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Azim Premji Foundation to support nutritional enrichment of the mid-day meal program covering 55 lakh students in Karnataka



Yasmin Premji & industrialist Azim Premji with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister of School Education & Literacy Madhu Bangarappa after signing the MoU to provide eggs to school students in the mid-day meal, in Bengaluru on July 20, 2024.

Azim Premji Foundation today entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka to support the nutritional enrichment of the state government’s mid-day meal program in government and government-aided schools for three years.

Eggs will be added to the mid-day meal for the 55 lakh students in these schools -- from Grade 1 to Grade 10 -- to provide this nutritional enrichment. As is well-known, eggs are packed with a wide range of essential nutritional content from proteins to minerals. Currently the state government’s mid-day meal program provides eggs on 2 days of the week to the students. The Foundation’s support will enable the provision of eggs on all 6 days of the school week, substantially enhancing the nutrition for students. An alternative high nutrition supplement will be provided for those students who do not consume eggs because of cultural preferences.



M.S.R Prasad,  
General Secretary - KPFBA

This initiative will help improve the nutritional status of school students and contribute to their physical and cognitive development. The Foundation works extensively across the country to help improve the quality and equity of the public (government) education system. The Foundation will work closely with the Commissioner of School Education and Literacy (CSE) to implement mechanisms to ensure high-quality eggs are delivered to each child in the schools covered by the program.

Welcoming the initiative by Azim Premji Foundation, the KPFBA General Secretary and the Zonal Chairman (Hospet) of the National Egg Coordination Committee Mr. M.S.R.Prasad said “It is a highly laudable initiative. Addressing the nutritional requirements of children by providing eggs as part of the mid-day meal scheme will boost the health of the children. It is certainly a step in the right direction. We at KPFBA and NECC hope that it reaches the children at all levels, schools, anganwadis, rural areas etc and the programme is a success. We, at KPFBA and NECC, are ready to work together in achieving the goal of reaching 55 lakh children across the state.”The KPFBA has sought a meeting with Azim Premji Foundation to explore opportunities to work together in this initiative.





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## Poultry India Expo from November 27 to 29 in Hyderabad

The Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers' Association's (IPEMA) flagship annual event – Poultry India Expo will be held from November 27 to 29 at the HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad.

This event, now in its 16th edition, is South Asia's largest and most prestigious poultry exhibition, a vital platform for industry stakeholders to explore the latest advancements and trends in poultry management, health, nutrition, and production technologies. It is a comprehensive forum for the poultry industry.

The event offers a deep dive into various facets of poultry farming, including feed equipment, technology, breeders, egg farming, and animal health. Attendees can gain insights into the latest research, innovations in poultry science and technology, and the significance of advanced practices like cage systems and feed milling.

Complementing the exhibition is the Knowledge Day Technical Seminar on November 26, at Novotel, Hitech City, Hyderabad. This seminar is a gathering of leading regional and international poultry experts who will share their knowledge and experiences, providing valuable insights for professionals across the industry. The seminar aims to address emerging challenges in the poultry sector, from supply chain to environmental concerns and disease management.

This event is expected to bring together over 400 exhibitors, over 1500 Knowledge-day delegates from more than 50 countries and more than 40000 visitors. The expo provides an essential platform for industry professionals to connect, discover the latest advancements in poultry management, health, and nutrition, and explore new business opportunities.

For more details on business opportunities and future events, please contact IPEMA at:

Email: [office3@poultryindia.co.in](mailto:office3@poultryindia.co.in)

Phone: +91 7997994331



## Dr. N.K. Shivakumar Gowda appointed Dean of Veterinary College, Bengaluru

Dr N K Shivakumar Gowda, has been appointed as the Dean of Veterinary College, Bengaluru. He graduated in 1989 from the same college and later obtained his Masters and Ph. D in the discipline of Animal Nutrition from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Dr. Gowda joined Agricultural Research Service in 1994 and worked at the ICAR-Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar and the ICAR-National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru for over 30 years. He has served as the Head of Animal Nutrition Division and Director of ICAR- National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru. His areas of research work are Micronutrients in Animal production; Feed resources; Feed quality; Nutrition and Reproduction in farm animals. He has completed several Institute and external funded projects in Animal Nutrition and published more than 200 publications in reputed journals and periodicals.



