

NIVEDI PULSE

NIVEDI PULSE - February 2026

National Hands-on Training on Zoonotic Disease Diagnosis for One Health Readiness

ICAR-NIVEDI successfully concluded a five-day Hands-on Training on *Laboratory Diagnosis of Zoonotic Diseases for One Health Readiness* conducted from 2–6 February 2026 under the National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses (NOHPPCZ) of the National Centre for Disease Control, Government of India. The programme brought together 20 participants from seven states—Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Mizoram—including IDSP and sentinel surveillance units of NCDC personnel, laboratory technicians, medical and veterinary faculty, researchers, and public health professionals. Dr. V. Balamurugan, Nodal Officer (NOHPPCZ), outlined the objectives, emphasizing hands-on capacity building in laboratory diagnosis within the One Health framework. Dr. Rajeswari Shome, underscored the need for standardized diagnostic protocols and quality practices and emphasis the capacity building training.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Baldev R Gulati, Director, highlighted the importance of timely and accurate laboratory diagnosis in strengthening national preparedness against zoonotic diseases. Dr. P.P. Sengupta, Guest of Honour, emphasized intersectoral

coordination as a cornerstone of effective One Health implementation. The Chief Guest, Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Former Director, NCAP, New Delhi, commended ICAR-NIVEDI for its sustained contributions in research, capacity building, and extension. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Chethan Kumar H. B.

The training featured intensive theory and practical sessions on brucellosis, leptospirosis, and scrub typhus, covering serological and molecular diagnostics, culture techniques, microscopy, biosafety, and quality assurance. Expert lectures, case studies, and outbreak investigation exercises strengthened applied skills, with pre- and post-training evaluations indicating marked improvement in participant competency. The valedictory programme, held on 6 February 2026 and chaired by Dr. Gulati, included a welcome address by Dr. Rajeswari Shome, presentation of the training report by Dr. V. Balamurugan, participant feedback, and certificate distribution. The Guest of Honour, Dr. S. Nagarathna, Professor, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), emphasized the critical role of laboratory-based diagnosis and integrated surveillance in advancing zoonotic disease control under the One Health approach.



ICAR NIVEDI
Transforming Animal Health



Training Programme under *Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Phase-II*



ICAR-NIVEDI organized a one-day training programme under *Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Phase-II (Zone-V)* on 4 February 2026 at its campus, with the participation of 34 staff members. The programme focused on capacity building of government employees by promoting modern governance practices, professional excellence, and *Seva Bhav* for citizen-centric service delivery. Emphasis was placed on aligning individual values with organizational responsibilities to enhance efficiency, accountability, and commitment to nation-building. The training was conducted by

Dr. Ramesh H. S., Senior Scientist and Master Trainer from ICAR–National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (ICAR-NIANP). Through interactive sessions, reflective exercises, and experiential modules, he covered themes such as shared vision, professional fulfilment, and core Karmayogi values. The programme reinforced ethical public service orientation among participants and aligned them with the vision of Mission Karmayogi, strengthening institutional commitment toward responsive and citizen-focused governance.

Safer Internet Day Awareness Programme

ICAR-NIVEDI observed a Safer Internet Day 2026 with National Online Awareness Programme on 10 February 2026 to promote responsible and secure use of digital technologies among staff and students.

As part of the nationwide observance of Safer Internet Day 2026, ICAR-NIVEDI is facilitating staff participation in an online awareness programme on the safe and responsible use of digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Staying Safe Online in the Age of AI. The national session is being organized by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC Hyderabad) under the Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) programme of the

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

The programme focused on key aspects of cyber hygiene, safe use of AI tools, identification of emerging cyber threats, and best practices to safeguard official and personal digital assets.

All officers, scientists, technical and administrative staff, and students have been participated in the session. The initiative reflects ICAR-NIVEDI's commitment to fostering a secure digital ecosystem and enhancing awareness about emerging cyber threats in the era of increasing digital dependence as well as to promoting cybersecurity awareness and fostering a safe digital environment within the institute.

ICAR-NIVEDI Clinches Six Medals; Bags ‘Best Women Athlete’ Title

ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru, delivered an impressive performance at the ICAR-South Zone Sports Tournament–2025, securing six medals (3 Gold and 3 Silver) and earning the prestigious Best Women Athlete Award. The tournament, organized by ICAR–National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ICAR-NAARM), was held from 10–13 February 2026 at the Secunderabad Railway Sports Complex. A 25-member contingent from ICAR-NIVEDI (21 men and 4 women) participated enthusiastically in track and field events as well as team games including Cricket, Volleyball, Shuttle Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, and Carrom, etc.

