



NIVEDI PULSE

NIVEDI PULSE - August 2026

ICAR-NIVEDI Celebrates 80th Independence Day

ICAR-NIVEDI celebrated India's 80th Independence Day at its Yelahanka campus with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm. The programme commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Dr. B. R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, followed by his Independence Day address. The Director highlighted the vital role of veterinary epidemiology, livestock health and disease informatics in strengthening India's livestock sector, rural economy and public health security. He also outlined the institute's major achievements during the past year, including international collaborations, scientific publications, technological innovations, awards and recognitions, and institutional activities.

Emphasizing the importance of scientific excellence and national service, Dr. Gulati encouraged scientists, research scholars and staff to pursue innovative and impactful research and leverage digital technologies and artificial intelligence for animal disease surveillance and early warning. He called upon the NIVEDI fraternity to continue working with dedication, teamwork and a strong sense of responsibility towards the nation. The celebration concluded with a renewed commitment to advancing veterinary science, strengthening animal disease preparedness and contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat.



ICAR NIVEDI
Transforming Animal Health

ICAR-NIVEDI Organizes National Hands-on Training Programme on Laboratory Diagnosis of Leptospirosis

The ICAR–National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), Bengaluru, organized a five-day Hands-on Training Programme on Laboratory Diagnosis of Leptospirosis from 10th–14th August 2026, in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, under the National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases (NOHP-PCZ).

The programme aimed to strengthen national diagnostic capacity, intersectoral collaboration, outbreak preparedness, and leptospirosis surveillance through an integrated One Health approach. The national-level training brought together 27 participants from 13 States/Union Territories, providing intensive practical exposure to laboratory diagnosis, outbreak investigation, biosafety, and preparedness for leptospirosis.

The training programme was inaugurated on 10th August 2026 by Dr. Rakesh Mishra, Director, Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS), Bengaluru. In his inaugural address, Dr. Mishra emphasized the importance of hands-on capacity building and collaborative approaches in strengthening laboratory preparedness and diagnostic capabilities for leptospirosis. Dr. B. R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, highlighted the growing importance of zoonotic diseases and emphasized the diagnostic, training, and national coordination capabilities of ICAR-NIVEDI in advancing the One Health approach. A Training Manual on Laboratory Diagnosis of Leptospirosis was also released during the inaugural session to serve as a practical reference for laboratory personnel involved in leptospirosis diagnosis and surveillance.

The programme was led by Dr. V. Balamurugan, Principal Scientist and Course Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, and covered a comprehensive range of laboratory and field-oriented topics. The hands-on sessions included biosafety and biosecurity, outbreak investigation, culture and isolation of *Leptospira*, dark-field microscopy, Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT), ELISA, Latex Agglutination Test (LAT), Lateral Flow Assay (LFA), and real-time PCR. Case-based discussions on human and animal leptospirosis further strengthened the participants' understanding of diagnostic interpretation, epidemiological investigation, and One Health surveillance.



The five-day training programme concluded successfully on 14th August 2026 with a valedictory session chaired by Dr. B. R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, and graced by Dr. S. Nagarathna, Professor and Head, Department of Neuromicrobiology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, as the Guest of Honour. Dr. V. Balamurugan, Nodal Officer, presented a comprehensive report on the training programme, highlighting the intensive hands-on laboratory sessions, practical exposure, and key learning outcomes achieved.

by the participants. Participants representing different States/UTs shared their experiences and feedback, emphasizing the value of practical training and intersectoral learning in strengthening their diagnostic preparedness. Certificates were subsequently distributed to the successful trainees. Addressing the participants, the dignitaries emphasized the need for continued laboratory capacity building, collaborative surveillance, rapid

diagnosis, intersectoral coordination, and sustained implementation of the One Health approach for effective prevention and control of leptospirosis. The programme concluded by marking the successful completion of the national-level training programme and reinforcing ICAR-NIVEDI's commitment to strengthening national capacity for the diagnosis, surveillance, and control of leptospirosis and other priority zoonotic diseases.

IVRI Academic Hub Bengaluru Organizes Friendly Table Tennis Event at ICAR-NIANP

A friendly Table Tennis (TT) Event was organized at ICAR-NIANP on 14 August 2026 as part of the activities of the IVRI Academic Hub, Bengaluru, bringing together staff and students from the IVRI Academic Hub institutions, including IVRI-Hebbal, ICAR-NIANP and ICAR-NIVEDI. The event was conducted in a team-based format, with separate teams for staff and students, and matches played in singles, reverse singles and doubles formats. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and a spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie among the participants. Among the students from ICAR-NIVEDI who are part of the IVRI Academic Hub, Dr. Harshita Gunjiyal and Dr. Archana Sreeni secured the first position in the female students'

category, while Dr. Thiyaam Ramesh Singh and Dr. Vivek Kushwaha secured the second position in the male students' category. The event provided an excellent opportunity for students and staff to interact beyond academic activities and strengthen fellowship and team spirit among the institutions of the IVRI Academic Hub.



