



NAVS NEWS VIBES

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES (INDIA)

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EDITORIAL

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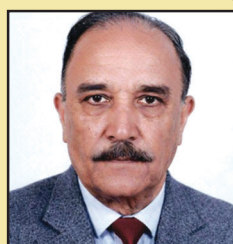
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Dear Esteemed Fellows and Valued Readers,

The July 2026 issue of *NAVS News VIBES* reflects a defining moment for Noble veterinarians, not only in India but across the world. Veterinary professionals today are no longer viewed merely as custodians of animal health; they have emerged as indispensable contributors to public health, food security, biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, and global health security. The diverse developments featured in this issue reaffirm that veterinary and animal science is entering an era where scientific innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and societal responsibility must progress hand in hand.

One of the most encouraging developments around the world is the growing recognition of the One Health paradigm. Recent national initiatives, including the successful *Pashujanya Yuddh Abhyas*, demonstrate India's commitment to strengthening preparedness against emerging zoonotic diseases through coordinated action involving veterinary, medical, wildlife, environmental, and public health agencies. Simultaneously, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has once again emphasized that investment in veterinary services is fundamental to protecting human health, ensuring food security, and enhancing economic resilience. These developments reinforce an important truth: protecting animal health is among the most effective investments in safeguarding human health.

This issue also highlights the increasing importance of wildlife health in national conservation strategies. Disease outbreaks affecting tigers in Kanha and Asiatic lions in Gir remind us that wildlife conservation today extends far beyond habitat protection. Infectious diseases circulating at the interface of wildlife, domestic animals, vectors, and humans present complex ecological challenges that require integrated surveillance, rapid diagnostics, and multidisciplinary expertise. Veterinary scientists have an increasingly critical role in protecting biodiversity and preserving endangered species through evidence-based disease management and conservation by preventive medicine protocols.

Innovation continues to redefine the future of veterinary science. Recognition of indigenous technologies such as Goat-Synch®, commercialization of India's lumpy skin disease vaccine, advances in precision antimicrobial therapy, and cutting-edge molecular diagnostic techniques illustrate how scientific research is translating into practical solutions for farmers, industries, and policymakers. Equally encouraging are emerging technologies involving artificial intelligence, digital epidemiology, advanced data analytics, and precision livestock management, which promise to transform disease surveillance, clinical decision-making, and livestock productivity in the coming decade.

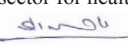
As highlighted in this issue, innovative therapeutic approaches and growing evidence linking environmental factors such as climate-induced drought with antibiotic resistance remind us that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) cannot be addressed through clinical medicine practices alone. Responsible antimicrobial stewardship, improved biosecurity, vaccination, disease prevention, environmental monitoring, and enhanced surveillance systems must become integral components of veterinary clinical practice. The veterinary profession occupies a strategic position in preserving the effectiveness of life-saving antimicrobials for both animals and humans.

The profession is also witnessing exciting educational transformations. The establishment of Vantara University dedicated to wildlife and veterinary sciences, together with initiatives promoting Veterinary Ayurveda, reflects expanding opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and global collaboration. Reforms in veterinary education must now equip graduates not only with clinical competence but also with expertise in epidemiology, molecular biology, data science, wildlife health, climate resilience, artificial intelligence, communication, and policy development. Preparing the next generation of veterinarians to address increasingly complex global challenges should remain one of our highest priorities.

Equally heartening are the remarkable achievements of Indian veterinary scientists receiving prestigious national and international honours. Such recognition demonstrates the growing global impact of Indian research and inspires young scientists to pursue excellence, innovation, and scientific integrity. At the same time, strengthening professional academies, scientific networking, mentoring, and lifelong learning remains essential for sustaining this momentum.

As we move towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, veterinary science will undoubtedly play a transformative role in sustainable livestock production, wildlife conservation, public health preparedness, climate resilience, and rural prosperity. Success, however, will depend upon continued concentration and planing in research, stronger partnerships among institutions, active participation of professionals, and unwavering commitment to scientific excellence.

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) has consistently served as a platform for bringing together distinguished scientists, educators, clinicians, policymakers, and young professionals. Let us continue to strengthen this collective endeavour by embracing innovation, nurturing collaboration, and inspiring the next generation. Together, we can ensure that veterinary animal sciences remains a powerful sector for healthier animals, healthier people, a healthier environment, and a stronger nation.


L.D. Singla
Editor, NAVS News VIBES

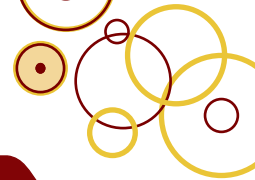
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HORIZON

PRESIDENT'S VIEWS & VISION

Dear Fellow Members, Esteemed Colleagues, and Stakeholders,

It has been my privilege and honour to serve the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) as President over the past five and a half years: a period that has tested us with real challenges even as it opened up remarkable new opportunities. Looking back, what stands out most is not any single achievement but the shared sense of purpose that our Fellows, office-bearers, and well-wishers have brought to the table. Together, we have worked steadily to reinforce the Academy's standing as the country's foremost professional body dedicated to advancing Veterinary Sciences, Animal Production, Animal Health, Education and Research. As I reflect on this journey, I would like to share with our esteemed Fellows and readers a candid account of where we have reached, and where I believe we must go from here.



Building a Home for the Academy

One of the most tangible developments of recent years has been the Academy finally securing a full-fledged, furnished, and functioning office of its own, located in the Admin Block of the DMS Complex in New Delhi. The office now operates from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on working days, staffed by two full-time personnel who handle correspondence, membership matters, and the day-to-day administration that keeps an organization of our size and ambition running smoothly. For an Academy that has long depended on the goodwill and personal effort of its office-bearers, having a stable physical address and dedicated staff is more than a convenience. It is a statement that NAVS (I) is here to stay, and is professionalizing the way it serves its Fellows.

A Seat at the Policy Table

Institutional recognition has also grown meaningfully during this period. The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, has formally recognized the Academy, and I have had the honour of being co-opted to the High-Level Committee constituted by the Government for the formation of the National Veterinary Commission, chaired by Dr. Tarun Shridhar, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary of the Department. This is a significant milestone in the Academy's recognition as a professional body in policy matters. It means that the voice of veterinary science, as represented through our Academy, now has a direct channel into policy formulation at the national level, a responsibility I take seriously on behalf of every Fellow of this Academy.

Strengthening Our Financial Foundation

Sound finances underpin everything an academy hopes to achieve, from scientific publications to scholarships to the simple ability to organize a well-run convocation cum convention. I am glad to report that we have been able to grow the Academy's reserves to approximately Rs. 1.85 crores, and we are working purposefully towards the target of Rs. 2 crores before the conclusion of my second tenure as President. This achievement reflects the focused leadership, personal stewardship and sustained efforts of the President along with the Hon Vice Chancellors.

Investing in Skills and the Next Generation

An academy is only as strong as the professionals it serves, and so capacity-building has been close to my heart throughout this tenure. In collaboration with veterinary universities and with the valuable support of M/s Brooke India, we have successfully conducted short courses for veterinary officers at Ludhiana, Patna, and Chennai, aimed at upgrading their practical skills. I would particularly like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of our Secretary General, Maj Gen M. L. Sharma (Retd.), who played an important role in coordinating with Brooke India for financial support and the State Directors for deputing veterinary officers for the conduct of short courses to promote continuing veterinary education. I personally coordinated with the Vice Chancellors of the respective veterinary universities to facilitate and support the conduct of these programmes. I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere gratitude to all of them.

ICAR Recognizes Academy Fellowships

Equally gratifying is the news that ICAR has now brought NAVS (I) Fellowships on par with other national fellowships, awarding two marks in interviews for scientist recruitment under its latest scorecard. This is the direct result of sustained advocacy by the Academy, and I would like to especially acknowledge the effort and support extended by our DDG (Animal Sciences), Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, in helping us achieve this long-sought recognition. For our Fellows, this translates into real, tangible professional value attached to their association with this Academy.

A Candid Appeal: Bringing Our Senior Fellows Back to the Table

Even as we celebrate these gains, I would be doing a disservice to our readers if I did not speak honestly about a challenge we continue to face. Our Annual Convocations have been conducted very successfully, with Cabinet Ministers, Governors, and State Ministers gracing the occasion as Chief Guests and Guests of Honour, a fitting way to popularize the Academy among policymakers, alongside our technical sessions and Annual General Body meetings. Yet, our Annual General Body meetings continue to see disappointingly poor attendance from our esteemed Fellows, a gap that is hard to ignore.

The reason is not indifference but circumstance: a large proportion of our Fellows are now retired, and many find the cost of travel a genuine constraint on their participation. At our last General Body meeting held in Patna, our Hon. Patron, Dr. K.M. Bujarbaruah - former Deputy Director General and Vice Chancellor - proposed that we invite Fellows to make a voluntary annual contribution of Rs. 1,000 to help defray the travel expenses of a few of our outstanding and senior Fellows each year. I believe this is a proposal worth embracing wholeheartedly.

Our retired senior Fellows are, in the truest sense, the living repository of this Academy's heritage, wisdom, and accumulated experience. Their presence at our AGMs and scientific deliberations does not merely add numbers to the room but it enriches the quality of our discussions and inspires the younger generation of veterinary scientists who are just beginning their journeys. It would be a genuine loss to let financial constraints quietly keep these voices away from our proceedings.

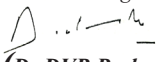
I therefore renew my appeal to every esteemed Fellow of this Academy to consider a voluntary contribution of Rs. 1,000 per year, dedicated entirely to supporting the travel of our retired senior Fellows to Academy events. How far this initiative can go depends entirely on the generosity of our Fellowship — the more support we receive, the more of our senior colleagues we can welcome back into the fold each year.

Looking Ahead

As I look toward the remaining part of my tenure, my priorities remain clear: consolidate the institutional gains we have made with the Government and with ICAR, keep strengthening the Academy's financial reserves toward our Rs. 2 crore target, expand our skill-development courses to more veterinary universities and states, and perhaps most importantly to rebuild the sense of community and participation that a professional academy like ours depends on. None of this rests on the shoulders of any one office-bearer. It rests on the collective commitment of our Fellowship.

I am deeply grateful to every Fellow, office-bearer, and well-wisher who has walked this journey with the Academy so far, and I look forward to your continued partnership and your gracious response to this appeal as we work together to secure an even stronger future for the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India).

With warm regards and best wishes,


(Dr DVR Prakash Rao)

THE ACADEMY EVENTS & ENDEAVOURS

XXIV NAVS Convocation-cum-Scientific Convention 2026 to be Held at LUVAS, Hisar

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) [NAVS(I)], in collaboration with Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS), Hisar, Haryana, will organize the XXIV NAVS Convocation-cum-Scientific Convention 2026 on 22–23 October 2026 at the LUVAS campus, Hisar.

The convention will be centered on the theme “Transforming Indigenous Livestock and Poultry Production through Smart Technologies and One Health



Concepts: Emerging Frontiers for Viksit Bharat 2047.” The event aims to bring together leading veterinary scientists, academicians, researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, extension professionals, students, and progressive farmers to deliberate on emerging technologies and sustainable strategies for livestock and poultry development. The scientific programme will feature two technical sessions, a plenary session, poster presentations, and an Innovation-to-Adoption Forum focusing on precision livestock farming, artificial intelligence, digital technologies, antimicrobial resistance, animal health and welfare, biosecurity, climate resilience, and One Health approaches. The convention will also provide an excellent platform for scientific interactions, networking, and dissemination of innovative research findings.

A highlight of the event will be the XXIV NAVS Convocation, during which the Academy will confer Fellowships, Associate Fellowships, Membership, and several prestigious awards recognizing outstanding contributions of the veterinary professionals to veterinary science, education, research, and extension.

