

Views And Voices



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From the director's desk

Rabies elimination is built in the field

Dear Readers,

Every field visit reminds us of a simple truth: rabies elimination will not be achieved through vaccination alone.

Vaccination is indispensable, but before a dog can be vaccinated, we need to know where dogs are, how many there are, and how communities interact with them. We need trained teams, reliable surveillance, good data and communities that trust and participate in the programme.

Over the past few months, our work has increasingly brought these elements together. Dog enumeration is helping us move from assumptions towards measurable populations. Digital mapping and QR-enabled collars are linking dogs with vaccination records. Community surveys are helping us understand the human consequences of dog bites and rabies, while training programmes are building local capacity.

The most important lesson is that rabies elimination is not an event; it is a system that has to be built and sustained.

That system must connect veterinary services, public health, local administration, researchers and communities. It must measure progress, identify gaps and respond when protection weakens. Protecting people and improving the welfare of dogs should remain complementary goals.

At JH CreIndia Foundation, our ambition is therefore not simply to conduct vaccination drives, but to help develop approaches that communities and districts can eventually operate, measure and sustain themselves.

Every dog vaccinated, every field worker trained and every community engaged takes us closer to a future where no person dies from a preventable disease such as rabies.

Warm regards,

Dr. Harish Kumar Tiwari

Director, JH CreIndia Foundation





International Wildlife Ecology Conference (IWECC) 2026

JH CreIndia Foundation was honoured to participate in the Indian Wildlife Ecology Conference (IWECC) 2026, held at Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana, where experts from wildlife ecology, veterinary science, public health, policy, and conservation came together to discuss pressing One Health challenges.

Our Founder, Dr. Harish Tiwari, attended the conference as an esteemed panelist in the session "Dog Gone?", where he also presented CreIndia's perspective on the One Health approach to rabies elimination. His presentation highlighted the importance of evidence-based dog population management, mass dog vaccination, community participation, and interdisciplinary collaboration to achieve Zero Human Deaths from Dog-Mediated Rabies.

The conference provided an excellent platform for knowledge exchange and meaningful discussions, reinforcing CreIndia's commitment to advancing One Health solutions and building collaborations for a healthier and rabies-free future.

OCTAVATE (NEST symposium)



The JH CreIndia team participated in OCTAVATE 2026, the NEST Cluster Tech Conclave held at IIT Guwahati, engaging with students, researchers delegates and guests at our exhibition stall. Visitors explored our digital data-collection and mapping system, dog enumeration process, vaccination initiatives and QR-enabled collars designed to help track vaccination information. The positive response and encouraging conversations have motivated us to further enhance our outreach efforts.



14th DBT /WT India Alliance Annual Conclave 2026

JH CreIndia foundation was proud to be represented at the 14th DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Annual Conclave 2026, themed "Milestones to Momentum." The event brought together leading researchers, innovators, funding agencies and policymakers to discuss the future of biomedical and health research in India. A key highlight for CreIndia was the participation of our founder, Dr. Harish Tiwari, who presented CreIndia's One Health Approach to rabies elimination. His presentation showcased how integrating human, animal, and environment health through community engagement, dog population management, vaccination and data-driven surveillance can contribute to achieving the goal of Zero Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies.

The conclave provided an excellent platform to exchange ideas, build collaborations and share CreIndia's ongoing efforts with the wider scientific community.



Anti-Rabies Vaccination Drive in Laitumkhrah, Shillong

JH CreIndia Foundation, in collaboration with the Government of Meghalaya, National Health Mission, Veterinary Department, Humans United for Animals and Nature(HUFAN), Shillong Municipal Board and Infectious Disease Surveillance Programme inaugurated the Comprehensive One Health Approach to Eliminate Dog-Mediated Human Rabies in Laitumkhrah, Shillong. The initiative aims to strengthen rabies prevention through coordinated action across the human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

Led by our Founder, Dr. Harish Tiwari, the CreIndia team conducted a 12-day comprehensive rabies elimination campaign in Laitumkhrah. As part of the initiative, government officials and field personnel received hands-on training in dog enumeration, mass dog vaccination, digital data collection, and the use of CreIndia's mobile-based mapping system for tracking vaccinated dogs.

The training also focused on practical field skills, including safe dog handling and capture, installation of QR-tagged collars, and preparation of route maps using QGIS. These skills are intended to strengthen local capacity and enable systematic, data-driven rabies control activities.

