

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (RSU-SAARC)

### BHUTAN

#### 28 Nov 2015: Foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks reported in three Dzongkhags

Foot and mouth disease outbreaks have occurred in Zhemgang, Mongar, and Tashi Yangtse Dzongkhags from 11–28 November. Regional Livestock Development Centres in collaboration with Dzongkhag Livestock Sectors have investigated the disease and samples were referred to National Centre for Animal Health, Serbithang for further analysis and confirmation. Control measures are put in place. The source of infection is suspected to be from Bumthang Dzongkhag which experienced similar outbreak in the near past. The probable source of spread could be the down stream cattle migration from Bumthang. [read more](#)

### INDIA

#### 03 Dec 2015: Elephant dies of Anthrax in Kuldiha

A female elephant, aged about 35, was found dead in Bhalubasa area of Kuldiha Reserve Forest in Balasore district. Sources said, the elephant died nearly a fortnight ago and the death came to light when some locals, who had seen it sick, found the ashes. They claimed that the forest officials allegedly burnt the body claiming that the elephant died of anthrax. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) on Tuesday admitted that the elephant was cremated inside the forest as it had died of anthrax. [read more](#)

#### 01 Dec 2015: Pay relief to those bitten by dogs: Supreme Court

Expressing concern over increasing number incidents of children being bitten by stray dogs, the Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Centre on how to control the menace and provide free treatment and anti rabies vaccine to the victims. A bench of Justices said the state governments and local municipal bodies should be held accountable for not controlling stray dogs and the victims should be paid compensation by them. [read more](#)

#### 02 Dec 2015: Rabies detected in a chicken in India, first such case: Study

Indian researchers have reported the first case of rabies in a domestic fowl, a chicken, in the country. The chicken (*Gallus domesticus*), was bitten by a stray dog and died a month later. It's carcass was sent to the rabies diagnostic laboratory. The brain tissue was positive for rabies viral antigens by fluorescent antibody test (FAT) confirming a diagnosis of rabies. Additional analysis revealed that the rabies virus strain from the domestic fowl belonged to a distinct and relatively rare Indian subcontinent lineage. [read more](#)

#### 27 Nov 2015: Anti encephalitis vaccination in Jalpaiguri district

In a bid to stop the spread of Japanese Encephalitis disease in Jalpaiguri, the district health department is all set to start an anti encephalitis vaccination drive across the region from November 30. The department aims to vaccinate 1.3 million people across the district during the month long campaign. The vaccination will be given to people within the age of 15-65 years. This year, the district has recorded 20 deaths so far with 100 registered case. [read more](#)

### PAKISTAN

#### 26 Nov 2015: Ban on cattle, meat imports from France lifted

Pakistan has lifted the ban on import of live cattle and bovine meat from 41 countries, including France, declared 'negligible risk' by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Minister for National Food Security and Research said this on Wednesday during a meeting with French Ambassador to Pakistan. He stressed that such imports were subjected to the condition that animals come from herds where no incidence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as the mad cow disease, have been reported for the last 11 years. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 30 Nov 2015: Zika virus spreads to more countries

In quickly evolving developments, more countries in the Americas reported Zika virus cases, as Brazil - one of the hardest hit countries - reported more microcephaly cases, which health officials suspect might be related to infections in pregnant women. In a pair of updates, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) weighed in on the spread of mosquito-borne Zika virus to more countries and the possible connection to complications, which may also include Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) and congenital neurological malformations. Also, the World Health Organization (WHO) said it has been notified of Zika virus infections in Guatemala and El Salvador, with infectious disease news sources flagging foreign language media reports suggesting that illnesses have been detected in Paraguay and Venezuela. Zika virus infections, spread by *Aedes* mosquitoes, have rapidly spread to new parts of the Americas since 2014 and continues to sicken people in other parts of the world. Symptoms are similar to dengue fever, but usually milder, lasting 4 to 7 days. [read more](#)