



# NAVS NEWS VIBES

## NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES (INDIA)

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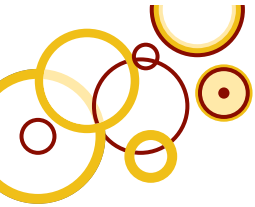
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## EDITORIAL

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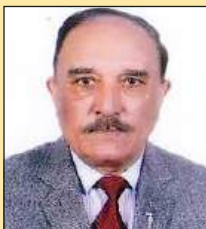
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Dear Esteemed Fellows and Valued Readers,

As we usher in 2025, I extend my heartfelt New Year greetings to our distinguished fellows and the entire veterinary community. May this new year bring renewed energy to our collective mission and open new opportunities to advance our noble profession.

In an era where global challenges intersect with national development, the importance of veterinary care and animal science industries in India has emerged now a cornerstone of our nation's progress. As the world's largest holder of livestock and the leading producer of milk globally, India's commitment to advancing the livestock industry directly impacts millions of livelihoods and strengthens the economic future of our nation.

India's vast livestock sector heritage combined with the world's largest cattle population and the second-largest population of goats and poultry, uniquely captures India at the forefront of the global agricultural landscape. However, this distinction carries immense responsibility and presents complex challenges that only skilled veterinary professionals can address.

The scope of veterinary care has evolved well beyond traditional animal healthcare. Today's veterinarians face multifaceted challenges, from zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance to food safety and sustainable livestock production. Recent global health crises have emphasized the critical role of "One Health" concept, recognizing the interconnectedness of animal, human, and environmental health.

In India's rural context, the livestock and poultry industries serve as powerful tools for poverty alleviation and economic development. Small and marginal farmers, who form the backbone of our agricultural economy, rely heavily on livestock for both primary and supplementary income as well as nutritional security. Veterinary expertise ensures the health of animals and the economic stability of farming communities, thereby contributing directly to rural prosperity and national food security.

Global climate change presents unprecedented challenges to livestock productivity and disease patterns. Emerging infectious diseases pose new threats to both animal and human populations, while the demand for animal protein continues to rise. These challenges require innovative solutions grounded in the need for scientific research and modern veterinary practices.

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) recognizes that our roadmap must focus on several key priorities:

1. **Strengthening advanced research infrastructure** to develop climate-resilient livestock farming practices that can withstand environmental pressures while maintaining productivity.
2. **Modernizing veterinary education** to integrate emerging technologies and advanced diagnostic tools, ensuring that our professionals remain at the forefront of global veterinary medicine.
3. **Expanding veterinary services** to remote rural areas, ensuring quality animal healthcare reaches every corner of India.
4. **Promoting sustainable livestock and poultry farming practices** that balance productivity with environmental conservation.

The veterinary profession's role in public health cannot be overstated. Our professionals are crucial in managing and controlling zoonotic diseases, ensuring food safety, and promoting responsible antimicrobial use practices. Their diligent work in disease surveillance and control makes a significant contribution to both animal and human health security.

As we embark on this new year, the veterinary profession in India stands ready to confront challenges with resilience and determination. Through continued innovation, dedication, and service, we will strive to ensure better animal health, enhanced food security, and greater rural prosperity.

Let us make 2025 a landmark year for the veterinary profession in India. Together, we can reaffirm our commitment to advancing this noble profession and supporting the dedicated professionals who work tirelessly for the welfare of animals and the prosperity of our nation.

We warmly invite your contributions and insights for future newsletters. Please share your thoughts at: [ldsinglanavs@gmail.com](mailto:ldsinglanavs@gmail.com) or [ldsingla@gmail.com](mailto:ldsingla@gmail.com). Together, let us elevate the vibrant spirit of NAVS News VIBES and propel our profession to new heights.

With warm regards and best wishes for a prosperous 2025,

L.D. Singla

Editor, NAVS News VIBES

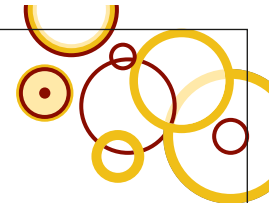
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## HORIZON

### PRESIDENT'S VIEWS & VISION

#### Dr Prakash Rao Conferred Prestigious Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) from OUAT, Bhubaneswar: A Momentous Recognition on 5th December 2024 (Acceptance Speech)

Most respected Her Excellency President of India Hon'ble Shrimathi Droupadi Murmu ji, Respected Chancellor, His Excellency, Governor of Odisha, Shri Raghubar Das ji, Esteemed Vice Chancellor, Hon'ble Shri Prof. Pravat Kumar Roul ji, Distinguished members of the Academic Council, Board of Management, Esteemed faculty, guests, and my dear colleagues, it is with profound humility, immense gratitude, and a heart full of reverence that I reflect on the honour of receiving the honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) degree from my Alma Mater, the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar. This recognition is deeply meaningful as it comes from an institution that has been instrumental in my academic and professional growth, but because it marks the culmination of a lifelong commitment to veterinary and Animal Sciences, animal welfare, and the betterment of society.

This award, while a recognition of my personal contributions, is also a tribute to the spirit of learning, collaboration, and dedication to excellence that OUAT embodies. It is a moment of profound joy for me, made even more significant by the privilege of receiving this honor from none other than Her Excellency, the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu. Madam President, your presence today is a source of immense pride and inspiration for all of us. Your leadership serves as a beacon of hope, guiding our nation towards progress and prosperity. Your unwavering dedication to service to the nation and the transformative power of education motivates generations of students, scholars, and professionals, myself included.



As I accept this recognition, I am reminded not only of my personal journey but also of the remarkable legacy of OUAT. My academic journey began here, where I received my foundational education—a BSc in Chemistry, followed by an Honours BVSc and AH degree, and MSc from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, and PhD from the University of Madras. These early years shaped my vision, providing me with the knowledge and skills to contribute meaningfully to veterinary and animal sciences. I owe much of my success to the mentorship and guidance of the esteemed faculty at OUAT, whose unwavering support instilled in me the importance of scientific rigor, ethical practice, and a lifelong commitment to learning.

Reflecting on my journey, I realize that the pursuit of knowledge is never solely for personal achievement—it is always, and should always be, about making a lasting contribution to society. Over the years, I have dedicated myself for addressing significant ecological challenges, particularly those posed by industrial solid wastes in animal-based industries. Through my research, I sought to convert these wastes into protein feed supplements for livestock and poultry, tackling two of the most pressing issues of our time: environmental sustainability and nutritional security. This approach, although technical, has always been rooted in my deep commitment to the greater good for ensuring that scientific progress leads to tangible, positive change for society.

Throughout my professional career, I have had the privilege of serving in a variety of esteemed roles, from heading Animal Feeds operations at the British Multinational Shaw Wallace Company to working as an international consultant with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), spanning multiple continents. These opportunities expanded my horizons, enabling me to contribute to global initiatives aimed at improving animal nutrition, feed technology, and sustainable agricultural practices. However, despite these global engagements, my heart lies in the company I founded—Prakash Foods & Feed Mills Pvt. Ltd. For over four decades, this company has led the manufacturing of protein feed supplements for poultry and aqua feed, translating academic knowledge into industry solutions that benefit not just the sector but also the welfare of animals and the environment.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my career has been my leadership involvement with the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India), where I had the honor of serving as President. Working alongside some of the brightest minds in veterinary science, I was able to contribute to shaping the future of our field and ensure that it remains dynamic, forward-thinking, and relevant to the evolving needs of society. I am also proud to sponsor two prestigious awards—the Dr. DVR Prakash Rao Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in veterinary sciences and the

Dr. Prakash Rao Best Researcher Award. These awards provide platforms to celebrate and inspire the next generation of veterinary scientists, motivating them to strive for excellence in their research and practice.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to receive several accolades, including the Outstanding Veterinarian of India Award from the Veterinary Council of India, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Animal Nutrition Society of India, and the Gaurav Ratna Award from Pashudhan Samridhi India. However, I am acutely aware that none of these recognitions would have been possible without the steadfast support of my mentors, colleagues, and peers—individuals whose contributions have been integral to my success. Their guidance and encouragement have shaped who I am today, and I remain deeply grateful for their support.

