

Anocovax

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In news— Recently, **the Union Agriculture Minister has launched the first homegrown COVID-19 vaccine Anocovax, for animals,** developed by Haryana-based ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (NRC NSE).

What is Anocovax?

- Anocovax is an **inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta (COVID-19) vaccine for animals.**
- The **immunity induced by Anocovax neutralises both Delta and Omicron variants** of SARS-CoV-2.
- The **vaccine contains inactivated SARS-CoV-2 (Delta) antigen with Alhydrogel as an adjuvant.**
- It is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits.
- The antibody detection kit is made in India and a patent has been filed for it.
- Studies have revealed pets can contract Covid from their owners through close contact.
- But there has been no evidence that humans can get Covid from the animals.

Other initiatives launched-

- Besides Anocovac, **Tomar launched the CAN-CoV-2 ELISA kit, a sensitive and specific nucleocapsid protein-based indirect ELISA kit** — for antibody detection against SARS-CoV-2 in canines.
- **Surra ELISA kit, a suitable diagnostic assay for 'Trypanosoma evansi'** infection in multiple animal species, was also launched.
- **Surra is one of the most important haemoprotozoan diseases of the different livestock species** caused by Trypanosoma evansi.
- The disease is prevalent in all the agro-climatic parts of India.
- The minister also launched the **Equine DNA parentage**

testing kit, which is a powerful genomic technology for parentage analysis among horses.