

30th Annual Convention of the Indian Society for Veterinary Immunology and Biotechnology (ISVIB) inaugurated at ICAR-IVRI, Mukteshwar

The 30th Annual Convention and National Conference of the Indian Society for Veterinary Immunology and Biotechnology (ISVIB) titled “VIBCON-2025” was inaugurated today at the ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Mukteshwar. The theme of the conference is “Envisioning Livestock Production and Health Security in a One Health Perspective.”

Welcoming the delegates, Dr. Y.P.S. Malik, Joint Director, ICAR–IVRI, Mukteshwar and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, informed that the conference has been organized after nearly a year of meticulous preparation and has drawn participants from around 40 institutions across the country, including scientists, researchers, and students. He emphasized that Mukteshwar — the birthplace of vaccines and diagnostics in India — is the most fitting venue for this conference. “This platform will serve as a significant step forward in realizing the concept of One Health by fostering collaboration among research institutions and industry partners,” he added.



The programme began with the traditional lighting of the lamp and invocation to Goddess Saraswati.

Delivering the inaugural address, Prof. Suresh S. Honnappagol, Former Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Government of India, underlined that the concept of One Health is essential for the holistic development of human, animal, and environmental health. He highlighted that around 75% of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, and nearly 30% have potential bioterrorism implications, emphasizing the urgent need for integrated disease surveillance and control. Prof. Honnappagol also pointed out that ensuring food security is a major global challenge, as the world will require 70% more animal protein by 2050 to feed the growing population. Climate change and emerging infectious diseases, he said, have made this challenge even more critical, particularly for millions of rural households dependent on livestock.

Prof. Gaya Prasad, Former Director, IVRI, and Former Vice-Chancellor, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, highlighted that human health is intrinsically linked to food systems. “One Health,” he said, “is not limited to human or animal health—it embodies the harmony and balance among all life forms on earth—water, forests, wildlife, animals, and humans.” He called for increased investment in basic and translational research for India to attain global leadership in science and warned about the risks associated with wildlife trade, both legal and illegal, which contribute significantly to disease emergence, as witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Raj Kumar Singh, Former Director, IVRI, in his address, described Mukteshwar as more than just a workplace—“It is a symbol of scientific discipline, dedication, and institutional culture.” He lauded the scientific community and their families for preserving the rich legacy of Mukteshwar and

emphasized that scientific sustainability requires systematic staff rotation and institutional continuity to maintain productivity and innovation.



Dr. B.R. Gulati, President, ISVIB, stated that the livestock sector contributes around 6.7% to India's GDP, making it a vital pillar of national economic growth. However, he cautioned that emerging and re-emerging diseases pose major challenges. "The One Health approach, integrating animal, human, and environmental health, is the key to sustainable development," he noted.



Presenting the Society's report, Dr. S. Manoharan, Secretary General, ISVIB, informed that the Society, established in 1990 in Chennai, now has over 1000 members across India and has recently undertaken initiatives including re-registration, a new website, a newsletter, and a scientific journal.



In his address, Dr. S.K. Singh, Joint Director (Research), IVRI, outlined the 135-year glorious journey of the Institute, describing IVRI as a symbol of excellence in research, education, and extension. Established initially as a research institute, it later evolved into a Deemed University in 1983, and now plays a vital role in technology development and farmer outreach. He emphasized that IVRI's campuses across Izatnagar, Mukteshwar, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Palampur, and Pune are contributing significantly to animal health research, vaccine development, diagnostics, and capacity building.

Dr. Singh informed that IVRI has developed 49 vaccines, of which 20 are currently in use nationwide. Notable recent achievements include thermostable FMD vaccines, thermostable PPR vaccine, LSD vaccine (in collaboration with NRC-Equine), and combined PPR–Goatpox vaccine. The Institute has commercialized 47 technologies, including 13 vaccines, generating over ₹21.66 crore in revenue, and filed 1004 patents, with 34 granted so far.

The programme was anchored by Dr. Himani Dhanje, Scientist, Division of Animal Health, while Dr. Karam Chandra Negi, Organizing Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

The event was attended by several former Directors, senior scientists including Dr. Amit Kumar, Dr. C.L. Patel, Dr. Siddharth Gautam, and staff members of the Institute.