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One Health
Connecting human, animal
and environmental health:
when we protect one, we
help protect all.



From the director's desk

From Evidence to Action

Dear readers,

Since our last issue, the journey at JH CreIndia has been marked by depth, discipline, and direction.

What began as focused field engagement has steadily evolved into a broader systems conversation around rabies, dog population dynamics, and One Health governance. Our work in last six months expanded beyond isolated research outputs toward integrated thinking that endeavours linking dog ecology, community behaviour, health-system access, and economic burden.

Our scientific portfolio was strengthened with multiple peer-reviewed publications and submissions spanning wide range of dog-bite and rabies epidemiology, economy, child vulnerability, and systematic syntheses of knowledge, attitude, and practice gaps. Each manuscript represents not merely academic output, but a deliberate attempt to shape policy dialogue.

We envision elimination no longer as a slogan; we are transforming it into a systems commitment.

JH CreIndia remains rooted in an Indian perspective on One Health where communities, animals, and ecosystems are not abstract categories, but lived realities. We are building bridges between data and decision-making, between local insight and global discourse.

To the team: your quiet persistence is the foundation of this progress. Research is often invisible before it becomes influential. Stay rigorous. Stay reflective. Stay courageous in asking better questions.

The coming months will demand even more sharper science, stronger partnerships, and clearer communication. But if the past months are any indication, we are not just participating in conversations. We are shaping them. Let us continue to move thoughtfully, collaboratively, and with purpose.

Harish Kumar Tiwari

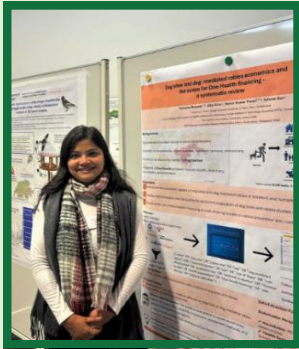
Director, JH CreIndia

JH CreIndiaactivities

- Conducting Village Outreach Programmes
- School Children Awareness
- Conducting Teaching Sessions
- Training Teachers
- Intervention in Tea Gardens
- Paramedical Staff Awareness
- Urban Community Awareness
- Rural Community Awareness
- Training Field Veterinarians Nominated by the Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Government of Assam
- Conducting Workshops, Internships and their project
- Training Volunteers
- Conducting Online Sessions
- Training for Collaborative & Capacity Building

JH CreIndia at Rabies in Borneo (RIB) 2025

Dr. Harish Tiwari, Founder and Director of the JH CreIndia Foundation, was invited as a Plenary Speaker at the Rabies in Borneo Conference in Kuching, Malaysia. His talk highlighted community education, awareness, and behaviour change as key to achieving the “Zero by 30” goal. The conference gathered global experts to discuss vaccination, diagnostics, innovation, and collaboration toward a rabies-free future. It strengthened partnerships and reinforced commitment to elimination efforts worldwide.



Participation in Veterinary Public Health Conference

At the Annual Veterinary Public Health Conference jointly organised by the Veterinary Public Health Institute, Institute of Laboratory Animal Science, and the Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute, Dr. Parimala Mohanty presented a poster on dog bites, the economic burden of dog-mediated rabies, and pathways for sustainable One Health financing. The work draws from an ongoing systematic review assessing direct medical costs, productivity losses, and broader societal impacts highlighting the disproportionate burden in low- and middle-income settings where out-of-pocket spending and limited access to timely PEP remain critical challenges.

Free Mass Anti-Rabies Vaccination Drive in Udalguri District

As part of its continued commitment to rabies elimination, JH CreIndia Foundation conducted a free mass anti-rabies dog vaccination drive in Udalguri district, strengthening disease prevention through a One Health approach. The initiative focused on vaccinating dogs within communities to reduce the risk of rabies transmission and protect both animal and human health. Local residents actively participated in the campaign, reflecting growing awareness about the importance of responsible animal care and preventive action. Mass vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to stop rabies at its source. By protecting animals today, the programme helps safeguard communities tomorrow, bringing Udalguri one step closer to a rabies-free future.