As I accept this honorary degree, I understand that it is not just a recognition of past achievements but a call to continue contributing to the advancement of veterinary sciences. This recognition comes with the responsibility to further the mission of promoting animal welfare, advancing sustainable practices, and ensuring that our profession evolves to meet the challenges of the future. I am committed to carry forward the legacy of excellence, compassion, and integrity that this institution has instilled in me.

To the younger generation of scholars and professionals, I urge you to approach the journey ahead with courage, perseverance, and a strong sense of purpose. Success is rarely linear, but with passion, dedication, and hard work, you can transform challenges into triumphs. The opportunities before you are boundless, and you have the potential to shape the future of veterinary science and contribute to the well-being of all living beings. Let your work always be guided by the values of integrity, compassion, and commitment to the betterment of society.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family, mentors, colleagues, and all those who have supported me along the way. Your belief in me has been my greatest source of inspiration. As I accept this honor, I do so with a renewed sense of purpose and a deep commitment to the field of veterinary sciences and the welfare of all living beings.

Thank you once again for this incredible recognition. It is with great pride and humility that I accept this honor, and I remain steadfast in my mission to continue contributing to the growth and advancement of veterinary sciences, animal welfare, and sustainable development.

Jai Hind!

Dr DVR Prakash Rao

President, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India)



## THE ACADEMY

### EVENTS & ENDEAVOURS

#### Dr Rao Advocates for the Establishment of a Dedicated Veterinary and Fisheries University in Odisha

Dr DVR Prakash Rao, President of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India), was invited to a committee meeting to analyze and recommend the feasibility of establishing a new university for veterinary and fisheries sciences in the state of Odisha. The meeting was held on December 18, 2024, and Dr Rao presented his views online. According to the letter from the Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Odisha, the committee for this purpose was constituted by the Government of Odisha's Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department. The committee was led by Dr S Ayyappan, former Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), to analyze and recommend the feasibility of establishing the new university.



In his emphatic presentation, Dr Rao highlighted the following key points:

- Veterinary and Animal Sciences as a Distinct Discipline:** He emphasized that veterinary science is a unique academic field with specific research and outreach needs that differ from those of agriculture. A dedicated veterinary university would ensure focused attention on critical areas such as animal health, livestock and poultry management, zoonotic diseases, and biotechnology.
- Growing Importance of Livestock and Poultry Sector:** Dr. Rao highlighted that the animal husbandry sector contributes significantly to the national GDP. To address challenges concerning productivity, disease control, and animal welfare, advanced veterinary research and skilled professionals are essential. A dedicated veterinary university would be better equipped to meet these industry needs and foster innovation.
- Combatting Zoonotic and Emerging Diseases:** The rise in zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19, NIPAH, and Avian Flu, under scores the need for interdisciplinary collaboration between veterinary and medical sciences. A standalone veterinary university would be better equipped to lead research in disease surveillance, prevention, and control, integrating the One Health approach.
- Enhanced Research Funding Opportunities:** Dr Rao argued that a dedicated veterinary university would attract targeted grants and funding for animal-related research, which might be overlooked in a composite setup. The university could also facilitate the establishment of specialized centers of excellence in key areas.
- Meeting Human Resource Needs:** The establishment of a veterinary and fisheries university would foster advanced research, education, and extension activities tailored to the specific needs of the animal husbandry and fisheries sectors in Odisha. This would help meet the growing demand for veterinary professionals across various industries.
- Improved Administrative Efficiency:** A separate veterinary university with independent governance would eliminate resource competition within a multidisciplinary institution, ensuring the efficient allocation of funds for infrastructure, faculty, and student services.
- Support for Rural Livelihood and Socio-Economic Development:** Dr Rao emphasized that a veterinary

university could play a leading role in training, extension activities, and innovations to benefit rural communities, promoting entrepreneurship in sectors such as dairy farming, poultry, and aquaculture.

Overall, Dr Rao presented a compelling case for the establishment of a dedicated veterinary and fisheries university in Odisha, emphasizing its potential to drive progress in these vital sectors to benefit both the rural communities and society at large.

#### NAVS(I) joins the nation in mourning the loss of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh

National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) joins the nation in mourning the loss of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, a visionary leader whose transformative leadership shaped India's progress. His passing at AIIMS Delhi on December 26, 2024, marks the end of an era that witnessed remarkable progress across multiple sectors.

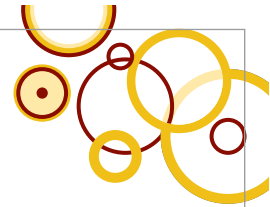


As Prime Minister (2004-2014), Dr Singh's contributions to veterinary sciences were significant, supporting the establishment of new veterinary institutions and research facilities. His government strengthened animal healthcare infrastructure and increased funding for veterinary education, recognizing its crucial role in rural development.

Dr Singh's most profound impact came during his tenure as Finance Minister in 1991 when he orchestrated India's economic liberalization, opening the economy to global markets and dismantling the license raj. Under his premiership, India achieved its highest GDP growth rate of 9.3% and saw a marked reduction in poverty. The 2008 Nuclear Deal with the US was a diplomatic triumph, solidifying India's position in the global nuclear community.

Dr Singh's government introduced transformative initiatives like the Right to Information Act, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act for rural employment, and the Mid-Day Meal scheme. His focus on inclusive growth led to the implementation of the Right to Education Act and the expansion of healthcare access through programs like the National Rural Health Mission.

A distinguished economist and academic, Dr Singh's tenure at prestigious institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, and the Delhi



School of Economics enriched India's intellectual landscape. His commitment to scientific research spanned diverse fields, from space technology to agricultural sciences.

Despite navigating the challenges of coalition politics and global financial crisis, his leadership was characterized by stability, integrity, and thoughtful decision-making. His soft-spoken demeanor belied a resolute that steered India through critical periods of economic and social transformation.

The Academy, along with countless institutions and citizens, pays tribute to this extraordinary leader who combined intellectual brilliance with unwavering dedication to public service. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of leaders, scientists, and public servants.

## President NAVS(I) Highlights Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Veterinary Science at National Conference

Dr DVR Prakash Rao, President of NAVS(I), delivered an inspiring address as the Chief Guest at the Annual Post Graduate Students National Conference on "Milestones in Veterinary Research and their Applications for Improvement of Animal Health and Production." Hosted at Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati, the conference brought together distinguished academicians and aspiring veterinary professionals.



In his address, Dr Rao emphasized India's global leadership in livestock production, highlighting the country's position as the world's largest milk producer, with 230 million tons and third-largest egg producer. He highlighted the livestock sector's significant contribution to India's economy, accounting for 30.87% of agriculture and allied sectors' GVA, with the potential to reach Rs.20 lakh crores in the next five years.

Dr Rao stressed the emerging opportunities for veterinary graduates in entrepreneurship, citing the success of 156 livestock-related startups in India. He reiterated his appeal to the Prime Minister, Govt of India for establishing an Indian Council of Veterinary & Fisheries Research (ICVFR) to further strengthen veterinary education and research in the country.

