## 33rd Conference of WOAH Regional Commission for Asia and Pacific Begins in New Delhi

Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan along with Hon'ble Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Dr. L. Murugan inaugurated the 33rd WOAH Regional Commission Conference for Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi.

The 4 days conference kickstarted on Monday, November 13 and will end on November 16, 2023.

Secretary AHD, MoFAHD, GoI, and the chairperson of the 33rd WOAH Regional Commission Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Ms. Alka Upadhyaya; Director General of WoAH, Dr. Monique Eloit; President of WOAH Regional Commission of Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Baoxu Huang; Animal husbandry commissioner, Dr. Abhijit Mitra, and WOAH Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific, Japan, Dr Hirofumi Kugita also graced the event with their presence.

Secretary AHD, MoFAHD, GoI, Ms. Alka Upadhyaya expressed her views on the role of One Health, National Digital Livestock Mission and how it is restoring India's overall livestock health scenario.

Chairman and Managing Director of NDDB, and Board Member of the International Dairy Federation (IDF), Mr. Meenesh Shah underlined the challenges in the Indian livestock production system during a panel discussion held on the inaugural day of the event.

The decision to organize this significant event in India was made during the 90th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the WOAH in Paris in May 2023.

The conference that is hosted by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying is set to attract delegates from 36 member nations including India, senior officials from regional & international organizations and representatives from the private sector as well as private veterinary organizations in the region.

The challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic underlines the important role of scientific expertise in evaluating risks at the human-animal-environment interface. It also highlights the need to improve resilience and capacity in Veterinary Services for future challenges.

The conferences will facilitate closer contact, active dialogue, and meaningful discussions among representatives, experts & regional partners.