Researchers, faculty members, postgraduate students, clinicians, field veterinarians, and industry professionals are cordially invited to participate and contribute to this important national scientific gathering dedicated to advancing veterinary science and supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Abstracts for poster presentations may be submitted up to 27 September 2026. Registration is open, with concessional rates available for early registration.

IN FOCUS OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & MEAT SAFETY

Occupational Zoonoses of the Abattoir: The Hidden Biological Hazards of the Killing Floor

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The slaughterhouse presents one of the most intense human–animal interfaces in the food chain, consequently, a persistent chances for occupational



zoonotic transmission. Abattoir, rendering, and meat-inspection personnel are exposed to a spectrum of bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic infections through inhalation of infectious aerosols, percutaneous inoculation, mucosal splash, and the faecal–oral route. This article synthesises the epidemiology, transmission dynamics, clinical presentation, and prevention of the principal abattoir-associated zoonoses including Q fever, inhalational anthrax (wool sorter’s disease), brucellosis, leptospirosis, and *Streptococcus suis* infection alongside the wider occupational-health burden of the meat industry. A One Health, hierarchy-of-controls framework is proposed to minimise risk at source, in the environment, and at the level of the individual worker.

Introduction

Every unit of meat entering the human food supply passes through the abattoir - a controlled point of convergence where live animals originating from geographically dispersed farms are stunned, exsanguinated, dressed, eviscerated, and fabricated. This convergence is precisely what renders the slaughter floor an ecological hotspot for zoonoses. An estimated 60% of recognised human pathogens and roughly 75% of emerging infectious diseases are of animal origin (Taylor et al., 2001; Jones et al., 2008), and occupational groups in direct, sustained contact with livestock and their tissues bear a disproportionate share of this burden.

Why the Abattoir is an Epidemiological Hotspot

The slaughter environment concentrates several risk amplifiers that seldom coincide elsewhere in the food chain like

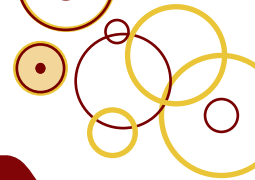
- **Mixing of source populations:** Animals from many herds and flocks arrive together, pooling their individual microbial burdens into a single facility.
- **Breach of the skin barrier:** Knives, saws, and bone fragments produce cuts and abrasions that provide a direct portal of entry for percutaneous pathogens.
- **Aerosolisation:** High-pressure washing, sawing, and evisceration generate infectious aerosols and splatter, favouring the airborne and mucosal routes.
- **Warm, moist surfaces:** These offer ideal conditions for microbial survival and for the persistence of contamination on equipment and floors.
- **High tissue exposure:** Workers handle the different tissues viz. placenta, blood, lymph nodes, gut, and hide that carry the highest pathogen loads.

Of the resulting exposure routes, inhalation is the most insidious, because it requires no visible wound and no conscious contact. It is this route that underlies the two classic and most feared abattoir zoonoses discussed below.

Q Fever: The Aerosol-Borne Occupational Fever

Q fever is caused by *Coxiella burnetii*, an obligate intracellular, Gram-negative bacterium of extraordinary environmental resilience. Cattle, sheep, and goats are the principal reservoirs and typically remain asymptomatic while shedding vast numbers of organisms in birth products (placenta, amniotic fluid), and in urine, faeces, and milk. The organism forms a spore-like small-cell variant that resists desiccation, heat, and ultraviolet light, permitting survival on dust and fomites for weeks to months and passive dispersal on air currents.

The infectious dose is exceptionally low—inhalation of a single organism can, in principle, establish infection—which explains why abattoir, rendering, and farm workers are recognised high-risk groups (Angelakis and Raoult, 2010). Acute Q fever presents after an incubation of roughly 2–3 weeks with abrupt high fever, severe retro-orbital headache, drenching



sweats, myalgia, and, frequently, atypical pneumonia or granulomatous hepatitis. A minority progress to chronic infection, most seriously culture-negative endocarditis, which carries substantial mortality if untreated. The historical designation “Q” (for “query”) reflects the initial inability to identify the cause of these workplace fevers—an enduring reminder of how long occupational zoonoses may evade diagnosis.

Woolsorter’s Disease: Inhalational Anthrax

Few occupational eponyms carry the gravity of woolsorter’s disease—the nineteenth-century term for inhalational anthrax, caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Workers who sorted wool, hair, and hides, and those who handled infected carcasses, inhaled aerosolised spores liberated during processing. The anthrax spore is among the most durable structures in microbiology, remaining viable in soil and animal products for decades and germinating only on entering a nutrient-rich host.

“The declaration ‘I work in a slaughterhouse’ has repeatedly resolved diagnostic uncertainty and directed timely, life-saving therapy.”

The inhalational form is the most lethal. After a deceptive prodrome resembling an upper-respiratory infection, the disease evolves within days into a fulminant haemorrhagic mediastinitis, respiratory failure, and shock; historical case-fatality approached 90–100% without modern intensive care and antimicrobials (Holty et al., 2006). Cutaneous anthrax—the classic “malignant pustule” with its black eschar—arises from spore entry through broken skin and is the commonest but least lethal presentation; a gastrointestinal form follows ingestion. The abattoir defence against anthrax is emphatic and time-honoured: rigorous ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection to intercept the diseased animal, prohibition on opening suspect carcasses (which would liberate sporulating vegetative bacilli), and safe disposal of contaminated material.

The Wider Spectrum of Abattoir Zoonoses

Beyond the two pathogenic agents, the slaughter floor sustains a broad microbial community capable of occupational transmission:

- **Brucellosis (Undulant Fever):** *Brucella* species transmit chiefly through contact with birthing tissues, blood, and aborted fetuses, entering via conjunctiva, mucosa, skin abrasions, and inhalation. It causes recurrent (undulant) fever, night sweats, arthralgia, hepatosplenomegaly, and a chronic relapsing course, and ranks among the most frequently reported laboratory- and abattoir-acquired infections worldwide (Traxler et al., 2013).
- **Leptospirosis:** *Leptospira* species are shed in the urine of cattle, pigs, and rodents and thrive in the wet abattoir environment, entering through skin abrasions and mucous membranes. Presentations range from a self-limiting febrile illness to severe icterohaemorrhagic disease (Weil’s disease) with jaundice, renal failure, and haemorrhage.
- ***Streptococcus suis* infection:** An emerging occupational hazard of pig and pork handlers, *S. suis* enters through cutaneous wounds to cause bacteraemia, meningitis, and a characteristic permanent sensorineural hearing loss.
- **Erysipeloid:** *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* causes the painful, well-demarcated violaceous cellulitis of the hand long recognised as “pork-butcher’s” or “fish-handler’s” disease, arising from percutaneous inoculation.
- **Other agents:** Bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*), the zoonotic enteric pathogens *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and Shiga-toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157, and the dermatological zoonoses orf (parapoxvirus) and ringworm (dermatophytes) complete a list that touches nearly every worker over a working lifetime on the line.

Recent Evidence from India and Abroad: How Big is the Problem?

Seroprevalence surveys of the past few years confirm that abattoir-

associated zoonoses are neither rare nor historical. In India, the evidence has grown particularly quickly, largely under a One Health lens linking the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with veterinary institutions.

Brucellosis in India: A prospective study of 669 animal handlers in West Bengal (2021–22) found that 15.8% were positive for *Brucella* antibodies by combined Rose Bengal, standard tube agglutination, and ELISA testing—a striking burden among a population routinely exposed to birthing tissues, blood, and slaughter waste (Modak et al., 2024). National burden estimates place India among the highest-incidence countries for human brucellosis, aggravated by low female-calf vaccination coverage and limited awareness of protective measures.

Leptospirosis in India: An ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health study across five districts of Gujarat reported an overall seroprevalence of 46.3% among high-risk occupational groups, with 25.6% among slaughterhouse workers specifically, and higher figures among poultry (56.6%) and cattle-farm (54.5%) workers (Mevada et al., 2024). Prevalent serovars included Hurstbridge, Panama, Javanica, and Tarassovi—useful intelligence for diagnostic panel and vaccine design.

Q fever and international comparisons: India-specific worker data for Q fever remain sparse, but reservoir studies in large ruminants of Bihar and Assam confirm active *C. burnetii* circulation, implying real exposure risk for abattoir personnel (Shome et al., 2019). Internationally, a survey of 382 South African abattoir workers found 33% seropositivity (ranging 8–62% between facilities), with prolonged carcass contact raising the odds more than four-fold (De Boni et al., 2022); an Iranian industrial-abattoir study reported 56% (Khadem-Rezaian et al., 2023); and a global meta-analysis of 19 studies recorded individual worker seroprevalence spanning 4.7% to 91.7% (pooled estimate 26%) (Woldeyohannes et al., 2018). Brucellosis in abattoir workers has been reported at 33.5% in Bauchi, Nigeria (Igawe et al., 2020). Table 2 summarises representative recent figures.

Table: Representative recent seroprevalence data for abattoir-associated zoonoses

Disease / study population	Location	Seroprevalence	Reference (year)
Brucellosis, animal handlers	West Bengal, India	15.8%	Modak et al., 2024
Leptospirosis, slaughterhouse workers	Gujarat, India	25.6%	Mevada et al., 2024
Leptospirosis, high-risk groups (overall)	Gujarat, India	46.3%	Mevada et al., 2024
Q fever (<i>C. burnetii</i> IgG), abattoir workers	South Africa	33%	de Boni et al., 2022
Q fever, industrial abattoir workers	Mashhad, Iran	56%	Khadem-Rezaian et al., 2023
Brucellosis, abattoir workers	Bauchi, Nigeria	33.5%	Igawe et al., 2020
Q fever, range across 19 studies (pooled 26%)	Global	4.7–91.7%	Woldeyohannes et al., 2018

Note: Figures derive from cross-sectional serosurveys using differing assays and case definitions and are not directly comparable; they indicate order of magnitude and the consistently elevated risk in this occupational group.

The practical message is unambiguous: across continents and across pathogens, slaughterhouse work repeatedly emerges as a statistically significant occupational risk factor, and the Indian data now firmly place this among the country’s priority One Health concerns.

Standard Operating Protocols for Health Screening of At-Risk Personnel

A structured occupational-health surveillance programme is the cornerstone of protecting abattoir workers and veterinary professionals. The following protocol consolidates good-practice recommendations from occupational-health and One Health guidance:

Pre-employment (baseline) screening

- **Medical history and clinical examination**, with particular attention to prior febrile illness, skin lesions, and immune status.
- **Baseline serology** for the locally relevant zoonoses—typically brucellosis (RBPT/STAT/ELISA), leptospirosis (IgM ELISA / MAT), and, where indicated, Q fever (*C. burnetii* phase I/II IgG) and tuberculosis screening (IGRA or tuberculin test with chest radiograph).
- **Vaccination review** and administration of recommended vaccines—tetanus, hepatitis B, and, where licensed and available, the Q fever vaccine for previously unexposed high-risk staff (screen before vaccination to avoid severe reactions in the already-sensitised).

Periodic (surveillance) screening

- **Scheduled re-testing** (commonly six-monthly to annually, risk-adjusted) of exposed workers for brucellosis and leptospirosis, with prompt investigation of seroconversion.
- **Active febrile-illness surveillance**: Any worker with unexplained fever, sweats, jaundice, or persistent headache should be evaluated for zoonotic infection, and clinicians explicitly informed of the abattoir occupation.
- **Injury and exposure register**: Documentation of every cut, needlestick, or splash, with post-exposure risk assessment and, where appropriate, prophylaxis (e.g., doxycycline consideration after high-risk leptospiral exposure).

Programme-level requirements

- **Worker education** on zoonosis recognition, transmission routes, and the importance of early self-reporting.
- **Confidential occupational-health records** and linkage between veterinary (animal-health) and human-health data under a One Health reporting structure.
- **Special protection for higher-risk sub-groups**: pregnant workers, immunocompromised individuals, and those handling aborted or diseased material.

Veterinary professionals—inspectors, para-veterinarians, and post-mortem staff—should be enrolled in the same surveillance system, as their exposure profile mirrors that of slaughter-floor workers.