The event was graced by distinguished guests including Dr JV Ramana, Vice Chancellor, Dr P Ravi Kumar, Registrar of SVVU, and Dr V Sejian, Dean of RIVER, Pondicherry, along with other notable academics.

## IN FOCUS:

MALARIA IN 2024: BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING HOPE

### Malaria Today: Triumphs, Trials & Tomorrow's Promise

World Malaria Report 2024 presents a complex landscape of both achievements and persistent challenges in the global fight against malaria. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, frames the report with an urgent call for renewed action across 83 malaria-endemic countries, particularly as they navigate post-COVID-19 recovery.



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

The global malaria burden remains substantial, with 263 million cases reported in 2023, reflecting an 11 million increase from the previous year. The WHO African Region bears 94% of this burden, although substantial prevention efforts averted an estimated 177 million cases and over 1 million deaths globally in 2023.

Several critical challenges persist:

- Weakened health systems and inadequate surveillance
- Chronic funding deficits, with a \$4.3 billion gap against GTS targets
- Emerging biological threats, including artemisinin resistance and the urban-adapted *Anopheles stephensi* mosquito
- Humanitarian emergencies affecting 43 endemic countries
- Social determinants of health, including poverty and gender inequality

However, the report also highlights notable progress:

- Nine countries achieved malaria-free certification since 2015, including five recent successes in the past two years: Azerbaijan, Belize, Cabo Verde, Tajikistan, and Egypt
- WHO's recommendation of a second malaria vaccine (R21/Matrix-M) to complement the existing RTS,S vaccine
- Increased domestic funding in endemic countries to 37% in 2023
- The WHO South-East Asia Region remains on track for its 2025 and 2030 targets

A significant milestone was reached in March 2024 with the Yaoundé Declaration, where health ministers from 11 high-burden African countries pledged that "no one should die from malaria." While these countries have made progress, achieving a 13% reduction in mortality rates between 2017 and 2023, sustained commitment and investment remain crucial.

Looking ahead, the report emphasizes the need for increased funding, stronger health systems, and more equitable access to interventions. Success will require collaborative efforts, tailored interventions, and continued innovation to achieve the ultimate goal of a malaria-free world. (Compiled by Dr L D Singla, Editor NAVS (I), Professor of Parasitology, and Director HRMC, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University)

## CAREFUL THOUGHTS

EMPOWERING INDIA'S WORKFORCE THROUGH SKILL DEVELOPMENT

### Transforming India's Livestock Industry Workforce: A Critical Policy Framework for Skill Development

**Dr Desikan Thyagarajan**  
Former Director and Dean,  
TANUVAS, Chennai and  
Editorial Board Member NAVS(I)  
News Vibes



#### Executive Summary

India stands at a critical crossroads in its journey toward economic supremacy. While the Skill India initiative represents a bold vision for national development, the stark reality demands immediate and decisive action. Our current skill development framework, despite its ambitious goals, has fallen short of delivering meaningful impact. This comprehensive policy proposal outlines an urgent roadmap for transformation.

#### The Challenge Before Us

India's demographic dividend presents an unprecedented opportunity that we cannot afford to squander. The livestock & poultry industry, among others, faces a severe shortage of skilled professionals, highlighting the pressing need for systematic reform. The gap between industry requirements and available skilled manpower threatens our economic growth trajectory and demands immediate intervention.

#### Strategic Reform Initiatives

##### 1. Revolutionizing Skill Development Curriculum

##### Immediate Actions Required:

- Implement standardized, industry-aligned curriculum frameworks based on National Occupational Standards (NOS)
- Develop comprehensive digital and print learning resources
- Launch a centralized online platform for program management
- Mandate existing agricultural institutions to spearhead skill development programs

##### 2. Building Centers of Excellence

##### Critical Infrastructure Needs:

- Establish dedicated Livestock & Poultry Skill Development Institutes in every district
- Create specialized programs ranging from three months to one year
- Foster mandatory industry partnerships for practical training
- Implement rigorous quality monitoring systems

##### 3. Strengthening Technical Capabilities

##### Essential Components:

- Create dedicated skill development divisions with specialized faculty
- Establish autonomous skill development entities
- Implement real-time monitoring systems using advanced technology
- Foster deep industry collaboration for program delivery

##### 4. Targeting and Engaging Key Demographics

##### Priority Areas:

- Focus on school dropouts and rural youth

- Develop specialized programs for different educational backgrounds
- Create comprehensive reskilling programs for the existing workforce
- Establish clear progression pathways for continuous skill enhancement

#### 5. Infrastructure Development Imperatives

##### Mandatory Requirements:

- Build state-of-the-art training facilities at district levels
- Establish modern residential facilities for trainees
- Create specialized practical training centers
- Develop technology-enabled learning environments

#### 6. Industry Integration Framework

##### Key Action Points:

- Create real-time industry demand assessment systems
- Establish a national database of skilled professionals
- Develop industry-institute partnership models
- Implement placement tracking and support systems

##### Implementation Strategy

The success of this transformation depends on:

1. Immediate allocation of substantial resources
2. Strong public-private partnerships
3. Regular monitoring and evaluation
4. Continuous adaptation to industry needs

##### Expected Outcomes

This reformed framework will deliver:

- Significantly improved employment rates
- Enhanced industrial productivity
- Stronger economic growth
- Global competitiveness in skilled workforce

#### Call to Action

The time for incremental changes has passed. We need to act decisively to implement these reforms. Our nation's future depends on our ability to transform our vast human resource into a skilled workforce capable of driving economic growth and innovation.

#### Impact Measurement

Success will be measured through:

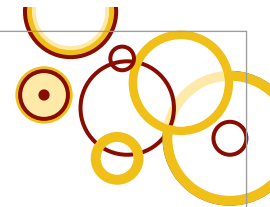
- Employment rates of program graduates
- Industry satisfaction levels
- Economic value addition
- Skill certification achievements

#### Conclusion

This policy framework represents not just a proposal, but an urgent imperative for national development. The success of India's economic future hinges on our ability to implement these reforms effectively and immediately. The cost of inaction far exceeds the investment required for implementation.

*This proposal calls for early timely action from all stakeholders - government bodies, educational institutions, industry partners, and policy makers - to join forces in this critical national mission.*





## FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

### LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### Excellence in Animal Health: ICAR-NRC Equine Achieves Global Recognition as WOAH Reference Laboratory

In a groundbreaking achievement that marks India's growing prominence in global animal health, the ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRC Equine) in Hisar, Haryana, has been designated as a World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and Reference Laboratory for Equine Piroplasmosis. This prestigious recognition, facilitated by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), demonstrates India's potential capabilities in animal health and diagnostics.

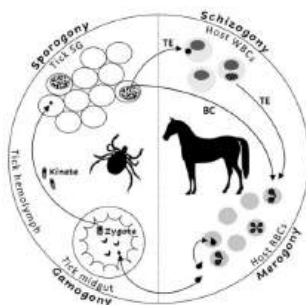
**National Impact and Equine Population:** India's diverse equine population of 0.55 million, comprising horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules, plays a crucial role in the Indian agricultural and economic landscape. The highest population of equines are found in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana, where these animals significantly contribute to various industries and livelihoods.

**Global Leadership in Animal Health:** This recognition establishes ICAR-NRC Equine as India's fourth WOAH Reference Laboratory, joining an elite group of institutions including:

- ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal (Avian Influenza)
- Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bangalore (Rabies)
- ICAR-National Institute for Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics, Bangalore (PPR and Leptospirosis)

The formal announcement will be made during the 92<sup>nd</sup> WOAH General Session and World Assembly of Delegates in May 2025.

