India Takes a Historic Leap Towards Self-Reliance: Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Dedicates Country’s First Indigenous H5N1 Bird Flu Vaccine to the Nation in Bhopal

A befitting response to those who malign India abroad: Shri Chouhan says the world must see the new, self-reliant and developed India

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Announces ₹300-Crore State-of-the-Art Animal Disease Research Laboratory in Bhopal

Indigenous Bird Flu Vaccine to Protect Poultry Farmers from Disease Outbreaks at Just ₹1-2 per Dose: Shri Chouhan

Shri Chouhan Salutes Scientists for Months of Research and Unprecedented Commitment in Developing Indigenous Bird Flu Vaccine

Shri Chouhan Highlights India's Progress in Animal Disease Control, Credits National Vaccination Drive for Major Gains

Shri Chouhan Hits Back at Critics Questioning India's Institutions and Scientific Achievements, Says Country's Progress Speaks for Itself

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In a major milestone for India's scientific capabilities and the country's drive towards self-reliance, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today dedicated India's first indigenous chicken vaccine against Avian Influenza (H5N1), commonly known as bird flu, to the nation at a program in Bhopal. On the occasion, the Union Minister announced the establishment of a new state-of-the-art laboratory in Bhopal at an estimated cost of ₹300 crore. He also took a dig at opposition leaders for questioning India's constitutional institutions and the capabilities of its scientists while speaking abroad. Priced at an affordable ₹1-2 per dose, the vaccine is the

world's first vaccine against this particular variant of bird flu. It is expected to strengthen disease prevention in the poultry sector, protect the livelihoods of millions of poultry farmers and help reduce the enormous economic losses caused by animal diseases.



Those who malign India abroad must see the new, self-reliant India

Addressing the gathering, Shri Chouhan took aim at opposition leaders who, he said, seek to discredit the country on international platforms. He said that those who go abroad and malign their own country must take note of India's achievements and its growing scientific capabilities. He said that people who hold constitutional positions but question the Constitution abroad, undermine constitutional institutions and cast doubts on the contribution of India's armed forces, scientists and hardworking citizens must look at the changing India of today. Shri Chouhan recalled that Indian scientists had earlier surprised the world by developing two indigenous COVID-19 vaccines in just nine months through a task force constituted under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The development of the country's first indigenous bird flu vaccine is another demonstration of India's scientific strength and self-reliance, he added.



₹300-crore state-of-the-art laboratory to come up in Bhopal

Highlighting the achievements of the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal, Shri Chouhan announced a new state-of-the-art laboratory worth ₹300 crore for the city. He said that the Bhopal-based institute had emerged as a symbol of India's scientific excellence. The Minister also explained why the vaccine was dedicated to the nation in Bhopal rather than Delhi. Although there had initially been a proposal to launch the vaccine from Delhi, he decided that the occasion should take place in Bhopal, among the scientists who had worked day and night to develop it and in the presence of the people of the city. The achievement belonged to these scientists, and it was important to recognise their contribution at the very place where the vaccine had been developed, he said.

Livestock are 'moving ATMs' for farmers; indigenous vaccines to help prevent annual losses of ₹56,000 crore

Describing animal husbandry and poultry as vital pillars of the rural economy, Shri Chouhan said that livestock are 'moving ATMs' for farmers, providing a regular source of monthly income alongside agriculture. He highlighted that animal husbandry contributes 14 per cent to India's GDP, while the poultry sector accounts for another 1 per cent. He also underlined the substantial economic burden caused by major animal diseases. According to the figures shared by the Minister, Foot and Mouth Disease causes average annual losses of ₹22,000 crore, Lumpy Skin Disease results in losses of ₹20,000 crore, Brucellosis accounts for ₹9,212 crore and Peste des Petits Ruminants, a disease affecting sheep and goats, causes losses of ₹4,683 crore. Together, these diseases have caused losses of

approximately ₹56,000 crore to the country and its farmers. Indigenous vaccines are playing a crucial role in protecting livestock, safeguarding farmers' incomes and reducing this economic burden, he said.



Vaccine priced at just ₹1-2 per dose; India has witnessed over 500 bird flu outbreaks since 2006

Shri Chouhan recalled that India's first bird flu outbreak was reported in 2006 in Navapur, Maharashtra, resulting in the death of 10 lakh chickens. To contain the infection, lakhs of additional birds had to be culled and buried. Subsequently, around 9 lakh chickens died in 2021, while another 2 lakh died this year. Since 2006, India has witnessed more than 500 bird flu outbreaks, causing significant damage to the poultry industry. The disease also poses a risk of transmission to mammals and humans, making effective prevention and control measures particularly important. The new indigenous vaccine has been priced at just ₹1-2 per dose to ensure that even small poultry farmers can afford it. Its low cost will make preventive vaccination more accessible and help protect the livelihoods of poultry farmers across the country, the Minister said.

National vaccination drive delivering decisive results against animal diseases

Shri Chouhan highlighted the government's sustained efforts to control major animal diseases through vaccination. He said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Program from Mathura, the land of Lord Krishna, to strengthen disease prevention and protect livestock. Under the program, 147 crore 16 lakh free vaccine doses have so far been administered against Foot and Mouth Disease. Brucellosis has also been brought under control, he said. Recalling the outbreak of Lumpy

Skin Disease in 2022, Shri Chouhan said that 32 lakh 80 thousand animals were infected and 1 lakh 86 thousand animals lost their lives. Scientists at Hisar and Izatnagar subsequently developed the 'Lumpi-ProVacInd' vaccine to combat the disease. He also commended the achievements of ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal, which has previously developed indigenous vaccines for Gumboro disease, Brucella abortus S-19 Delta, Classical Swine Fever and African Swine Fever. The latest H5N1 vaccine adds another significant achievement to the institute's contribution to India's animal health research.



Scientists worked through holidays and followed stringent biosafety protocols to develop the vaccine

Paying tribute to the scientists behind the vaccine, Shri Chouhan described them as the real heroes of this achievement and praised their extraordinary commitment and dedication. The research team comprised Dr. S. Nagarajan, Dr. Manoj Kumar, Dr. C. Tosh, Dr. H. V. Murugkar, Dr. Aniket Sanyal, Dr. Senthil Kumar D., Dr. Naveen Kumar and Dr. Yogisharadhya R. The Minister shared that the scientists worked continuously for months, foregoing their Saturday and Sunday holidays to complete the research. Their work also required strict adherence to demanding biosafety protocols. As part of these protocols, they had to undergo sanitisation procedures before and after leaving the laboratory, use 120 litres of water daily for bathing and refrain from keeping any pets at home throughout the research period. Shri Chouhan saluted their commitment, describing their dedication as being akin to the discipline and sacrifice of soldiers serving the nation. He said that the achievement reflected the extraordinary perseverance of India's scientific community.

The program was attended by Madhya Pradesh Minister for Youth Welfare, Sports and Cooperation Shri Vishwas Sarang; Bhopal MP Shri Alok Sharma; Khategaon MLA Shri Ashish Sharma; Bhopal Mayor Smt. Malti Rai; senior public representatives Shri Rakesh

Sharma, Shri Naresh Mewada, Shri Rakesh Jadon, Shri Rajesh Chouksey and Ms. Chhaya, along with councillors. ICAR Director General Dr. M. L. Jat, NIHSAD Director Dr. Aniket Sanyal, scientists and a large number of distinguished guests were also present.

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