

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### AFGANISTHAN

#### 23 Oct 2016: Fearing Congo virus, Ghazni residents avoid eating meat

The most residents are avoiding eating meat, yogurt and milk after seeing signs of Congo virus spread in different areas of southern Ghazni province. Six people affected by the virus recently died in Ghazni. Two persons from the province infected with the virus are still under treatment in Kabul hospitals. The virus also killed a number of people in other provinces. Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is an infectious disease caused by a tick-borne virus transmitted through hyalomomma ticks. [Read More](#)

### BHUTAN

#### 24 Oct 2016: Highly pathogenic avian influenza, H5N1 confirmed

As per information notified to OIE by government of Bhutan, the outbreak was started on 10 Oct 2016 and confirmed on 20 Oct 2016 as HPAI, H5N1 in backyard birds in Alubari, Wangkha, Babcho, Chhukha. Source of the outbreak(s) or origin of infection is unknown or inconclusive. There is no further infection detected. [Read More](#)

### INDIA

#### 26 Oct 2016: Center issues bird flu health alerts to states

Wild birds in Delhi and Gwalior zoos and domestic ducks in Alappuzha in Kerala have been tested positive for avian influenza H5N8. The affected states have been asked to follow the "Action Plan of Animal Husbandry for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza". Union Health Secretary CK Mishra has listed out precautions to be taken to prevent an outbreak of bird flu and offered central assistance if needed. In a statement issued, Mishra said personal protective equipment should be used by those handling dead or sick birds and persons exposed to the affected birds should be kept under surveillance and provided medication. [Read More](#)

#### 22 Oct 2016: Death due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Sukma

A three-and-a-half year-old girl suffering from JE died in Sukma region on Friday. More than 75 people have died in Sukma district bordering to Odisha, from where the virus is believed to have entered the state. To curb further spread of the disease, the district collector has deployed a team of medical experts in Jhirlikhuti village to survey the situation. [Read More](#)

#### 21 Oct 2016: Avian flu H5N8 detected in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala

On 19-10-2016, The National Institute for High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), a OIE Regional Reference Laboratory, has confirmed that the virus subtype H5N8 infection in wild birds in Delhi and Gwalior Zoos is a new subtype being reported for the first time in the country. H5N8 has been reported from 11 countries during 2015 and four countries (including India) during 2016. Government of India has already issued H5N8 infection alert in wildlife and bird sanctuaries and the necessary guidelines to the State Government and the Zoo Authorities on control and containment of the Infection. On 21-10-2016 ([Read More](#)).

Subsequently, H5N8 virus has also been found in ducks in coastal Alappuzha district in Kerala. The outbreak was confirmed in ducks on 26-10-2016 after samples were tested and confirmed as H5N8 at NIHSAD at Bhopal. The cases of avian influenza have also been reported from Thakazhi, Ramankari, Pandi, Pallippad and Kainadi areas of Kerala. [Read More](#)

### NEPAL

#### 21 Oct 2016: Death due to scrub typhus in Chitwan and Parsa

A 13-year-old-girl from Chitwan Kalika-6 died of scrub typhus on 25-10-2016. She was admitted to hospital with a complaint of fever two months ago. Chitwan district alone has witnessed 309 cases and 9 deaths in the last six months. Similarly, at least 29 cases of scrub typhus were diagnosed in Birgunj Parsa, in the last three months. [Read More](#)

### OTHERS

#### 24 Oct 2016: Rabies vaccine effective even after warm storage

A group of researcher from Washington State University in the US, in a recently published article in journal-Vaccine has claimed that the Nobivac, a commonly used rabies vaccine can withstand heat of 25°C for 6 months and 30°C for three month. The WHO recommendation is that vaccine are to be transported and stored in a "cold chain" at between 2°C (35.6°F) and 8°C (46.4°F). Thermotolerance of an inactivated rabies vaccine for dogs (*Vaccine, Volume 34, Issue 46, 4 November 2016, Pages 5504–5511*). [Read more](#)