**Understanding Equine Piroplasmosis:** Equine piroplasmosis, a severe blood-borne disease caused by tick-borne protozoan parasites *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*, significantly impacts equine health across India. With seroprevalence rates ranging from 15-25% nationwide and reaching up to 40% in high-risk areas, the disease imposes substantial economic challenges through reduced productivity and trade restrictions.



**Scientific Excellence and Innovation:** ICAR-NRC Equine has developed state-of-the-art diagnostic tools for Equine Piroplasmosis, including:

- ELISA based on recombinant antigen
- Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Test
- Competitive ELISA for antibody detection
- Blood smear examination
- MASP *in-vitro* culture system
- PCR for antigen detection

This recognition not only validates India's commitment to excellence in animal health but also strengthens its position as a global leader in combating equine diseases, fostering international collaboration and advancing veterinary medicine worldwide.

#### Avian Botulism Outbreaks Claims Over 500 Migratory Birds at Sambhar Lake Rajasthan



A devastating outbreak of avian botulism has struck Rajasthan's Sambhar Lake, causing mortality of more than 500 migratory birds since 26 October, 2024. The etiology has been confirmed as the *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium that produces a lethal toxin, paralysing the birds' wings and legs and ultimately leading to death. The Central Avian Research Institute in Bareilly confirmed the cause following detailed investigations.

A rescue operation has been launched, with 10 teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) working in coordination with various government agencies. Sick birds are being relocated to treatment centers in Mithri, where 38 birds have been successfully rehabilitated and returned to the lake. This is the second major botulism outbreak at Sambhar Lake, following a devastating incident in 2019 that claimed around 18,000 birds. The recurrence of such outbreak underscores the ongoing environmental challenges facing India's migratory bird populations. (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/what-is-avian-botulism-that-has-killed-over-500-migratory-birds-at-rajasthans-sambhar-lake/articleshow/115104126.cms>)

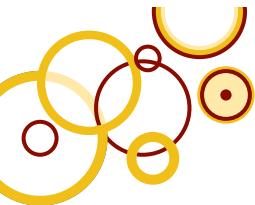
#### New Hope Against Dairy Scourge: Breakthrough Vaccine for Lumpy Skin Disease

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization has approved a unique vaccine for cattle and buffaloes that protects against lumpy skin disease (LSD) and also features an innovative marking system, potentially transforming outbreak control and minimizing economic losses.



Biovet, Indian animal vaccine manufacturer, has received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization for Biolumpivaxin, a marker vaccine developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Its unique marking feature allows for the rapid identification of vaccinated animals through blood tests, enabling more effective targeting of unvaccinated livestock.

LSD has severely impacted India's dairy sector since 2022, resulting in the loss of over 200,000 animals and causing up to a 26% reduction in milk production in some states. Transmitted by biting insects, the viral infection leads to fever, swollen lymph nodes, and characteristic skin lumps, particularly affecting dairy cattle.



The vaccine's approval comes at a critical time, as experts anticipate fresh outbreaks in 2025. Virologist Naveen Kumar, who first isolated the virus in India, warns that the natural immunity gained during the 2022 outbreak-which affected approximately 90% of cattle-is expected to wane, leaving both recovered and unexposed animals vulnerable. "We're expecting fresh outbreaks during the summer of 2025," Kumar said.

Biovet's facility in Mallur, Karnataka, has the capacity to produce 500 million vaccine doses annually. However, the timings of commercial rollout of vaccine depend on government procurement decisions. Scientists highlight that this DIVA (Differentiation of Infected from Vaccinated Animals) technology could be crucial in combating disease outbreaks in densely populated livestock regions, potentially preventing major economic losses in India's important dairy sector. (<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/vaccine-hope-for-dairy-scourge-biovet-icar-develop-cure-to-curb-lumpy-skin-disease-in-cattle/cid/2082742>)

### Mycotoxins Linked Deaths of Elephants in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

In October 2024, the sudden mortality of 11 elephants in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, shocked the nation. Initial investigations suspected poisoning, but subsequent necropsy reports, along with toxicological and histopathological findings from two state government labs and the ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, confirmed that the cause was Mycotoxins. The viscera samples from the deceased elephants revealed the presence of cyclopiazonic acid, a harmful mycotoxin, alongside large quantities of kodo millet, a local crop.

While Bandhavgarh is renowned for its tiger population, it has recently become a refuge for wild elephants that migrated from neighboring Chhattisgarh. The finding highlights the potential dangers of fungal contamination in wildlife habitats and the need for further investigation into food sources consumed by the wild elephants. (source: <https://www.indiatoday.in>)



### Adoption of Retired Indian Army Dogs in Schools and Homes

Indian Army gifted 12 retired dogs on the 246th Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) Day, to Asha Schools for special children and benevolent citizens, offering companionship to support social, emotional, and cognitive development. These K-9 heroes, known for their calm temperament, bravery, and unwavering dedication, have selflessly served the nation in diverse terrains and operational settings.

This initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment not only to national security but also honouring its courageous soldiers- both human and animal. In recent years, the Army has increasingly employed indigenous dog breeds such as the Rampur Hound, Mudhol Hound, and Rajapalayam.

While retired service dogs receive care at the Canine Geriatric

Centre in Meerut, this special rehoming initiative reflects the Army's deep respect and compassion for its loyal four-legged soldiers. It also highlights the extraordinary bond between humans and animals, ensuring these brave dogs enjoy a well-deserved, fulfilling retirement. (Source: <https://idrw.org/indian-army-gifts-retired-military-dogs-to-schools-for-special-children-benevolent-citizens/>)



### Ancient Religious Festival Sparks Global Outcry Over Mass Animal Sacrifice in Nepal

In a controversial display of centuries-old religious tradition, the Nepal's Gadhimai festival in Bara district has once again drawn international condemnation as hundreds of thousands of animals were sacrificed in a ritual spanning two days. The ancient Hindu celebration, held every five years in Bariyarpur village, saw devotees participating in the mass slaughter of water buffalo, goats, pigs, and other animals, despite mounting opposition from animal welfare organizations worldwide.

The temple authorities' set ambitious targets for this year's ceremony, urging devotees to match the 2009 figure of 500,000 animal sacrifices. This call came despite a significant decline in previous years, with both the 2014 and 2019 festivals recording approximately 250,000 sacrifices. The ritual, which dates back 265 years, is rooted in a legend that tells of the temple's founder, Bhagwan Chowdhary, who replaced human sacrifice with animal offering at the request of the goddess Gadhimai.

Arkaprava Bahar, a campaigner from Humane Society India, described the scene as unprecedented in its brutality: "The scale of the animal killing is unfathomable; there are animals being beheaded everywhere you look and pools of bright red blood cover the ground wherever you tread."



Campaigners raising awareness against the Gadhimai festival.

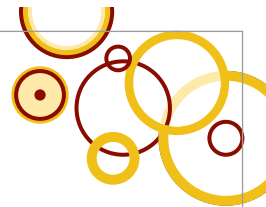
The festival has continued to sacrifice animals, despite a 2019 Supreme Court ruling in Nepal ordering an end to live animal sacrifices at Gadhimai. Animal welfare groups argue that authorities have not only failed to enforce the ban but have instead reinforced the practice by raising arena walls and increasing security presence.

In response to the ongoing practice, animal welfare organizations have intensified efforts to prevent illegal trafficking of animals from the India to Nepal. This year's border intervention successfully saved over 750 animals,



A goat rescued by HSI India at the Indo-Nepal border checkpoint ahead of this year's Gadhimai festival. Credit: HSI India





including buffalo, goats, and pigeons. However, activists emphasize that stronger action is needed from the Nepalese government to put an end to this controversial practice, which lies at the crossroads of religious tradition and animal welfare concerns.

