

STRAY DOG SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT EXPLAINED ANIMAL RIGHTS

Context:

- The **Supreme Court on August 11, 2025** directed the authorities concerned in the **National Capital Territory of Delhi** to immediately begin **removing free-ranging dogs from localities** and transferring them to dog shelters.
- The directives come after the apex court on **July 28, 2025** took **suo motu cognisance** of a news report about **children and infants falling prey to rabies due to unvaccinated**, free-ranging dogs.



1. Enlist provisions for animal rights in India?

Provisions	Description
The Constitution of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Indian Constitution under Article 51-A(g) (Directive Principle of State Policy) makes it the “duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 48A of our Indian Constitution provides that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
The Wildlife Protection Act (1972)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The act Prohibits injury to any wild animal or trees under section 39. • Under this statute, "animals" include amphibians, birds, reptiles, mammals, and their young. In the case of birds and reptiles, even their eggs are included in this category. • The penalty for the person guilty of an offense under this Act is imprisonment for a term of three years, or with a fine of twenty-five thousand rupees, or both.
The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of cruelty is under Section 11 (a) to (o). This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cruelty against the person's pet ▪ Inhumane slaughter ▪ Inhumane transportation ▪ Inhumane living conditions (even for animals destined for slaughter) ▪ Tail docking ▪ Ear docking. • Stray dogs are protected under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and under Rules enacted under Section 38 of the Act.
Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 428, deals with the offense of mischief by killing or maiming an animal.

Sanhita (BNS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It prescribes punishment for anyone who commits mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming, or rendering any animal useless.
Articles 243(W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Articles 243(W) municipalities are mandated to control the stray dog population. Local bodies are responsible for taking care of stray dogs, including providing shelters. Accordingly, municipalities are implementing the Animal Birth Control Programme to regulate the population of stray dogs.

2. Does the Fundamental Right to Life and Liberty under Article 21 apply to dogs and other animals?

- Article 21** of the Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental right to **protection of life and personal liberty.**
 - It ensures **certain safeguards against arbitrary deprivation of life and liberty.**
- However the Supreme Court has gone ahead and expanded the scope of **Article 21** for animal rights.
- Dogs and other animals do not directly have Fundamental Rights** under **Article 21**, but the **Supreme Court and some High Courts** have interpreted the Constitution to extend the **spirit of Article 21** to them.
- The **Supreme Court in Animal Welfare Board v. A. Nagaraja (2014)** case held that animals have a **right to live with intrinsic worth, honour, and dignity**, even though they are **not “persons”** under **Article 21.**
- Punjab & Haryana High Court in Karnail Singh v. State of Haryana (2019)** case declared **all animals in Haryana to be legal persons with rights and duties**, extending protections akin to **Article 21.**

3. Is the Wildlife Protection Act applicable to stray or domestic dogs?

- The **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (WPA, 1972)** is an environmental legislation enacted by the Government of India to **protect the country's wildlife and their habitats**.
- It provides a **legal framework for the conservation of various species** of flora and fauna and regulates activities that could harm them.
- As per the **Act's definition**, **wildlife includes any animal, bees, butterflies, crustaceans, fish and moths**; and land or aquatic vegetation that forms part of any habitat.
- The primary objectives of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** include the following:
 - To ensure the **protection of endangered species**.
 - To **regulate the hunting of wildlife**.
 - To control the **trade of wildlife products**.
 - To **establish protected areas like national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and reserves**.
- However, the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, generally does not apply to stray or domestic dogs.
- **Domestic and stray dogs** are primarily governed by the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960** and the **Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2003**.

4. What is the Supreme Court judgement on stray dogs?

- **Taking suo motu cognisance of escalating stray dog attacks**, particularly on children and the elderly, **Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan** ordered the **complete removal of stray dogs** from the **Delhi NCR region within eight weeks**.
- **According to Justice JB Pardiwala,**

- **Infants and young children**, at any cost, should **not fall prey to rabies**.
- The action should inspire confidence among children so they can **move freely without fear of being bitten by stray dogs**.
- He warned that if any **individual or organisation** comes in the way of picking up **stray dogs or rounding them up**, actions will be taken **against them**.
- This **ruling aligns with Article 21** of the **Constitution**, **guaranteeing the right to life** and a safe environment, grossly undermined by India's 62-80 million stray dogs.