As part of the campaign, 90 dogs were vaccinated. Following vaccination, the dogs were fitted with QR-tagged collars containing their vaccination information, allowing their vaccination status and relevant records to be accessed through scanning. This approach supports easier identification, monitoring, and follow-up of vaccinated dogs.

Dr. Harish Tiwari also addressed the gathering and announced a contribution of ₹1,00,000 to support the initiative. The programme brought together stakeholders from different sectors, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between human health, animal health, local authorities, and communities.

The initiative represents an important step towards building local capacity, improving vaccination coverage, strengthening rabies surveillance, and establishing a sustainable, evidence-based framework for achieving Zero Human Deaths from Dog-Mediated Rabies.

Through training, technology, vaccination, community participation, and intersectoral collaboration, JH CreIndia Foundation continues to strengthen communities through the One Health approach and work towards a rabies-free Meghalaya.



Surveillance, Vaccination and Community Engagement- Working Together Against Rabies.

Dog Enumeration and Vaccination drive at IIT Guwahati

As part of its ongoing efforts towards rabies prevention and One Health, the JH CreIndia team conducted a comprehensive dog enumeration exercise at IIT Guwahati, beginning on 20 July 2026 and continuing for five days.

The enumeration was carried out through two tracks to systematically cover the campus and document the free-roaming dog population. The survey estimated approximately 231±12 dogs across the IIT Guwahati campus, providing valuable baseline data for planning targeted vaccination and other rabies-control interventions.

Following the enumeration, dog vaccination is now underway on the campus, translating the collected data into action. The initiative aims to improve vaccination coverage, strengthen rabies prevention, and contribute to a safer environment for both the campus community and animals.