The institute’s medal tally came through outstanding performances in athletics: Ms. Aachal Palewar clinched Gold medals in the 100 metres and Long Jump, along with a Silver medal in the 200 metres. In recognition

of her exceptional achievements, she was conferred the ‘Best Women Athlete Award’ of the ICAR-South Zone. Mr. Abhishek Tomar secured Gold in Shot Put and Silver in Discus Throw. Mr. Vivek earned a Silver medal in High Jump. Congratulating the team, Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, commended the medal winners and all participants for their dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship in bringing laurels to the institute. He emphasized that such accomplishments reflect the institute’s balanced focus on scientific excellence and holistic personality and team development. He also encouraged the participants to continue striving for greater achievements in future tournaments. The remarkable performance of ICAR-NIVEDI at the South Zone Sports Tournament stands as a testament to the institute’s vibrant sporting culture and team spirit, further strengthening its reputation beyond academic and research excellence.



Vaccine Opportunities Discussed at National Brainstorming Session

A one-day national brainstorming session on “*Vaccination Strategies against Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs): Emerging Strains/Serotypes and Vaccine Quality Control*” was held on 14 February 2026 at the CCS National Institute of Animal Health under the chairmanship of Dr. Naveena B. Maheswarappa, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, DAHD, GoI.

Experts deliberated on emerging challenges in vaccine development and quality assurance for major TADs.

From ICAR-NIVEDI, a policy paper on vaccine opportunities for African Swine Fever and Classical Swine Fever was presented by Dr. S. S. Patil, highlighting research priorities and regulatory preparedness. The session recommended selective culling in ASF-affected areas to reduce farmers’ economic losses while ensuring effective disease containment. Participants emphasized strengthening surveillance, vaccine quality control, and evidence-based vaccination strategies to protect the livestock sector.



National Training Programme to Strengthen Veterinary Epidemiology

ICAR-NIVEDI inaugurated a 10-day national training programme on “*Foundations of Livestock Disease Epidemiology*” at its Training-cum-Farmers’ Hostel. The programme is being conducted under the Gates Foundation-supported INLEAD (National Livestock Disease Epidemiology and Modelling) Project to address the shortage of trained veterinary epidemiologists in the country. A total of 23 participants from different states and institutions are undergoing intensive training in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, data analysis, and evidence-based disease control strategies. In his inaugural address, Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, highlighted the importance of strengthening disease intelligence systems to safeguard livestock health and national

biosecurity, referring to recent outbreaks such as Lumpy Skin Disease and African Swine Fever. Chief Guest Dr. S. K. Bandyopadhyay emphasized the growing role of computational and data-driven epidemiology in supporting national disease control programmes. The training programme is coordinated by Dr. Mudassar Chanda, with active support from Dr. Shivasharanappa Dr. Siju Susan Jacob and Dr. Chethan Kumar. Through expert lectures, hands-on practical sessions, and group exercises, participants gained practical exposure to disease data interpretation and evidence-based decision-making. The training contributed to enhancing national capacity for Veterinary Epidemiology for effective livestock disease monitoring, prevention, and control.



NIVEDI Website gets STQC Website Quality Certification

ICAR-NIVEDI has been awarded the prestigious STQC Website Quality Certification under the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW) 3.0 by the Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification Directorate, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. The certification (No. STQC/CQW/2025/37), valid until 15 February 2029, recognizes the Institute's compliance with national standards for accessibility, security, performance, and content governance following a rigorous technical evaluation and onsite audit. Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, congratulated the ICT team led by Dr. K. P. Suresh for achieving this milestone. Notably, ICAR-NIVEDI is the first institute in the Animal Science Division of ICAR to receive this certification, setting a benchmark for digital governance within the ICAR system.



ICAR-NIVEDI Excels at IAVMICON 2026



The Annual Convention of IAVMI and National Conference was hosted by Krantisingh Nana Patil College of Veterinary Science at Shirwal, bringing together experts and professionals from across the veterinary and animal health sectors. Dr. S. S. Patil, Principal Scientist, received the Best Paper Award for his study analyzing the spatial and temporal trends of African Swine Fever in Arunachal Pradesh since its first outbreak in 2020, providing important epidemiological insights for effective disease control. Scholars from

various research groups of ICAR-NIVEDI also earned accolades. Dr. Jyoti received the Prof. P. K. Uppal Promising Young Scientist Award. Mr. Shashikumar (Pig Disease Epidemiology Group) won the Best Oral Presentation Award, while Ms. Malini from the Small Ruminants Group secured the Best Poster Presentation Award, along with recognitions to scholars from other groups. These achievements reflect the institute's strong research contributions and academic excellence. Congratulations to all awardees and their mentors.

