

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

BANGLADESH

12 Dec 2015: Migratory birds arriving in northern districts

The migratory birds have started to arrive in Bangladesh from the Himalayan and Siberian regions even before the onset of winter this year. Thousands of guest birds were seen in the northern districts flocks in the water bodies, including *beels*, *haors* and major rivers. [read more](#)

INDIA

16 Dec 2015: Peacock deaths in Odisha not due to avian influenza

A week back carcasses of more than 20 peacocks, a crow and a heron were recovered from Madhupur forest in Odisha State. The birds were suspected of dying due to avian influenza. The test results released by the Bhopal-based National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases has ruled out the chances of avian influenza. [read more](#)

16 Dec 2015: Glanders suspected in horses carrying Vaishno Devi pilgrims

A serious disease 'Glanders' has been found in the horses carrying pilgrims to holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji from Ban Ganga to Bhawan and back raising concerns over safety of the pilgrims as well as people living in holy town of Katra, the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi ji shrine and its surroundings following reports that due to large scale mule dung, the people were getting supply of contaminated water. The 'Glanders' disease was confirmed following tests conducted on a number of horses, mules and donkeys. It was, however, found first in February 2015 in the horses brought from Muzaffarpur, Uttar Pradesh by a contractor. [read more](#)

16 Dec 2015: FMD warning to cattle owners

A health alert has been issued to cattle owners in the Kochi district of Kerala by the District Animal Husbandry Department to watch out for the foot and mouth disease (FMD) reported from a few panchayats. As a precautionary measure, the department has banned transfer of cattle from Keezhmad, Maneed, Alangad, Manjhapetty (Vazhakulam) panchayats following reports of 10-15 cases of FMD. [read more](#)

13 Dec 2015: Carcass of elephant sighted, anthrax suspected

A carcass of a tusker was sighted near Ambapani nullah under Dukura range inside Similipal sanctuary of Odisha state today, officials said. Blood samples of the deceased tusker were collected and sent to the Animal Disease Research Institute (ADRI), Phulanakhara for testing. At least nine elephants are reported to have died in Mayurbhanj district since last month. [read more](#)

OTHERS

12 Dec 2015: Breakthrough climate agreement recognizes food security as a priority

FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva has welcomed the approval of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, saying that "for the first time ever, food security features in a global climate change accord." The Agreement recognizes "the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the impacts of climate change". [read more](#)

11 Dec 2015: WHO publishes list of top emerging diseases likely to cause major epidemics

A panel of scientists and public health experts convened by WHO met in Geneva this week to prioritize the top five to ten emerging pathogens likely to cause severe outbreaks in the near future, and for which few or no medical countermeasures exist. These diseases will provide the basis for work on the WHO Blueprint for R&D preparedness to help control potential future outbreaks. The initial list of disease priorities needing urgent R&D attention comprises: Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever, Ebola virus disease and Marburg, Lassa fever, MERS and SARS coronavirus diseases, Nipah and Rift Valley fever. [read more](#)

11 Dec 2015: New global framework to eliminate rabies

A new framework to eliminate human rabies and save tens of thousands of lives each year has been launched today by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Alliance for the Control of Rabies (GARC). The framework calls for three key actions making human vaccines and antibodies affordable, ensuring people who get bitten receive prompt treatment, and mass dog vaccinations to tackle the disease at its source. [read more](#)