

NEWS AND VIEWS

'Cloning Specialist' and 'Vechur Amma' honored with Padma Shri.

On 26th January, 2022 during a ceremonial function at Rashtrapati Bhawan, our then President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind bestowed Padma Shri to Dr. Motilal Madan (Animal Cloning Specialist) and Prof Sosamma Iype (Vechur Amma) for their distinguished service in the fields of science and engineering and Animal husbandry respectively.

Padma Awards are the highest civilian awards of the country, conferred in three categories, namely Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards.

Dr. Motilal Madan is well known as the 'Cloning Specialist' or 'Animal Cloner' as he and his team have been credited with the honour of giving birth to world's first *in-vitro* fertilisation (IVF) buffalo calf. He is a eminent biotechnologist, researcher, Veterinarian, Academician and administrator. Dr Madan was born in Srinagar in 1939 and received his Bachelors in Veterinary Sciences from Punjab in 1959 followed by his Post-graduation from ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal in 1965 with gold medal. He then obtained his Doctoral degree from University of Missouri in 1971. Dr. Madan started his professional carrier as Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS), J&K in 1959. He was the Demonstrator, (Dairy Husbandry), NDRI from 1965-1966. He started his academic carrier at HAU, Hisar as Assistant Professor, Animal Production and Physiology in 1966 and was promoted as Associate Professor in 1972. In 1979, he joined as Professor and Head, Animal Physiology and Head, Dairy Cattle Physiology Division, NDRI and served until 1990. From 1987 to 1994, Dr. Madan served as Project Director of Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) at NDRI. He led a research team at the institute that performed the first successful IVF of a buffalo in the world, leading to birth of 'Pratham' in November 1990. The success had a great impact on regenerative research and development and Dr. Madan was recognised as the father of regenerative biotechnology in India. In addition to making clones,

he and his team succeeded in Embryo transfer technology (ETT) and produced 10 calves from a single female over one year time period. From 1994 to 1995, he served as Director (Research), NDRI and from 1995 to 1999, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. He was Chairman of National Task Force in Animal Biotechnology, Dept. of Biotechnology (DBT) from 1999 to 2004. From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Madan was Vice Chancellor of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola and then in November 2006, he joined as Vice-Chancellor of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go-Anusandhan Sansthan (DUVASU), Mathura and served till 2009.



Dr. M. L. Madan and Dr. Sosamma Iype conferred Padma Shri

Dr. Madan had contributed to the areas of national agricultural development in different agro-eco-regions, particularly Haryana, where he spent over three decades while being a faculty member of HAU and NDRI. After being appointed the Chairman of the livestock sub-group of Haryana State Farmers Commission, he contributed a lot to its research. In recognition of his services, the Government of Haryana had awarded him with Haryana Vigyan Ratan Award, 2020. Some of his other achievements includes Life Time Achievement Award (2011) by Indian Society for Study of Reproduction and Fertility for outstanding contribution in field of Reproductive Health, Dr B.P. Pal Award (2006), Bhasin Award (2002), Hari Om Award (1990) and prestigious Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award (1992) by ICAR for outstanding research contribution in area of Animal production. Dr Madan was also awarded with AGOURI Award (1995) by Japanese Society of Animal Reproduction

for contribution towards advancement of Animal Reproduction Biotechnology, D. Sundaresan Award (1989) in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of Dairy Production Research in India and International Science Pioneer Award (1985) for 'Valuable scientific contributions in domain of science and technology for welfare of humanity' at the First World Buffalo Congress, Cairo, Egypt. Dr. M.L. Madan has made significant contributions in fields of research in animal physiology, endocrine, environmental physiology and reproductive biotechnology and has more than 240 publications to his credit.