Orientation-cum-Interaction Programme

An Orientation-cum-Interaction Programme for the newly admitted students of VPE and VMC courses from the Academic Hub of Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) was conducted at 4:00 PM on 23rd

February 2026 at the Training Hall, Farmers' Hostel, ICAR-NIVEDI. The programme witnessed active participation from scientific staff, faculty members, and students of the Academic Hub. The session commenced

with a brief welcome, followed by an interactive introduction in which the new students shared their academic backgrounds and interests. In his address, the Director emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary learning, research excellence, and encouraged students

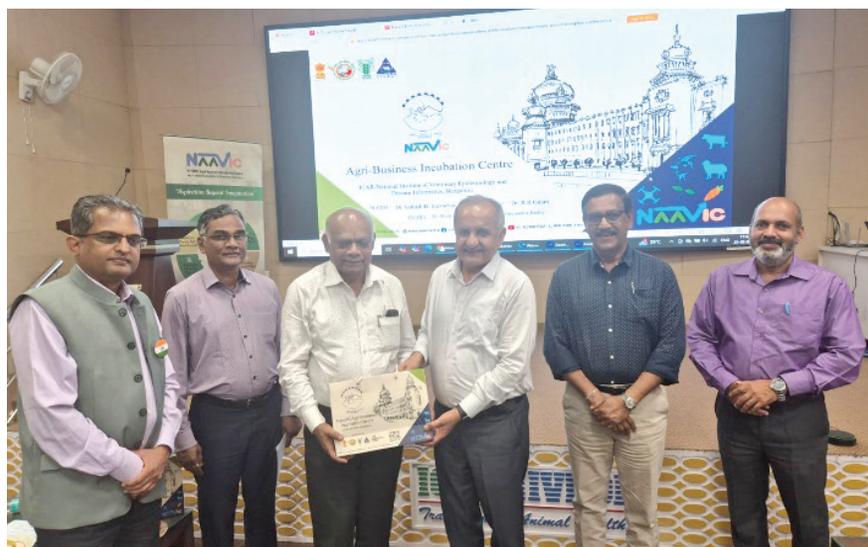
to actively participate in academic and field-based activities. The programme concluded on a positive and enthusiastic note, fostering a sense of belonging and academic commitment among the newly inducted students.



NaaViC Conducts Major Incubation and Entrepreneurship Activities

ICAR-NIVEDI through its Agri-Business Incubation Centre (NaaViC) organized several key activities in February 2026 to promote innovation and agripreneurship in the animal health and livestock sector. Through these initiatives, NaaViC continues to strengthen agri-innovation, startup incubation, and entrepreneurship development in the animal husbandry sector.

SHITIJ ABI Program: NaaViC conducted the Selection & Investment Committee (SIC) meeting on 3rd February 2026 under the SHITIJ ABI Program. Out of 113 applications received nationwide, 60 startups were shortlisted for a one-month structured training and mentoring program (9th February – 6th March 2026). The program focuses on business model development, IP management, company formation, market strategies, and industry exposure.



10th Cohort SIC Meeting: The 10th Cohort SIC meeting under the RKVY-RAFTAAR initiative was held on 20th February 2026 at ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru. A total of 12 startups were recommended for funding support, including seed, pre-seed, and student categories, with an overall recommended funding of ₹102 lakh.

Entrepreneurship Development Program: An Entrepreneurship Development Program was conducted at Veterinary College, Hassan, to empower farmers and

rural youth with opportunities in livestock, veterinary health, mushroom cultivation, and apiculture. The initiative aimed to promote self-employment and income diversification in agriculture and allied sectors.

Through these initiatives, NaaViC continues to strengthen agri-innovation, startup incubation, and entrepreneurship development in the animal husbandry sector.