NIVEDI Staff and Students Participate in National Sports Day Celebrations at IVRI Bengaluru



On the occasion of National Sports Day 2026, ICAR-IVRI, Bengaluru Campus organized a series of friendly sports events on 28 August 2026 under the theme “Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat” and the campaign “Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein.” Staff and students of ICAR-NIVEDI, as members of the IVRI Bengaluru Academic Hub, enthusiastically participated in the celebrations organized by IVRI.

The events included volleyball, football, tug-of-war, running and walking, providing an opportunity for participants to engage in physical activity and foster teamwork, sportsmanship and camaraderie. The NIVEDI volleyball team actively participated in the friendly volleyball matches, along with

NIVEDI staff and students taking part in the other sporting activities. The participation reflected the commitment of NIVEDI staff and students towards maintaining fitness and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

NaaViC Activities – August 2026

During August 2026, Team NaaViC continued its engagement with funded start-ups through physical and virtual verification activities covering the 6th, 7th and 9th Cohorts. Physical verification visits were conducted on 5 August and to Kombucherie Private Limited on 11 August to review project progress, utilization of funds, product and technology development, achievement of milestones, business plans and commercialization prospects. A series of virtual verifications were also undertaken to assess progress and identify the support requirements of the start-ups.

The Review and Investment Committee (RIC) meetings for the funded start-ups were conducted virtually on 18 August 2026. The 4th RIC meeting for the 6th and 7th Cohorts and the 2nd RIC meeting for the 9th Cohort reviewed start-up performance, project implementation and milestones, with inputs from Committee members and external experts. The meetings also facilitated recommendations for further funding support and future growth.

NaaViC also strengthened its farmer outreach and innovation activities during the month. In collaboration with Veterinary College, Gadag, Team NaaViC conducted a two-day Agripreneurship Development Programme on Desi Cow Farming on 27–28 August, benefiting around 30 farmers. The team also explored future collaboration with K. H. Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti, for farmer-oriented ADPs. Dr. Sathish B. Shivachandra, PI-CEO, NaaViC, further contributed as an evaluator at the Bio-Ignite 2026 Students Hackathon at GKV, UAS Bengaluru, supporting the assessment of innovative student ideas in BioFuel, BioEnergy and BioMass.



New Facility Established at AMR Laboratory, ICAR-NIVEDI



Under the FAO Pandemic Fund initiative, an Automated Bacterial Identification and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (ID/AST) Sensititre™ System by Thermo Scientific has been established at the AMR Laboratory, ICAR NIVEDI on September 1st, 2026. This facility was established, to strengthen AMR surveillance in livestock and laboratory networks in India. Dr. Jyoti

Misri, AMR and Zoonoses Specialist, FAO India, Baldev Gulati, Director along with the technical team from Thermo Scientific, visited the laboratory

for installation of the system. Dr Shivasharanappa Nayakvadi and Dr Z.B Dubal coordinated the facility establishment.

Disease Radar

Major One Health Events – August 2026

In August 2026, several important One Health events highlighted the continued emergence of infectious diseases across human, animal and environmental interfaces.

Chandipura Virus Outbreak – Gujarat, India

Gujarat reported a continuing rise in Chandipura virus disease, with 324 suspected cases, 42 confirmed cases and 28 deaths by late August, prompting deployment of a National Joint Outbreak Response Team to Gujarat and Rajasthan for intensified epidemiological and vector surveillance (MoHFW, 2026). Reference: MoHFW – Chandipura outbreak response

Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Arunachal Pradesh, India

FMD outbreaks were reported in Arunachal Pradesh, including infections affecting mithun, prompting intensified veterinary surveillance and containment measures (Arunachal Times, Aug 2026).