Dr Sosamma Iype, a Retired Professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics from Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), was among the pioneers in starting a movement to conserve the nearly extinct Vechur cow breed since 1988. She along with a few like minded conservationists, formed an organisation called the 'Vechur Conservation Trust'. The team had just eight Vechur cows, which they found from different parts of Kerala and kept in stables of university. The search for the breed continued and 24 cattle were added to the lot in one year. Later, the movement became so popular that many groups joined the mission to conserve the breed. They have successfully revived the breed and was recognized by ICAR. The 'Save Vechur' campaign and the network formed proved to be effective. By 1998, the animals in the KAU unit multiplied and about 30 cows were sold to cattle farmers to set up some field units. These units receive assistance from university for supply of semen and technical guidance. The animals bred in the unit were also distributed to few committed farmers for *in-situ* conservation. Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET) technique was used in breeding programme wherein the embryos developed from healthy cattle were inseminated into recipient cows. Meticulous records of accurate pedigree were maintained to ensure strong progeny. Eventually the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Ministry of Science and Technology, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Kerala State Biodiversity Board, NABARD, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) became partners in the programme. Prof. Sosamma based on her experiences and relentless works of 32 years has published a book entitled 'Vechurpasu Punarja Mam' which literally means 'The Rebirth of the Vechur cow'.

Vechur is an indigenous cattle breed of Kerala and known for being the smallest cattle breed in the world. It yields the maximum milk in the world for a cow of its size. Apart from its small size, the cows were favoured by farmers for traits such as low feed requirement, tolerance to heat and humidity and high resistance to diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease (FMD). Vechur bulls are very strong and were earlier used to plough marshy paddy fields. The valuable germplasm of cow is now preserved for posterity. At present, there are about 7,000 Vechur cows in Kerala state.

Till date, three Veterinarians from the Indian Veterinary community have been conferred with the honour of Padma Shri. The first and foremost was Dr Kushal Kumar Sarma, the 'Hathi (Elephant) Vet from North Eastern India in 2020 and now we have the 'Cloning Specialist' from North and 'Vechur Amma' from South. It is a proud moment for all Veterinary professionals. We congratulate Dr Motilal Madan and Dr Sosamma Iype for bringing the laurel to our profession. Their accomplishments have brought pride to the country and will surely motivate the young brains to work with dedication and devotion.

Prof. S K Garg bestowed with DIVA' 2022

The Indian Association of the Advancement of Veterinary Research (IAAVR) in association with Intas Animal Health conferred Distinguished Veterinarian Award (DIVA) to Prof. Satish K Garg, Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (RAJUVAS), Bikaner for his outstanding contribution to Veterinary profession and Contemporary Society. The award was presented to him during the inaugural session of 22nd Indian Veterinary Congress and National Symposium on 'Advancements in Veterinary Medical Research Contributing to One Health for Betterment of Animal



Dr. S K Garg conferred DIVA' 2022

and Public Health and their Welfare' on 8th April, 2022 at RAJUVAS Campus, Udaipur. The award was presented to him by Smt Preeti Shakatawat, MLA, Vallabnagar; Prof. A K Gahlot, founder Vice Chancellor, RAJUVAS; Dr. N H Kelawala, Vice Chancellor, Kamdhenu University (KU), Gandhinagar; Dr. S.N. Singh, President, IAAVR; Dr. Ashok Kumar, Assistant Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR and Dr. R K Joshi, Dean, C.V.Sc. The conference was attended by about 450 scientists, animal husbandry experts, researchers and budding postgraduates, animal husbandry department officials and corporates across the country.

Dr Garg was born in Haryana and had his early school education from joint Punjab and then from Himachal Pradesh. Thereafter, he shifted to Haryana for college and University education. Starting his graduate studies in 1977, he completed his professional study with the award of Ph.D in 1988 from the erstwhile Haryana Agricultural University (HAU), Hisar. During his student life, he had been an outstanding and meritorious student and recipient of different scholarships and fellowships, viz. National Merit Scholarship, HAU Merit Scholarships, and ICAR and CSIR Senior Research Fellowships. Later in 1991, he was awarded Commonwealth Fellowship for postdoctoral studies in UK as well.