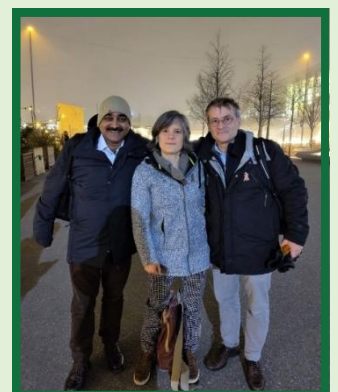
Community Engagement in Khwmabari Village



As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen community participation in rabies prevention, JH CreIndia team members, Ganesh Daimary and Satwik Chalasani visited Khwmabari village in Udalguri, Assam, to interact directly with local residents ahead of the upcoming vaccination drive. The visit focused on engaging with community members, listening to their concerns, and sharing essential information about rabies prevention, safe interactions with animals, and the importance of timely vaccination. Such early engagement helps build trust and encourages community involvement, which is key to the success of vaccination campaigns.

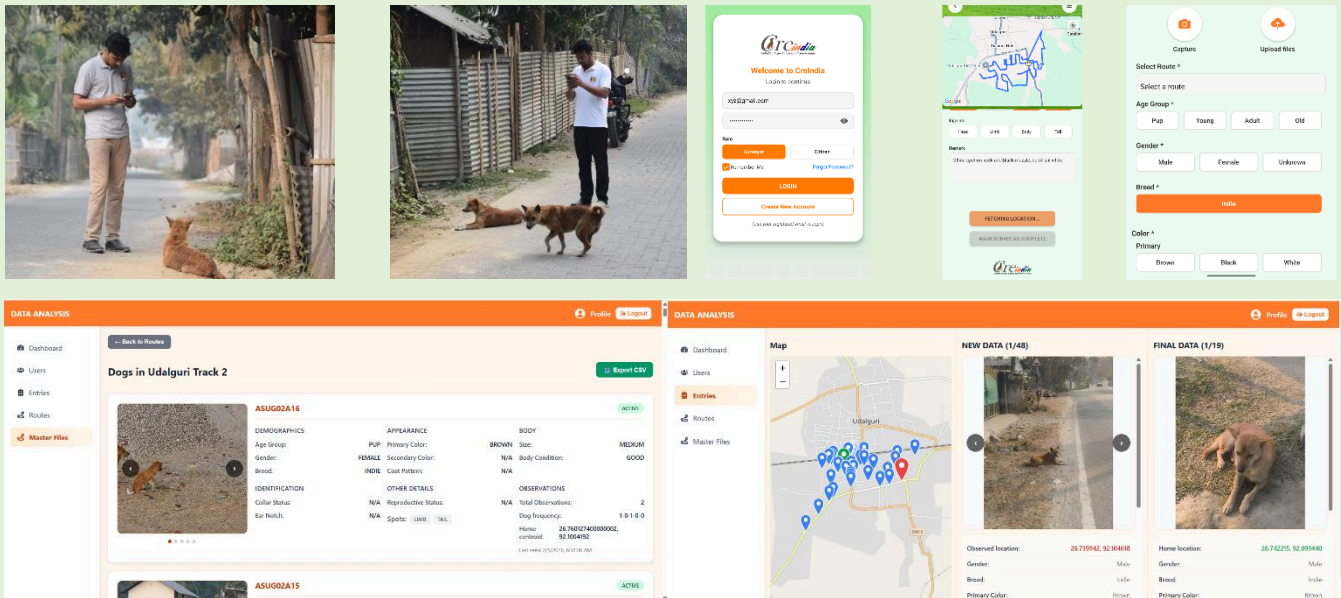
Building Global Connections for One Health

During a recent visit to Switzerland under the Work Outside the Host Institution (WOHI) programme, Dr. Harish Tiwari spent time at the University of Bern, engaging with researchers and public health experts working at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health. A highlight of the visit was an enriching meeting in Basel with renowned One Health expert, Dr. Jakob Zinsstag, alongside Dr. Salome Dürr. The discussion explored how social, ecological, and community factors influence infectious disease control, with special emphasis on rabies elimination and sustainable zoonotic disease governance. Such international exchanges help bridge local field experience with global scientific knowledge.