Sterilisation of Instruments and Fumigation of Premises

Because knives, saws, hooks, and work surfaces are continuously contaminated with blood, gut contents, and tissue, disciplined decontamination is essential both for meat hygiene and for worker safety. Recommended practices include:

Sterilisation of metallic cutting instruments

- **Hot-water knife sterilisers**: The standard on-line requirement is immersion of knives, steels, and saws in water maintained at not less than 82 °C (180 °F) between carcasses, allowing a two-knife rotation so one is always being sterilised while the other is in use.
- **Pre-cleaning before sterilising**: Visible organic matter (fat, blood, tissue) must be removed first, because it shields microbes and neutralises heat and chemical action.
- **Autoclaving / dry-heat** for instruments removed from the line and for reusable equipment where feasible; chemical disinfection (e.g., appropriate-concentration hypochlorite, quaternary ammonium, or peracetic-acid preparations) for heat-sensitive items, with adequate contact time.

- **Special caution for anthrax-suspect material**: If anthrax is suspected, the carcass must not be opened; instruments and surfaces that may have been exposed require sporicidal treatment, and disposal/decontamination should follow the competent authority's protocol, as ordinary disinfectants do not reliably kill spores.

Cleaning and fumigation of premises

1. **Daily sanitation cycle**: Removal of gross soil, detergent washing, potable-water rinsing, and application of an approved disinfectant to floors, walls, tables, rails, and equipment at the end of each operating day.
2. **Periodic fumigation/terminal disinfection** of enclosed areas (chill rooms, holding and slaughter halls) using recognised agents and methods, carried out only by trained personnel with the premises vacated and appropriate re-entry times observed.
3. **Pest and rodent control** to interrupt leptospiral and enteric reservoirs, plus effluent and condemned-material management to prevent environmental contamination.
4. **Verification**: Environmental swabbing and microbial monitoring to confirm that cleaning and disinfection are achieving target reductions.

All chemical use should comply with national food-safety and occupational-safety regulations, with attention to worker protection during fumigation and to preventing chemical residues on food-contact surfaces.

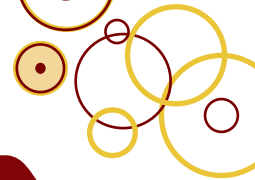
Beyond the Microbial: The Wider Occupational-Health Burden

The abattoir hazard profile is not purely infectious. Meat-processing work carries one of the higher injury rates in the manufacturing sector, arising from lacerations, slips on wet floors, cumulative-trauma disorders from thousands of repetitive high-force knife strokes, and machine-related trauma. Chronic exposure to cold-room temperatures aggravates musculoskeletal disorders; sanitising chemicals and disinfectant vapours cause dermatitis and respiratory irritation; and sustained high machinery noise contributes to occupational hearing loss. Increasingly, the psychological toll of slaughter work—including elevated rates of stress and, in some studies, perpetration-induced traumatic stress—is recognised as a legitimate dimension of occupational health that demands attention alongside physical and biological risk.

Prevention: A One Health, Hierarchy-of-Controls Approach

Almost every hazard described above is preventable through a layered strategy that intervenes at source, in the environment, and at the level of the worker—the classic occupational-hygiene hierarchy of controls, applied within a One Health framework:

1. **Elimination / control at source**: Herd and flock vaccination (e.g., against brucellosis and anthrax in endemic zones), test-and-cull programmes, and accreditation of disease-free source herds remove the pathogen before it reaches the facility.
2. **Ante- and post-mortem inspection**: Systematic veterinary inspection intercepts overtly diseased animals and mandates safe handling of suspect carcasses—an essential barrier against anthrax, tuberculosis, and other conditions.
3. **Engineering controls**: Adequate ventilation and air exchange to disperse infectious aerosols, hygienic facility design, and equipment that minimises splatter and aerosol generation.
4. **Administrative controls**: Standard operating procedures, worker training in zoonosis recognition, vaccination of at-risk personnel where available (e.g., Q fever vaccine in some jurisdictions), rotation to limit repetitive-strain injury, and prompt reporting of febrile illness.
5. **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**: Gloves, cut-resistant



aprons and gauntlets, boots, eye/face protection against splash, and appropriate respiratory protection where airborne agents are plausible.

6. **Personal and medical hygiene:** Immediate wound care and covering of cuts, rigorous hand hygiene, physical separation of eating areas from the slaughter floor, and accessible occupational-health surveillance.

A single behaviour carries disproportionate diagnostic value: an abattoir worker presenting with an unexplained fever should always disclose their occupation. As the opening example illustrates, this single disclosure applies equally to brucellosis, anthrax, and leptospirosis.

Gaps in Research and Future Perspectives

Despite growing awareness, several important gaps remain—each an opportunity for young researchers entering this field:

- **Scarce Indian worker-level data for several pathogens:** Q fever, *S. suis*, and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever remain understudied among Indian abattoir personnel despite documented animal reservoirs; systematic serosurveys are needed.
- **Fragmented surveillance:** Human and animal health data are still poorly integrated; genuinely operational One Health reporting linking abattoirs, veterinary services, and public-health systems is largely aspirational in many regions.
- **Lack of longitudinal (incidence) studies:** Most evidence is cross-sectional seroprevalence; prospective cohorts are required to quantify true infection rates, chronic sequelae, and the real-world effectiveness of interventions.
- **Under-recognised and emerging agents:** Antimicrobial-resistant zoonotic bacteria, hepatitis E virus, and novel respiratory pathogens at the human–animal interface deserve targeted study.
- **Diagnostics and vaccines:** Rapid, field-deployable point-of-care tests and affordable human vaccines (notably for Q fever and brucellosis) are needed, alongside validation of local serovar/genotype panels.
- **Behavioural and mental-health research:** PPE-compliance determinants and the psychological burden of slaughter work remain thinly researched, particularly in low- and middle-income settings.
- **Technology-enabled monitoring:** AI- and sensor-based surveillance of hygiene compliance, air quality, and early illness detection is a promising and largely open avenue.

Progress will depend on interdisciplinary collaboration among veterinary science, medicine, microbiology, occupational health, and data science—an agenda well suited to institutions bridging animal and human health.

Conclusion

Slaughterhouse personnel occupy the critical interface between the farm and the consumer's table, and in doing so they shoulder occupational risks that the wider public rarely considers. The zoonoses of the killing floor—Q fever and woolsorter's disease foremost among them—are not relics of an unhygienic past but present, manageable realities. A One Health approach that integrates animal-health surveillance, veterinary meat inspection, engineered and administrative controls, appropriate PPE, worker education, and medical vigilance can render these silent hazards largely silent for good. A safe abattoir is not only a matter of worker welfare; it is a foundation of a safe meat supply and of public health at large.

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PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC LIVESTOCK ADVANCEMENT

SUSTAINABLE
PRACTICES

From Burden to Black Gold: Harnessing Poultry Waste for Profit and Sustainability in India



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India's poultry sector is among the fastest-growing segments of agriculture, contributing nearly 47–50% of the country's total meat production. With poultry meat now accounting for more than 36% of global meat output, the sector's economic and nutritional significance cannot be overstated. Yet, this remarkable growth brings with it an equally substantial challenge: the generation and management of massive quantities of poultry waste.

Traditionally, materials such as feathers, offal, litter, hatchery discards, and dead birds were viewed as disposal problems; sources of foul odours, groundwater contamination, pathogen spread, and greenhouse gas emissions. However, a decisive paradigm shift is underway. Poultry waste is increasingly recognized not as a liability, but as a rich, multi-faceted resource capable of generating income, improving farm sustainability, and supporting circular agricultural systems.

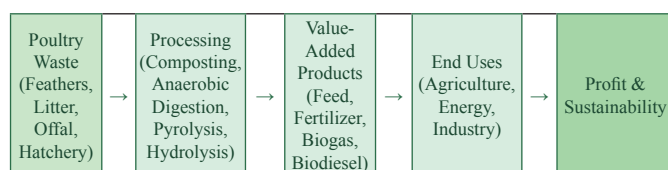
This article explores how Indian poultry farmers, veterinarians, and allied industries can transform waste streams into revenue streams through scientifically validated, economically viable approaches.

The Scale and Complexity of Poultry Waste

Poultry operations generate diverse and substantial waste streams. A single adult broiler bird produces approximately 5.7 kg of litter and manure waste within a 42-day production cycle. At the national scale, this translates into millions of tonnes of solid and liquid waste annually, encompassing feathers, manure, bedding material, eggshells, hatchery discards, blood, offal, and carcasses.

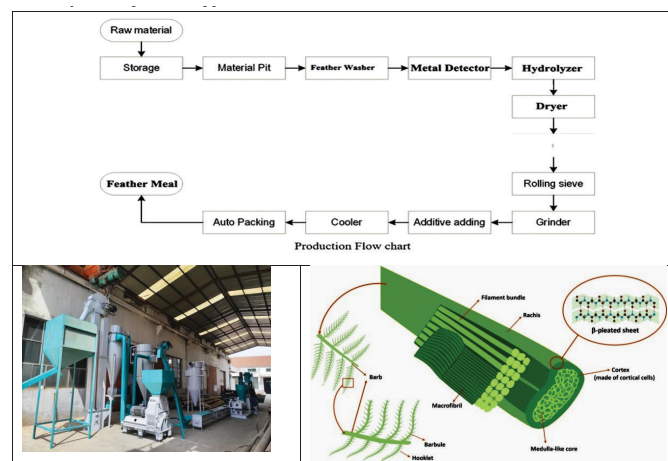
If improperly managed, these wastes pose serious environmental and public health risks: contamination of soil and groundwater with nitrates, phosphates, and pathogens such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*; emission of ammonia, nitrous oxide, and greenhouse gases; fly and rodent infestations; and the spread of zoonotic diseases. Yet, the same waste is chemically and biologically rich, a fact that forward-thinking producers and scientists are now leveraging for profit.

Figure 1. Poultry Waste-to-Wealth Value Chain



Source: Adapted from Zhang et al. (2023), *Sustainability*, 15, 5620

Turning Each Waste Stream into an Opportunity Feathers: From Nuisance to Protein Powerhouse



Poultry feathers comprise 5–10% of a bird's total body weight, and up to 99% of dried feather weight is keratin which is an insoluble, fibrous protein rich in cystine, glutamine, proline, and serine. Through hydrothermal processing (high temperature and pressure), feathers are converted into digestible feather meal, a protein supplement for animal feed. Beyond feed, keratin-based polymers are finding use in biodegradable packaging materials, and extracted lipids can be processed into biodiesel. Even environmental remediation is possible: activated carbon derived from

poultry feathers has demonstrated a heavy metal ion removal rate of up to 97% from wastewater. What was once a disposal nuisance can now replace costly petroleum-based products and synthetic protein supplements.

Poultry Litter: Truly the 'Black Gold' of Livestock

Poultry litter, a mixture of manure, spilled feed, and bedding material is rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, along with essential micronutrients. Research shows that a three-year application of manure compost can increase crop yields by an average of 7–15%, while replacing 30% of chemical nitrogenous fertilizer with compost is an effective strategy to maintain soil fertility and reduce nitrogen loss. Organic produce fertilised by such matter commands nearly double the market price compared to chemically grown equivalents, underscoring the real economic premium available. Beyond soil health, poultry litter is an excellent feedstock for anaerobic digestion, producing methane-rich biogas suitable for heating poultry houses, running farm equipment, or generating electricity.

Offal and Abattoir Waste: Energy and Feed in Disguise

Poultry offal i.e. blood, viscera, heads, and feet may seem hazardous, but it is compositionally rich: approximately 54% lipids, 32% proteins, 5.3% total nitrogen, and significant methane potential. Through rendering, heat treatment converts offal into meat-and-bone meal, a valuable organic fertiliser and feed ingredient comparable to natural nitrogen and phosphorus sources. Anaerobic digestion of offal yields biogas, while high-quality chicken fat from slaughter waste can be trans-esterified into biodiesel at a production cost of less than USD 0.50 per litre in Indian conditions. In Iran, an estimated 736,000 tonnes of annual poultry slaughter waste yields 112 million litres of biodiesel, illustrating the scale of energy opportunity available to India's even larger industry.

