



NIVEDI PULSE

NIVEDI PULSE - August 2025

Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji Visits ICAR-NIVEDI to Strengthen Animal Health and Empower Farmers

On 29th August 2025 the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji, to ICAR-NIVEDI, planted sapling on the campus along with other dignitaries, marking the importance of his visit to the campus. The programme was attended by Shri V. Somanna, Union Minister of State, Ministry

of Railways and Ministry of Jal Shakti; Shri S. R. Vishwanath, MLA; Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR; and Directors of ICAR institutes based in Bengaluru, along with scientists, scholars and stakeholders.



During the visit, the Honorable' Minister reviewed the Disease Informatics Laboratory and its advanced systems for disease forecasting, predictive modelling, artificial intelligence, and machine learning applications. He appreciated the institute's initiative of sending SMS-based livestock disease advisories directly to farmers in Karnataka and assured full support for extending the service to other states.

He urged the scientific community to provide greater farm-related services through periodic broadcasts using IoT, SMS, and other digital technologies. Shri Chouhan Ji also inspected the institute's state-of-the-art WOAH (World Organisation for Animal Health) Reference Laboratory for *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR).





While interacting with scientists and scholars, he described them as the “*Modern Day Maharishis*” for their invaluable contributions to addressing the challenges of the farming community. He also reviewed the institute’s activities and engaged with farmers, livestock entrepreneurs, start-ups, and other stakeholders.



At the exhibition stalls, ICAR-NIVEDI presented successful farmers who benefited from DAPSC project and became self-employed and also showcased its flagship initiatives such as NADRES, NaaViC, and

indigenously developed immuno-diagnostics under *Make in India* for diseases like Brucellosis, LSD, Leptospirosis, PPR, IBR, and parasitic infections. Several start-ups incubated under NaaViC Agri-Business Incubator, including Agrihawk Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Magnimous InfoTech Pvt. Ltd., Kempmann Bioorganics LLP, Barve Technologies LLP, Atsuya Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Nanosentrix Pvt. Ltd., Weather Cast Solutions Pvt. Ltd., AgriBotic Systems Pvt. Ltd., and Neer Shakti Systems Pvt. Ltd., demonstrated their innovations. NaaViC has supported over 75 start-ups with more than ₹7 crore in grant-in-aid under the RKVY–RAFTAAR scheme of MoAFW. Industry partners such as BioVet Pvt. Ltd. and KMF also showcased their products, while ICAR–IIHR displayed horticultural technologies.



Welcoming the Minister, Dr. B. R. Gulati, Director, ICAR–NIVEDI, highlighted the institute’s mandate, achievements, and contributions to national animal health initiatives and disease control programmes covering PPR, Brucellosis, Classical Swine Fever, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and Lumpy Skin Disease. He also emphasized ICAR-NIVEDI’s work on the economic impact of endemic livestock diseases and progress in *One Health* initiatives in collaboration with ICMR, DBT, and international agencies.



The honorable' Minister also addressed the DAPSC launch workshop, interacted with over 100 small and marginal livestock farmers who have been introduced to NIVEDI technologies and training for livestock entrepreneurship and value-added dairy production. He encouraged them to practice integrated farming combining agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries

for doubling farmers' income. Emphasizing the importance of *Swadeshi* products, he called for greater self-reliance in agriculture and reduced dependence on foreign goods. On this occasion, milk cans, feed mixtures, and other inputs were distributed to farmers.

Reiterating that *"Kisan is Annadata, and serving him is like a Divine Pooja"*, Shri Chouhan Ji aligned his message with the Prime Minister's vision of building a stronger India and achieving the world's top economy status. He assured farmers of the Government's commitment to safeguarding their interests at all costs without yielding to external pressures.

He further encouraged students and research scholars to dedicate their careers to agriculture and selfless service to farmers. The honorable Minister also stressed the need for strategic planning in science and technology to advance Indian agriculture with precise weather prediction, enhanced accuracy of information systems, and innovations for livestock health management.



The visit not only highlighted the significant national and international contributions of ICAR-NIVEDI but also gave a fresh impetus to the vision of inclusive agriculture and livestock development through meaningful engagement with farmers, scientists, start-ups, and entrepreneurs.

ICAR-NIVEDI signed MoU with IADC-A to Foster Collaborative Research and Student Development

On August 6th, 2025, ICAR-NIVEDI and the Indian Academy Degree College – Autonomous (IADC-A) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further strengthen academic collaboration, research initiatives, and knowledge exchange.

The MoU establishes a long-term partnership aimed at promoting academic excellence and fostering innovation in cutting-edge scientific fields. Dr. B. R. Gulati, Director, and Dr. Nagalingam M, In-charge, ITMU, represented ICAR-NIVEDI. Dr. Bhavani, Principal, and Dr. Dwarakanath, Research Advisor,

represented IADC-A. This collaboration marks a significant step forward in bridging academic learning with real-world scientific research and development. This partnership aims to: Promote collaborative research projects and publications; Facilitate scholar training programs, workshops, and expert lectures, and support postgraduate research; Encourage student internships and experiential learning; and Build strong academic and research linkages for mutual growth. It reflects ICAR-NIVEDI's commitment to advancing veterinary science through innovation, capacity building, and interdisciplinary collaboration.