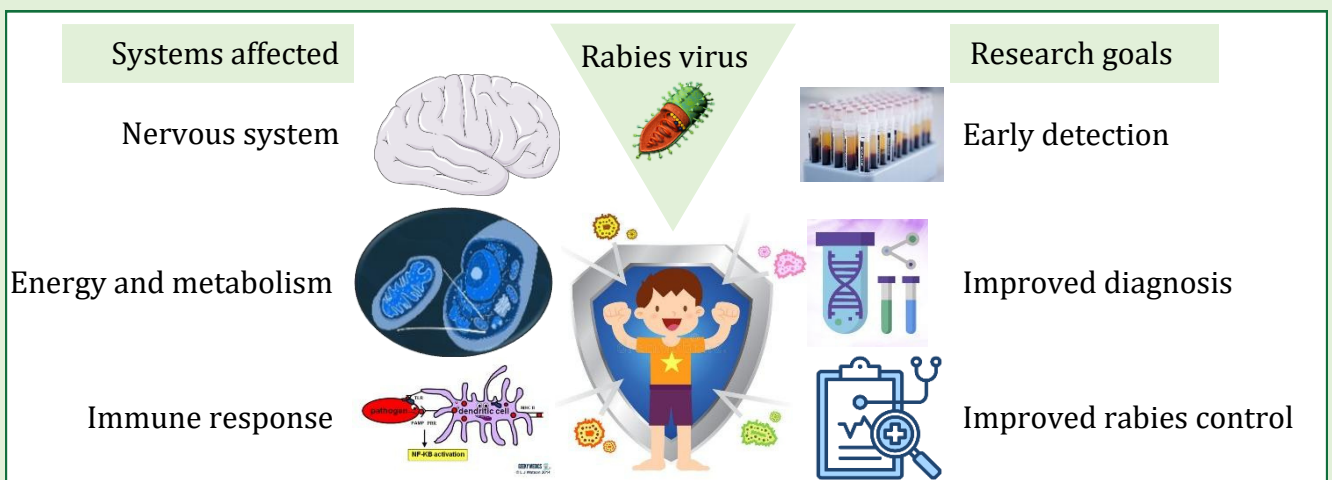
A count that matters –CreIndia dog enumeration application

Counts and identification of free-roaming dogs are critical for planning rabies vaccination, animal birth control, post-bite risk assessment, and humane dog population management. CreIndia has developed a digital One Health platform that records field inputs that are analysed by the backend database operation and projects free-roaming dog population, individual dog identification, vaccination and sterilisation tracking on a dashboard which provides public-facing bite-response support. The application facilitates photographic capture-recapture surveys. Field teams use mobile devices to capture dog photographs along with GPS location, sex, age class, reproductive status, colour, markings, and other identifying features. The system assigns a unique individual identity to each dog and maintains a longitudinal database, including records of vaccination and sterilisation status. Photo matching is supported through visual comparison of the metadata comprising distinct morphological features, allowing repeat sightings of the same dog to be linked across survey rounds. These re-sighting records generate capture histories, which are analysed to derive population estimates. The database also maintains the master file of all identified dogs, with individual number tags. The backend dashboard enables data validation, monitoring, mapping, and retrieval of dog-level records. Most important a public-facing version of the application allows users to photograph a biting dog. Based on database matching, the backend can provide information on whether the dog has previously been vaccinated, the date of vaccination, and the location of the nearest anti-rabies vaccination (ARV) centre. This digital platform demonstrates how free-roaming dog ecology, rabies control, and public health response can be integrated within a One Health framework. It has potential to strengthen evidence-based vaccination planning, dog population management, and rapid decision support following dog bites in rabies-endemic settings.



How the Body Responds to Rabies

Proteomics studies help us understand how the body responds to rabies infection at a molecular level by looking at changes in proteins. In India, a small number of studies across humans, dogs, and laboratory animals have shown that rabies affects key processes in the brain, including nerve signaling, energy production, and the body's stress and immune responses. Interestingly, many of these changes are similar across different species, suggesting that the virus triggers common biological pathways. These findings are important because they may help scientists identify early warning markers of infection and develop better diagnostic tools. However, most current studies rely on samples taken at very late stages of the disease, highlighting the need for future research using simpler samples like blood or cerebrospinal fluid to detect rabies earlier and improve control efforts.