Hatchery Waste and Mortality: Underutilised Resources

Hatchery waste i.e. eggshells, infertile eggs, dead embryos, and residual organic matter contains approximately 33% crude protein, making it nutritionally significant. After proper sterilization such as autoclaving, it becomes a safe protein and mineral source for animal feed. Eggshells, rich in calcium, serve as effective soil amendments. For mortality waste, a standard 5% death rate per 42-day cycle still represents thousands of tonnes nationally. Technologies including pyrolysis, gasification, and alkaline hydrolysis can safely process carcass waste while recovering energy and nutrients, eliminating pathogen risks that open dumping creates.

Technological Pathways: From Laboratory to Farm

Six major technological processes underpin the poultry waste-to-wealth transition: composting, anaerobic digestion, pyrolysis, gasification, hydrolysis, and microbial/enzymatic conversion. Composting is cost-effective and widely applicable for litter and manure, significantly improving soil physical and chemical properties. Anaerobic digestion is a mature technology for biogas production, though it requires investment in infrastructure and careful carbon-to-nitrogen ratio management. Pyrolysis converts dry waste into biochar, bio-oil, and syngas. Modelling studies indicate that fast pyrolysis offers the highest return on investment among thermochemical options at scale.

Gasification has been successfully piloted for poultry litter, generating electricity and syngas while reducing greenhouse gas emissions more than direct burning. Enzymatic and microbial conversion processes — while still emerging at industrial scale — offer eco-friendly, low-energy pathways to high-value protein hydrolysates and bioactive peptides from feathers and offal. Innovative approaches such as rearing black soldier fly larvae on poultry litter are gaining traction as a circular bioeconomy technique, simultaneously producing high-quality insect protein for feed and converting waste into compost fertiliser.

Co-processing strategies: Co-digesting poultry manure with agricultural residues, food waste, or municipal organic waste have consistently demonstrated improved biogas yields, shorter processing times, and lower per-unit costs, making them particularly attractive for India's mixed agro-industrial landscape.

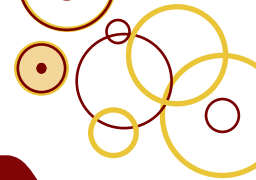


Table 1. Summary of Poultry Waste Utilisation Options, Benefits, and Limitations

Waste Type	Primary Use	Key Benefit	Limitation
Feathers	Feather meal, Biodiesel, Keratin products	~90% keratin protein; replaces costly feed inputs	Processing may reduce amino acid availability
Litter/Manure	Organic fertilizer, Biogas, Compost	Rich N-P-K; boosts crop yields by 7–15%	Overuse may contaminate groundwater
Abattoir/Offal	Meat-bone meal, Biogas, Biodiesel	54% lipids, 32% proteins; high energy value	Risk of pathogen contamination if untreated
Hatchery Waste	Animal feed, Soil amendment, Compost	Protein-rich (~33% CP) and mineral-dense	Requires proper sterilization before use

CP = Crude Protein; N-P-K = Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium

The Triple Bottom Line: Economic, Environmental, and Social Gains

The economic case for waste valorisation is compelling. Biochar produced from poultry waste sells at approximately USD 180 per tonne as a soil conditioner. In Pakistan, modelling suggests that poultry biogas could generate around 280 MWh of electricity daily. In the United Kingdom, using poultry bones, meal, and feathers as polymer feedstock would save 40–60% of CO₂-equivalent emissions compared to conventional methods and generate profits of nearly GBP 1.96 million to the polymer industry alone. For Indian poultry farmers, reduced feed costs through inclusion of processed waste (dried poultry waste contains approximately 28% protein), lower energy bills through on-farm biogas, and premium returns from organic fertiliser; all combine meaningfully to improve margins.

Environmentally, effective waste utilisation reduces ammonia and nitrous oxide emissions, curbs groundwater contamination, lowers greenhouse gas output, and can even repair polluted environments. A poultry litter-based electricity generation process has been found to produce the least carbon emissions when compared to digestate and miscanthus pellets alongside natural gas. The use of poultry slaughterhouse waste blended with commercial diesel decreases smoke emissions by over 47%, while CO₂ adsorption using biochar from poultry litter waste offers a direct carbon capture benefit.

Socially, the industrialisation of poultry waste-to-wealth generates substantial employment. A UK-based analysis found that poultry litter waste from just one week's national production could support more than 37,000 jobs in the value chain. In Louisiana, USA, a single poultry power plant provided 48 direct jobs while contributing over USD 14.5 million in industrial output annually. Critically, proper waste management reduces disease burden: composting processes have been shown to reduce pathogen counts of Salmonella and E. coli to undetectable levels, protecting both farm workers and surrounding communities.

The Road Ahead: Building a Circular Poultry Economy in India

India's poultry industry is uniquely positioned to lead Asia's transition toward circular livestock farming. The key enablers are already in place; a vast and growing waste stream, rising demand for organic agricultural inputs, government interest in renewable energy and rural livelihoods, and an active scientific community. What is still required is the convergence of awareness, infrastructure, policy, and industry collaboration.

From a policy standpoint, incentives for waste-processing infrastructure at the cluster or district level — rather than individual farm installations — would dramatically reduce per-unit costs and make these technologies

accessible to small and medium-scale producers. Veterinarians and extension professionals are pivotal; they are trusted advisors who can bridge laboratory science and practical farm adoption. Including waste valorisation modules in veterinary and animal science curricula will accelerate this knowledge transfer.

Research priorities should shift toward real-world pilots in India's diverse agro-climatic zones, multi-stakeholder feasibility studies, and the development of farmer-friendly processing units. Meanwhile, certification systems for organic fertilisers derived from poultry waste could unlock premium pricing in domestic and export markets.

Conclusion

Poultry waste management is no longer merely an environmental obligation — it is a strategic opportunity. Feathers, offal, litter, hatchery discards, and mortality waste can all be transformed into high-value products: feed, fertiliser, bioenergy, biodiesel, and industrial materials. The science is proven, the economics are favourable, and the need has never been more urgent.

By shifting from a waste-disposal mindset to a waste-utilisation philosophy, India's poultry sector can achieve greater profitability, environmental sustainability, and long-term resilience. In a nation where agriculture and livestock are vital to hundreds of millions of livelihoods, turning poultry waste into wealth is not just innovation — it is a necessity whose time has firmly arrived.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LIVESTOCK WELFARE AND HEALTH

Global Leaders Unite for Animal Health: A Landmark Call to Invest in A Safer, Healthier and More Sustainable World

Ministers and high-level government representatives from across the globe have endorsed a landmark statement at the 93rd General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), calling for urgent and sustained investment in animal health systems amid growing biological threats, climate pressures and pandemic risks.

The high-level political with global commitment comes as WOAH highlights that animal health receives only a small fraction of global health funding, despite its critical role in fulfilling food security, strengthening economies and safeguarding public health worldwide. The declaration, endorsed by 17 Ministers, places animal health and welfare at the centre of global health security, economic resilience and sustainable development.



Emphasising the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health, the One Health approach, the Ministers called for stronger veterinary services, enhanced disease surveillance, improved preparedness and greater

capacity to respond rapidly to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, zoonotic outbreaks and future pandemics.

The declaration also warns that underfunded animal health systems are increasingly vulnerable, particularly in the face of climate change, biodiversity loss and unpredictable disease threats. Robust veterinary services are therefore essential not only for disease prevention but also for protecting livelihoods, strengthening food systems and supporting rural communities.

This landmark political commitment sends a powerful global message: investment in veterinary services, animal disease prevention and animal vaccination must become a global priority. Strengthening animal health is not merely an agricultural responsibility, it is a fundamental investment in human health, food security, economic prosperity and a resilient future for all. (*World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), May 18, 2026.*)

Government Reaffirms Market-Linked Milk Pricing; No Proposal for MSP

The Government of India has clarified that there is no proposal to introduce a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milk, reaffirming that milk procurement prices will continue to be determined by market forces through dairy cooperatives and private processors. Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, stated that milk prices vary according to regional demand and supply, production costs, and quality parameters such as fat and solids-not-fat (SNF), making a uniform national MSP impractical.



By March 2026, more than 36,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies had reportedly been established, while over 31,000 existing societies were strengthened to improve market access for milk producers.

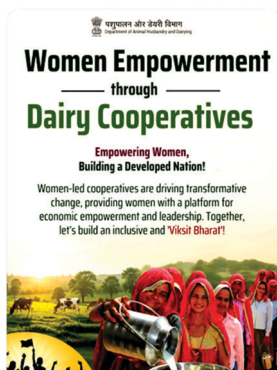
The policy underscores the Government's commitment to promoting a competitive, cooperative-driven dairy sector while continuing investments in infrastructure, quality assurance and sustainable growth, even as discussions on income security for dairy farmers continue. (https://dairynews.today/news/indian_government_maintains_market_linked_pricing_for_milk_8748832.html)

Women-Led Dairy Cooperatives: Empowering Women, Strengthening Rural India

Women-led dairy cooperatives are emerging as powerful engines of rural transformation and inclusive growth, enabling women to become active contributors and leaders in India's dairy economy. By promoting women's participation in milk production, cooperative management and entrepreneurship, these initiatives are enhancing household incomes, economic independence and livelihood security.

Beyond dairy development, women's leadership in cooperatives is fostering confidence, decision-making and community participation, creating a strong foundation for sustainable rural development. Their growing contribution to the dairy sector reflects the transformative power of Nari Shakti and supports the vision of a Viksit Bharat built on inclusive, community-driven growth.

Empowering women through dairy cooperatives is not just strengthening the dairy sector: it is strengthening families, communities and the nation.



Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas: India Strengthens One Health Readiness

India has successfully concluded 'Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas' (PYA), a five-day national-level mock drill conducted from 29 June to 3 July 2026 at Khari village in Vidisha district, Madhya Pradesh. Organised under the National One Health Mission, the exercise tested the country's preparedness and coordinated response to potential zoonotic disease outbreaks.



The drill simulated an Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak in animals, enabling teams to test the complete emergency response chain—from surveillance, early warning and outbreak investigation to sample collection, laboratory diagnosis, risk assessment, containment, biosecurity, movement control and public communication.

The exercise brought together experts and agencies from animal and human health, wildlife, food safety, laboratories and district administration, including DAHD, ICAR, NCDC, ICMR and other national and state-level stakeholders.

The concluding debriefing reviewed operational gaps and highlighted the need to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination, emergency protocols and resilient veterinary systems. The successful exercise reaffirmed India's commitment to the One Health approach and its ability to detect, contain and respond rapidly to emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases.

Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas sends a powerful message: preparedness, collaboration and One Health are the frontline defenses against the next zoonotic threat.

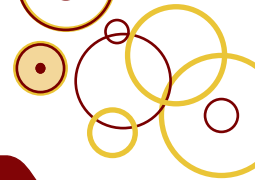
Kanha's Tigers Suspected Canine Distemper Threat

A serious wildlife health concern has emerged from Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, where a tigress and her four sub-adult cubs reportedly died within a short span in April 2026, with Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) suspected as a possible cause. The incident has raised renewed concerns about the vulnerability of India's iconic tiger populations to infectious diseases and the potential role of domestic and feral dogs in transmitting pathogens to wildlife.

According to reports, the deaths began with the tigress's cubs, which died in rapid succession between April 21 and 29, followed by the death of the tigress and the remaining cub at a quarantine facility. Initial examinations reportedly indicated lung infections, while samples were subsequently collected for laboratory and forensic investigation. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has maintained a comprehensive national database of tiger mortalities, with post-mortem, forensic and laboratory evidence used to determine the causes of death.

