

Dr Jawahar Lal Vegad (1936-2025) Passes Away

Dr J.L. Vegad (89) was born on 30th, August 1936 in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. He obtained his BVSc&AH degree from Veterinary College, Jabalpur and was recipient of University Gold Medal. Thereafter he did Associateship of IVRI (PG Diploma) in Veterinary Pathology from Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar. After securing the Commonwealth Scholarship in the year 1968; Dr Vegad obtained his PhD degree from Massey University, New Zealand. Dr Vegad was Professor and Head at Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Jabalpur, MP for over 25 years and was subsequently selected as Dean, Veterinary College, Jabalpur, MP. Dr Vegad superannuated from the University services in the year 1996. He was a visiting Professor at University of California, Davis, USA during 1988-1989 and ICAR-Emeritus Professor from 1996-1998. Recognizing his intellect and contributions Dr Vegad was offered consultancy at an evolving Poultry Breeding and Diagnostic Centre, Phoenix, where he worked for more than two decades.



His dynamic and imaginative leadership brought national and international recognition to the Department of Veterinary Pathology, Jabalpur, a small city with limited resources and facilities, Dr Vegad, carried out groundbreaking basic research on inflammation that was recognized globally. In 1987, Dr Vegad received the esteemed ICAR-Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award in recognition of his outstanding research work. His three students were awarded prestigious ICAR-Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Best PhD Theses. Dr Vegad was a distinguished educator, excellent mentor and outstanding orator. He published 180 research papers in reputable journals with a high impact factor; highlight his significant contributions to the field. He has published six books in Veterinary Pathology and an Atlas of Poultry Diseases. Dr Vegad was honoured by numerous accolades from different societies, including the Best Teacher Award from the JNKV, Jabalpur, the Dr C.M. Singh Samman, and the IAVP-Dr Nemi Chand Jain Lifetime Achievement Award. He was a fellow of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences, the Society for Immunology and Immunopathology, and the IAVP. In addition to being elected to the NAVS Governing Council and he served to ICAR research advisory committees for the Central Avian Research Institute and ICAR Project Directorate for Poultry, Hyderabad. Dr Vegad served as President of the Indian Association of Veterinary Pathologists from 1997 to 2003.

He was on the Editorial Board of the International journal of Comparative Haematology International and Indian Journal of Animal Sciences. Looking into the exemplary contributions made by Dr Vegad to Veterinary Pathology, the Indian Association of Veterinary Pathologists founded “Dr J.L. Vegad Foundation” in his honour. As a consultant to the Phoenix Group of Poultry, Dr Vegad made a significant contribution to the poultry disease diagnosis and organization's expansion. He travelled to a number of Asian nations, giving presentations at various Conferences on a range of topics related to poultry diseases and management. He stayed engrossed in research until the very end, turning into an encyclopaedia on the theoretical facets of Veterinary Pathology, especially on the process of inflammation. On August 29th, 2025, Dr Vegad departed for his celestial home, leaving behind his extensive studies, deep values, and most importantly, his simplicity and pray and hope that many people would recognize and adhere to his values.

The IAVP expresses deepest condolences and prays the Almighty God to give strength to the family and near and dear ones to bear the unrepairable loss caused by his demise. Even though the Veterinary Pathology fraternity has lost one of its eminent torch bearers, the legacy that Dr J.L. Vegad left behind will always live in hearts of Indian Veterinary Pathologists.