Reference: Arunachal Times – FMD outbreak in Arunachal Pradesh

African Swine Fever – India

ASF continued to affect pig populations in Karnataka, Kerala and Nagaland, including detection in wild boars in Udipi, Karnataka, highlighting the importance of wildlife surveillance alongside conventional livestock monitoring (News Karnataka; PTI; DIPR Nagaland, Aug 2026). Reference: DIPR Nagaland – ASF outbreak update

Bundibugyo Ebola – Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda

The Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in the DRC continued to expand rapidly, while Uganda successfully ended its outbreak on 27 August after recording 20 cases and two deaths, demonstrating the value of rapid detection, isolation and coordinated response (WHO, Aug 2026). Reference: WHO – Ebola outbreak updates

H5N1 Avian Influenza – New Zealand and Australia

New Zealand recorded its first H5N1 detection in a wild seabird, while Australia reported extensive H5 detections in wild birds and its first H5 infection in a mammal, a long-nosed fur seal (MPI New Zealand; DAFF Australia, Aug 2026). Reference: MPI New Zealand – H5 bird flu situation

West Nile Virus – Europe

West Nile virus activity increased during the European summer, with hundreds of locally acquired cases reported across multiple countries, reinforcing the need for integrated human and vector surveillance (ECDC, Aug 2026). Reference: ECDC – West Nile virus surveillance

These events show the importance of cooperation among human health, veterinary, wildlife and environmental sectors for early detection and effective control of emerging disease threats.

Epi Insights

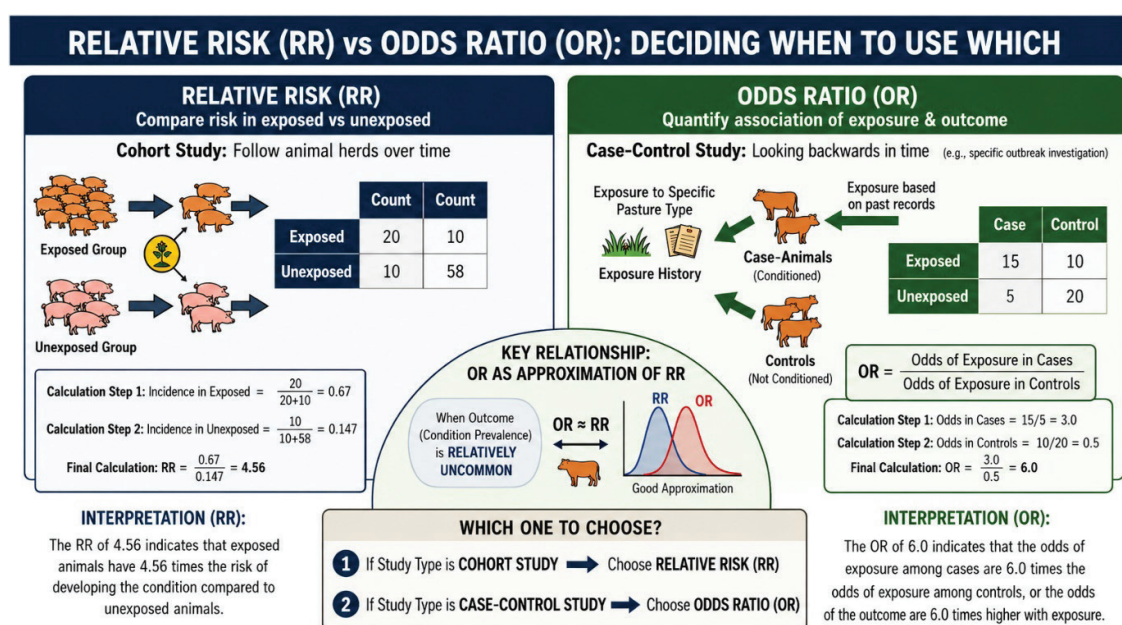
Relative Risk (RR) vs Odds Ratio: When should we use Which...??

The relative risk (risk ratio, RR), and odds ratio (OR) are important measures of association in epidemiology. These measures compare disease occurrence among one group with disease occurrence in another group. The relative risk and odds ratio can range from 0 to ∞ .

The relative risk (RR), compares the risk of disease among one group (exposed) with the risk among another group (unexposed). RR is calculated as the ratio of the incidence (or attack rate) among the exposed group to the incidence (or attack rate) among the unexposed group. A RR of 1.0 indicates identical risk among the two groups. A RR of >1.0 indicates an increased risk among the exposed group. A RR of <1.0 indicates a decreased risk for

the exposed group, indicating that perhaps exposure actually protects against disease occurrence (eg. vaccination). The RR is the most commonly used measure in Cohort studies.

An odds ratio (OR) is another measure of association that quantifies the relationship between an exposure with two categories and health outcome. OR is computed as the odds of exposure among case-patients divided by the odds of exposure among controls. Since, for most of the case-control studies attack rates cannot be calculated, the measure of choice is the OR. When the health outcome (disease prevalence) is relatively uncommon, the OR provides a reasonable approximation of the RR.



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