The Kanha episode has assumed even greater significance as subsequent reports indicated that six tiger deaths were linked to CDV, prompting close surveillance of more than 100 tigers in the reserve. An expert team reportedly recommended a scientific sero-prevalence study of stray dogs and cats in areas surrounding Kanha to assess viral circulation and help formulate long-term disease-prevention strategies.

The Kanha deaths serve as a wake-up call for strengthening wildlife disease surveillance, veterinary diagnostic capacity, systematic health monitoring and responsible management of free-ranging dog populations.



around protected areas. Protecting India's tigers requires not only habitat conservation and anti-poaching measures but also robust veterinary preparedness to detect and control emerging infectious diseases before they threaten vulnerable wildlife populations. (*National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA); Times of India reports, May 2026*).

Disease Threat Looms Over Gir's Asiatic Lions

A fresh disease scare in Gujarat's Gir landscape, the world's last natural stronghold of the Asiatic lion, has raised serious concerns over the health and long-term conservation of this globally threatened species. In late May 2026, reports of multiple lion deaths, particularly among cubs, triggered an intensive disease-control and surveillance response by the Gujarat Forest Department.

The situation has been linked to suspected *Babesia* infection, a tick-borne parasitic disease, with growing concern that Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) may also be involved. Reports indicate that the deaths occurred over a short period and that several lions were isolated and monitored, while biological samples were sent for laboratory confirmation. Subsequent reporting suggested that 11 lions had died, while other infected animals responded to treatment and were later released after recovery.



A male Asiatic lion in Gir. Photo: iStock

The current episode has inevitably revived memories of the devastating 2018 disease outbreak, when a combination of CDV and *Babesia* was associated with the deaths of 11 Asiatic lions. The recurrence of a potentially similar disease pattern is particularly alarming because the entire wild population of the Asiatic lion is concentrated in the Gir landscape and its surrounding areas.

The threat is not merely about individual animal mortality, it represents a major wildlife conservation and One Health challenge. CDV can circulate at the wildlife-domestic animal interface, while *Babesia* is transmitted by ticks, highlighting the complex interaction between infectious diseases, vectors, domestic animals and wildlife. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has also recognised CDV as an important disease risk for India's wild carnivores and has documented the historical impact of CDV outbreaks on Asiatic lions.

The latest outbreak underscores the urgent need for continuous disease surveillance, rapid molecular and serological diagnostics, systematic tick and vector monitoring, health screening of lions, vaccination and disease surveillance in domestic and free-ranging dogs around protected areas, and strengthened wildlife veterinary infrastructure.

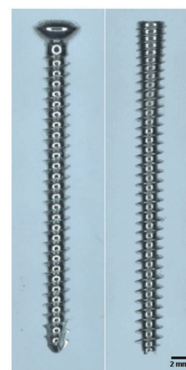
The Gir episode is a powerful reminder that conservation cannot stop at protecting habitat and preventing poaching. For a species as precious and geographically concentrated as the Asiatic lion, preventing and controlling infectious diseases must be placed at the heart of wildlife conservation policy. A coordinated One Health strategy involving wildlife veterinarians, forest authorities, epidemiologists, parasitologists, microbiologists and public-health experts is essential to prevent a localized outbreak from becoming a catastrophe for India's iconic lion population.

The message is unequivocal: protecting the Asiatic lion requires protecting its health and every warning sign must be acted upon before history repeats itself. (Recent reports from The New Indian Express, India Today, The Economic Times and National Tiger Conservation Authority).

Variable-Pitch Headless Screws Deliver Superior Fracture Compression

A recent study by Australian scientists, published in 'Animals' journal, provides biomechanical evidence supporting the use of variable-pitch headless compression screws (VPHCS) over conventional cortical screws for fracture fixation (Fig). The investigation compared the interfragmentary compression generated by the two implant types using a standardized polyurethane foam block model designed to simulate cancellous bone.

Interfragmentary compression is a critical determinant of primary bone healing, particularly in articular and metaphyseal fractures where absolute stability is essential. The researchers demonstrated that VPHCS consistently produced significantly greater compressive forces than standard cortical screws. This enhanced compression results from the differential thread pitch between the leading and trailing threads, which draws the fracture fragments together as the screw is tightened. In contrast, conventional cortical screws rely on the 'lag-screw principle' and are generally less efficient in generating compression under comparable conditions.



The findings have important implications for both veterinary and human orthopaedic surgery. Improved interfragmentary compression enhances construct stability, promotes direct bone healing, and reduces micromotion at the fracture site, making it particularly important for the osteosynthesis of articular and periarticular fractures. VPHCS, being headless, also offer the advantage of countersunk placement, reducing implant prominence and soft tissue irritation, thereby making them particularly suitable for periarticular fractures and osteochondral fragment fixation.

Despite being an in vitro study, the findings support the clinical use of VPHCS and warrant further validation through cadaveric and clinical studies. This study provides valuable evidence to guide implant selection and improve fracture management in veterinary orthopaedics. (Source: <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani16071126>)

Novel Strategy to Eliminate Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues to pose one of the greatest challenges to global public health, reducing the effectiveness of antibiotics and increasing the burden of infectious diseases. Among the most common mechanisms of bacterial resistance is the production of β -lactamase, an enzyme that inactivates β -lactam antibiotics such as penicillins and cephalosporins. Addressing this challenge requires innovative therapeutic strategies that specifically target resistant pathogens.

Researchers have recently developed an activatable photosensitizer capable of selectively accumulating in β -lactamase-expressing bacteria. The β -lactamase enzyme produced by resistant bacteria triggers the release of the photosensitizer, allowing it to accumulate preferentially within resistant bacterial cells. Upon exposure to light of an appropriate wavelength, the activated photosensitizer generates highly reactive oxygen species (ROS), which damage essential cellular components of the bacteria, including membranes, proteins, and nucleic acids. This process, known as photodynamic antimicrobial therapy (aPDT). Importantly, because activation occurs specifically in β -lactamase-producing bacteria, susceptible bacterial populations are largely spared, thereby minimizing collateral damage to the normal microbiota. This novel approach has shown promising efficacy against clinically relevant resistant bacteria. (Source: <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2536405123>)

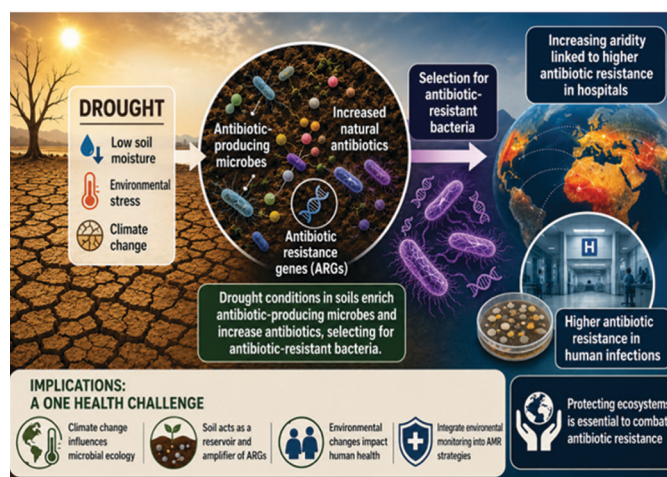
The development of enzyme-activated antimicrobial agents represents a significant advance in precision medicine. Beyond treating infections, such selective antimicrobial strategies may help preserve the beneficial microbiome, reduce unnecessary antimicrobial exposure, and improve long-term antibiotic stewardship. Although additional preclinical and clinical trials are needed to evaluate safety, efficacy, and practical clinical implementation, the enzyme-responsive photodynamic therapy may emerge as a valuable addition to the next generation of targeted antimicrobial interventions.

Drought Identified as a Driver of Antibiotic Resistance in Soils

Antibiotic resistance is widely recognized as one of the most serious global health threats of the 21st century. While the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in medical and veterinary medicine are well-established causes of antimicrobial resistance, a recent study published in *Nature Microbiology* has identified climate-induced drought as another important contributing factor towards antibiotic resistance (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41564-026-02274-x.pdf>).

The findings highlighted an important link between climate change and the emergence of antibiotic resistance. Researchers demonstrated that drought conditions enrich antibiotic-producing microorganisms in soils and increase the concentration of naturally occurring antibiotics as soil moisture declines. This creates a strong selective pressure favoring antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The study analyzed soil microbiomes from diverse ecosystems and geographic regions and found consistent enrichment of antibiotic resistance genes under drought conditions. Notably, the authors also reported a significant association between regional aridity and hospital antibiotic resistance rates across 116 countries, highlighting a potential connection between environmental change and public health.



The findings highlight the need to consider climate-driven ecological changes as an emerging factor in the global antibiotic resistance crisis and emphasize the importance of integrating environmental monitoring into antimicrobial resistance mitigation strategies.

SPLENDOUR SHINING VETERINARIANS

Prof B N Tripathi Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, United Kingdom

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) [NAVS(I)] takes immense pride in congratulating its esteemed Fellow (2007-08), Prof Bhupendra Nath Tripathi, FRCPath, Vice-Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), on his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology (FRSB), United Kingdom. This prestigious international distinction is a significant recognition of his distinguished and sustained contributions to veterinary sciences, animal health, agricultural research, and higher education, and brings further honour to the veterinary profession in India.



A globally respected veterinarian, veterinary pathologist, academician, and scientific leader with more than three decades of experience, Prof Tripathi obtained his BVSc & AH from Veterinary College, Mathura, followed by MVSc and PhD degrees from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar. He has rendered exemplary service in several eminent positions, including Deputy Director General (Animal Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Director, ICAR-National Research Centre on Camel (NRCE), Bikaner; and Director, National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Baghpat. He has also served as Head of the Animal Health Division at the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, and as Director of the ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar. His international academic experience includes postdoctoral research at the Institute for Animal Health, Compton, UK, and the Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Prof Tripathi has made seminal contributions to veterinary pathology, immunopathobiology, immunology, molecular diagnosis, and the control of infectious diseases of animals. He has authored more than 250 research papers, books, policy documents, and national action plans, besides contributing to important diagnostics, patents, and vaccine technologies, including Ancovax and Lumpi-ProVac. His distinguished career has been

recognised through several national and international honours, including the Jain & Vegad Outstanding Pathologist Award, Best Teacher Award at IVRI, the Wellcome Trust Fellowship, and numerous best research paper, poster, and thesis awards. He is a Fellow of several prestigious scientific academies and professional bodies, including the Royal College of Pathologists, London (FRCPath), NAAS and NAVS(I).

NAVS(I) conveys its warmest and heartfelt congratulations to Prof Tripathi on this well-deserved international honour on his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, United Kingdom and wishes him continued success in his endeavours to advance veterinary science, agricultural research, education, and societal development.

Dr Yashpal Singh Malik Takes Charge as Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), ICAR

Dr Yashpal Singh Malik, a distinguished veterinarian, virologist, scientist, and Governing Council Member of NAVS (India), has been appointed as Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi.



Dr Malik brings to this prestigious position an impressive record of scientific excellence and academic leadership, with significant contributions to viral epidemiology, animal health, zoonotic diseases, molecular diagnostics, and vaccine development. His pioneering work has strengthened the scientific understanding of infectious diseases and contributed to advancing strategies for disease prevention, control, and public health.

An accomplished researcher and academician, Dr. Malik has received several national honours and fellowships and has authored numerous scientific publications and reference books. His expertise in veterinary virology and infectious diseases, coupled with his commitment to education and capacity building, makes his new role particularly significant.

As Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), Dr. Malik is expected to provide visionary leadership in strengthening agricultural and veterinary

education, quality assurance, innovation, research, and human-resource development across the ICAR–Agricultural Universities system.

NAVS (India) extends its warmest congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Yashpal Singh Malik as Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), ICAR for a highly successful and impactful tenure. His extraordinary achievement is a matter of great pride for the veterinary profession and the entire NAVS (India) fraternity.

