

Viral Spillover Risks

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About:

- In this study, while it was found that the risk of viral spillovers increases with changes in the environment at a particular location, driven by global warming, this by itself does not guarantee a higher possibility of a pandemic occurring via viruses here.
- This is because there is another important link in the process.
- As long as viruses and their 'bridge vectors' – that act as hosts and lead to their spread – are not simultaneously present in the environment, the likelihood of dramatic events probably remains low.
- Climate change leads to shifts in species ranges and distributions, new associations can emerge, bringing in vectors that can mediate viral spillovers, as simulations recently highlight.

'Viral spillover':

- Viruses are some of the most abundant entities on earth, but they need to infect a host's cell in order to replicate.

- According to the research, these virus/host relationships seem relatively stable within superkingdoms, the major groupings of organisms.
- However, below this rank, viruses may infect a new host from a reservoir host (in which it usually resides) by being able to transmit sustainably in a novel host – a process defined as ‘viral spillover’.

Source : Indian Express

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/viral-spillover-risks/>

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