



## India:

### 29 May, 2012: **Jumbo dies of anthrax?**

A 17-year-old cow elephant was found dead in Kurangupallam, Vadavalli in Kuthialathur reserve forest, Sathy, on Sunday. In the autopsy, the officials found that the animal died due to anthrax. [[more](#)]

### 25 May, 2012: **Foot-and-mouth disease grips cattle in Jajpur**

About 65 cattle have died after suffering from a suspected disease within a month in the district. The suspected foot-and-mouth disease was first detected two months back at Balichandrapur and Bari, where six cattle died. The district veterinary officials are now on high alert with the district administration asking them to be available "day and night" in the headquarters to treat the affected cattle. Blood samples of 30 affected cattle have been sent to the Animal Disease Research Institute (ADRI) at Bhubaneswar to identify the exact cause. [[more](#)]

## Others:

### 29 May, 2012: **New H5N1 bird flu diagnostic kit: Detects all known strains of H5N1 virus with a single test**

The made-in-Singapore H5N1 test kit, which is more accurately known as the H5N1 real-time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) assay, is the only detection kit currently available on the market that can accurately and rapidly detect all known strains of the H5N1 Avian Influenza A virus in a single test within a matter of hours. The current gold standard for H5N1 detection recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) is only able to detect three out of the 10 distinct genetic groups (clades 1, 2 and 3). [[more](#)]

### 25 May, 2012: **African monkey meat that could be behind the next HIV**

Eighty per cent of the meat eaten in Cameroon is killed in the wild and is known as "bushmeat" which includes gorilla, chimpanzee or monkey because of their succulent and tender flesh. 3/4th of all new human viruses are known to come from animals, and some scientists believe humans are particularly susceptible to those carried by apes. The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is now widely believed to have originated in chimps. Apes are known to host other potentially deadly viruses, such as Ebola, anthrax, yellow fever and other potential viruses yet to be discovered. Each year, an estimated 11 000 tons of bushmeat is illegally smuggled in to the UK, mainly from West Africa, and is known to include some ape meat. [[more](#)]

### 24 May, 2012: **A national study of individuals who handle migratory birds for evidence of avian and swine-origin influenza virus infections**

Persons with occupational or recreational exposure to migratory birds may be at risk for infection with highly pathogenic avian influenza and other avian influenza viruses since wild birds are the natural reservoir of influenza A. Additionally, bird handlers may host avian and swine-origin influenza (pH1N1) virus co-infections, which generate reassortant viruses with high pathogenicity in mammals. [[more](#)]

### 22 May, 2012: **Bovine TB disguised by liver fluke**

The liver fluke *Fasciola hepatica* was already known to affect the standard skin test for bTB, but it was unclear whether the fluke stopped the disease developing or merely hid the symptoms. A study published today in Nature Communications suggests that the latter is more likely, and that the effect is significant. It estimates that around a third of bTB cases in England and Wales are undiagnosed because the test is less sensitive in cattle infected with the fluke. [[more](#)]