



## ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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### INDIA

#### 10 Jun 2014: 38 lives lost in Bihar: No cure for this deadly disease yet

Suspected encephalitis has claimed 38 lives in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district so far this year, and more than 120 children are admitted in various hospitals after being diagnosed with the ailment. The disease has acquired the proportions of an epidemic, and has become an annual affair, with poor children being the most vulnerable among the target groups. Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh, too, has been in the grip of encephalitis. In spite of the best efforts of the government of India and international research organisations, no cause or cure for the disease has been found yet. [read more](#)

#### 10 Jun 2014: Number of stray bite cases on the rise in Pune of Maharashtra

Despite Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) efforts, 14 deaths due to Rabies caused by stray bites have been recorded so far this year. Although, there have been 4,154 cases of dog bite cases so far in the city, it has reduced in comparison to 6,905 in the year 2012 and 7,572 till June 2013. [read more](#)

#### 10 Jun 2014: Cost effective kits make FMD testing easier

The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bangalore, has developed two kits to test foot and mouth disease (FMD). The kits are priced between Rs 45 and 50 in India. The biggest advantage of the test, the institute said, is that the kits do not require cold chains for transport or storage and results can be read with the naked eye without specialized, costly instruments and trained personnel. The test can be performed in less than 10 minutes at farms by veterinarians and farmers, researchers said, adding that the tests are rapid, accurate and highly cost effective. [read more](#)

### SRI LANKA

#### 08 Jun 2014: Police assistance sought to prevent foot and mouth disease spreading to main dairy areas

Police assistance has been sought to prevent the transportation of cattle and other farm animals infected with the foot and mouth disease to the main milk producing districts; Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Kegalle, a senior police officer said. The Department of Animal Production and Health will airlift another 200,000 vaccines next week from France or India to meet the current demand. The department has been producing the vaccine locally to treat the strain of virus found in Sri Lanka but the production capacity is not adequate to meet the increased demand created by the outbreak. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 11 Jun 2014: WHO confirms Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus in Iran as Kuwait finds virus in camels

The World Health Organization (WHO) today confirmed the first two MERS-CoV cases in Iran, reported recently in the news media, while another media story said Kuwait has found the virus in five camels. Also, Saudi Arabia reported no new MERS-CoV cases or deaths today, for the second day in a row. [read more](#)

#### 10 Jun 2014: Circulating avian influenza viruses closely related to the 1918 virus have pandemic potential

Wild birds harbor a large gene pool of influenza A viruses that have the potential to cause influenza pandemics. Foreseeing and understanding this potential is important for effective surveillance. Our phylogenetic and geographic analyses revealed the global prevalence of avian influenza virus genes whose proteins differ only a few amino acids from the 1918 pandemic influenza virus, suggesting that 1918-like pandemic viruses may emerge in the future. To assess this risk, we generated and characterized a virus composed of avian influenza viral segments with high homology to the 1918 virus. This virus exhibited pathogenicity in mice and ferrets higher than that in an authentic avian influenza virus. Further, acquisition of seven amino acid substitutions in the viral polymerases and the hemagglutinin surface glycoprotein conferred respiratory droplet transmission to the 1918-like avian virus in ferrets, demonstrating that contemporary avian influenza viruses with 1918 virus-like proteins may have pandemic potential. [read more](#)