



# 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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