Spiritual teacher Acharya Prashant offered a poignant perspective on the issue, stating, "Devotion should inspire compassion, not cruelty. Slaughtering animals in the name of the divine diminishes the spirit of worship." (<https://www.speciesunite.com/news-stories/an-appalling-bloodbath-over-200000-animals-killed-in-mass-sacrifice-as-part-of-infamous-festival>)

## A Season of Animal Celebration: Welfare & Health Calendar (Highlights for October-December 2024)

### October 2024

**Bat Appreciation Month** (October): Bat Appreciation Month celebrates the vital role of these nocturnal mammals' in ecosystems. With over 1,300 species worldwide, bats help to control pest populations, pollinate plants, and disperse seeds, contributing to agriculture and biodiversity. However, they face growing threats from habitat loss and disease. This month encourages bat conservation through education, bat-watching events, and bat house building initiatives

### October 1st-7th Celebrations

- **National Fire Pup Day** (Oct 1st): Honours fire dogs, especially Dalmatians, for their crucial roles in supporting fire fighters, emotional support, and assisting in search and rescue missions.
- **International Raccoon Appreciation Day** (Oct 1st): Established in 2002, celebrating these clever creatures' role in ecosystems and promoting a better understanding of their natural behaviour.
- **National Black Dog Day** (Oct 1st): Founded by Colleen Paige to combat "Black Dog Syndrome," encouraging black dog adoption.
- **World Farm Animals Day** (Oct 2nd): Established in the honour of Mahatma Gandhi, advocating for the welfare of the 65 billion land animals raised annually for food.
- **World Animal Day** (Oct 4th): A global celebration on St. Francis of Assisi's feast day, promoting animal appreciation and rights.
- **World Animal Week** (Oct 1st-7th): Dedicated to global animal welfare through education, charity initiatives, and advocacy efforts.

### Mid-October Observances

- **National Badger Day** (Oct 6th): Highlighting badgers' role in pest control and soil health.
- **World Octopus Day** (Oct 8th): Celebrating these intelligent creatures' problem-solving abilities.
- **Animal Action Day** (Oct 8th): Supporting animal charities and conservation worldwide.
- **National Pet Obesity Awareness Day** (Oct 9th): Promoting healthy pet weight through education.
- **Global Cat Day** (Oct 16th): Addressing feral cat issues since 2001.

- **National Fetch Day** (Oct 19th): Started in 2018, celebrating dog-human bonding.
- **International Sloth Day** (Oct 20th): Raising awareness about sloth conservation.
- **National Reptile Awareness Day** (Oct 21st): Educating about reptiles' ecological importance.
- **National Make a Dog's Day** (Oct 22nd): Started by Subaru in 2019 for shelter dog adoption.
- **Wombat Day** (Oct 22nd): Founded in 2005 to protect these unique marsupials.

### Late October Events

- **National Mole Day** (Oct 23rd): A dual celebration honouring both chemistry and the fascinating burrowing mammals.
- **International Snow Leopard Day** (Oct 23rd): Promoting conservation of these elusive cats.
- **World Kangaroo Day** (Oct 24th): Founded in 2020 for peaceful coexistence with kangaroos.
- **World Lemur Day** (Oct 25th): Supporting Madagascar's endangered primates.
- **National Hug A Sheep Day** (Oct 26th): Appreciating the unique qualities of the sheep.
- **National Mule Day** (Oct 26th): Honouring mules' historical and agricultural contributions.
- **National Black Cat Day** (Oct 27th): Raises awareness to challenge adoption biases and dispel superstitions about black cats.
- **RSPB Feed the Birds Day** (Oct 29th): Supporting winter bird feeding initiatives.
- **National Cat Day** (Oct 29th): Promoting feline adoption and responsible ownership.

### November 2024

### Month-Long Awareness Campaigns

- **Pet Diabetes Month**: Raises awareness about the symptoms, prevention and management of diabetes in pets
- **Pet Cancer Awareness Month**: Promoting early detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer in pets
- **Adopt a Turkey Month**: Supports sanctuary efforts and raises awareness about the protection of rescued turkey birds
- **Adopt A Senior Pet Month**: Encourages the adoption of older pets, highlighting their loyalty and companionship

### Early November Events

- **World Numbat Day** (Nov 2nd): Supporting conservation of these endangered marsupials
- **National Bison Day** (Nov 2nd): Celebrating American bison preservation
- **Polar Bear Week** (Nov 3rd-9th): Addressing climate change impacts on Arctic wildlife
- **Pushkar Camel Fair** (Nov 9th-16th): A traditional Indian festival featuring camel races, cultural events, and livestock trading

### Mid to Late November

- **Human-Animal Relationship Week** (Nov 11th-17th): Promoting better human-animal understanding

- **Fancy Rat & Mouse Day** (Nov 12th): Celebrating these intelligent pets
- **National Sardines Day** (Nov 24th): Highlighting sustainable fishing
- **Coton de Tulear Day** (Nov 26th): Honouring this rare Madagascar breed
- **The National Dog Show** (Nov 28th): Showcasing 2,000+ dogs and promoting welfare
- **International Jaguar Day** (Nov 29th): Supporting jaguar habitat protection

## December 2024

**National Cat Lovers' Month (December):** Celebrating feline companionship and promoting responsible ownership during the holiday season.

## Special December Observances

- **National Mutt Day** (Dec 2nd): Founded by Colleen Paige for mixed-breed adoption
- **World Coati Day** (Dec 3rd): Conservation awareness since 2019
- **International Cheetah Day** (Dec 4th): Founded by Dr. Laurie Marker for the remaining 8,000 wild cheetahs
- **International Day of Veterinary Medicine** (Dec 9th): Honouring veterinarians' contributions
- **National Llama Day** (Dec 9th): Celebrating these intelligent, social animals
- **International Animal Rights Day** (Dec 10th): Advocating for animal dignity since 1998
- **Day of the Horse** (Dec 13th): Recognizing horses' historical impact since 2004
- **Monkey Day** (Dec 14th): Supporting primate conservation since 2000
- **National Cat Herders Day** (Dec 15th): Acknowledging challenging work
- **Visit the Zoo Day** (Dec 27th): Connecting with wildlife and supporting conservation

These observances reflect our ongoing commitment to animal welfare, conservation, and the celebration of Earth's diverse species. Each date offers a unique opportunity to learn about, protect, and appreciate both our animal companions and wildlife.

## INSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBERS (NGO)



## CORPORATE LIFE MEMBERS



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## SPLENDOUR SHINING VETERINARIAN

### Dr KM Bujarbaruah, Patron of NAVS(I), Honoured with Dr CM Singh Memorial Oration Award

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) takes immense pride in congratulating Dr KM Bujarbaruah, Patron of the Academy and Former Vice-Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, on receiving the prestigious Dr CM Singh Memorial Oration Award. Dr Bujarbaruah's exceptional contributions to veterinary sciences, unwavering commitment to academic excellence, and dedicated service to the veterinary profession have earned him this well-deserved recognition.



Dr Bujarbaruah delivered the 2nd Dr CM Singh Memorial Oration during a special event on January 7, 2025 organized by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. The ceremony, held at Dean Dayal Auditorium, DUVASU, Mathura, also marked the Deekshotsav Mahotsav 2025.

