



Views & Voices



From the director's desk

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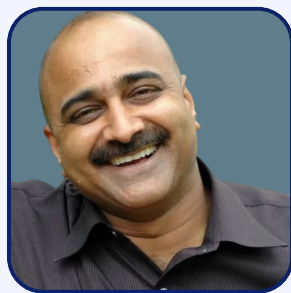
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**Dear Readers,
Happy Independence Day 🇮🇳**

I have the profound pleasure of bringing to life the inaugural edition of the JH CreIndia Foundation Newsletter — a small but significant milestone towards creating healthier communities through collaboration, research, and equity. We strive to build sustainable solutions at the confluence of science and community wisdom and promote health as a shared responsibility across humans, animals, and the environment to fructify the One Health approach.



With an undiluted focus on eliminating dog-mediated rabies, our field-level interventions in Assam, India has brought to the fore the need for a concerted community engagement. Guided by a deep respect for traditional knowledge systems, the resilience and commitment of communities, frontline workers, veterinarians, public health officials, and local leaders needs to be explored and applied for sustainable solutions.

This newsletter is a platform for sharing updates and a space for amplifying voices from the field, reflecting our learnings, and building a shared vision for public health equity. From stories of traditional healers to innovations in dog enumeration, from policy dialogues to school awareness drives — each story is a testament to what is possible when we work together.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our partners, field teams, community members, and advisors who make this work meaningful. I also invite each of you — readers, collaborators, students, and health champions — to engage with us, challenge us, and walk with us as we strive toward a rabies-free and One Health-aware India.

Let this first issue be the beginning of a vibrant conversation.

Warm regards,

Dr. Harish Kumar Tiwari
Director, JH CreIndia Foundation



Rabies Awareness Through School Outreach Programmes

JH CreIndia has been actively conducting a series of school-based activities across both public and private institutions, including Bandarguri HS School, Kabirali HS School, Khawrang HS School, and others, to raise awareness on rabies prevention and control.

The sessions engaged children and their parents on the critical topic of rabies prevention, primarily what rabies is, how it spreads, and the vital steps to prevent it, emphasising the particular vulnerability of children to dog bites due to their smaller size and limited ability to defend themselves. The discussion highlighted the importance of early wound care, thorough washing, and timely vaccination.

In addition to awareness programmes, JH CreIndia engaged schoolchildren in a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) study to better understand community awareness levels, and organised workshops for teachers to strengthen their role in spreading accurate information about rabies prevention within schools.

CreIndia in Numbers

School Children Awareness – 4,953;
Schools Covered for Sensitisation – 27;
Teachers Trained – 37;
Tea Gardens Under Project Intervention – 11;
Paramedical Staff Awareness– 310;
Urban Community Awareness – 1,660;
Rural Community Awareness – 2,600;

Field Veterinarians training, Nominated by the Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Government of Assam – 32;
Workshops Conducted – 11
Internship and their project- 5
Volunteers- 25
Online Sessions- 6
Collaborative & Capacity building training- 5

MoU with Assam Agricultural University (AAU)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 5th June 2025 between the CreIndia Foundation, represented by its Founder and Director Dr. Harish Tiwari, and Dr. Probodh Borah, Director of Research (Veterinary), Assam Agricultural University (AAU). This strategic collaboration marks a milestone in advancing joint efforts toward rabies prevention and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) mitigation under the One Health framework. As part of this collaboration, CreIndia will support postgraduate scholars from the university towards research on rabies for purchase of resources up to ₹1,00,000. By bridging veterinary research and public health practice, the partnership aims to foster impactful field research, hands-on training, and community-centered interventions across Assam and beyond. With shared commitment and vision, this alliance sets the stage for meaningful innovation and sustainable health outcomes—for both people, animals and environment

This MoU marks a significant step towards integrated rabies control, combining CreIndia's grassroots outreach with AAU's technical expertise. "Together, we can accelerate progress towards a rabies-free future," said Dr. Harish Tiwari, Director of JH CreIndia.



Planting One Health in Our Lives: Grassroots Seminar at Udalguri

On 20th February 2025, a seminar on “One Health Initiative at the Grassroots” was held at Udalguri College Auditorium, Assam, India by CreIndia in collaboration with Brooke India with the theme “Planting One Health in Our Lives”. The seminar aimed to raise awareness and promote collaborative efforts across human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

The seminar drew diverse participation, including school and college students, teachers, tea garden officials, local leaders, healthcare and veterinary professionals, and representatives from agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and social welfare departments. NGOs such as Piramal Foundation, Hans Foundation, Kabil, Karuna Fellowship, Astha, and Aaranyak also took part, reinforcing the multi-sectoral focus of the event.

The Guest of Honour, Shri Pulak Patgiri, District Commissioner of Udalguri, was joined by esteemed dignitaries such as Dr. Salomme Durr (University of Bern, Switzerland), Dr. Bhubaneshwar Swargiary (Joint DHS, Udalguri), Md. Mustafa Ali Ahmed (DFO, Dhansiri Forest Division), Dr. Purabi Phukan (AIIMS Guwahati), and Mr. Rakesh Boro (Chairman, Udalguri Municipal Board). The event was moderated by Dr. Harish Tiwari (Inspire Faculty, IITG and founder of CreIndia), who highlighted the need to embed One Health thinking into community life. Several speakers stressed the importance of integrated health. Dr. Durr expressed interest in long-term collaboration on rabies control, while Dr. Phukan emphasized the link between environmental changes and disease emergence. DC Patgiri noted the district’s ongoing efforts, including collaring of free-roaming dogs, and stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination in tackling zoonotic diseases like rabies.



