

ICMR-NIV, Pune Marks 74 Years of Scientific Excellence: Inspiring Next Gen Scientists

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ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) celebrated its 74th Foundation Day on 4th February, 2026 with a special focus on nurturing scientific curiosity among school students from classes 6-12 through its science outreach programme.



Led by ICMR-NIV scientists and staff in coordination with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), the two-phase outreach programme engaged 1,180 school students- reaching over 1,130 students through visits to three schools across Pune and welcoming around 50 students along with their teachers for an interactive campus experience at ICMR-NIV, Pune. Students were introduced to key concepts of virology, including different types of viruses, insect and bird specimens, and diagnostic kits. Interactive videos, posters, and presentations showcased ICMR-NIV's contributions to public health while guided laboratory tours and demonstrations of diagnostic tools and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) kits sparked scientific curiosity among young learners.



The scientific session commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Naveen Kumar, Director, ICMR-NIV, who highlighted the institute's remarkable achievements, upcoming research projects, and future research vision.



The celebration was honoured by the distinguished virtual presence of Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary to Government of India, Department of Health Research, and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research. In his keynote address, Dr. Bahl congratulated ICMR-NIV staff on their collective achievements in outbreak surveillance and investigations, development of vaccines and new medical countermeasures against the diseases while underscoring the importance of institutional and industry collaborations in advancing India's vision of Viksit Bharat.



Prof. Shekar C. Mande, President, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, graced the celebration as the esteemed Chief Guest, while Prof. (Dr.) Hari Shanker Joshi, Director, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Gorakhpur was the distinguished Guest of Honour. Dr. Sheela Godbole, Director, ICMR-National Institute of Translational Virology and AIDS Research (ICMR-NITVAR), attended as special guest.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Shekar C. Mande, President, INSA, appreciated ICMR-NIV's contributions to eliminating viral diseases and emphasized the need for collective action for building a healthier and sustainable world for the next generation.

Prof. (Dr.) Hari Shanker Joshi, Director, ICMR-RMRC, appreciated the efforts of ICMR-NIV and commended the institute's valuable contributions to the nation. The celebration concluded with a renewed commitment to advance virology research and strengthen India's public health preparedness.

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