



Bird Flu Outbreak in Bokaro

Why in News?

An official reported a **bird flu outbreak in Jharkhand's Bokaro district**, nearly a month after the **disease led to the culling of 5,500 birds in Ranchi**.

- The Centre confirmed the outbreak, caused by the **H5N1 strain of avian influenza**, on 7th March 2025 by **issuing a letter to Jharkhand's chief secretary**.

Key Points

- **Origin of the Outbreak:**
 - Officials traced the outbreak to a government poultry farm in Bokaro's Sector 12, where around **250 birds had already died**.
- **Containment Measures:**
 - On 8th March 2025, the **Bokaro administration culled 46 birds and destroyed 506 eggs** following directives from the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
 - **Authorities also destroyed 1,717 kg of poultry feed and sanitised the entire farm** to prevent further spread.
- **Restricted Zones Declared:**
 - The **1-km radius around the affected farm has been designated as an infected zone**, where all birds will be culled.
 - A **10-km radius has been declared a surveillance zone**, prohibiting the sale and purchase of poultry.
 - Authorities have launched an **awareness campaign to inform the public**.
- **Previous Bird Flu Case in Jharkhand:**
 - Earlier in February 2025, a bird flu outbreak was reported at Birsa Agriculture University (BAU) in Ranchi, leading to the culling of 5,488 birds.

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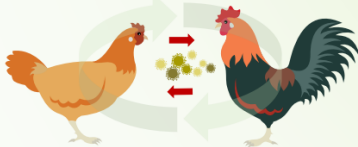
About Bird Flu



WHAT IS BIRD FLU?

Bird flu is an infectious disease in birds caused by avian influenza type A viruses. It may cause mild to severe illness or sudden death in birds. Domestic poultry like chickens are particularly vulnerable.

Avian influenza viruses do not usually infect humans but may sometimes be transmitted to humans who have contact with infected poultry and their secretions and faeces, or contact with contaminated surfaces.



HOW DOES BIRD FLU SPREAD BETWEEN BIRDS?

- Direct contact with nasal and respiratory secretions from infected birds
- Direct contact with infected bird faeces
- Contamination of feed and water
- Contact with contaminated equipment and humans

KEEPING PET BIRDS SAFE

- Keep your pet birds away from wild birds and their droppings.
- Use a bird-proof cage or enclosure with fine wire mesh netting preferably with a roof over the aviary.
- Separate all new birds from existing ones for at least 21 days to monitor for signs of illness.
- Adopt hygiene practices such as washing hands thoroughly with soap after handling birds and their cage(s).
- Do not bring birds back to Singapore without a valid import permit from NParks/Animal & Veterinary Service.

WHAT IF MY PET BIRD FALLS SICK OR DIES?

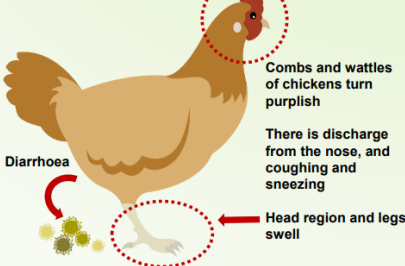
- Immediately bring your sick bird to see a vet.
- Keep it away from healthy birds.
- Wash and disinfect the cage regularly while wearing a mask and gloves.
- Wear a mask and gloves when disposing of dead birds. Place the bodies in a plastic bag tightly sealed with a rubber band or cable tie.
- Adopt hygiene practices such as washing hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling the bird and its cage.

IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH FREE-ROAMING CHICKENS IN SINGAPORE?

- As a precaution, please avoid touching or feeding free-roaming chickens.
- If you come into contact with free-roaming chickens, you should practise good hygiene habits and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

SIGNS IN INFECTED BIRDS

Lack of energy and appetite



Combs and wattles of chickens turn purplish

There is discharge from the nose, and coughing and sneezing

Head region and legs swell

Diarrhoea