Nationwide Training on Leptospirosis Diagnostics Kicks Off at ICAR-NIVEDI

A four-day National Capacity-Building Programme on “Laboratory Diagnosis of Leptospirosis” was successfully conducted from 11-14th August 2025 at ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru. Organized in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi under the National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses (NOHPPCZ), the training aimed to strengthen India’s diagnostic preparedness against one of the country’s most significant zoonotic threats. The programme brought together 30 participants from 14 States and Union Territories, offering them intensive, hands-on exposure to cutting-edge diagnostic techniques. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, emphasized that this was the 8th in the series of hands-on training programmes on zoonotic diseases organized under the NOHPCZ initiative. He noted that 315 laboratory professionals from 31 States/UTs have so far been trained in the diagnosis of zoonotic diseases—including leptospirosis, brucellosis, biosafety,

biosecurity, and geo-spatial epidemiology. In addition, laboratories in 29 States/UTs have been strengthened through the provision of reagents, standardized protocols, and training in leptospirosis diagnostics. The sessions covered a wide spectrum of topics, including biosafety practices, outbreak investigation, culture and isolation, dark-field microscopy, MAT, ELISA, LAT, LFA, and molecular methods such as real-time PCR. Participants also engaged with case studies on animal and human leptospirosis, diagnostic kit evaluation, and neuro-leptospirosis. The course was led by Dr. V. Balamurugan (Principal Scientist & Course Director), with coordination support from Dr. Chethan Kumar H. B. and Dr. M. Nagalingam (Senior Scientists). The programme significantly advanced intersectoral collaboration, rapid detection capacity, and national preparedness in combating leptospirosis—furthering the goal of safeguarding both animal and human health under the One Health framework.



79th Independence Day Celebrated with Patriotic Fervour

ICAR-NIVEDI celebrated the 79th Independence Day on 15th August 2025 with great patriotic enthusiasm. The national flag was hoisted by the Director, Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, in the presence of all employees. In his address, Dr. Gulati encouraged the team to continue their dedicated efforts toward strengthening

the livestock sector and enhancing the welfare of farming communities. He highlighted the importance of leveraging modern tools in disease diagnosis, surveillance, and veterinary epidemiology to address emerging challenges effectively in the animal health sector.



ICAR-NIVEDI Hosts Annual Review Meeting on Challenging and Emerging Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses

The first Annual Review Meeting of the “All India Network Project on Challenging and Emerging Diseases of Animals” (AINP-CEDA) and “One Health Approach to Zoonotic Diseases” (AINP-OH) was organized by ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru, during 25–26th August 2025. The meeting brought together investigators from various states across the country. Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR, graced the event as the Chief Guest, while Dr.

Divakar Hemadri, Assistant Director General (Animal Health), ICAR, was present as the Guest of Honour, alongside Dr. B.R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI. Other dignitaries and experts who attended the meeting included: Dr. S.B. Barbuddhe, Director, ICAR-NIMR, Hyderabad. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IVRI, Izatnagar. Dr. Pallabh Chaudhary, Joint Director, ICAR-IVRI, Bengaluru Campus.



In his welcome address, Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta reaffirmed ICAR's commitment to the prevention and control of emerging, re-emerging, and transboundary animal diseases, particularly those of zoonotic nature, for the betterment of livestock health and productivity. Dr. Hemadri emphasized the need for prioritized research on diseases identified through the livestock disease prioritization by DAHD. He also highlighted the importance of reorganizing disease focus and research objectives to avoid redundancy across different network projects. Dr. B.R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, noted that the review meeting offers a timely

opportunity to re-evaluate upcoming research in the context of the forthcoming EFC of ICAR. He stressed that effective One Health research must address the animal-human-environment interface, rather than focusing on any single component in isolation. Dr. Rajveer Singh Pawaiya and Dr. Premanshu Dandapat, Project Coordinators of AINP-CEDA and AINP-OH respectively, presented the annual reports, followed by detailed presentations from the Principal Investigators (PIs) of participating centres. Over the two-day meeting, Dr. Bhatta conducted a comprehensive review of the targets and progress reported by different centres.



In addition to centre-specific recommendations, he emphasized the following key points: All centres should adopt uniform diagnostic kits and standardized protocols for surveillance and diagnostics to ensure comparable and reliable results. A systematic sampling strategy should be employed, rather than convenience

sampling, to accurately determine the national status of livestock and zoonotic diseases. For effective One Health implementation, collaboration with medical and environmental experts is essential. All PIs were directed to ensure 100% utilization of the sanctioned project budget.

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