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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6399	02.11.2021	02.11.2021	Chandigarh	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/a vian-influenza-ut-collects-48-samples-from- sukhna/articleshowprint/87473028.cms
Title:	Avian influenza - Chandigarh collects 48 samples from Sukhna Lake			
Action By CSU, IDSP –NCDC	Information communicated to SSU - Chandigarh			

While following the Centre's action plan, the animal husbandry department has formulated an action plan on 'Prevention, Control and containment of avian influenza'. Accordingly, the UT animal husbandry department on Monday collected 48 environmental and serum samples from Sukhna Lake. They will be sent to High Security Animal Disease, Hebbel in Bhopal for further investigation.

Earlier, the department of animal husbandry organised a one-day training-cum-mock drill for prevention of avian influenza in the city. The training was given to 30 participants, including officials from the department of animal husbandry, department of forest, and the municipal corporation. The training and mock drill was conducted by scientists from North Zone Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Jalandhar.

Inaugurating the training programme, Manish Kumar Lohan, director, animal husbandry, Chandigarh, said bird flu is a highly contagious disease having zoonotic potential. "This disease causes huge losses in terms of mortality of birds and in trade

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Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
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of poultry and its products. As winter is setting in, there is likely risk of ingression of avian influenza, as it is trans-boundary animal disease. This training-cum-mock drill will be helpful to work against this disease as per latest guidelines and get all relevant department co-ordination to combat this disease in Chandigarh," he said.

The department has started active physical surveillance of all type of birds, which include commercial, poultry, backyard poultry and in particular migratory birds. The migratory birds are arriving in Chandigarh. They usually stay till February. Migratory birds play an important role in transmission of avian influenza virus. The department has activated its surveillance at Sukhna Lake, which has major potential area of migratory birds in Chandigarh during the winter, said officials.

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