Our latest publications

- Vu TTT, Mai TN, Dong VH, Truong HT, Tran TT, Tiwari HK. Community knowledge, practices, and dog management toward rabies in Hung Yen province, Vietnam: Insights for strengthening One Health interventions toward the 2030 zero-death goal. *Vet World*. 2025 Nov;18(11):3509-3519. doi: 10.14202/vetworld.2025.3509-3519. Epub 2025 Nov 27. PMID:41472755; PMCID:PMC12745020.
- Tiwari, H. K., Mohanty, P., Shirke, R. G., Kurup, A. U., Satwik, C., Kindo, S. P., ... & Dürr, S. (2025). Two-leaves and many bites: rabies Profiling dog-bites and adherence to prophylaxis in tea-estate communities of Udalguri District, Assam, India. *PLoS neglected tropical diseases*, 19(12), e0013791.
- Burgess, A., Tiwari, H., Green, A., Toribio, J. A., Vost, M., Cogger, N., ... & Dhand, N. (2026). Implementing Online Training for “Animal Disease Detectives” in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Focus Group Study. *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*, 53(1), 123-130.
- Silva, L. C., Mohanty, P., Zahri, R., Dürr, S., & Tiwari, H. K. (2025). Demographics of free-roaming dogs in Guwahati, India: Assessing population characteristics and comparing population size estimation methods. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 106773.

Media Spotlight

Rabies: The cruel and expensive disease of India's most impoverished

Of the 59,000 rabies-mediated human deaths in the world every year, India represents a third, around 20,000, and more than any other country, according to a paper

Updated - December 26, 2025 09:58 am IST

DIVYA GANDHI, AFSHAN YASMEEN



JH CreIndia's rabies elimination efforts were recently featured in *The Hindu*, highlighting the work of Dr. Harish Tiwari alongside research published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* and *Nature*. The article by Divya Gandhi and Afshan Yasmeen underscores the importance of timely bite management, improved surveillance, and equitable access to rabies prevention.

From Research to the Field: My Journey in Rabies Control and Public Health

By Dilwar Hussain, Project Manager, IIT Guwahati

Rabies is a preventable disease through the proper wound management, Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) treatment, and vaccination, yet it still affects many low- and middle-income communities, especially in rural and underserved areas. The problem is not only about dog bites; it is also about a lack of awareness, limited access to vaccination, and weak coordination between human and animal health systems. My learning on this issue is not only academic, but also experimental. In my village, I have seen that in dog-bite cases, the individual would be taken to a local traditional healer (ojha or Kobiraj) rather than to a medical facility. They were required to bring betel leaf and Jhinuk Chun (edible lime, made with the skeleton of the mussel or Oyster) in an amount equivalent to the number of days that had passed since the dog bite, as part of the ritual. The next morning, the ojha would prepare a medicine by mixing betel leaf, edible lime, and some leaves or buds from certain plants, and then give it to the person to consume". Observing these practices and analysis of primary data helped me understand that public health challenges are not merely medical problems but are deeply interconnected with socio-economic and demographic phenomena, including poverty, awareness, infrastructure, community participation, and belief systems. I have always been interested in understanding how social and environmental factors influence human well-being. Through research, data analysis, and discussion on rabies and its prevention, I believe public health research should not remain confined to academic journals. It must be policy-oriented, strengthen programs, and protect the vulnerable populations. Rabies elimination is not just about controlling a disease; it is about building awareness, strengthening systems, and ensuring that preventable deaths do not occur.



Welcoming our new members

We are delighted to welcome our newest members to JH CreIndia, Dr. Monika Koul and Dr. Aishwarya Shetty. As part of this growing network, you are active contributors to the work we do and the difference we strive to make. Together, we look forward to creating lasting, positive change.

Support us



Important Details

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