Superannuation Farewell of Dr. P. P. Sengupta at ICAR-NIVEDI

The superannuation farewell of Dr. P. P. Sengupta, Principal Scientist, was organized on 27th February 2026 at ICAR-NIVEDI. Dr. Sengupta holds the distinction of being the first scientist from the ICAR to join the institute and completed 32 years of dedicated service. The programme commenced with the formal welcome of the Director, Dr. Sengupta, and Madam Mrs. Swasthika Sengupta. A detailed presentation highlighted his academic journey, key career milestones, and significant research contributions, particularly in haemoprotozoan parasitic diseases. His pioneering work in immunodiagnostic developments, including the development of diagnostic kits for important livestock diseases, was widely appreciated. His leadership in major research projects, administrative

responsibilities, and instrumental role in establishing the Parasitology Laboratory at the institute were also recalled with admiration. Colleagues, administrative and accounts staff, and students shared heartfelt reflections, acknowledging his mentorship, scientific rigor, and supportive nature. In his address, the Director appreciated Dr. Sengupta's long-standing association with the institute and his steady contributions to the field of veterinary parasitology. The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, Dr. Sengupta's remarks expressing gratitude to colleagues and staff for their cooperation and support throughout his career. The farewell marked a meaningful and memorable occasion for the entire NIVEDI family, celebrating a distinguished career dedicated to veterinary research and service.



DISEASE RADAR

India's Animal & Zoonotic Disease Landscape

In February 2026, India recorded several notable zoonotic disease events involving wildlife, captive animals and human populations. In Tamil Nadu, mass mortality of wild birds, particularly crows in Chennai and surrounding areas, prompted investigations that confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus, with an estimated 1,000–1,500 crow deaths reported during late January and early February. Following confirmation, authorities intensified surveillance of wild birds and poultry across the state; while no human infections were reported, sporadic

crow deaths continued to be monitored in districts such as Cuddalore in subsequent weeks (Economic Times, 2026). During the same period, Karnataka reported the first human death of the 2026 season due to Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) when a 29-year-old man from Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district succumbed to the tick-borne viral infection. Subsequent surveillance indicated around 44 confirmed KFD cases in the state by early February, with most patients recovering, reflecting the typical seasonal occurrence of the disease in the Malenadu region of the Western Ghats (The New

Indian Express, 30 Jan 2026). In Bihar, the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park (Patna Zoo) was temporarily closed to visitors following detection of avian influenza among birds within the facility, allowing authorities to implement precautionary containment and monitoring measures (Times of India, 2026). In Karnataka, a fatal case of haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS) was detected at Binkadakatti Zoo in Gadag district after the death of a captive nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), with other susceptible ungulates such as deer and blackbucks placed under close veterinary observation (Times of

India, 2026). Meanwhile, Nipah virus cases reported in West Bengal earlier in 2026 prompted intensified surveillance and monitoring of contacts, highlighting the continuing risk of zoonotic spillover associated with fruit bat reservoirs (*Pteropus* spp.). Collectively, these developments underscore the continued circulation of zoonotic pathogens at the wildlife–livestock–human interface in India and reinforce the importance of sustained One Health surveillance of wildlife mortality, captive animal health and endemic vector-borne diseases.

Epi Insights

Prevalence and Incidence

Prevalence is the proportion of a population who have a specific characteristic (disease) at a specific point in time (point prevalence) or during a period of time (period prevalence).

Incidence is the number of new cases of a health event (disease) that occur during a specific time period.

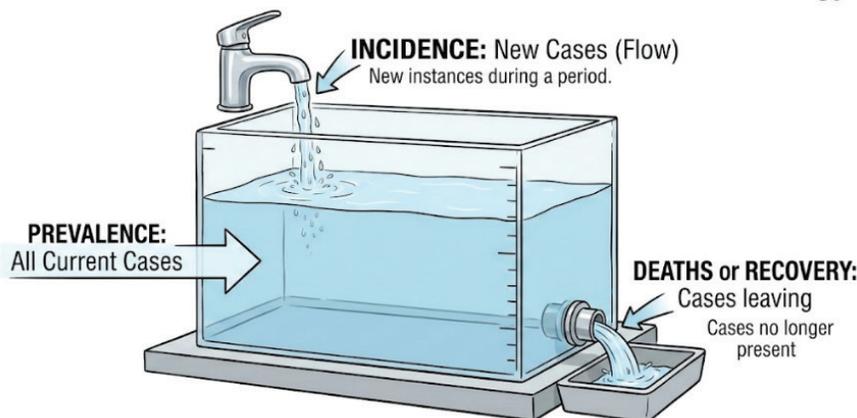
Prevalence represents the total cases present, both new and old cases.

Prevalence (P) = Incidence (I) × Average Duration of Disease (D)

Incidence occurs when the new case is diagnosed, and each new case diagnosed increases the prevalence.

Prevalence decreases when the disease is cured, or the patient dies.

INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE: The Water Tank Analogy



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