

To Believe or Not To Believe

The controversy of bird flu having actually hit Indian poultry has been as much in the air as the [flu virus](#) itself. Some poultry owners say that though many chickens have died, it is not because of bird flu but due to a disease called Ranikhet, which is very common among birds. Probably the fear of incurring huge loss was the reason behind this statement as mass culling of poultry birds was in progress.

Some pharmaceutical companies were ready with [antiviral flu drugs](#) like [oseltamivir](#) or [Tamiflu](#) to combat with this pandemic even before the first case of bird flu was reported. The question that arises in the mind is---had they already anticipated an [outbreak of avian flu](#)? Well, time tested research has revealed that every year migrating birds like wild ducks bring this deadly [H5N1 virus](#) that causes avian influenza. They shed this virus through their droppings in the environment. Beasts who feed upon these infected birds are also prone to pick up this virus. Until recently, it was stated to be harmless to humans. But this year, the news is different. A few cases of illness and death among humans due to this pandemic have been reported in Maharashtra and neighbouring states.

Within hours, eggs and chicken dishes vanished from the menus in houses, parties, hotels and restaurants. The poultry business went down drastically overnight. The government swung into action, though a little late, and thousands of poultry birds were culled. The poultry industry incurred a loss of Rupees18-20 crores in Maharashtra alone.

In between this pandemonium, of panic and precaution, a controversy arose whether bird flu had actually hit the Indian poultry, and more so, was it contagious to humans. While some experts claim that this hype about [avian influenza](#) was only a hocus pocus—a sort of "CRY WOLF", and there was no reason to panic, others swear that the symptoms like diarrhoea, fever, breathlessness, etc. pointed towards the presence of the H5N1 virus.

However, what one needs to consider at this juncture is not whether the news of bird flu is actually true or not, but the fact that it is a well-known annual, seasonal phenomenon that occurs every year with the onset of the migratory birds. Then why should we not equip ourselves against this disease in advance and fight it out? Why do we wait for misfortune to strike and then ponder over its probability? With advance research at our fingertips, it is advisable to use it to our advantage and play safe rather than get into a useless controversy like "TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE". After all, we are not so bird brained to let sick birds decide our future!

Related News and Articles :-

Bird flu - Strikes India again

The small world of ours has been laid bare to the attack of a virus; what had always been a sight to delight many has now turned out to carry the potential seed of death around. This is a time to fear the birds above you and more a time to fear when you devour hungrily the meat offered by them.....[Read the complete article](#)

H5N1 virus detected in Pakistan

You expected the bird to sit and spread H5N1; there you made the gravest of all the mistakes. The bird no more sits and stares at the command that the master of all beasts make.....[Read the complete article](#)