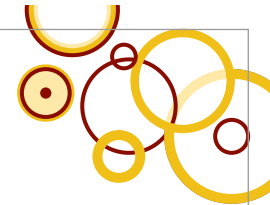
The award ceremony commenced with floral tributes and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, honouring the memory of Dr CM Singh, a distinguished veterinarian and the founding President of the Veterinary Council of India. Dr Vinod Kumar, Director of Research provided a brief overview of the award's significance. In his Memorial Oration, Dr Bujarbaruah emphasized the pivotal role of animal husbandry in realizing the vision of a Vikshit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047. He outlined both the challenges and opportunities that the livestock sector must navigate to contribute effectively towards this ambitious goal.

Recognizing his outstanding contributions to veterinary and animal sciences at both national and international levels, as well as his extensive administrative experience in leading the apex regulatory council of the National Agricultural Research and Education System, Dr Bujarbaruah was conferred with the Dr CM Singh Memorial Oration Award 2024.

The event witnessed an impressive gathering of faculty members, students, and dignitaries from various spheres of veterinary sciences. Prof AK Srivastava, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of DUVASU, Mathura, presented the award to Dr Bujarbaruah, acknowledging his remarkable contributions to the veterinary profession.

Although Dr Prakash Rao, President of NAVS(I), was unable to attend the event due to prior commitments, he conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to Dr Bujarbaruah via a special message, expressing admiration for his friend's dynamism, professional commitment, and humility. He also reaffirmed the Academy's





immense pride in Dr Bujarbaruah's achievements, emphasizing his invaluable role in advancing veterinary science in India.

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) extends its warmest congratulations to Dr KM Bujarbaruah on this well-deserved honour.

## Dr Inderjeet Singh: Steering Guru Kashi University Towards Academic Excellence and Global Leadership

Dr Inderjeet Singh, a distinguished luminary in veterinary science and NAVS(I) Fellow (2000), has assumed the esteemed role of Vice-Chancellor at Guru Kashi University (GKU), an institution renowned for its academic excellence and international outreach. Accredited with NAAC A++, GKU offers a diverse spectrum of academic programs across multiple disciplines, catering to a student body exceeding 7,000 scholars. Dr. Singh, a stalwart in veterinary science and animal husbandry with over three decades of experience, boasts an illustrious academic background, including a Ph.D from the University of Liverpool, UK.



A visionary leader, Dr Singh has played a pivotal role in propelling research, academic innovation, and extension services across various institutions. His tenure as Vice-Chancellor at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU) was marked by significant advancements in veterinary education and applied research. Notably, his groundbreaking contributions to buffalo breeding have had a transformative impact on livestock farmers in Punjab and Haryana. His vision for GKU is focused on fostering global collaboration, enhancing academic quality, and preparing students as future leaders and entrepreneurs. The NAVS(I) extends heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Inderjeet Singh on his appointment and wishes him continued success in this new and impactful role.

## Thulasimathi Murugesan Winner of Paralympic Silver, Receives Arjuna Award!

Ms. Thulasimathi Murugesan's silver medal victory in the para-Badminton event at the 2024 Paralympics is a testament to her perseverance and excellence. We take immense pride in seeing a veterinary student from TANUVAS achieving such a prestigious honour. Her remarkable accomplishment also earned her the prestigious Arjuna Award from the Government of India, recognizing her exceptional contributions to sports. Her journey serves as an inspiration to all, especially within the veterinary community.

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) extends its heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Thulasimathi Murugesan for her extraordinary achievements and wishing her continued success in both her athletic and professional pursuits.



## Prof Ramesh Chandra Patra Admitted as a Fellow of the Society of Veterinary Science and Biotechnology

Prof Ramesh Chandra Patra, a distinguished Fellow of the Academy (elected in 2016), has been honoured with Fellowship of the Society of Veterinary Science and Biotechnology on October 23, 2024, during its XI Annual Conference in Proddatur. Prof Patra, a renowned expert in Veterinary Medicine, currently serves as the Professor and Head of Veterinary Clinical Medicine at the College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry. He previously held key leadership roles as Dean of the Faculty and Dean of Research at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar.



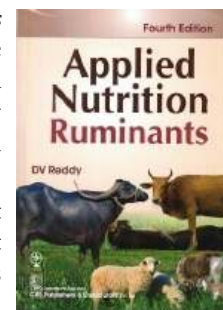
Prof Patra's illustrious academic journey began as an Agricultural Research Scientist at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI). Over the years, he has been recognized with several prestigious Fellowships, including ISVM (2007), NAVS (2016), IAAVR (2016), and ISSGPU (2024). This latest recognition reflects his outstanding contributions to the fields of Veterinary Science and Biotechnology. NAVS(I) congratulates to Prof Patra on this remarkable recognition!

## ACADEMIA

### SCHOLASTIC CONNECTIONS

## Book Review: Applied Nutrition Ruminants, 4th Edition by Dr DV Reddy

Dr DV Reddy's *Applied Nutrition Ruminants* (4th Edition) serves as a comprehensive guide for veterinary students and professionals, aligning with the Veterinary Council of India MSVE curriculum requirements.



This latest edition incorporates significant updates, including the 2024 ICAR nutrient requirements and advanced topics such as transition dairy animal nutrition, small animal nutrition, and unconventional feed resources. The book notably addresses the application of rumen modifiers to enhance dairy animal performance-a critical factor for the growing dairy industry.

What distinguishes this work is its balanced integration of theory and practice. Dr Reddy adeptly simplifies complex nutritional concepts while upholding academic rigor, ensuring the content remains both accessible and intellectually robust for classroom learning and field application. The book's well-structured presentation facilitates easy reference and self-study, catering to undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students alike.

Drawing from over four decades of expertise in animal nutrition, Dr Reddy has crafted a resource that extends beyond conventional textbooks, offering practical insights and updated content essential for veterinary professionals implementing effective ruminant nutrition strategies.

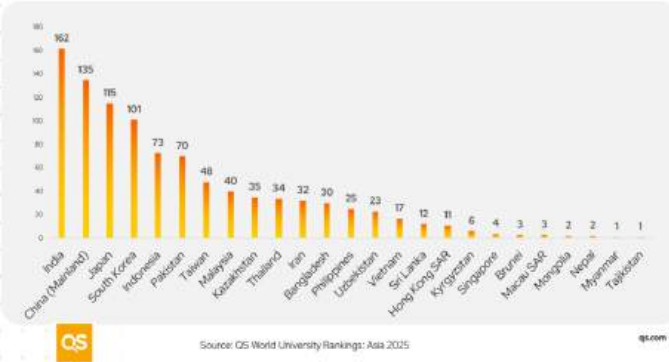


*Applied Nutrition Ruminants*, 4th Edition excels in its dual role as an academic reference and practical guide, cementing its position as a cornerstone in veterinary education and practice.

QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025 - A New Milestone in Higher Education

The QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025 evaluates 984 institutions from 25 countries across Eastern, Southern, South-Eastern, and Central Asia. The rankings offer valuable insights into institutional performance through key metrics such as Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, and International Research Networks.

Institutions by country/territory



At the top of the table, Peking University retains the number one spot, excelling in Academic Reputation and Employer Reputation. It is followed by The University of Hong Kong, National University of Singapore (NUS), and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), which maintain their positions in the second, third, and fourth rank, respectively. Fudan University has broken into the top five, while City University of Hong Kong made an impressive leap of seven places to secure the 10th place.

Notable changes include The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (17th), Hanyang University (19th), and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) (20th), all of which entered the top 20 for the first time. Malaysia, in particular, has shown strong progress, with Sunway University reaching from 103rd to 74th and UCSI University rising to 45th, reflecting significant advancements in the region.

