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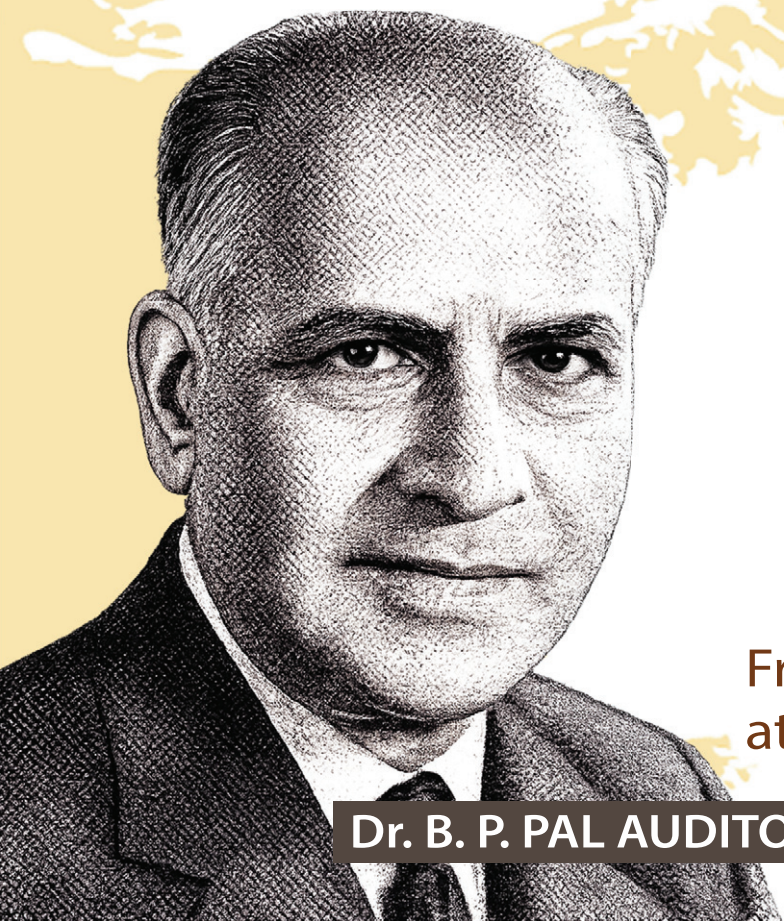
Dr. B. P. PAL MEMORIAL LECTURE

Speaker

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

Chairperson, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation

One Planet, One Health: Biohappiness and a Sustainable Future



Friday, 17 July 2026
at 02:30 PM

Dr. B. P. PAL AUDITORIUM, ICAR-IARI, NEW DELHI

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat



Dr. Mangi Lal Jat is an internationally renowned agronomist and agricultural scientist recognized for his pioneering contributions to sustainable intensification, conservation agriculture, climate-smart farming, regenerative agriculture, precision agriculture, and resilient cropping systems. A native of Rajasthan, he obtained his B.Sc. (Agri) and M.Sc. (Agronomy) from SKN College of Agriculture, Jobner, and earned his Ph.D. in Agronomy from the ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, in 1999. Over a distinguished career spanning more than 25 years, Dr. Jat has served in several leading national and international research organizations. In April 2025, Dr. Jat assumed office as Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India, and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

He began his scientific career with the ICAR before assuming key leadership positions with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). His research has focused on developing resource-efficient, climate-resilient, and farmer-centric production systems across Asia and Africa, influencing global policies and practices for sustainable agriculture and food systems. He has authored more than 350 peer-reviewed scientific publications and is widely recognized for advancing systems agronomy and conservation agriculture. He was elected Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) in 2016.

As the Leader of ICAR, Dr. Jat provides strategic leadership to one of the world's largest national agricultural research systems, guiding research, innovation, education, technology development, and capacity building to strengthen food and nutritional security, climate resilience, and sustainable agricultural development. His association with IARI, as an alumnus and one of its distinguished graduates, reflects the Institute's enduring legacy of producing globally recognized leaders in agricultural science and research.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan



Dr. Soumya Swaminathan is an internationally acclaimed Indian paediatrician, clinical scientist, and global public health leader, widely recognized for her pioneering contributions to tuberculosis, HIV, child health, and infectious disease research. She earned her MBBS from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, followed by an MD in Paediatrics from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and completed postdoctoral training in neonatology and paediatric pulmonology at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Her research has focused on tuberculosis epidemiology, TB-HIV co-infection, molecular diagnostics, and strategies for delivering effective treatment to underserved populations.

Dr. Swaminathan served as Secretary to the Government of India for Health Research and Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) from 2015 to 2017, where she strengthened evidence-based health policy, expanded research capacity, and promoted South–South scientific collaboration. She subsequently joined the World Health Organization (WHO) as Deputy Director-General for Programmes (2017–2019) and later became its first Chief Scientist (2019–2022), playing a pivotal role in coordinating the global scientific response to the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing equitable access to health innovations.

Dr. Swaminathan is also closely associated with India's scientific legacy through her family. She is the daughter of the eminent agricultural scientist Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, widely regarded as the architect of India's Green Revolution. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan spent nearly two decades (1954–1972) at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, where he served as a teacher, researcher, and research administrator, led pioneering wheat breeding and cytogenetics research, established the Nuclear Research Laboratory, and laid the scientific foundation for India's Green Revolution before becoming Director General of ICAR. Although Dr. Soumya Swaminathan's own career has been devoted to medical and public health research rather than agricultural science, she carries forward a distinguished family tradition of science-led national development and global impact.

ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute
New Delhi 110012

33rd Dr. B.P. Pal Memorial Lecture

Venue: Dr. B. P. Pal Auditorium, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
Date: Friday, July 17, 2026
Time: 02:15 PM - 03:30 PM

PROGRAMME

02:15 PM	Invocation	TGS Choir
02:20 PM	Lighting of the lamp and Tribute to Dr. B.P. Pal	All dignitaries
02:25 PM	Welcome Address	Dr. Anupama Singh Joint Director (Edn.) & Dean, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
02:30 PM	About the Chairperson	Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
02:35 PM	About the Speaker	Dr. M. L. Jat Secretary, DARE & DG ICAR, New Delhi
02:45 PM	Dr. B.P. Pal Memorial Lecture	Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai

One Planet, One Health: Biohappiness and a Sustainable Future

03:15 PM	Chairperson's Remarks	Dr. M. L. Jat Secretary, DARE & DG ICAR, New Delhi
03:25 PM	Words of Thanks	Dr. C. Bharadwaj Professor, Genetics Division & President, Genetics Club

All are invited



Scan to attend

