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From the Editor-in-Chief

From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

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तस्यां हिरण्यवक्षसि पृथिव्यामाश्रितो जनः।
यामाशाश्च प्रविशाश्च समन्ताद्यस्यामन्नम् कृष्टयः संबभूवुः॥

(On this Earth—where all species take refuge, where life spreads in every direction, and where all creatures derive their sustenance together—may we live in mutual respect)
Atharva Veda (Prithvi Sukta, 12.1.15)

Long before modern medicine formalized the One Health framework, ancient ecological wisdom recognized the fundamental truth that human health does not exist in a vacuum. The Atharva Veda's call for mutual respect across all species and the environment is an important one. Protecting human wellbeing requires us to safeguard the ecosystems that sustain us and animal life with whom we share a single home.

True wellbeing relies on a harmony between humans, animals, and the planet, making it essential for every conscious citizen to recognize and uphold this vital connection. This synergy is the foundation of '*One Health*.' It recognizes these interdependencies and advocates integrated thinking and shared responsibility. Observing closely, we also find that the emerging zoonotic diseases, biodiversity loss, environmental pollution and other changing ecological conditions are intricately linked. Health of one cannot be disconnected from that of the others.

Significantly, the October 2026 issue of *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis* brings together myriad perspectives on the theme '*One Health*,' delving into scientific, technological, environmental, social and ethical dimensions of the concern.

Reema Bhatia's editorial, "Human–Animal Bonds, Belonging and Community through a One Health Lens," explores human–animal relationship and its impact on social bonds, shared spaces and community life. The editorial highlights the need for an inclusive approach, which recognizes animals as crucial members of multispecies communities.

The research article by Salam and colleagues titled, "Tracing Zoonotic Emergence through Evolution and Biodiversity of Reptiles: An Appraisal on One Health Concept from the Indian Subcontinent" explores the intersection of reptilian biodiversity with zoonotic emergence. Further, Kumar's article, "Who Controls, Who Suffers and Who Counts? Rethinking Accountability in AI-Driven One Health," discusses accountability and ethical use of artificial intelligence in health systems.

Review articles in this issue bring out aspects of environmental sustainability and disease prevention. Aranha's research paper, "The Promise and Peril of Plastics in the Modern World" examines environmental impact of using plastics. Biswas, Shet and Bhattacharyya's "One Health Approach for Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases in India" foregrounds an integrated approach to disease control.

Invited article, "The Idea of 'One Health:' Interspecies Dialogue and Narrative Possibilities," authored by Rakesh Batabyal, discusses various

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aspects of the relationship between humans and other species. Further reinforcing the concept, the report by Chanchal Bhattacharya and Manojit Shit, "Global Health Security and the Neglect of Animal Health: Financing Gaps in Veterinary Services and Implications for Pandemic Prevention," gives attention to veterinary services as an essential component of global health security. The current issue also includes Amrit Warwal's review of Savasaachi's book, *Tryst with Nature: Labour, Self and Language*, bringing a cultural and humanist perspective on relationships in nature.

Viewed collectively, the articles in this issue compel us to view different life-forms and the environment as an integrated whole. 'One Health,' therefore, paves the way for an increased sensitivity to our shared existence and collective responsibility towards all forms of life. In this regard, the tenet *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, acquires yet another significance; while the world is one family, different forms of existence therein are bound in meaningful interdependence.

I hope this issue encourages further cross-disciplinary conversations on the salience of an inclusive approach to human, animal and environmental well-being.