Prof. Garg started his professional academic career as Assistant Professor in November, 1987 from Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (HPKV), Palampur and based on his outstanding professional contributions in teaching and research, and academic credentials, he rose to the position of Professor in 1999, Department Head in 2004 and then selected as Dean in June, 2009. He served in that capacity for eleven years till 3rd June, 2020. Thereafter he was selected as Registrar, Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU), Patna and he served there for almost nine months. On 9th August 2021, Prof. Garg took over as the Vice Chancellor of RAJUVAS, Bikaner.

Dr. Garg has more than four decades of experience of having been associated with Veterinary education and research as a student, teacher, academician, researcher, examiner, expert, evaluator, inspector and policy planner in different State Agricultural/ Veterinary Universities, Central Agricultural Universities, ICAR and CSIR Institutes, ASRB and

Public Service Commissions. He has almost twenty years of administrative experience in different capacities as Registrar, Dean, Establishment Officer, Estate Officer and Departmental Head. Based on his professional contributions, he is the proud recipient of Fellowships of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS), National Academy of Dairy Science (NADS), Indian Society of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology (ISVPT) and Society of Toxicology (India). Twice, he was awarded ICAR-Sponsored "Best Teacher Award" of the University. His Doctorate student has been recipient of ICAR's Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for best thesis and one of his Postgraduate student has been recipient of ICAR Netaji Subhash Fellowship for Ph.D in University of Edinburgh, UK. Twice, he has been awarded Ram Lal Agarwal Award for Outstanding Research in herbal medicine. Prof Garg has more than 185 research publications in journals of repute, published four books, delivered more than 40 invited and expert lectures and attended more than 50 conferences, acted as examiner and expert in various state/central universities including ICAR Institutes.

Dr. Garg is worthy of recognitions as a Veterinary Pharmacologist and Toxicologist, Researcher, Academician, Administrator and Teacher. He has contributed immensely to the universities, he has served for and RAJUVAS in particular and Veterinary profession. He has also been an editorial board member of Intas Polivet. The Indian Veterinary community, IAAVR and Intas Animal Health is pleased to congratulate him for his consistent endeavours and contribution to Veterinary profession.

One Health Framework launched in Uttarakhand and Karnataka

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD) initiated the launch of a pilot project in the states of Uttarakhand and Karnataka to implement One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit. The key objective of project is to develop a National One Health roadmap based on learnings of pilot project implementation. Inter-ministerial One Health committee under the chairmanship of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India has been established to lead the implementation of One Health Support Unit. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) is constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (AHD), GoI



Launch of One Health pilot in Uttarakhand

involving representatives from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFC), ICAR, civil societies, international development organizations and field practitioners.

Based on the recommendations of PSC, State and district level one health committees need to be constituted by involving competent authorities from health, animal husbandry and environment ministries. Some of the key activities to be undertaken as part of the pilot project include institutionalizing the mechanism for data collection on disease outbreaks, prevalence, management, and development of targeted surveillance plan, integrating network of laboratories, developing and implementing communication strategy across sectors and integration of data with digital architecture of the National Digital Livestock Mission.

The pilot project was launched on 7th April and 28th June, 2022 in Dehradun and Bengaluru respectively by Shri Atul Chaturvedi, then Secretary, DAHD in presence of Dr Praveen Malik, then Animal Husbandry Commissioner and Mr. Alkesh Wadhvani, Director, Poverty Alleviation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Other dignitaries at Dehradun launch were Dr. R Meenakshi Sundaram, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Uttarakhand; Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Secretary, Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare, Uttarakhand; Mr Ranjan Kumar Mishra, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Uttarakhand Forest Department, Uttarakhand and Dr. Prem Kumar, Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, Uttarakhand. The Bengaluru launch was held at ICAR- National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP), Bengaluru with

Dr. Pushpalatha, In-charge Director, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Karnataka; Shri Vijaykumar Gogi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (WL), Forest, Ecology, Environment Department, Karnataka; Dr. Manjunath S Palegar, Director, Animal Health, Karnataka; Dr Raghavendra Bhatta, Director, NIANP and Dr R K Singh, Nodal Officer, One Health were the major dignitaries along with other key stakeholders from the animal, human and wildlife sectors.