He has guided and supervised the research work of over 15 post graduate students. He is the Principal innovator of three patents and he has commercialized five animal nutrition technologies. He has delivered more than 25 radio talks and 4 television interviews for the benefit of livestock farming community.

Dr. Gowda is the recipient of ICAR Outstanding Team research award, Sir. C V Raman Scientist award from the Karnataka Council of Science and Technology, Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and National Academy of Veterinary Sciences. Presently he is the Vice Chairman of Indian Dairy Association-South zone, Chief Editor of Indian Journal of Animal Nutrition and Convener of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru chapter.

The KPFBA management takes this opportunity to extend heartfelt congratulations to Dr. N.K.S Gowda on his appointment as the Dean of the Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bangalore. KPFBA looks forward to work together to develop innovative solutions to address the skill gaps in the poultry sector.'



## Karnataka Govt allows clubs, hotels, bars and restaurants to operate till 1 am in Bengaluru

The Karnataka Government has extended the deadline for hotels, shops, and licensed establishments in Bengaluru up to 1 a.m, hoping that the move would generate additional revenue for the State.

The Karnataka government has issued an order extending the deadline for hotels, shops, and licensed establishments to remain open until 1 am. The order was issued on July 29 and would apply to the establishment under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

As per the order, CL-4 (license to clubs), CL-6 (A) (star hotel licenses), CL-7 (hotel and boarding house licenses), and CL-7D (hotels and boarding house licenses owned by the person belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) license holders can operate businesses from 9 am to 1 am.

Those with the CL-9 (refreshment room (bar)) license can operate from 10 am to 1 am.

P C Rao, President, Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association, said the move would help the public and create jobs in the city.



## All major corn exporters see increased bids - USDA FAS

Since the July report of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE), export bids for all major exporters have increased, according to a recent USDA FAS world grain markets report. US bids experienced the least change, up just \$1/ton to \$182, and are currently the most price competitive on expectations of plentiful supplies. For the week ending August 4, NASS estimates 67% of the corn crop to be in good-to-excellent condition, compared to 68% a week prior and 57% a year ago.

Ukrainian bids were up \$19/ton to \$205. Hot, dry weather in Ukraine may be influencing supply expectations for the upcoming crop.

Brazilian bids were up \$5/ton to \$192 and Argentine bids were up \$4/ton to \$184. Farmer sales and exports have been sluggish in both countries.

### India demand

A surge in domestic demand for corn in India has sharply curtailed exports and led to record imports for TY 2023/24 (Oct-Sep). Driving factors for this rise in demand include government ethanol policy and a growing poultry market. Historically, India has been a net exporter that supplies significant volumes of corn to South and Southeast Asia. For the first time since 1999/00, India will import as much corn as it exports.

India recently revised its 2018 National Policy on Biofuels to include corn as a feedstock, offering price incentives for corn-based ethanol. Sugar, India's primary feedstock for ethanol, has faced government restrictions in usage for ethanol following multiple years of low production, further incentivising corn feedstock.

Ethanol manufacturers' shift to corn as an alternative

coincides with a 10% increase in feed demand from India's growing poultry sector. For the first time since 2019/20, India has imported foreign corn from Ukraine and Burma, where non-GE corn cultivation meet India's GE import restrictions. Additionally, in June, India announced corn imports of 500,000 tons under a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) at a 15 percent duty to satisfy this sharp rise in demand<sup>3</sup>.

High global supplies have facilitated a drop in international corn prices in 2023/24. This has dampened India corn exports as strong domestic prices have incentivised traders to keep supplies in-country.

India has been a key exporter to Vietnam, Nepal, and Bangladesh, exporting 2.8 million tons of corn in 2022/23, nearly a quarter of the countries' combined total corn imports. However, exports from India to these countries declined 86 percent in the first 8 months of 2023/24 year over year. In response to this drop-off, countries shifted to other exporters or relied further on domestic supplies.





## A High-Level Brainstorming Session on Avian Influenza Under One Health Approach

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying recently convened a high-level brainstorming session on Avian Influenza, focusing on surveillance and vaccination under the 'One Health' approach. The session was chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying Ms. Alka Upadhyaya. The event was attended by a diverse group of officers and experts.

Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary of the Department of Health Research and Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), set the context of the One Health Mission. Participants included senior experts from ICMR Headquarters, ICMR-NIV Pune, CSIR-Centre for Cell and Molecular Biology (CCMB), the National Centre for Disease Control, ICAR-NIHSAD Bhopal, ICAR-NIVEDI Bangalore, and representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department of Biotechnology, DM Cell, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD).

The poultry sector in India plays a crucial role in food security by providing a reliable source of high-quality protein. It significantly contributes to nutritional security and supports livelihoods, particularly in rural areas. The sector, which has grown steadily at a rate of 7-10% over the past decade, also boosts trade and exports, contributing to the country's economic growth. However, recurrent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks hinder its potential and impact exports.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 subtype virus is evolving biologically and expanding geographically, with the emergence of well-established genetic lineages. The recent HPAI outbreak in dairy cattle in the USA, with spill over to other mammals, underscores the pandemic potential of HPAI. Addressing this threat requires the One Health approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health with enhanced coordination and comprehensive strategies. The session featured comprehensive presentations from the Human Health, Animal Husbandry, and Wildlife sectors, highlighting current surveillance protocols and response mechanisms for Avian Influenza outbreaks. The need for enhanced environmental surveillance and updating existing protocols was emphasized.

Experts concurred on the necessity of proactive One Health Coordination to prepare for exotic and emergent zoonotic

diseases like Avian Influenza. Discussions focused on strengthening surveillance at the interface areas between humans, animals, and wildlife, augmenting active surveillance, and deploying cross-sectoral Joint Response Teams (RRTs).

The Influenza A/H5 virus is spreading through poultry and wild birds along well-defined migratory routes. Given India's position along the migratory bird flyway, developing an effective strategy for migratory bird surveillance at water bodies during the winter season is emphasized for early warnings and disease control. Special emphasis is placed on developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for environmental surveillance using low-cost methods at sites like wet markets, water bodies, wastewater, slaughterhouses, and poultry farms. Following the lead from wastewater screening for COVID and polio virus, CCMB, ICMR, and NIV have initiated research in this area, yielding significant and promising results.

The globally available HPAI vaccines typically neither provide sterile immunity nor are 100% effective against all strains. Vaccines offer partial immunity, reducing disease severity and viral shedding but not entirely preventing infection. Vaccinated birds can still carry and transmit the virus without exhibiting symptoms, complicating surveillance and outbreak detection. This partial immunity can lead to the emergence of vaccine-resistant strains. Considering these scenarios and the difficulties in ensuring stringent biosecurity and movement restrictions, particularly in the backyard poultry sectors, experts advocate continuing the present strategy of surveillance and culling with no vaccination. However, the need for advanced research for vaccines for both humans and poultry birds is emphasized. ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal, which has already commercialized the vaccine technology against Low-Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI-H9N2), has taken a significant lead in developing an indigenous vaccine against HPAI. ICMR is also planning to initiate cell-culture-based vaccines against Avian flu for human use.

The brainstorming session marked a significant step towards a coordinated and comprehensive approach to managing Avian Influenza. By leveraging the One Health approach, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying aims to enhance surveillance, response mechanisms, and vaccine development, thereby mitigating the impact of Avian Influenza and similar zoonotic diseases.





## National Action Plan for Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India has formulated the National Action Plan for Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza 2021 for guidance of States/UTs for prevention, control and containment of Avian Influenza in the country. It aims at routine and targeted surveillance and instant stamping out of birds (in a radius of one km from epicenter), destruction of contaminated material, restriction on movement of poultry and Post Operation Surveillance Plan (POSP).

Advisories have been issued to support all states/UTs for keeping necessary vigil, enhancing surveillance, keeping strategic reserves of supplies (PPE kits, etc.), preparedness to handle eventualities and Information Education Communication (IEC) for public awareness including meetings and the visit of National Joint Outbreak Response Team to support the state on ground. Further, under the component

Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD), farmers/poultry owners are compensated for the culling of birds as per approved rates based on the demand and action plan of the state/UT with funding pattern of 50:50 between Central and State. The States/UTs are also financially supported for 'Control of Emergent and Exotic Diseases', strengthening of State biological production units and Disease Diagnostic Laboratories including Research & Innovation with Central-State fund sharing pattern of 60-40, 90-10 for NER & Himalayan States and 100% for UTs and 100% for activities under "Research & Innovation, publicity & awareness training and allied activities.