Global Honour for Two Poultry Scientists of ICAR-CARI

Dr. Jaydip Rokade and Dr. Sandeep Saran of the ICAR–Central Avian Research Institute (CARI), Bareilly, UP (India) have been honoured with the World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA) Education Award 2026 at the XXVII World's Poultry Congress held in



Toronto, Canada from 13 to 17, 2026 July. The coveted award, carries a cash prize of USD 15,000 along with a citation and marks a historic milestone as they are the first Asians to receive the global honor, with Dr. Rokade also recognized as the youngest veterinarian to ever receive the award.

This award recognizes their outstanding contribution to rural outreach through training over 6,500 rural youth and women in scientific poultry farming, leading to the establishment of more than 200 poultry-based enterprises and improved livelihoods. Together, they have transformed poultry education through innovative digital learning modules, cutting-edge research, technology commercialization, and extensive rural outreach programs. Their initiatives have empowered thousands of students, farmers, rural women, and young entrepreneurs by equipping them with technical knowledge, practical skills, and opportunities to build sustainable livelihoods in the poultry sector. This honour highlights India's growing global leadership in poultry research, extension, and rural development.



Dr B Subrahmanyeswari Represents India at Prestigious Global Organic Animal Husbandry Conference

Dr (Mrs) B. Subrahmanyeswari, Professor & University Head, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Andhra Pradesh, Associate Fellow of NAVS (India) and recipient of the Dr R. K. Sharma Memorial Award for Excellence in Veterinary Extension Education (NAVS Convocation



2025), proudly represented India at the International Conference on "Organic Animal Husbandry: A Role Model for the Future of Livestock?" held at FiBL, Switzerland (28–30 April 2026). She presented her research on indigenous cattle and organic production, contributed to the plenary deliberations on organic animal husbandry in Asia, and received financial support from the conference organizers in recognition of her scientific contribution.

GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERIES ANOBEL LEGACY

India licenses indigenous lumpy skin disease vaccine technology for wider production



ICAR–National Research Centre on Equines and ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute have transferred their indigenous homologous live-attenuated vaccine technology for lumpy skin disease to Brilliant Bio Pharma, Hyderabad. ICAR reported that the vaccine was developed specifically for cattle, was safe across age groups and produced a strong cell-mediated immune response. The company became the sixth manufacturer to receive the technology.

The licensing agreement, valued at ₹75 lakh plus GST with a five per cent royalty on sales, is intended to support large-scale production and wider field availability. The development is important because lumpy skin disease can cause fever, skin nodules, reduced milk production, infertility and substantial economic losses. Expanding the number of licensed manufacturers can improve vaccine supply, reduce dependence on emergency procurement and strengthen India's preparedness for future outbreaks, provided manufacturing quality, cold-chain integrity and post-vaccination monitoring are maintained.

Source: <https://www.icar.gov.in/en/lumpy-skin-disease-lsd-vaccine-technology-commercialized-m-s-brilliant-bio-pharma-pvt-ltd-hyderabad>

ICAR Honours Indigenous Goat-Synch® as Best Technology

In a significant recognition of India's advancing capabilities in livestock reproductive biotechnology, the Goat-Synch® intra-vaginal sponge technology developed by the ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Goats (ICAR-CIRG), Mathura, has been honoured as one of the "Best Technologies" by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during its 98th Foundation Day celebrations held in New Delhi.



The prestigious recognition was conferred in the august presence of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The ceremony was also attended by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj; Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj; Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare; and Shri Ram Nath Thakur, Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, highlighting the national importance of the achievement.

Goat-Synch® is an indigenously developed, progesterone-impregnated intra-vaginal sponge designed for estrus induction, synchronization, and fixed-time artificial insemination (AI) in goats. Developed under the leadership of Dr. Manish Kumar Chatli, Director, ICAR-CIRG, the technology is the result of the dedicated efforts of Dr. Y. K. Soni, Dr. S. D. Kharche, Dr. S. P. Singh, Dr. Ravi Ranjan, Dr. A. K. Goel, and Dr. M. K. Singh.

The technology offers a practical and economical reproductive management tool by synchronizing estrus in a large proportion of does within a predetermined period. This facilitates planned kidding, reduces labour and breeding costs, ensures year-round availability of goat milk and meat, enhances adoption of artificial insemination, and accelerates genetic improvement through the use of semen from elite breeding bucks. Extensive validation under both organized farm and field conditions involving more than 1,000 goats across diverse agro-climatic regions has demonstrated fertility responses of up to 90%, confirming its reliability and field applicability.

Reflecting its commercial potential, Goat-Synch® has already been licensed to entrepreneurs in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, paving the way for large-scale adoption by goat farmers across the country. In addition to this landmark recognition, five other technologies developed by ICAR-CIRG also received ICAR certification, underscoring the institute's sustained contributions to innovation in animal science.

Congratulating the scientific team, Dr. Raghvendra Bhatta, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR, and Dr. Manish Kumar Chatli, Director, ICAR-CIRG, lauded the researchers for this remarkable accomplishment. The national recognition of Goat-Synch® represents a major milestone in strengthening reproductive efficiency, genetic improvement, and sustainable goat production, reaffirming ICAR-CIRG's leadership in delivering farmer-centric technologies for the livestock sector.

ACADEMIA REFLECTIONS

SCHOLASTIC CONNECTIONS

Vantara Launches Global Wildlife and Veterinary University Wildlife Health in Focus in India

In a landmark development for wildlife conservation and veterinary education, Vantara has announced the launch of Vantara University in Jamnagar, Gujarat, envisioned as the world's first integrated global university dedicated specifically to wildlife conservation and veterinary sciences. Founded by Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani, the university seeks to position India as a global hub for advanced, compassionate, and science-driven wildlife education.

Envisioned as a modern-day Gurukul, Vantara University will bring together veterinary medicine, wildlife science, conservation, research, and One Health within a unified academic ecosystem. Its programmes are expected to span undergraduate, postgraduate, fellowship, and specialized courses in wildlife medicine and surgery, nutrition, behavioural sciences, genetics, epidemiology, conservation policy, and naturalistic animal-care environment design.

Drawing upon Vantara's extensive field experience in wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, healthcare, and conservation, the university aims to transform practical expertise into globally relevant academic programmes and research. Its educational model will integrate *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, linking natural habitats with advanced scientific care and long-term wildlife welfare.

The institution will be supported by advanced academic and clinical infrastructure, international collaborations, action-oriented research, and a residential campus. Scholarships, including the 'Every Life Matters' initiative, are intended to expand opportunities for students from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The launch marks a significant step towards building a new generation of veterinary professionals, conservation scientists, and wildlife leaders equipped to address biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and emerging wildlife health challenges. With its vision of combining compassion, science, and conservation, Vantara University has the potential to place India at the forefront of global wildlife and veterinary education.

Shalihotra Institute of Veterinary Ayurveda: A Historic Milestone in Veterinary Education

The Deendayal Kamdhenu Gaushala Samiti has established the Shalihotra Institute of Veterinary Ayurveda (SIVA) at Gau-Gram, Parkham, Mathura, marking a significant milestone in the field of veterinary education. The Institute is envisioned as a pioneering institution dedicated to veterinary education, training, research, and clinical services based on India's rich indigenous knowledge systems and the time-honoured principles of Veterinary Ayurveda.

The Institute has the potential to emerge as a nationally and globally recognized Centre of Excellence for Veterinary Ayurveda, cow conservation, education, research, innovation, and evidence-based clinical practice. It is committed to preserving, promoting, scientifically validating, and globally disseminating India's rich indigenous veterinary knowledge systems, in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.



From the current academic session, the Institute proposes to commence Two-Year Diploma programmes in Veterinary Pharmacy and Livestock Extension. The process of obtaining affiliation from Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go-Anusandhan Sansthan (DUVASU), Mathura, for these programmes is currently underway. Beginning next year, the Institute also plans to introduce an Online One-Year Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Ayurveda, opening new opportunities for veterinarians and animal health professionals across the country.



Brig. (Retd.) Dr. C. P. Churamani has joined the Institute as its Founder Principal, bringing extensive experience, academic insight, and visionary leadership to guide this pioneering initiative.

A state-of-the-art Molecular Biology and Translational Research Laboratory, along with Central Instrumentation Facilities equipped with advanced scientific instruments and modern animal research laboratories, is currently under development. These advanced facilities are being established to scientifically investigate and validate India's traditional indigenous knowledge systems, including cow-based Panchagavya, through rigorous evidence-based research, innovation, and translational studies.

The Shalihotra Institute of Veterinary Ayurveda represents a unique convergence of India's ancient wisdom and modern scientific excellence. With its emphasis on education, research, innovation, evidence-based validation, sustainable livestock healthcare, and animal welfare, the Institute is poised to make a significant contribution to the advancement of Veterinary Ayurveda in India and beyond. It also has the potential to contribute meaningfully to the broader vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat @2047.

Prof. K. M. L. Pathak, Former Vice-Chancellor, DUVASU, Mathura, said: *"Being associated with this pioneering initiative dedicated to nation-building, the advancement and scientific validation of India's indigenous knowledge traditions, animal welfare, and service to society is a matter of immense pride and privilege for me."*

New Book Release: Fourth Edition of *Applied Nutrition Non-Ruminants*

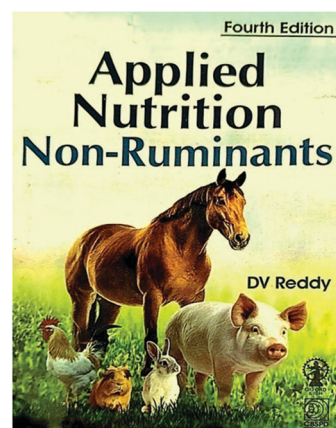
The Fourth Edition of *Applied Nutrition Non-Ruminants*, authored by Prof. D V Reddy, is a timely and valuable addition to the literature on animal nutrition and feeding. The book is designed to meet the academic and professional needs of undergraduate veterinary students, postgraduate and doctoral scholars, teachers, researchers, veterinarians, and animal husbandry and extension professionals.

This comprehensive volume covers the essential principles and practical applications of nutrition in non-ruminant animals, including poultry, swine, horses, rabbits, and laboratory animals. Key areas addressed include digestion and absorption of nutrients, regulation and prediction of feed intake, species-specific nutrition, body composition, foodstuffs and nutrients, production of healthy animal products, and the use of

unconventional or less-popular feed resources.

The fourth edition is particularly timely, incorporating the ICAR (2024) Nutrient Requirements and Chicken Feed Specifications (Sixth Revision; BIS, 2024) and covering emerging nutritional concepts, including antibiotic growth promoters and their alternatives for improving gut health.

Written in a clear and reader-friendly style, the book effectively bridges fundamental principles with practical applications. It is an invaluable resource for students, teachers, researchers, and professionals in veterinary and animal sciences. NAVS (India) NEWS VIBES congratulates Prof D V Reddy on this outstanding scholarly contribution to the field of animal nutrition.



Growing International Impact of Indian Veterinary and Animal Scientists

The latest *Research.com Best Scientists in Animal Science and Veterinary* ranking provides a global snapshot of research excellence based on discipline-specific citation impact (D-index) and scientific productivity. The ranking also reports discipline-specific citations, publications, and national and global standings, providing a focused assessment of scholarly influence in the domain of Animal Science and Veterinary Sciences.

Overall, the ranking is dominated by scientists from the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and several European countries, reflecting their long-established investments in animal and veterinary research. Among Asian nations, China has emerged as a major contributor with several researchers occupying leading global positions, while Japan and South Korea also maintained a strong presence.

India continues to strengthen its footprint in the field, with an increasing number of veterinary and animal scientists gaining international visibility through high-impact publications and citations. In the latest 2026 ranking list, 16 scientists from the field of veterinary and animal sciences secured ranking whose minimum D-index was 20. This includes 12 scientists from the central Govt (ICAR, ICAR-IVRI, ICAR-NIVEDI, NIANP, CIFE, University of Hyderabad, Biotech Park Lucknow and CSWRI) and 4 from the State Govt funded institutions (WBUAFS, TANUVAS, GADVASU and University of Lucknow) (<https://research.com/scientists-rankings/animal-science-and-veterinary/in>).

