



Avian Flu Outbreak at Ranchi Farm

Why in News?

Recently, authorities culled a total of 325 birds after detecting an **avian flu** case at a **poultry farm** of **Birsa Agriculture University (BAU) in Ranchi**. They also **sanitized the entire affected zone**.

Key Points

- **Containment Measures:**
 - Officials assured that there is no need for panic as it was a **localized incident affecting guinea fowls** that were kept for research purposes in the farm.
 - Authorities will **map and notify areas within a one-kilometer radius** of the outbreak.
 - Places within a 10-kilometer radius will remain under surveillance.
- **H5N1 Detection:**
 - Around 150 guinea fowls died over the past 20 days at the farm, located in a veterinary college.
 - The **ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD)**, Bhopal, confirmed the presence of the H5N1 avian influenza A virus in the samples.
- **Union Government's Directives:**
 - The **Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying** instructed the state to implement containment measures, including:
 - Declaring infected and surveillance areas
 - Restricting access to affected premises
 - Culling birds to prevent further spread
- **State Government's Response:**
 - The state animal husbandry department issued an advisory and **standard operating procedure (SOP)**:
 - **Prohibiting the sale and purchase of birds** in the affected area.
 - Establishing a **control room**, which will be operational soon.

Avian Influenza

- **About:**
 - 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.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- It was **established on 16 July 1929** as a registered society under **the Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It is an **autonomous organisation** under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India.
- It is **headquartered at New Delhi**.

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