



Bird Flu Outbreak

Why in News?

Recently, The **Jharkhand government** sounded an alert after multiple cases of [bird flu](#), also called **Avian flu**, were reported in a state-run **poultry farm in Ranchi**.

Key Points

- Around **4000 birds, including chickens, were culled, and hundreds of eggs were also destroyed** after the cases were confirmed at the **Regional Poultry Farm in Hotwar** in the state capital.
- An order detailing **Standard Operating Procedures**, issued by the government stated that the culling of remaining poultry at the Regional Poultry Farm will be conducted in the coming days and will be disposed of **through scientific methods**.
 - Officials have been directed to conduct a **survey within a radius of 1 kilometre from the epicentre to find infections and proceed with culling**. They have also been asked to make a map of the 10 km area and mark it as a surveillance zone.
 - The **Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying** has asked the state to take all measures to contain its spread.

Avian influenza

- Often referred to as **bird flu**, is a highly contagious viral infection that primarily affects **birds**, particularly **wild birds and domestic poultry**.
- In 1996, highly **pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus** was first identified in domestic waterfowl in Southern China. The virus is named **A/goose/Guangdong/1/1996**.
- **Transmission to Humans and Related Symptoms:**
 - Human cases of **H5N1** avian influenza occur occasionally, but it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person. As per **World Health Organisation(WHO)**, when people do become infected, **the mortality rate is about 60%**.
 - It can range from **mild flu-like symptoms**, including **fever, cough, and muscle aches**, to severe respiratory issues like **pneumonia, difficulty breathing, and even cognitive problems** such as altered mental status and seizures.