Dr. A. K. Patra and Dr. Y. P. S. Malik secured the first and second positions, respectively, among Indian scientists and achieved global rankings within the top 500 scientists worldwide. The ranking underscores the growing contribution of Indian researchers particularly from the state funded institutions towards enhancing global knowledge in animal health, livestock production, nutrition, reproduction, and disease management.

INSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBER (NGO)



CORPORATE LIFE MEMBER



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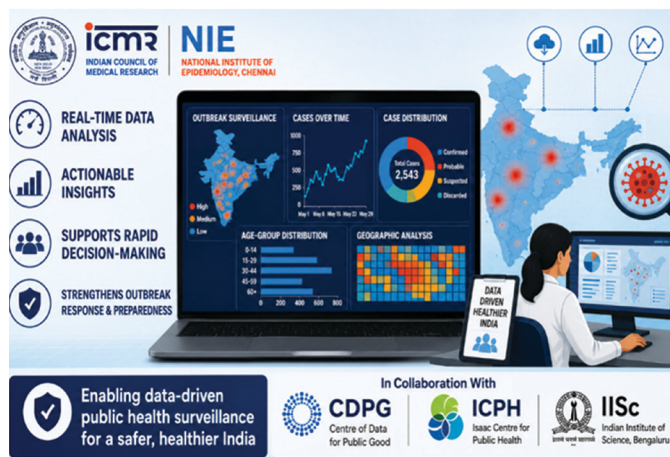
BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES SISTER SCIENCES

ICMR-NIE Launches Advanced Data Analytics Platform for Outbreak Response

The Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE), Chennai, has launched ADARV (Advanced Data Analytics for Public Health Action and Research Venture), a first-of-its-kind data analytics platform aimed at strengthening India's epidemic intelligence and outbreak response capabilities.

Developed in collaboration with the Centre of Data for Public Good (CDPG) and the Isaac Centre for Public Health (ICPH) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, the platform enables rapid analysis of outbreak data and supports real-time public health decision-making.

ADARV allows health professionals to generate actionable epidemiological insights without requiring specialized statistical software, thereby facilitating faster and more effective responses to disease outbreaks. The initiative is expected to enhance data-driven public health surveillance and preparedness across the country. (Source: <https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news>)



FAIMA Survey Highlights Severe Sleep Deprivation and Burnout Among Resident Doctors

A nationwide survey conducted by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) has raised serious concerns over the working conditions and well-being of resident doctors across India. The Resident Wellbeing Survey (RMS) 2.0, involving 1,260 resident doctors from 28 States and Union Territories, revealed that nearly 87% of doctors experience sleep deprivation, while about 62% reported working continuously for more than 36 hours without adequate rest. The survey also documented widespread burnout, excessive workload, staff shortages and insufficient post-duty recovery time. Medical experts have cautioned that prolonged duty hours and chronic sleep deprivation not only jeopardize the physical and mental health of doctors but may also adversely affect patient safety and the quality of healthcare delivery. FAIMA has urged policymakers and healthcare institutions to implement reforms aimed at regulating duty hours, strengthening



manpower, improving workplace conditions and providing better mental health support for medical professionals.

The findings have reignited the debate on balancing rigorous medical training with physician well-being, emphasizing that protecting the health of healthcare providers is essential for ensuring safe and effective patient care. (Medical Dialogues – “87% Doctors Sleep Deprived, 62% Work Over 36 Hours at a Stretch: FAIMA Survey”.)

India Approves First Dengue Vaccine: Major Milestone in Dengue Prevention

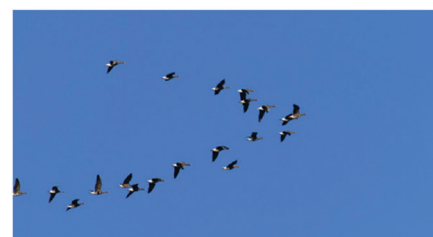
In a significant public health milestone, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has approved Qdenga®, dengue vaccine, for the prevention of dengue in individuals aged 4–60 years. Developed by Takeda GmbH, Germany, the recombinant live attenuated tetravalent vaccine will be imported and marketed in India by Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India Pvt. Ltd.

The approval follows a comprehensive scientific evaluation of the vaccine's quality, safety and efficacy under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Qdenga® is administered as two subcutaneous doses (0.5 ml each) at an interval of three months. Clinical studies conducted across more than eight countries, including a pivotal Phase III trial in India, demonstrated a favourable safety profile and protective efficacy. The vaccine has already been approved in 42 countries, has received WHO prequalification, and over 24 million doses have been distributed globally.

The introduction of India's first dengue vaccine is expected to strengthen ongoing dengue control efforts by complementing vector control, disease surveillance, early diagnosis and clinical management under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme. The approval represents a major advance in India's fight against one of the country's most important mosquito-borne viral diseases. (<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2286883®=48&lang=1>)

How Migratory Birds Navigate Thousands of Kilometres: The Science of Magnetoreception

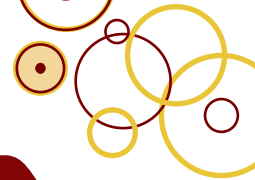
Migratory birds undertake some of the most extraordinary journeys in the animal kingdom, travelling thousands of kilometres with remarkable precision between breeding and wintering grounds. Species such as the Bar-headed Goose, which migrates annually from Siberia and Central Asia to the Indian subcontinent, return to the same destinations year after year despite crossing mountains, wetlands and vast oceans.



A flock of geese flies in a V-formation | Photo Credit: Getty Images/iStockPhoto

Recent research has highlighted the role of magnetoreception—the ability to detect the Earth's magnetic field—as one of the key mechanisms guiding these remarkable journeys. Birds are believed to integrate magnetic cues with the position of the sun and stars, polarized light patterns, visual landmarks and an internal biological clock to maintain accurate navigation over long distances. Specialized light-sensitive proteins, known as cryptochromes in the retina, together with magnetically sensitive receptors, are thought to contribute to this natural “biological compass.”

Understanding avian migration has significance beyond ecology. Migratory birds play important roles in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem health, and the long-distance movement of pathogens of veterinary and public health importance, including avian influenza viruses. Continued research on migration biology and navigation mechanisms will strengthen wildlife conservation strategies, disease surveillance programmes and the One Health approach that links animal, human and environmental health. (Source: *The Hindu* (Young World), “How Migratory Birds Find Their Way.”)



TIDBITS SOUPCON

Pet Intelligence Decoded: Why Dogs and Cats Excel in Different Ways

The long-standing debate over whether dogs or cats are smarter has received fresh scientific attention. According to neuroscientific research, dogs possess about 530 million neurons in the cerebral cortex, compared with approximately 250 million in cats. Since the cerebral cortex is associated with learning, planning and problem-solving, scientists suggest that dogs may have an advantage in social intelligence and adaptability.



Cat taking a selfie at home with dog

However, researchers caution that intelligence cannot be judged solely by neuron count. Dogs have evolved alongside humans and are generally more responsive to training, communication and cooperative tasks. Cats, on the other hand, demonstrate intelligence in different ways. Studies have shown that they recognize their names, interpret human emotions, follow gestures, and develop strong bonds with their owners, although they are often less inclined to cooperate in experimental settings.

Scientists therefore conclude that while dogs may excel in social cognition and trainability, cats possess cognitive abilities shaped by their evolutionary history as independent hunters. Rather than declaring a definitive winner, current research suggests that both species are highly intelligent, each adapted to solve different ecological and behavioural challenges. (*Futura Sciences*, “Dogs or Cats: Which Is Actually Smarter, According to Science?” Available at: Futura Sciences article)

Decoding Birdsong Brings Human–Animal Communication Closer

Dr Julie Elie at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded the 2026 Collier-Dolittle prize worth \$100,000 for two-way interspecies communication after working out the 11 core calls in the zebra finch vocabulary and their meanings.



Her work revealed how the birds announce who they are and what they are doing, and recognize one another regardless of what they are saying by using individual signatures. She also found that at times, the birds confused calls with similar meanings more than those that sounded the same.

The breakthrough highlights the growing role of AI in deciphering animal languages and could have far-reaching implications for wildlife conservation, animal welfare, and the study of animal cognition. Although true two-way human–animal communication remains a future goal, this work marks an important milestone toward understanding how animals exchange information.

Dogs and Humans Share Molecular Markers of Aging

A landmark study from the Dog Aging Project has revealed striking similarities between dogs and humans in blood-based metabolic markers associated with mortality, strengthening the potential of companion dogs as powerful models for understanding human aging.

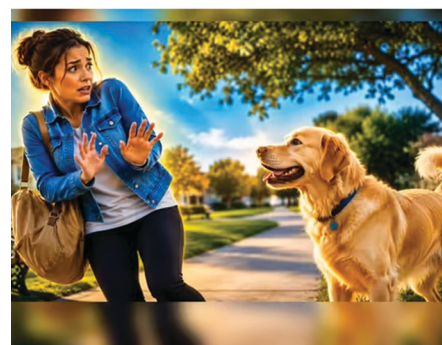
Published in *The Journal of Gerontology: Series A*, the study analyzed plasma samples from 937 dogs followed longitudinally. Researchers examined 133 metabolites and identified 23 significantly associated with all-cause mortality. Remarkably, patterns observed in dogs closely matched findings from multiple independent human studies. Some of the shared metabolites were associated with kidney function, suggesting that common biological pathways may contribute to aging and mortality across both species.

Unlike traditional human studies that may require decades of follow-up, dogs have shorter lifespans and share many aspects of human environments, lifestyles and age-related diseases. This makes them especially valuable for translational geroscience.

The findings open exciting possibilities for using metabolomic biomarkers to understand aging, predict health risks and identify interventions that may extend healthy lifespan, potentially benefiting both humans and their canine companions. (DOI: 10.1093/gerona/glaf279).

Afraid, Not Unkind: Understanding Why Some People Fear Dogs

Not everyone who fears dogs dislikes animals, and psychology says we should not be too quick to judge. While dogs are celebrated as “man’s best friend,” some people experience genuine anxiety when a dog approaches, even when the animal is friendly or familiar.



Such fear may stem from past traumatic experiences, childhood encounters, learned fears or a lack of positive exposure to dogs. For some individuals, the sight or sound of a barking or approaching dog can trigger an instinctive fear response, leading them to avoid parks, streets or situations where dogs are present.

Psychologists emphasize that these reactions are not necessarily signs of animal hatred or unkindness. Fear is a complex emotional response, and people may respond differently to animals based on their individual experiences and perceptions.

The message is clear: empathy should come before judgment. Understanding the reasons behind a person’s fear can help create a more compassionate society, one that respects both people who love animals and those who may need patience and understanding to feel safe around them.

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.

SPOTLIGHT FROM ABROAD

SHAPING FUTURE ANIMAL CARE

WOAH Flags Global Risk from FMD SAT1



The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) issued an international alert after foot-and-mouth disease virus serotype SAT1 was detected beyond its historically recognized African range. WOAH reported outbreaks in previously free areas across Southern Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, raising concerns for livestock production, food security, rural livelihoods and international trade.

WOAH asked countries to strengthen early warning, clinical surveillance and diagnostic capacity, report confirmed outbreaks rapidly through World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), and characterize circulating viruses through genotyping and antigenic matching. Veterinary authorities were also advised to reassess vaccine composition, animal-movement risks and national contingency plans. The warning is significant because immunity against one FMD serotype does not reliably protect against another, meaning that vaccine banks and routine programs must contain antigens that match the strains actually circulating. (<https://www.woah.org/en/woah-calls-for-action-on-foot-and-mouth-disease-sat1-international-spread/>)

Global Report Warns That Animal Health Receives Only a Fraction of Total Health Spending



WOAH's 2026 State of the World's Animal Health report warned that animal health may receive as little as 0.6 per cent of global health spending, despite animal diseases destroying more than 20 per cent of global animal production each year. The report linked underinvestment with delayed disease detection, larger outbreaks, food insecurity, trade losses and weaker pandemic prevention at the human-animal interface.