Moreover, it is providing laboratory support by Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RDDDLs), Central Disease Diagnosis Laboratory (CDDL) and National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD).

## World Poultry Show from November 12 to 15 in Hanover

The World Poultry Show will be held in Hanover, Germany, from November 12 to 15 according to EuroTier. The main topics will be animal welfare and the CO2 footprint in poultry. The theme spotlight Artificial Intelligence "AI in the poultry house" will present solutions for poultry housing.

The Expert Stage "Poultry" will provide information on current developments and innovations in the areas of poultry farming, animal health, feeding, management and marketing. The International Poultry Conference and the International Poultry Event round off the information and networking program.

EuroTier is the world's leading trade fair for professional animal husbandry and livestock management.





## Olympics and Huge Demand for Chicken and Eggs

The importance of chicken and eggs in an athlete's nutritional requirement got highlighted during the recently concluded Olympics in Paris. There was massive shortage of eggs and chicken in the Olympic Village in Paris with athletes complaining and the organisers working hard to get these essential food.

Sodexo, the catering partner, confirmed during the Olympics that there was a 'very high demand for eggs and chicken' and that it tied up with various vendors to ensure that the demand was met. The Olympic Village had 6 different catering areas where 15,000 athletes from all over the world turned up to consume some 13 million meals during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Poultry meat, eggs, milk and other products were sourced from France, with at least a quarter of all the food coming from within a 250 km radius from Paris and over 20% being organic.

In fact, in the initial days of the Games, there was insufficient supply of eggs and they had to be rationed at breakfast, not a good sign for an event such as Olympics. "It was requested to revise upwards the quantities initially planned and the group was able to satisfy," confirmed a spokesperson for the French Carrefour supermarket group, which was in

charge of supplying fresh products to the Olympic Village.

Usain Bolt on devouring chicken in 2008 Beijing Olympics

Rich in protein, chicken and eggs are the favourites of top athletes. During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the fastest man in the world – Usain Bolt ate nearly 1,000 chicken McNuggets from McDonald's. He was in Beijing for 10 days and he is supposed to have eaten 100 crispy chicken chunks a day.

"At first I ate a box of 20 for lunch, then another for dinner," he wrote in "Faster Than Lightning," his 2013 autobiography. "The next day I had two boxes for breakfast, one for lunch and then another couple in the evening. I even grabbed some fries and an apple pie to go with it."

The Olympic kitchen served 15,000 athletes during the Games and remained open 24 hours a day. Under the care of Michelin-trained chefs, the kitchen was expected to provide 40 entrees, "plus a salad bar, a grill, a cheese cart, a boulangerie, a hot bar, a dessert bar and a fruit stand." In all, it was expected to serve about 40,000 meals a day and close to 13 million meals in total over the course of the Olympic and Paralympic Games





## PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS

### Betalife from Guybro Animal Health

Betalife is a combination of natural betaine and high-density energy supplying nutrients. It provides necessary nutrition through drinking water during periods of stress and low feed consumption. Betalife contains menthol, a potent anti-stressor and relaxant which supplements a cooling effect during peak heat stress periods. According to Guybro, It keeps the bird healthy and productive during off feed seasons by providing an easy, nutrient rich source of dietary energy.

The benefits include a) Potent anti-stress system helps maintain productivity in any kind of stress; b) Reduces morbidity and mortality by preventive dosing; c) Provides instant source of energy and nutrient and d) Helps birds regain profitable production faster.



### Tesla Series of Layer Cages from Metplast

Metplast Industries has introduced Poultry Manure Removal System which is a cool design. It can clean the manure with the highest speed and keep the house clean. It is a solid structure and is said to be highly durable. The automatic machine is easy to install and maintain and the automatic control saves time and manpower. It ensures the manure is dry and reduces environmental pollution.

Located in Khopoli, Maharashtra, Metplast Industries has a number of innovations and develops new equipment to meet the needs of poultry farmers.



