

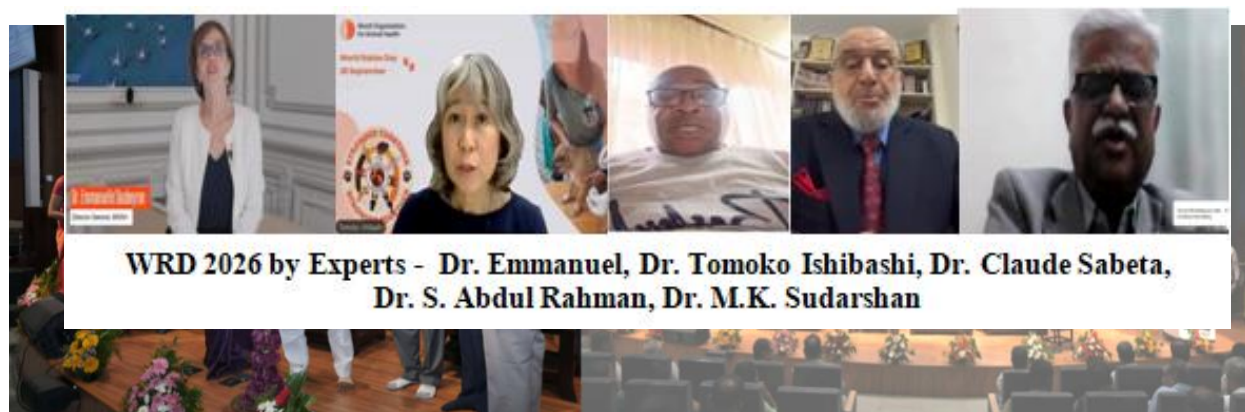
World Rabies Day 2026 - “Stronger Together” 28th September 2026, Bengaluru, India

The poster for World Rabies Day 2026 features a light blue background with various logos at the top, including the Government of Karnataka, Veterinary College, Bengaluru, BeST Cluster, KIMS, Indian Institute of Science, Mission Rabies, Indian Immunologicals Limited, and CVA. The central text in Kannada reads 'ವಿಶ್ವ ರೇಬೀಸ್ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆ 2026' and in English 'WORLD RABIES DAY 2026'. A portrait of a man is shown in the center. Below the text, there are illustrations of a doctor examining a patient and a person vaccinating a dog. The event details are provided in two columns: Date (28-09-2026, Monday) and Time (9:30 AM - 5:00 PM). The venue is A. V. Rama Rao Auditorium, Chemical Sciences Building, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. The theme 'Stronger Together' is prominently displayed at the bottom.

World Rabies Day 2026 was observed on 28 September 2026 at Bengaluru, India with the theme “**Stronger Together**”, emphasizing the importance of coordinated and sustained action among human health, animal health, veterinary, civic, academic and community stakeholders for the prevention and elimination of rabies. The programme was jointly organized by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka India, Veterinary College, Bengaluru; Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA); Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru; BeST Cluster; KIMS, Madikeri; KIMS, Bengaluru; Indian Immunologicals, Hyderabad; and Mission Rabies.

A State-level quiz programme was organized for the undergraduate students of Medicine (MBBS) and Veterinary Science (BVSc& AH), with the objective of enhancing their knowledge and awareness regarding rabies prevention, control and elimination, and promoting the principles of the One Health approach. Students from across Karnataka participated in the competition, representing 12 medical and 5 veterinary colleges.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri C. Puttarangashetty, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture, Govt of Karnataka in the presence of Dr.K.C. Veeranna, Vice Chancellor, KVAFSU, Bidar, and Dr.R. Nagaraja, Dean, Veterinary College, Bengaluru



Inaugural program

The inaugural program was further enriched by video messages from eminent international and national experts in the field of rabies, including Dr. Emmanuel, Director General, WOA, France, Dr. Tomoko Ishibashi, WOA Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP), Japan, Dr. Claude Sabeta, WOA Expert on Rabies, South Africa, Dr. Vishal Choudhury, Scientist F, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt of India, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Past President & Executive Director, CVA and Dr. M.K. Sudarshan, Founder President, APCRI. These messages emphasized the importance of collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches for strengthening rabies prevention and control efforts at national and global levels.

The quiz competition was followed by a technical session comprising expert presentations on various aspects of rabies prevention, control, diagnosis, epidemiology and elimination. Dr. K. H. Shivarudrappa, Additional Director (Livestock Health), Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, delivered a presentation entitled “State Action Plan for Dog-Mediated Rabies Elimination – Animal Husbandry Component – SAPRE (AH)”, highlighting the role of the animal husbandry sector in implementing rabies elimination strategies. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Utpal S. Tatu, Professor and Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, IISc, Bengaluru, on “Genomic Landscape of Rabies to Understand Virus Evolution and Clade Classification.” The presentation focused on the application of genomic approaches to understand rabies virus evolution and genetic diversity. Dr.D.H. AshwathNarayana, Professor, Department of Community Medicine, KIMS, Bengaluru, delivered a presentation entitled

“Stronger Together – Partnership for Elimination of Rabies in Bengaluru (PERB)”, emphasizing the importance of intersectoral partnerships and coordinated action for rabies elimination. Dr. Sharada R., Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Gadag, delivered a presentation on “Challenges and Advancements in Diagnosis and Control of Rabies in Dogs.” The presentation highlighted contemporary challenges in rabies diagnosis and the advances being made in diagnostic and control strategies. Dr. Sharath Chandra K. S., Mission Rabies, Bengaluru, delivered a presentation on “Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM)”, highlighting the importance of coordinated management of animal bite cases for effective rabies prevention.

The technical session was concluded with the prize distribution of the final winners of the quiz program. The Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Hassan secured the first position, followed by the team from K. H. Patil Institute of Medical Sciences as the runner-up, and Rajarajeswari Medical



Prize distribution to the Quiz winners

College secured the third position. The winning teams were felicitated with certificates, mementos and cash prizes of Rs5,000, Rs3,000 and Rs2,000 for the first, second and third positions, respectively.