

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### INDIA

#### 10 Dec 2015: After peacock deaths, bird flu alert sounded in districts of Odisha

A day after multiple species of birds, majority of them peacocks, were found dead in a forested region of Khurda, the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Directorate apprehending avian influenza (AI) behind the deaths, asked all districts to mount surveillance and report any unusual mortality among birds. It has also begun the process of setting up control rooms at directorate and district levels while putting in place two rapid response teams in Khurda. [read more](#)

#### 09 Dec 2015: 20 peacocks found dead in Khurda forest

Carcasses of at least 20 peacocks were found lying in Madhupur village forest in Khurda district on Tuesday morning. Veterinarians and wildlife experts hint at possible bird flu deaths. "Bodies of 20 peacocks and other birds were found lying scattered in small patch of forest near Madhupur. Veterinarians from Odisha University of Agriculture Technology collected all bodies for their tests," said, Divisional Forest Officer for Khurda Forest Division. Although there was no confirmation about bird flu deaths, bodies were buried as per procedures followed in the event of bird flu outbreak. A few samples were sent to National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal for ascertaining if deaths had occurred due to any avian influenza. [read more](#)

#### 05 Dec 2015: Anthrax in Odisha reserve forest: officials collect samples

With anthrax scare spreading fast in the region, the administration has woken up to take curative measures to tame the spread of the infectious disease caused by bacteria at the Kuldiha Reserve Forest in Odisha's Baleswar district. A special team from Animal Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) at Phul Nakhara near Cuttack visited the Reserve Forest yesterday and collected blood soaked soil where the elephant died and water samples for testing. In view of possible anthrax outbreak, the officials have advised the villagers not to let their domesticated animals outdoors for grazing and stressed on creating awareness among the residents.

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#### 04 Dec 2015: Fewer tested positive for Influenza A(H1N1) in November, say doctors

There have been 15 deaths among Influenza A(H1N1) patients that took place in Nagpur in November. Most of these deaths took place in Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). Doctors believe that the worst of the infection has passed, and there is no need to worry about the flu for at least a couple of months. According to the records of Deputy Director of Health Services (DDHS), 15 out of 24 people who contracted flu in the last month succumbed to the disease. Within the first ten days of the month, seven deaths had been recorded, all of which had been in GMCH. [read more](#)

### PAKISTAN

#### 7 Dec 2015: Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF)

In Rawalpindi, 2 CCHF positive cases are admitted at Holy Family Hospital. Both cases are from district Chakwal and are brother and sister. They have cattle at home and are farmers by profession. Both are stable and are recovering. Almost 35 close contacts are under observation. District Health Officer Chakwal, Punjab is following the family and cases. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 8 Dec 2015: Farmers urged to cut antibiotic use

The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance called for new targets on the amount of antibiotics used. The great threat of excessive antibiotics use in agriculture was highlighted in China last month. Scientists warned the world was on the cusp of the "post-antibiotic era" after discovering bacteria resistant to the antibiotic colistin - the medication used when all others have failed. Based on current rates, the global consumption of antibiotics is expected to increase by 67% by 2030. In the US alone, every year, 3,400 tonnes of antibiotics are used on patients, while 8,900 tonnes are used on animals. The economist who led the review, Jim O'Neill, said such figures were simply "staggering" and 10 million people would die each year from drug-resistant infections by 2050. [read more](#)

#### 04 Dec 2015: Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

Between 2 and 27 November 2015, the National IHR Focal Point for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia notified WHO of 3 additional cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection, including 2 deaths. The National IHR Focal Point for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also notified WHO of the death of 3 MERS-CoV cases that were reported in previous DONs on 13 November (case no. 4 and 5) and on 27 September. Globally, since September 2012, WHO has been notified of 1,621 laboratory confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV, including at least 584 related deaths. [read more](#)