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5th January, 2021

Topic: Health

Avian influenza, killer of the birds of Lake Pong.

What is News?

- H5N1 is also known as avian influenza or Bird flu has killed approximately 1900 migratory birds in the Pong Lake area.

What is Bird flu or Avian Flu?

- Avian influenza refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses.

How does avian influenza spread?

- Wild waterfowl such as geese and ducks are natural reservoirs of the influenza A virus and are key to the ecology of these viruses.
- Many of these birds are carriers of viruses without being affected, they excrete them in their faeces.
- As birds fly and can excrete while flying, the virus can spread across a large area.
- From migratory birds to poultry and land birds and at times to pigs, horses, cats and dogs.

When humans are contaminated?

- People were known to contract avian influenza in a live bird market in Hong Kong in 1997.
- It was an H5N1 strain.
- Further spread into Southeast Asian countries.

Cause:

- 1) Displacement of infected migratory birds and poultry.
- 2) Illegally traded birds.

- Subsequently, other strains such as H5N2 and H5N8 jumped out of animals into humans and became a global public health concern.

Important:

- It is easy to spread from human to human, according to the WHO.
- But Bird to Human when humans are in close contact with living and dead infected birds.

- The death rate per H5N1 strain is 6 out of 10 confirmed cases resulting in death.

India:

- From 2006 to 2015: Only 25 cases of H5N1 in 15 states spread when the epidemic started in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Main Symptoms:

- Respiratory Distress.
- Cough.
- Sore throat.

Vaccine:

- The U.S. FDA approved a vaccine for H5N1 in 2007.
- India, Antiviral drugs, especially Oseltamivir improve the survival rate of a human, according to the Union Health Ministry.

Important facts for HPAS Prelim:

- **H5N1**. Hemagglutinin Type 5 and Neuraminidase Type 1 (Avian Influenza A)
- Diseases or conditions caused: Avian influenza.
- First case in Human: 1997, Hongkong.
- India, Antiviral drugs, especially Oseltamivir

(Source: Indian Express)

Topic: Crime

What is News?

- HP Police and IIT Mandi to work on crimes against women and children, road safety and the threat from drugs.

How is this going to work?

- Through the use of technology and research, the everyday problems of individuals will be solved.
- Establish surveillance using closed-circuit television, drone surveillance, vehicle intelligence and offender facial recognition. Police training in forensic DNA application while investigating and analyzing.

(Source: The Tribune)

Important for COVID-19 Vaccacine:

- DCGI granting approval to vaccines of ***Serum Institute, India and Bharat Biotech*** accelerates the road to a healthier and COVID-free nation.

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