One Health pilot launch in Karnataka

The pilot project aims to work with stakeholders from various sectors to improve livestock health, human health, wildlife health and environmental health through technology and finance. The pilot in Uttarakhand and Karnataka will support the creation of One Health Framework for India, disease prioritization and help build strong social infrastructure that supports the health of people and planet.

Vetcon' 2022 held at Pokhara Valley, Nepal

The 14th National Conference of Nepal Veterinary Association (NVA) – Vetcon'22 was held on 17 -18th June, 2022 at Hotel Pokhara Grande, Pokhara, Gandaki, Nepal. The conference was attended by more than 550 Veterinarians from across the country and had invited guest delegates from other SAARC countries.

The Minister of Land Management, Agriculture, Co-Operative and Poverty Alleviation, Gandaki Province, Shri Chandra Bahadur Budha was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session of the conference along with other dignitaries viz. Major General Baburam Shrestha, Nepal Army; Director General, Department of Livestock Services; Dr. Sital Kaji Shrestha, President, NVA; Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachch, President, Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA); Dr Nazrul Islam, President,



Inaugural session of VETCON' 22 in progress

Bangladesh Veterinary Association (BVA) and Dr. Bimal Choudhury, President, Indian Veterinary Association (youth wing), Dr Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director-ARD, SAARC and many other eminent Veterinarians. The conference had more than 70 scientific papers from Scientists, Veterinarians, Professors and Researchers engaged in the field of Animal Science and fisheries. The conference discussed on the economic and social impact of Veterinary and animal health, livestock and fish production and management, climate change and animal husbandry in the country.

With the efforts of around 850 Veterinarians across the country, Nepal is now, self-sufficient in milk, meat and egg production. The Veterinarians have significantly contributed to the livelihood of farming community in this agricultural based economy. The recent decision of Government to infuse another 300 Veterinarians into the system would further benefiting the sector and sow the seeds for a more profitable and organised animal husbandry with best of farm practices.



Intas Animal Health team during VETCON' 22

The conference also witnessed release of conference compendium, NVA Bulletin and Veterinary Chaumasik as well distribution of awards namely NVA Lifetime Achievement Award, Excellence Award, Service Award, Narendra Memorial Trust Award for Veterinarians, Pasudhan Bikram Award, Pasudhan Kausal Award and others.

The conference also witnessed a regional sideline meeting of the delegates from SAARC countries and creation of SAARC Regional Veterinary Association (SRVA) with Dr. Sital Kaji Shrestha as its General Secretary; Dr. Chirantan Kadian as the President and other office bearers.

Intas Animal Health, a global animal healthcare solution provider and Veterinary arm of Intas Pharmaceuticals Limited also participated in the conference. Intas exhibit stall was an attraction of the conference with maximum foot fall of Veterinarians.

Intas Animal Health collaborates under Operation Sadbhavana

As part of 'Operation Sadbhavana', Indian Army is undertaking multiple welfare activities in remote areas of Jammu, Kashmir and the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh. These include running of Army Goodwill Schools, Infrastructure Development Projects, arranging education tours for children, empowered women through various training programmes. The medical and Veterinary wing of Indian Army also organizes healthcare camps for the public and their farm animals.



Dr. Nitin Bhatia with Army officials and camel keepers

The 16th Mobile Field Veterinary Hospital of Indian Army on 7th July, 2022 organized Veterinary Aid Camp in association with Intas Animal Health for the double humped camels. They invited all the Bactrian camel caretakers of Hunder district, Nubra valley, Ladakh and highlighted the need for preventative healthcare, consistent deworming and taking care of production requirements with regular mineral and vitamin supplementation. Intas distributed free samples of mineral mixtures and dewormed the animals. The occasion was attended by Remount Veterinary Corps officials and Intas Animal Health officials supported the cause of servicing the remote area of Ladakh and helping camel keepers of Nubra valley who take tourist to their dream ride on the Sand dunes.