This year's rankings also covered 143 newly ranked institutions, with the Education University of Hong Kong leading new entrants at 212th, and Woosong University earning top scores in International Faculty among fresh additions.

China stands out with four universities in the top 10 and 22 in the top 100. Beijing Institute of Technology saw the largest improvement among Chinese institution, jumping 29 places to 64th. Meanwhile, India maintains its position with two universities in the top 50, led by the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) at 44th. The University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) climbed 70 places, underscoring its progress in research and academic reputation.

Hong Kong, with three institutions in the top 10, continues to demonstrate a strong academic presence. South Korea and Japan

also feature prominently, with Yonsei University (9th) and The University of Tokyo (21st) leading the charge in their respective countries.

This year's rankings have highlighted the importance of research excellence, academic reputation, and global networking as key drivers in the growth of higher education across Asia. As universities continue to climb in these rankings, their focus on faculty quality, student exchange programs, and international research will remain central to their success in an increasingly competitive educational landscape.

The QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025 has not only recognizes the exceptional top institutions but also set a high standard for others to aspire to, make it a crucial benchmark for future academic achievements and innovations. (<https://www.qs.com/rankings-released-qs-world-university-rankings-asia-2025/>)

Quartile Ranking in Veterinary Sciences Journal: A More Equitable Impact Measure

In academic publishing, the Impact Factor (IF) of journals is a widely used metric to assess journal research output. However, a parallel tool-Quartile Ranking (Q)-offers a more equitable method for comparing journals within specific subject categories. Unlike IF, which varies significantly between disciplines, Quartile Ranking divides journals into four groups-Q1 (top 25%), Q2 (25-50%), Q3 (50-75%), and Q4 (bottom 25%)-based on their IFs. This approach provides a clearer picture of journal quality within a particular field.

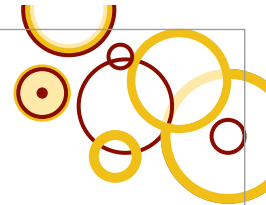
The Journal Citation Reports (JCR) 2024 introduced this more nuanced ranking system to reduce bias when comparing journals from different disciplines. For example, journals in fields like Veterinary Sciences, which often focus on applied research with fewer citations, may have lower IFs compared to fields like Oncology or Pharmacology, where research tends to have broader applicability and higher citation rates. To address this discrepancy, Quartile Ranking categorizes journals based on their relative position within their specific subject category.

In the Veterinary Sciences category, which includes 167 journals, the highest-ranked journal, Veterinary Quarterly, boasts an IF of 7.9, placing it in the Q1 category. Journals with an IF between 2.1 and 7.9 are classified as Q1, while those with an IF ranging from 2.0 to 1.3 falls into Q2. Journals with an IF between 1.2 and 0.6 are assigned Q3, and those with an IF below 0.5 are categorized as Q4.

The table below illustrates the Quartile Ranking for Veterinary Sciences alongside other subject categories, offering valuable inputs into how journals with similar IFs can be ranked differently based on their field of research:

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed by various authors in this publication are their own and not necessarily that of the NAVS(I). Further, news items related to selected scientific and academic advances published in this newsletter are extracted from varied sources, including scientific journals, newspapers, websites etc. They are solely meant for developing educational awareness among the members of the Academy.



Subject Category	Total Journals	Q1 Impact Factor	Q2 Impact Factor	Q3 Impact Factor	Q4 Impact Factor
Veterinary Sciences	167	7.9 - 2.1	2.0 - 1.3	1.2 - 0.6	<0.5
Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science	80	6.3-2.0	1.9-1.5	1.4-0.6	<0.5
Zoology	180	4.3-1.8	1.7-1.2	1.1-0.8	<0.7
Oncology	322	503.1 - 4.5	4.4 - 2.8	2.7 - 1.8	<1.7
Pharmacology & Pharmacy	354	122.7 - 3.9	3.8 - 2.6	2.5 - 1.5	<1.4
Cell Biology	305	81.3 - 6.0	5.9 - 3.7	3.6 - 2.5	<2.4
Microbiology	161	69.2 - 4.5	4.4 - 3.0	2.9 - 2.1	<2.0

This Quartile system presents a more accurate and fair comparison of journals' impact across diverse research fields, offering a deeper understanding of journal quality in Veterinary and Animal Sciences. By incorporating Quartile Rankings, scholars and researchers can evaluate journal quality while accounting for discipline-specific citation patterns, moving beyond just IF as the sole measure of journal quality. (Compiled by Dr Ashwani Kumar, Professor, Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, College of Veterinary Science, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana)

## One Nation One Subscription: Empowering India's Research Ecosystem

The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme, launched by the Government of India, is a transformative initiative aimed at providing nationwide access to scholarly research articles and academic journals. With a Rs.6,000 crore allocation for 2025-2027, this scheme will establish national licenses with leading STEM publishers and database providers globally, empowering India's academic community to access the latest research.

The ONOS will benefit all Central and State Government-funded Higher Educational Institutions and Central Government-run Research & Development Institutions. Coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), this initiative will cover over 6,300 institutions and reaching nearly 1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers.

Aligned with national goals such as Viksit Bharat @2047, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), ONOS aims to ensure equal access to high-quality academic and research resources across the country. The initiative will enhance India's education and research landscape, promoting innovation and academic excellence in both urban and remote regions.

While ONOS has potential to strengthen India's research culture, challenges may arise, including technical complexities across thousands of institutions, internet connectivity issues in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and potential possible over-dependence on foreign publishers. Effective planning, sustainability measures, and impact assessment will be crucial to ensuring the scheme's success.



Through ONOS, India aspires to become a global leader in research and innovation, significantly contributing to scientific advancements both nationally and internationally (Source: [https:// www.indiascienceandtechnology.gov.in/ listingpage/one-nation-one-subscription-scheme](https://www.indiascienceandtechnology.gov.in/listingpage/one-nation-one-subscription-scheme))

## Revolutionary Study: Dogs Can Now Detect Cancer in Fellow Canines with Remarkable Accuracy

In a groundbreaking development for veterinary medicine, a new study reveals that specially trained dogs can detect bladder cancer in other dogs with up to 90% accuracy by simply smelling their urine. Conducted by Medical Detection Dogs (MDD) in collaboration with several veterinary institutions, this research marks a potential game-changer in canine cancer diagnosis.

Three expertly trained dogs - Kizzy, a chocolate Working Cocker Spaniel; Jobi, a black Cocker Spaniel; and Marlow, a black Labrador - previously trained to detect human cancer, were taught to identify canine urothelial carcinoma (UC). The results, published in Veterinary and Comparative Oncology, demonstrated an impressive detection rate with 90% sensitivity and 95% specificity in identifying cancerous samples.



This breakthrough is particularly significant as bladder cancer, which affects nearly 2% of dogs diagnosed with cancer, is notoriously difficult to diagnose through traditional methods. Current diagnostic procedures often require invasive biopsies and can be easily confused with common urinary tract infections, leading to delayed treatment.

Claire Guest, CEO and Co-Founder of Medical Detection Dogs, emphasizes the potential impact: "When dogs do get diagnosed, the disease is often advanced. There is great potential value in a new, early, affordable, rapid and non-invasive diagnostic test which could lead to earlier intervention."

Funded by The Kennel Club Charitable Trust, the study could also pave the way for future technological advancements. As Isabelle Desmas-Bazelle, lecturer in oncology at the Royal Veterinary College, suggests, this research might contribute to the development of an electronic nose - a diagnostic tool that replicates the unique odor-detection patterns capabilities of dogs to identify cancer cells.