### United Ivory's Airtight Agro House Systems

United Ivory Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary company of Tong Yong Metal Sdn Bhd, has innovative designs and solutions for the poultry sector. Its deluxe range of airtight agro-house systems using light-weight galvanized steel hollow sections is one of them.

The systems are made of 100% galvanized steel without welding and painting. The galvanized Iron sections are corrosion resistant and dimensionally stable. They are easy to install. The air tight system is ideally suited for a fan-powered ventilation systems, because of low heat transfer and no air leaks.

The salient features of the ventilation system include comprehensive and fool-proof temperature control system; Maximized circulation through powerful fans; World class cooling pads retractable modulating house walls and fail-safe backup controller.





## PERSON OF THE MONTH:

**Result-oriented leader: Dr. Boopathi. P**

He is calm, collected, analytical and result-oriented. He is Dr. Boopathi. Periasamy, the Assistant Vice President of CPF (India), one of the largest poultry establishments in this part of the country.

A native of Namakkal, Dr. Boopathi has over 25 years of experience in the poultry and feed sector having worked in various capacities in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Having passed out of the Madras Veterinary College with a degree in B.V.Sc, Dr. Boopathi pursued a career in the poultry sector.

Dr. Boopathi has been with the Thailand-based Charoen Pokphand Group Company since 1999 being the farm manager, later on he was elevated to the position of DGM and then he served as the General Manager of CPF India since 2008. Currently he is the Assistant Vice President since 2014, looking after the commercial operations in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. CPF India is a subsidiary unit of Charoen Pokphand Group (CP), a Thai multi-national conglomerate, with \$50 billion worth of businesses in agro-industry & food, retail and telecommunications.

With professionals such as Dr. Boopathi, the company strives to maintain its leading position in the agro-industrial and food industry. The company's vision is of becoming the 'Kitchen of the World' and the team in Bangalore is dedicated to provide high quality, nutritious, hygienic and safe products to satisfy consumer's needs in many markets around the world.

A simple and down to earth person, Dr. Boopathi has played significant role in the Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association having been a Managing Committee member from 2019-23. He is a keen listener and provides valuable inputs at the right time and his services to the KPFBA has been recognised.

Recently, Dr. Boopathi was honored with the Excellence Award by CPF India for their exceptional services in the poultry sector. This recognition highlights his dedication and outstanding contributions to both the poultry sector and his company. His commitment to excellence has truly made a significant impact.





# **RECIPE: CHICKEN SHAKSHUKA**

Shakshuka is a dish that’s as fun to say as it is to eat.

## **INGREDIENTS**

Extra Virgin Olive Oil; Large Onion chopped; Green Peppers chopped; Garlic Cloves chopped; Ground Coriander 1 teaspoon; Sweet Paprika ½ teaspoon; Ground Cumin; Red Pepper Flakes (optional; Salt and Pepper; Medium Tomatoes (chopped, about 6 cups chopped tomatoes); Tomato Sauce ½ cup; 6 Eggs; Fresh Parsley leaves chopped ¼ cup; and Fresh Mint leaves chopped.

## **PREPARATION**

First, heat 3 tbsp olive oil in a large cast iron skillet. Add the onions, green peppers, garlic, spices, pinch salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables have softened, about 5 minutes. Add the tomatoes and tomato sauce and then cover and let simmer for about 15 minutes. Uncover and cook a bit longer to allow the mixture to reduce and thicken. Using a wooden spoon, make 6 indentations, or “wells,” in the tomato mixture (make sure the indentations are spaced out). Gently crack an egg into each indentation. Reduce the heat, cover the skillet, and cook on low until the egg whites are set.



## **CHICKEN TRIVIA** **BENEFITS OF EATING CHICKEN**



**Chicken breast: 284 calories:** Chicken breast is one of the most popular cuts of chicken. It’s high in protein and low in fat, making it an excellent choice for people trying to lose weight.



**Egg protein has 97% digestion rate:** According to the World Health Organization (WHO,) egg protein has a 97% digestion rate, which refers to the body’s ability to use the protein it is ingesting. That’s slightly higher than other animal-based protein sources, like dairy (95%) and meat (94%.)

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