptoms:-** Fever, fatigue, cough, nausea, headache, loss of appetite etc.
- **Treatment:** There are no licensed drugs or vaccines for humans.
- **Effect of Langya virus:-** Langya virus can be potentially fatal to humans in case of severe infection.
- Langya belongs to the same family of viruses as the deadly Nipah virus which is commonly found in bats.



## Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Question: Which of the following is a virus?**

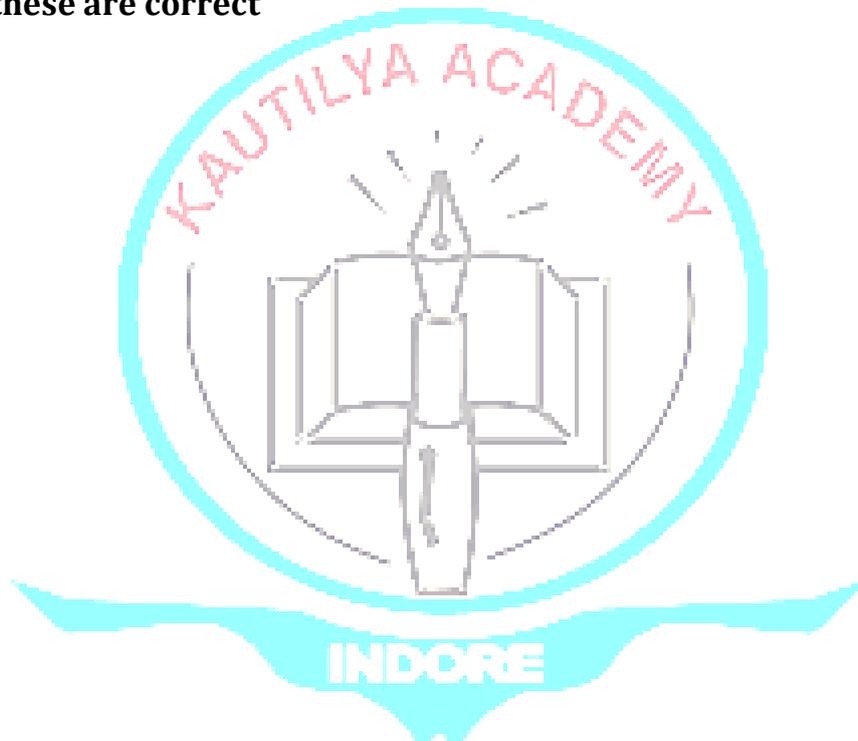
- A. HIV virus
- B. Influenza virus
- C. Polio virus
- D. All of these are correct

**Answer- D. All of these are correct**

**Question: Which of the following is a property of a virus?**

- A. Viruses are acellular.
- B. Virus is seen by electron microscope.
- C. Viruses can live outside the living cell in a dormant state for thousands of years and whenever they find a living cell they become alive
- D. All of these are correct

**Answer- D. All of these are correct**





## Essential Commodities Act, 1955

### Why in Newspapers?

Recently, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has implemented the Essential Commodities Act 1955 to check the increase in the prices of Tur Dal.

### Quick Issue?

- States and UTs have been directed to 'upload the data of stock held by the stockholder entities' on the online monitoring portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs on a weekly basis.

### Historical Background?

- Tur prices have increased from mid-July 2022 amid slow progress in Kharif sowing as compared to 2021 last year due to excess rainfall and water-logging conditions in parts of major tur producing states of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- In order to check undue price hike due to high demand in the upcoming festive months, the government is taking pre-emptive steps to ensure overall availability and controlled prices of pulses in domestic and overseas markets.
- To limit efforts by certain sections of traders and hoarders to increase the prices of tur dal, by resorting to 'restricted sale' to create an artificial shortage.
- Artificial scarcity is the purposeful limit of producing particular products (or services) in order to increase prices and/or demand.
- The ECA Act, 1955 was enacted at a time when the country was facing food shortage due to persistently low levels of food grains production.
- The then India was dependent on imports and assistance (such as import of wheat from America under PL-480) to meet its food needs.
- The Essential Commodities Act was introduced in the year 1955 to prevent hoarding and black marketing of food items.
- Essential Commodities:-** There is no specific definition of essential commodities in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Section 2(a) states that "essential commodity" means a commodity specified in the Schedule to the Act.

### Other Key Facts?

#### Essential Commodities Act 1955

- The Economic Survey 2019-20 highlights that government intervention under the ECA 1955 has often distorted agricultural trade, while being completely ineffective in containing inflation.
- Such interventions lead to increased opportunities for rent-seeking and mismanagement.
- Rent Seeking is a term used by economists to describe unproductive income including corruption.
- Traders buy less than their normal capacity and farmers often incur huge losses during excess production of perishable crops.



- **Legal Jurisdiction:-** The Act empowers the Central Government to add or remove any article from the Schedule. The Centre may, if it is satisfied that it is necessary so to do in the public interest, in consultation with the State Governments, notify any article as necessary. Is.
- **Purpose:-** ECA 1955 is used to curb inflation by allowing the centre to enable control by the state governments of trade in a variety of commodities.
- **Effect:-** By declaring a commodity as essential, the government can control the production, supply and distribution of that commodity and can impose stock limits.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. Which of the following items is not included in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955?**

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| A. Wooden Furniture | B. Cement |
| C. Scooter tyres    | D. Soap   |

**Ans. (C) Scooter tyres**

**Que. Any person or trader aggrieved by an order of confiscation under section 6 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955 may prefer an appeal to the judicial authority appointed by the State Government, from the date of communication of such order:**

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Within one month    | B. Within two months  |
| C. Within three months | D. Within four months |

**Ans (A) within one month**

**Que. At present every offense punishable under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 will be :**

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. Non-cognizable and non-bailable | B. Bailable                    |
| C. Cognizable                      | D. Cognizable and Non-bailable |

**Ans (C) Cognizable**

INDORE