"One Health is not just a concept – it's a commitment to the shared well-being of people, animals, and the environment."



Technical sessions were led by experts where Dr. Anubha Pathak (ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal) spoke on initiating One Health in marginalized communities, Dr. Phukan discussed health threats in Northeast India and the significance of local-level action, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Gupta (Brooke India) highlighted the equine connection in One Health. A team comprising Dr. Parimala Mohanty, Dr. Shanti Priya Kindo, and Dr. Corina Baumann (University of Bern) presented on rabies as a classic One Health example. A panel discussion on grassroots implementation of One Health was done featuring national and international experts, and a quiz competition on One Health including reward was conducted for the student audience.

The seminar included a skit on ‘One Health’ by the students of Ramswaroop Agarwal Memorial English School, as well as Bodo and Bihu traditional dances to engage the wider audience.

The seminar concluded with a proposal to form a One Health Forum in the district, encouraging multi-sectoral collaboration to address rabies and other zoonotic threats. Dr. Tiwari emphasized that true One Health efforts must involve citizens and grassroots stakeholders to build sustainable health systems. The event marked a significant step in integrating One Health into community life in Udalguri.

Collaboration across sectors is the heartbeat of One Health—without it, we cannot tackle diseases with no boundaries.

Activities under Rabies Elimination Project in Udalguri

JH CreIndia is leading rabies elimination activities in Udalguri district of Assam, a region known for its lush tea gardens, ethnic diversity, and forested landscapes bordering Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan. The district faces significant public health challenges, including dog-mediated rabies, particularly in vulnerable tea garden and rural communities. To ensure effective on-ground implementation, CreIndia has established an office in Udalguri. Project interventions span human, animal, and community-focused initiatives, integrating research, awareness, and collaborative action.



Community Engagement Events

World Rabies Day was marked through community gatherings across Udalguri, with active participation from local residents, students, and officials. Special outreach activities were conducted in tea garden communities, where residents were sensitised on rabies prevention, early wound care, and the importance of timely vaccination.

Illustrated IEC materials were distributed widely in schools, colleges, tea gardens, and other public spaces to reinforce key messages and encourage proactive community action against rabies.

For more information visit our project [Link](#)

ISVEE, Sydney

At the International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE 17) in Sydney, Australia (03 Nov 2024), Dr. Harish Tiwari and Dr. Salome Dürr coordinated a two hours special session on 'Eliminating Dog-Mediated Rabies-Synthesising a One Health Approach.'

The session addressed the persistent global burden of dog-mediated rabies on human, animal, and economic health, and examined integrated strategies vital for its control through a One Health lens. Scientific abstracts were presented by Ms Laura Da Silva, Dr Parimala Mohanty, Dr Dickson Akankwata, Dr Balaji Chandrasekhar, Professor Fernando O. Mardones, and Ms Rabina Ghimire shared insights from diverse geographical and research contexts.

The presentations were followed by an engaging and impactful panel discussion moderated by Dr. Harish Tiwari, with panellists Professor Michael Ward, Dr. Andrea Britton, Dr. Sonja Hartnack, and Dr Philip Mshelbwala, who shared practical experiences, research findings, and strategic perspectives to accelerate rabies elimination efforts globally.



Stakeholder consultations, Animal Population and Behaviour Studies

The team is consulting paramedical workers, rural and urban residents, and tea garden populations regarding dog bites and rabies.

Dog population studies and GPS collaring have been carried out to gather insights into dog behaviour and population dynamics, supporting future dog management and vaccination campaigns.



ISVEE 17



From Classrooms to Communities: My Journey into One Health

By Ganesh Daimary, Project Assistant, JH CreIndia Foundation

My journey into the social development sector has been shaped by a blend of curiosity, compassion, and a strong desire to make science meaningful beyond textbooks. With a background in Zoology, I started my career as a science instructor with Agastya International Foundation. There, I had the chance to travel to rural schools and ignite scientific thinking among children through hands-on learning. Teaching not only gave me confidence but also opened my eyes to the systemic challenges communities face, especially in health, hygiene, and animal welfare.

This exposure made me realize that health is not limited to humans alone—it is deeply interconnected with animals and the environment. That understanding drew me to the One Health approach, which recognizes that human health is intricately linked with the health of animals and ecosystems.

Currently, I work as a Project Assistant with JH CreIndia Foundation in Udalguri, Assam, where we are implementing a rabies eradication program under the One Health framework. My work involves community outreach, dog population surveys, GPS tracking of free-roaming dogs, and supporting public health interventions. Every day in the field reinforces how integrated efforts—across human, animal, and environmental health—are essential for long-term impact.

From classrooms to communities, my journey reflects how education can evolve into action. I feel proud to be part of a mission that is not only saving lives but also building awareness and resilience at the grassroots level.



In the Spotlight

 Congratulations, Dr. Parimala Mohanty!



We are proud to share that Dr. Parimala Mohanty, Senior Consultant at JH CreIndia and one of our longest-serving team members, has been awarded the Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral Scholarship at the University of Bern, Switzerland. She will be using data from the IIT Guwahati Rabies Elimination Project to advance her research, continuing her academic engagement with us.

The entire CreIndia team extends its heartiest congratulations and wishes her the very best for her future endeavours. We look forward to seeing her continue to inspire and excel in her academic and professional journey.

Our latest publication

Silva, L. C., Fellenberg, C., Freudenthal, J., Tiwari, H. K., & Dürr, S. (2024).

“Free-roaming dog populations and movement methodologies for global rabies elimination: Knowns and unknowns—A scoping review.”

Frontiers in Veterinary Science, 11, 12545.

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