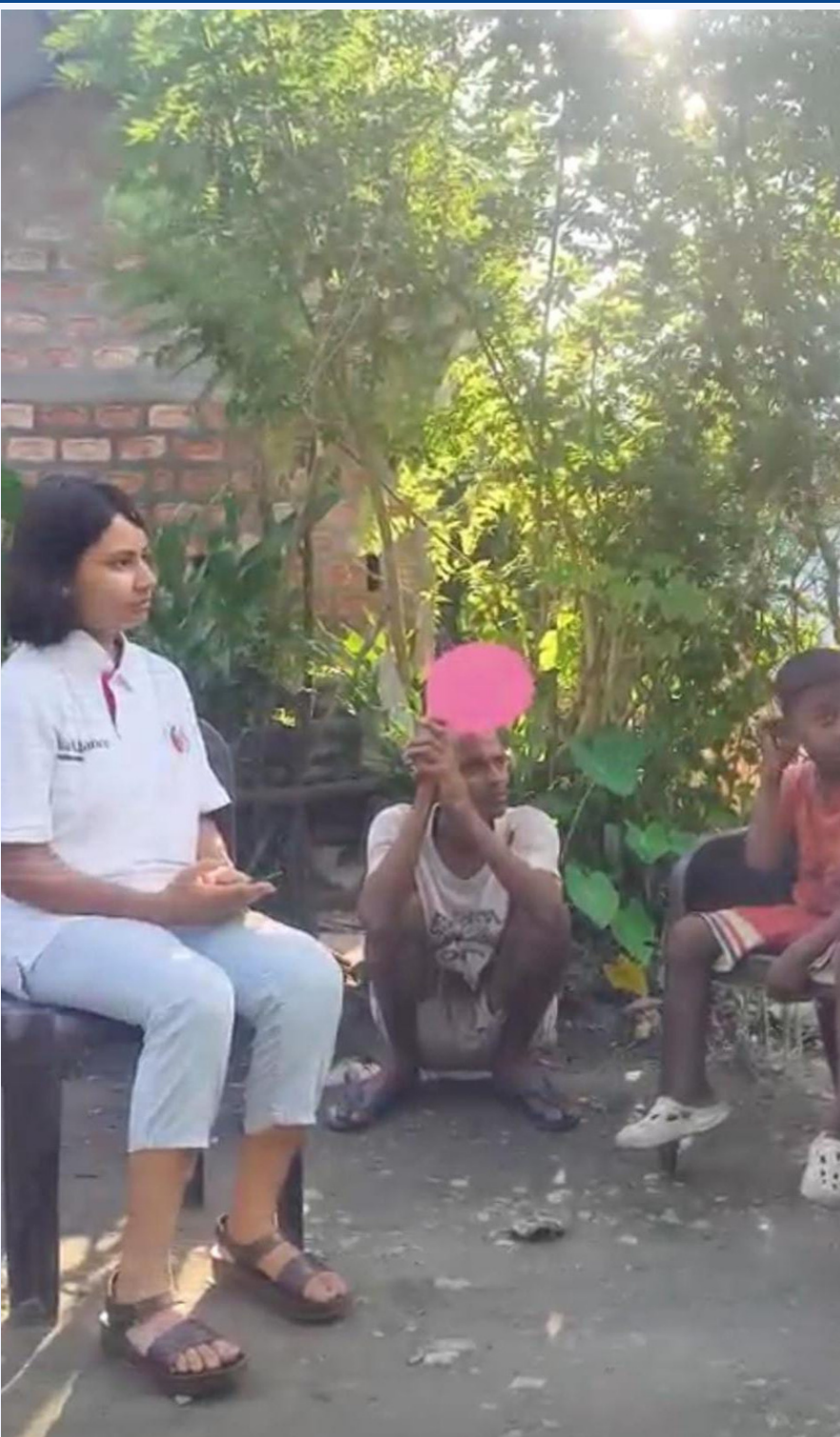
Survey in Hattigor Tea Estate

The initial phase involved the enumeration of dogs across the Hattigor Estate and their numbers were recorded. This enumeration provides an essential baseline for planning and monitoring rabies prevention activities in the area.

Following the enumeration, anti-rabies vaccination of dogs is currently underway, with the aim of achieving at least 70% vaccination coverage of the dog population. Achieving this level of coverage is an important step towards reducing the transmission of rabies within the community and protecting both animals and humans from the disease.



Community Surveys and Assessment of Rabies Burden



The survey activities have also extended into the local communities surrounding Hattigor Estate. Field teams visited different residential areas, including Hattigor Bhelakuti Line and Hattigor Lines No. 1 and 2, where interactions were conducted with residents and community members.

These interactions aimed to understand the real-life burden of rabies and dog-bite incidents within the community. Residents shared information regarding previous dog-bite experiences, the consequences of such incidents, and the associated social and economic impacts. Discussions also explored how animal-related incidents and rabies concerns affect household livelihoods and livestock, particularly in communities where people depend on animals for their daily economic activities.

The field interactions documented multiple human-dog bite cases, highlighting the continued risk of rabies exposure and the importance of timely vaccination, awareness, responsible dog management, and appropriate post-exposure measures.

My experience/journey at CreIndia

By Darshana Padmapati, Intern,
JH CreIndia Foundation

Coming from a Botany background, joining JH CreIndia Foundation was a transformative experience. I actively contributed to survey data collection, analysis, and content creation. This experience allowed me to explore the One Health approach and deepen my understanding of rabies elimination strategies, bridging environmental science with public health.

I especially enjoyed engaging with diverse communities, raising awareness, and collaborating with dedicated team members. This internship strengthened my interest in interdisciplinary research and community-driven health initiatives that promote sustainability and well-being.

Despite my different academic background, I found immense value in engaging with communities, interacting with diverse groups, and raising awareness about zoonotic disease prevention. The internship was not only a professional learning opportunity but also a personal journey of growth.

This experience reaffirmed my passion for interdisciplinary research, community engagement, and sustainable health initiatives, inspiring me to continue contributing toward a healthier and more connected world.



Academic Achievements



Dr. Chalasani Satwik has completed his Master's in Public Health by graduating with distinction from the Indian Institute of Public Health, New Delhi and successfully defended his thesis on 11th June, 2026.



Dr. Aishwarya M Shetty has successfully completed her Master's in Public Health from Yenepoya Deemed-to-be University, Mangalore, Karnataka.

We congratulate both of them on their remarkable achievements and wish them a bright future ahead.

Our latest publications

Tiwari, H.K., Mohanty, P., Biswas, A. et al. *Fear of rabies and post-bite psychological stress: a qualitative study of YouTube comments from India.* Trop Med Health (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41182-026-01027-0>

Pathak, A., Mishra, M., Verma, A. K., Mohanty, P., Gogoi Tiwari, J., & Tiwari, H. K. (2026). *The vacuum effect in free-roaming dog management: Conceptual foundations, boundary conditions, and One Health implications.* One Health, 23, Article 101556. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2026.101556>

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