With approximately one in four dogs developing cancer during their lifetime, this non-invasive detection method has the potential to revolutionize veterinary oncology, enabling earlier cancer detection and improving treatment outcomes.

## TIDBITS SOUPCON

### Research Excellence: Human Heart Can Regenerate Muscle After Artificial Heart Treatment

Groundbreaking new research has revealed that the human heart has the ability to regenerate muscle cells, particularly in patients with artificial hearts. The international study, led by Dr Hesham Sadek, Director of the Sarver Heart Center at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson, found that approximately 25% of patients with artificial hearts demonstrate significant heart muscle regeneration.



The research findings published in the journal *Circulation*, shows that patients with artificial hearts, known as left ventricular assist devices, regenerate muscle cells at more than six times higher than the healthy hearts. This groundbreaking discovery offers new hope for the nearly 7 million U.S. adults affected by heart failure, a condition that currently has no cure and accounts for 14% of annual deaths.

"This is the strongest evidence we have, now, that human heart muscle cells can actually regenerate," says Dr Sadek. The study builds on his previous research work, which found that heart muscle cells typically stop dividing shortly after birth, prioritizing their primary function of continuously pumping blood.

The breakthrough came through international collaboration, project work involving researchers from the University of Utah Health and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Using innovative carbon dating techniques on tissue samples from artificial heart patients, the team provided direct evidence of new cell generation.

The artificial heart appears to provide cardiac muscles with a form of "rest," similar to how skeletal muscles heal after injury. When the device pumps blood into the aorta, bypassing the heart, it essentially allows the heart muscle to take a break from its constant workload.

This discovery is particularly significant for severe heart attack survivors, who can lose up to 40% of their heart muscle cells in a single attack. Currently, the only treatments possibility for advanced heart failure are heart transplants or artificial heart devices.

The research team's next focus is understanding the concept of why only about 25% of patients respond positively to artificial heart treatment with muscle regeneration. Dr. Sadek suggests that if they can determine how to make all patients "responders," it could potentially lead to a cure for heart failure.

For Dr Sadek, whose younger son was diagnosed with heart failure, this research carries personal significance. "It made me deeply appreciate what parents and family members go through, and made me determined to try to make a difference," he shares.

This discovery represents a significant step forward in cardiac treatment protocol and offers new hope for millions of heart failure patients worldwide. (<https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.123.067156>)

## INSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBERS



Bihar Animal Sciences University  
Patna



Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya, Durg



Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana



Kamdhenu University Gandhinagar



Karnataka Animal, Fishery & Veterinary Sciences University, Bidar



Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Pookode



Khalsa College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Amritsar



Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Hisar



Maharashtra Animal & Fisheries Sciences University Nagpur



Rajasthan University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Bikaner

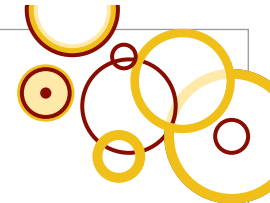


Sri Venkateshwara Veterinary University Tirupati



Uttar Pradesh Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go-Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura.





## ADVERTISEMENT

## SPONSORED CONTENT

### BROOKE HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS (INDIA)

*An Organisation Committed to Equine Health & Welfare and the Development of the Marginalised Equine Owning Community*

Brooke Hospital for Animals (India) or Brooke India (BI) is an affiliate of the Brooke, which is a United Kingdom-based international equine charity, focusing on the welfare and care of equines (horses, donkeys and mules). Brooke's vision is of a world in which working horses, donkeys and mules are free from suffering and have a life worth living.



*Renu Devi, equine owner from Sonipat, with her mule*

BI's journey in India towards equine welfare started two decades back when it was registered as a Section 8, Not for Profit Company under the Companies Act. Equids in India mostly work in harsh environments like Brick Kilns and face never-ending health troubles. This situation was mainly due to a lack of financial resources and knowledge on good management practices amongst the equine owners and insufficient understanding of equine health care by Local Health Providers (LHP).

BI's initial step as an intervention involved providing free veterinary services at different congregation points and organising Intensive Equine Care Camps (IECC) to spread awareness on welfare oriented husbandry practices and preventable injuries & diseases. From 2006 onwards, BI started focusing on establishing permanent intervention units and started expanding its operations to other states such as Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Hyderabad and other parts of Uttar Pradesh. The BI team also introduced Community Engagement for exploring sustainable solutions for equine welfare and community development. This period saw the formation of male and female Self Help Groups called Equine Welfare Groups, the use of Participatory Rural Appraisal tools and increasing community participation. BI team saw the congregation of equines, equine owners, traders and local service providers at Equine Fairs as an excellent opportunity for a large-scale intervention. BI teams intervened to spread awareness on equine welfare issues, provide quality training on equine care and ensure equine welfare-friendly facilities and resources at these fairs.



*IECC Camps Luniyavas donkey fair*

BI teams also focused on strengthening the local service delivery system for working equines, including quality farriery services for hoof care, accurate and appropriate veterinary first aid during health emergencies, hair clipping, and welfare-friendly saddlery material. They also ensured compassionate handling while

delivering any of the services. These interventions were incorporated in Brooke's Theory of Change, in 2016. This theory promotes strengthened animal health policy environment and thriving equine owning communities.



*Equines working at Brick Kilns*

Currently, BI operates directly through 32 Equine Welfare Projects (EWPs) across 10 States and Union Territories in India, thereby reaching out to approximately 3.16 lakhs working equids and the equine owning community that owns/rears them. BI has multi-disciplinary teams with core strengths in Animal Health & Welfare, and Community Development, including Human behaviour Change, Gender Empowerment, Livelihoods and Resilience. Some of the notable achievements made by the team over the years include:

- Advocating the revision of Glander's Compensation- From INR 50 to 25,000 for horses and INR 16000 for mules/donkeys
- Inclusion of Equids in Livestock under the National Livestock Mission Schemes and thereby making them eligible for equine insurance.
- Advocating the issue of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) advisories for Equine Fairs, Shrines & Pilgrim sites
- Introducing BI's innovative projects for ensuring sustainable availability of green fodder, through Azolla cultivation and Hydroponics techniques successfully across its intervention areas.
- BI teams worked throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. They supported the community by providing emergency treatments, alternative livelihood options, first aid kits and feed & fodder for the equines.

In the upcoming years, BI will focus on strengthening the Community Based Organisations, linkages with government welfare schemes, have robust disaster response capacity, advocate policy revisions on equine welfare issues, and enhancing the knowledge and skills of veterinary students on animal welfare, compassionate handling and upskilling the local farriers and animal health providers.



*Quality Farriery Services*

BI's team is proud of its journey and aspire to keep bringing a positive change for vulnerable and marginalised working equines and the rural communities, whose lives we have not touched yet.

Introducing

For the First Time in India

Zydus AHL

**VetPlasma™**

**PLASMA  
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EXPANDER**

#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

VetPlasma is used primarily to treat acute hypovolemia & shock in conditions like Blood loss, diarrhoea, etc

#### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Daily dose and rate of infusion depend on the animal's blood loss, hemodynamics and on the hemodilution effects

##### Recommended Dose:

##### Large Animals (Cattle & Horse) :

8-10 ml/kg body weight/day, up to maximum 20 ml/kg

##### Small Animals (Dog, Cat, Pig, Sheep & Goat) :

10-20 ml/kg body weight/day

Administer by intravenous infusion only.

The initial 10 to 20 ml should be infused slowly, keeping the animal under close observation due to possible anaphylactoid reactions

#### PRESENTATION

250 ml & 500 ml plastic bottle.



**Restores Blood Volume Saves Life**

Animal Pharm  
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Award Winner 2015, 2016, 2018  
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