WOAH reported more than 2,000 highly pathogenic avian-influenza outbreaks across 64 countries and territories during 2025–2026, with more than 140 million poultry culled or lost. It also noted declining veterinary capacity in 18 per cent of recently assessed countries and estimated that

countries would require an average budget increase of 52 per cent to meet the actual annual cost of effective Veterinary Services. The report argues that financing surveillance, laboratories, vaccination, biosecurity and trained veterinary personnel is preventive infrastructure rather than an optional agricultural expense.

(<https://www.woah.org/en/animal-health-receives-as-little-as-0-6-percent-of-global-health-spending-despite-mounting-disease-crises-new-report-warns/>)

WOAH Rejects Proposed Bovine Tuberculin Replacement After Decade-Long International Trials



WOAH's Biological Standards Commission concluded that the proposed replacement for the International Standard for Bovine Tuberculin did not meet the required potency criteria. The existing standard, derived from *Mycobacterium bovis* strain AN5, is used worldwide to calibrate commercial purified protein derivative preparations for bovine-tuberculosis skin testing, but its supply has been limited since 2015.

After international collaborative trials conducted from 2018 to 2025, the leading candidate produced potency estimates of approximately 18,000–19,116 IU/mg, well below the required minimum of 32,000 IU/mg. Laboratories also reported inconsistent results and weak dose-response relationships. WOAH will therefore relaunch a global call for new candidate materials while supporting research on molecularly defined tuberculin. The decision protects comparability among laboratories and prevents adoption of a weaker reference standard that could compromise bovine-tuberculosis surveillance and control. (<https://www.woah.org/en/woah-concludes-evaluation-of-bovine-tuberculin-candidates/>)

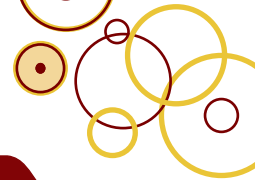
REFLECTIONS

THE ISSUES THAT WERE

The publication of NAVS (India) News VIBES, Volume 6, Issues 1 and 2, received an overwhelming and heartening response from Fellows of the Academy, eminent scientists, veterinary professionals, academicians, and members of the veterinary fraternity across the country. Their generous appreciation, thoughtful observations, and constructive feedback reaffirm the growing stature of the newsletter as a vibrant platform for disseminating scientific advancements, professional achievements, policy developments, and significant events relevant to veterinary science and allied disciplines.

The encouraging words from our esteemed readers are a source of immense motivation for the Editorial Board. A few of these valued reflections are reproduced below:

- **Dr. Jit Singh:** "Dr. Sahib, you are doing a great job. It is not easy to bring out such a publication with so much material, and that too on time. These contributions are truly selfless. Thank you very much. I say this on record, and you may kindly publish it in the next issue."
- **Dr. Suresh Honnappagol:** "Dear Dr. Lachhman Ji, NAVS News VIBES has come out beautifully, reflecting the thoughtful vision of the Editor, which is truly appealing. My compliments."



- **Dr. Gajraj Singh:** *"A very informative newsletter."*
- **Dr. Rajeesh Singh Pawaiya:** *"The editorial is wonderfully written. Thank you for bringing out such a comprehensive and well-compiled issue of the newsletter."*
- **Dr. Jammi Raghavendra Rao:** *"I congratulate the vibrant NAVS and the Editorial Team for their unwavering dedication in supporting the veterinary fraternity through an excellent platform for professional development and exchange of information. Through this outstanding newsletter, the Academy is making a remarkable contribution by disseminating credible policy updates, leadership perspectives, technological advancements, and fostering global dialogue with local action. I am particularly proud of the remarkable transformation of the newsletter under the stewardship of Dr. L. D. Singla. Congratulations to the entire Editorial Team for this invaluable service to the profession."*
- **Dr. S. D. Kharche:** *"Thank you for sharing the newsletter. It is highly informative."*
- **Dr. R. C. Patra:** *"Thank you for sharing NAVS News VIBES. It is always informative, well-organized, and highly useful."*
- **Brig. (Dr.) N. M. Singhvi, VSM:** *"Thank you for NAVS News VIBES. I truly admire your efforts. A wealth of information from across the globe has been systematically compiled and presented in an excellent manner. It is a highly credible publication. God bless you."*
- **Dr. Markandeya Niteen:** *"Excellent, Sir!"*
- **Prof. (Dr.) Kamal Sarma:** *"That is truly a commendable job. Congratulations!"*
- **Dr. P. K. Gupta:** *"Excellent publication with rich contents. Best wishes."*
- **Dr. P. K. Kapoor:** *"Excellently compiled NAVS News VIBES. Congratulations and best wishes."*
- **Prof. Mohd. Hafeez:** *"Please accept our hearty congratulations for the excellent compilation of NAVS News VIBES with highly informative contents. Keep up the excellent work. With blessings."*
- **Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Kumar Chandolia:** *"Your efforts in ensuring the timely publication of NAVS News VIBES are highly appreciated."*
- **Dr. Gopal Krishna:** *"Excellent newsletter with outstanding contents. Congratulations."*
- **Dr. D. B. Patil:** *"A superb effort! The meticulous collection, refinement, and lucid presentation of information speak volumes about the concerted efforts of the Editorial Team."*
- **Dr. Shyma K. P.:** *"Thank you for sharing the NAVS newsletter. I can clearly see the tireless hard work behind this excellent publication."*
- **Dr. Manish Kumar Singh:** *"The latest issue presents an excellent blend of scientific insights, policy relevance, and professional updates. The editorial quality, thematic coverage, and structured presentation make it informative and forward-looking. The coverage of the growing recognition of NAVS (India) Fellowship by veterinary universities is particularly noteworthy and will undoubtedly inspire greater academic excellence within the profession. Congratulations to the Editorial Team for this comprehensive and impactful publication."*

The Editorial Board expresses its sincere gratitude to all our esteemed readers for their generous appreciation, thoughtful feedback, and unwavering support. Such encouragement inspires us to continually enhance the quality, relevance, and outreach of NAVS (India) News VIBES. We remain committed to serve as a dynamic platform that promotes scientific excellence, professional growth, innovation, and meaningful collaboration within the veterinary fraternity, while strengthening the collective vision and mission of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India).

UP COMING CONFERENCES

BE ALERT AND PARTICIPATE

VIBCON 2026: International Conference on Smart Biotechnology and Disease Intelligence

The XXXI Annual Convention of the Indian Society for Veterinary Immunology and Biotechnology (ISVIB) and International Conference VIBCON 2026 will be held at ICAR–National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR–NIVEDI), Bengaluru, Karnataka, from 23–25 September 2026. The conference theme, "Transforming Animal Health and Production Systems through Smart Biotechnology Innovations and Disease Intelligence," highlights the growing role of advanced biotechnology, disease surveillance, artificial intelligence, and data-driven approaches in enhancing animal health and production systems. The last date for abstract submission and early bird registration is 31 July 2026. More information can be sought from the following web link (<https://vibcon2026.eventsdashboard.in/public/conf.pdf>)

2nd Edition of GARCX – Global AgroVet Research Conference 2026



The 2nd Edition of the Global AgroVet Research Conference (GARCX 2026) will be held in hybrid mode on 23-24 November 2026 under the theme "One Health - One Planet: Synergizing Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future". Organized under the aegis of the Agricultural Research Communication Centre (ARCC) Journals, the conference serves as an international platform for researchers, academicians, policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, and students working in agriculture, animal health, food systems, and environmental sustainability. Submissions for abstracts and full papers is currently open.

ISBD-CIRB International Conference 2026

The ISBD is organizing an International Conference on "Integrating Modern Technologies for Sustainable Buffalo Farming" from 17-18 November 2026 at CIRB, Hisar. This event will showcase recent advances in buffalo genetics and breeding, reproduction, nutrition, health, biotechnology, precision livestock farming, climate-resilient production systems, and value addition. The conference fosters interdisciplinary interactions, encourages young researchers, and strengthens academia–industry partnerships aimed at enhancing buffalo productivity, welfare, and sustainability. The last date for abstract submission is 30 September 2026 and can be done via web portal <http://isbd-cirb2026.in>.



IAVP Conference 2026

The 43rd Congress of the Indian Association of Veterinary Pathologists (IAVP) will be held on the theme of "Evolving Paradigms in Veterinary Pathology: Integrating Digital, Clinical, Molecular and Computational Diagnostics" from 17-20 November 2026 at DUVASU, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. The congress will bring together veterinary pathologists, researchers, academicians, clinicians, and students to discuss recent advances in veterinary pathology, disease diagnosis, and research through scientific sessions, keynote lectures, poster presentations, and professional networking. Last date for abstract submission is 30 September, 2026. More information is available on <https://iavp.org/>.



IAWV Conference 2026

The XX National Conference of the Indian Association of Women Veterinarians (IAWV) will be held on 17-18 November 2026 at GADVASU, Ludhiana under the theme of “*Catalysts of Change: Women Veterinarians Transforming the Future through Inclusive Approach*”. This event will bring together veterinary professionals, researchers, academicians, students, and policymakers to discuss emerging advances in veterinary and animal sciences while showcasing the contributions of women veterinarians to animal health, research, education, and One Health. Through keynote lectures, technical sessions, poster presentations, and interactive discussions, the event aims to promote scientific excellence, leadership, and collaborative research for the advancement of the veterinary profession. Last date for abstract submission is 15 October 2026.



ISVS Conference 2026

The 49th Annual Congress of the Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery (ISVS-2026) will be held from 24–26 November 2026 at Navi Mumbai, hosted by the Department of Veterinary Surgery & Radiology, Mumbai Veterinary College, Bombay, MAFSU. The congress will feature a national symposium on “*Integrating One Health and Surgical Innovations: Advancing Animal Health in India*”. Veterinary surgical professionals, researchers, clinicians, and students are invited to participate. Last date for abstract submission is 1 November 2026.



IAVMICON 2027: Annual Convention of IAVMI and National Conference

The Indian Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and Specialists in Infectious Diseases (IAVMI) is organizing IAVMICON 2027 on 28-29 January, 2027, a premier scientific forum that will bring together researchers, academicians, veterinarians, students, industry professionals, and policymakers working in the fields of veterinary microbiology, immunology, infectious diseases, biotechnology, and animal health. The conference will provide a platform for the exchange of recent scientific advances, emerging technologies, and innovative approaches for the prevention, diagnosis, and control of animal diseases.



54th Annual Veterinary Orthopedic Society (VOS) Conference – 2027

The 54th Annual Conference of the Veterinary Orthopedic Society (VOS) will be held in Sun Valley, Idaho, USA, from February 6–13, 2027. Recognized as one of the premier international meetings in veterinary orthopedics and sports medicine, the conference brings together veterinary surgeons, researchers, residents, and industry professionals to discuss recent advances in orthopedic surgery, musculoskeletal research, rehabilitation, and emerging technologies in animal health. Call for abstracts opened on 15 July 2026, and will close on 01 November 2026, for both podium presentations and posters. Check VOS website: www.vosdvm.org for full details of abstract submission, formatting and regulations.



Seventh WVPA Asia Meeting 2026

India is proud to host the 7th WVPA Asia Meeting, which will be held on October 9–10, 2026, at the iconic National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi. This year's theme, “*Poultry Disease Management for a Safer and Healthier World*,” highlights our collective commitment to advancing poultry health, strengthening food security, and fostering global collaboration. The meeting will feature two power-packed days of scientific sessions, expert lectures, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, along with exposure to cutting-edge research, innovations, and emerging developments in poultry health and disease management.



INSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBERS



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