



World Rabies Day

Why in News?

World Rabies Day is observed every year on **28th September** to raise awareness about the **world's deadliest infectious disease** and **bring together partners** to enhance prevention and control efforts worldwide.

- 2022 marks the **16th World Rabies Day**.

What do we need to know about World Rabies Day?

▪ About:

- 28th September marks the anniversary of **Louis Pasteur's** death, the French chemist and microbiologist, **who developed the first rabies vaccine**.
- In 2007, the **first World Rabies Day (WRD)** was organised by the two founding partners namely:
 - **Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC)**
 - **Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta (CDC)**

▪ Theme 2022:



- The theme of World Rabies Day 2022 is: **“One Health, Zero Death”**.
- The theme will highlight the connection of the environment with both people and animals.

What do we know about Rabies?

▪ About:

- Rabies is a vaccine-preventable, zoonotic, viral disease.
- It is caused by a **Ribonucleic Acid (RNA)** virus that is **present in the saliva** of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc).
- It is **invariably transmitted** following a **bite of an infected animal** that leads to **deposition of the saliva and the virus in the wound**.
- Once clinical symptoms appear, rabies is virtually 100% fatal. The death invariably **occurs in four days to two weeks** due to **cardio-respiratory failure**.
 - In up to 99% of cases, domestic dogs are responsible for rabies virus transmission to humans.
- The incubation period varies from 2-3 months but may vary from 1 week to 1 year, or rarely even more.

▪ Treatment:

- It is **important to remove the virus from the wound** as early as possible by **immediately washing the wound with water and soap** followed by application of

antiseptics that reduce/eliminate chances of nerve infection.

- Rabies can be prevented by **vaccinating pets, staying away from wildlife**, and **seeking medical care** after potential exposures before symptoms start.

▪ **Symptoms:**

- The **first symptoms of rabies may be similar to flu** and may last for a few days, which includes:
 - Fever, Headache, Nausea, Vomiting, Anxiety, Confusion, Hyperactivity, Difficulty swallowing, Excessive salivation, Hallucinations, Insomnia.

▪ **India's Initiatives for Cure Against Rabies:**

◦ **National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030:**

- It is a multi-pronged strategy based on **One Health Approach**.
- The concept of One Health recognizes that the health of people is **closely related** with the health of animals, plants and their shared environment.
 - In One Health approach, **multiple sectors communicate and work together** at the local, regional, national, and global levels with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes.
- **Mission:** To **achieve zero human deaths** due to dog-mediated Rabies by 2030.
- **Principles:**
 - **Prevention:** Introduce **cost-effective public health intervention techniques** to improve accessibility, affordability, and availability of post-exposure prophylaxis to all people in need.
 - **Promotion:** Improve **understanding of rabies** through advocacy, awareness, education and operational research.
 - **Partnership:** Provide **coordinated support for the anti-rabies drive** with the involvement of community, urban and rural civil society, government, private sectors and international partners.

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