



ICAR-NIHSAD Designated as Category A Rinderpest Facility

Why in News?

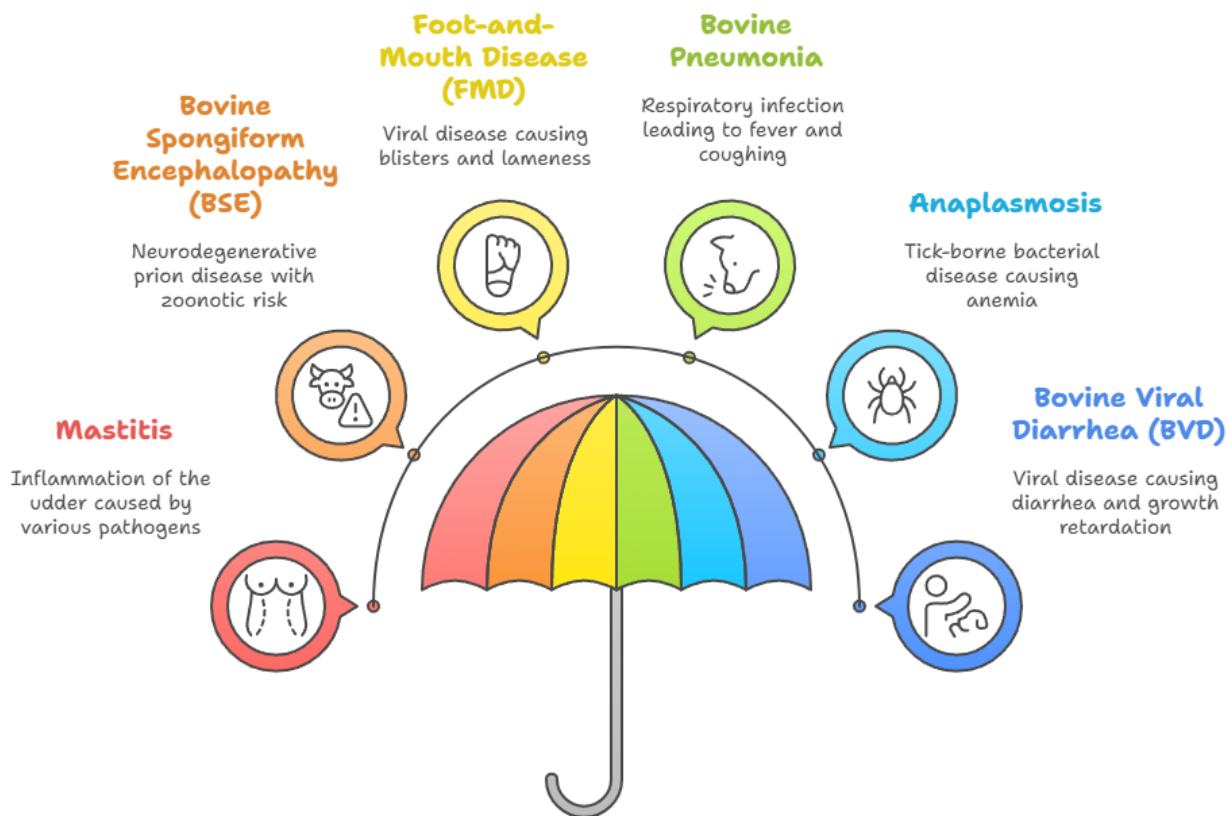
India marked a significant achievement in global animal health as the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#) and [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) designated the [ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases \(NIHSAD\)](#), Bhopal, as a Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility.

- **India is now among the six facilities worldwide** trusted to securely hold rinderpest virus material.

Key Points

- **NIHSAD (National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases):**
 - **NIHSAD** is India's premier **Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) facility** high-containment lab for research on **exotic and emerging animal pathogens**, disease diagnosis, and bio-containment of high-risk organisms.
 - Established in **1984 as High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL)** and later renamed, it serves as a **reference lab for avian influenza, Newcastle disease**, and other **transboundary and zoonotic diseases** under the **One Health** framework.
 - It functions under the [Indian Council of Agricultural Research \(ICAR\)](#), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- **Rinderpest:**
 - [Rinderpest](#), also known as "cattle plague," was a highly contagious and deadly viral disease until its **global eradication in 2011**.
 - Despite eradication, **Rinderpest Virus-Containing Material (RVCM)** still exists in a few labs worldwide, posing a potential biosecurity threat.
 - It **spreads via contact** with **infected secretions or contaminated feed/water**. Symptoms included **high fever**, [mouth ulcers](#), [diarrhoea](#), and rapid death.
 - It caused **massive livestock losses across Africa, Asia, and Europe**, leading to economic collapse and food insecurity.
 - To mitigate this, **FAO and WOAH limit RVCM storage to high-security laboratories under stringent global oversight**.

Common Cattle Diseases



Made with Napkin

World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)

- The WOA, originally founded as the **Office International des Epizooties (OIE)** in 1924, is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Paris, France.
- It was founded in response to the **global rinderpest outbreak**.
- WOA is formally recognised under the **World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement** on the Application of **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)** as the international standard-setting body for animal health.
- The **World Assembly of Delegates** is WOA's top decision-making body, comprising representatives from all 183 member countries, including **India**.
- It **meets annually in Paris**, with each country having one vote.