Science & Technology · GS - III

Discuss the importance of animal disease surveillance and laboratory investigation in preventing poultry outbreaks. How can India strengthen biosecurity in its livestock and poultry sectors?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - III	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Animal health surveillance; poultry mortality; avian influenza; feed and water testing; laboratory diagnostics; farm biosecurity; early warning systems; veterinary services; disease containment; farmer awareness

Model Answer

Introduction

Sudden poultry mortality can cause economic losses and raise concerns about animal health and food production. The reported deaths of over 5,600 chickens in Cuddalore highlight the importance of surveillance and scientific investigation.

Importance of Surveillance and Testing

Regular monitoring helps detect unusual mortality and identify possible outbreaks at an early stage. Laboratory testing of feed and water can help determine whether contamination or toxins are responsible. Accurate diagnosis enables authorities to select appropriate control measures instead of relying on assumptions.

Challenges

Large and densely populated poultry farms may face risks from inadequate sanitation, contaminated inputs and movement of birds, equipment or personnel. Limited diagnostic access and delayed reporting can increase the scale of an outbreak.

Way Forward

India should strengthen veterinary laboratories, improve farm-level reporting and establish rapid-response protocols. Farms should maintain sanitation, control access, ensure safe feed and water, and follow appropriate isolation and disinfection procedures. Training farmers and coordinating animal husbandry departments with laboratories can improve preparedness.

Conclusion

A strong surveillance and diagnostic system protects animal health, supports poultry livelihoods and reduces the risk of wider economic and public-health consequences.

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