5. What will happen to the 10 lakhs stray dogs now?

- The **stray dogs of the Delhi-NCR** will be **kept in shelter homes** which will be **constructed within 8 weeks** as per the latest order of the court.
- The **court ordered that within 6-8 weeks** at least shelter homes should be constructed to accommodate **at least 5,000 dogs**.
- The State of **NCT Delhi, MCD and NDMC** have to construct shelter homes and report to the **SC within a week**.
- They have also been **directed that the shelters** should have **sufficient staff to sterilise and immunise the stray dogs**.
- The dogs will be monitored through **CCTVs**, and **not a single dog should be released**.

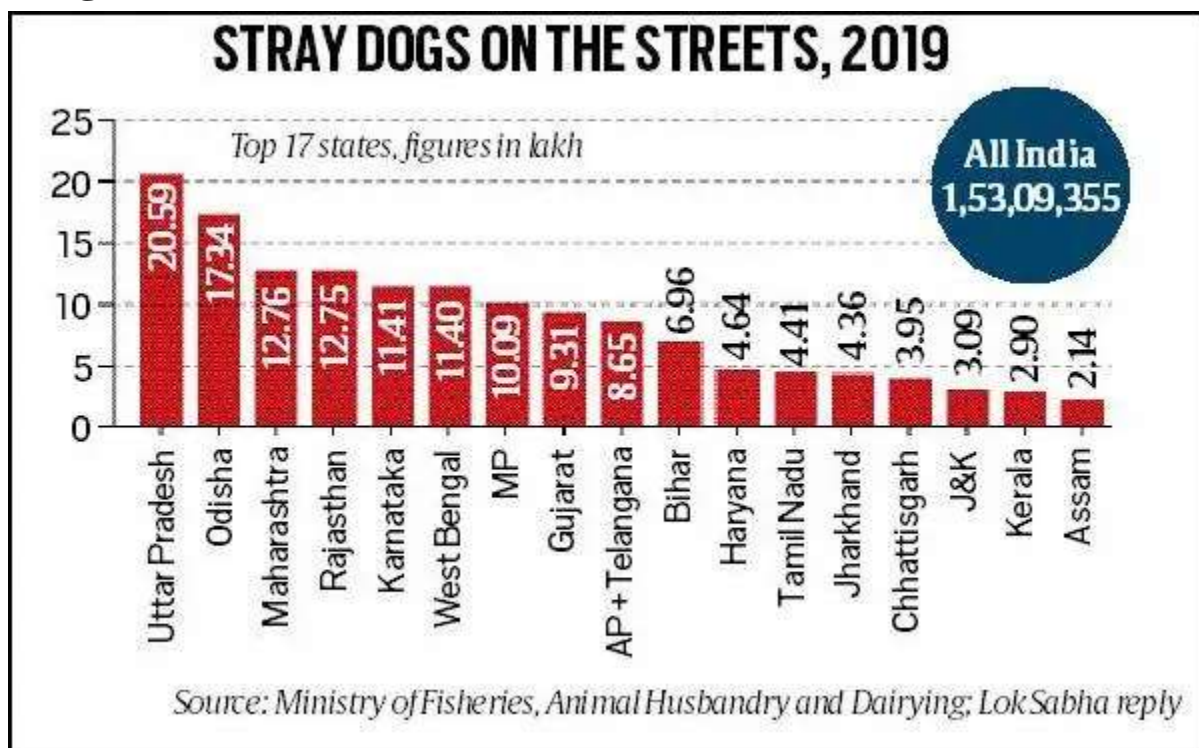
6. Will the order apply to pet dogs also?

