



Current Affairs of the Day

The Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness for Innovation (CEPI)

CEPI is an innovative global partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organisations. CEPI is an international non-governmental organisation funded by the Wellcome Trust, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Commission, and eight countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, Norway, and the UK).

Launched in 2017, its mission is to stimulate and accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks.

The CEPI is a foundation that takes donations to finance independent research projects to develop vaccines against emerging infectious diseases (EID).

It is focused on the WHO's "blueprint priority diseases.

These diseases include the Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS-CoV), the SARS coronavirus 2 the Nipah virus, the Lassa fever virus, and the Rift Valley fever virus, as well as the Chikungunya virus and the hypothetical, unknown pathogen "Disease X".

CEPI investment also requires "equitable access" to the vaccines during outbreaks.

CEPI was conceived in 2015 and formally launched in 2017 at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland.

The AstraZeneca SARS-CoV2 AZD1222 vaccine, which was developed at the University of Oxford, is a chimpanzee adenovirus strain that was engineered so that it could not replicate any more in humans. The team at Oxford had already begun to use this chimpanzee adenovirus vaccine technology to produce candidate vaccines against many pathogens including influenza, Zika and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus.



27 migratory birds found dead at a wildlife sanctuary in Himachal

As many as 27 migratory birds have been reported dead on account of avian influenza in the Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary area of Himachal Pradesh setting off alarm bells and forcing authorities to shut down the sanctuary.

Highlights:

1. At this time of the year, migratory birds are on their way back to their breeding grounds in central Asia. Some of them may be infected because immunity levels are low as they are coming from different wetlands. The Forest department is assuming that it could be avian influenza — H5N1 or H5N8 — but until the reports come nothing can be confirmed.
2. Earlier in January 2021, avian influenza (H5N1) led to the death of over 5,000 migratory birds in the Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary area in the Kangra district of the State.