



# World Rabies Day

## Why in News?

On **World Rabies Day**, health officials in **Jharkhand** highlighted a **sharp surge in dog bite cases**, raising public concern over the increased risk of rabies.

- According to data from the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)**, over 30,000 dog bite cases were reported till August 2025, with around 1.5 lakh affected and four rabies deaths since 2021.

## Key Points

### ▪ World Rabies Day (WRD):

- About: Observed every year on 28th September since 2007, it commemorates Louis Pasteur's death anniversary, who developed the first rabies vaccine.
  - He was a French chemist, pharmacist, and microbiologist renowned for his discoveries of the principles of vaccination, microbial fermentation, and pasteurisation.
  - The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) has set an ambitious goal to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030.
- Theme: The theme for WRD 2025 is "Act now: You, Me, Community".
  - For the first time in its 19-year history, WRD's theme does not include the word "rabies", showing how well-established the movement has become.

### ▪ About Rabies:

- It is a **viral, vaccine-preventable zoonotic disease**.
- It is caused by a [Ribonucleic Acid \(RNA\) virus](#) that is **present in the saliva** of a **rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc)**.
- Once clinical symptoms appear, rabies is **virtually 100% fatal**. The death invariably occurs in **four days to two weeks** due to [cardio-respiratory failure](#).
- **The first symptoms of rabies may be similar to the flu and may last for a few days.**