- **No**, the order is **applicable to stray dogs only**. However, the **top court cautioned** that **stray dogs shouldn't become pets overnight**.

- Justice Pardiwala said ‘Your stray dog should not overnight become a pet dog. They are not fools. We are going through critical times as far as this issue is concerned. When you have to act, act,’.

7. How many stray dogs are there in Delhi?

- About **5.6 lakh stray dogs** were found to be **living in Delhi** in the national capital's last **dog Census in 2009**.
- In the **past 16 years**, no such survey has been conducted, but estimates put the number at **around 10 lakh**.
- **India** has **52.5 million stray dogs**, according to a **State of Pet Homelessness** survey by **Mars Petcare**, while **8 million homeless dogs** are in shelters.



Canine crackdown

1mn Estimated number of stray dogs in Delhi

4,000 Capacity at city's existing shelters, if converted

QUESTION OF SAFETY
 "Round up all stray dogs from all localities, including localities on the outskirts of Delhi, and shift them to some other place...Whether sterilised or not sterilised, the society must feel free and safe."

ON STERILISED DOGS
 "We have noticed some unreasonable and absurd rule that you pick one dog, sterilise them and bring them back... We fail to understand why you bring them back..."

IMPEDIMENT AS CONTEMPT
 "Action of picking up dogs must be taken within four hours of a complaint of dog bite being lodged. Any act of creating impediment shall be viewed as contempt of this court. Such dogs shall not be released under any circumstances. They shall be sterilised and immunised as per applicable rules."

GOVERNMENT TO WORK OUT MECHANICS
 Delhi CM Rekha Gupta said "the problem has reached a critical stage" and that the state government "will address it through a comprehensive, well-structured plan."

8. Who is responsible for street dogs?

- **Local bodies** are responsible for taking care of stray dogs, including providing shelters.
- As per **Articles 243(W)**, **municipalities** are mandated to control the stray dog population.
- Accordingly, **municipalities** are implementing the **Animal Birth Control Programme** to regulate the population of stray dogs.
- To support effective dog population management, the **Central Government** notified the **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023**, vide **G.S.R. 193(E)** dated **10th March 2023**, under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**, superseding the earlier **ABC (Dog) Rules, 2001**.

- **The Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023**, require **local bodies to manage stray dog populations** through sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination programmes.
- These rules focus on the **neutering and anti-rabies vaccination of stray dogs** as means of population stabilization.

9. What are Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023?

- The **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023**, are a set of guidelines issued by the Centre to **manage stray dog populations**.
- They focus on **sterilising and vaccinating stray dogs** to control their numbers and **prevent the spread of rabies**.
- The **ABC Rules, 2023**, are part of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960**, which was enacted to **prevent unnecessary pain** or suffering to animals.
- It **supersedes the ABC Rules 2001** which has some gaps.
- **The Animal Birth Control Rules 2023** require stray dogs to be **caught, vaccinated, neutered, and released back**.

Guidelines	Description
Sterilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rules mandate sterilization as the only humane and scientific way to control stray dog populations.
No killing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rules prohibit the wanton killing of stray dogs by municipalities.
Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rules require stray dogs to be vaccinated against rabies.
Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rules require stray dogs to be released back to their original location after being sterilized and vaccinated.

Implementati on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rules place the responsibility for ABC implementation on Animal Birth Control Monitoring Committees at the state, district, and municipality levels.
Conflict resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rules provide guidelines for dealing with conflicts between humans and stray dogs without relocating the dogs.
Local authority responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities are responsible for maintaining and controlling stray animal populations. • They are also responsible for any animal-human conflicts or violations.
The onus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The burden of ABC implementation will fall on the Animal Birth Control Monitoring Committees at the State, district and municipality levels. • The Municipal Corporations need to implement the ABC and Anti Rabies Program jointly. • The ABC Programme needs to be carried out by the Animal Welfare Board of India(AWBI) recognized organization. • These organisations should be specifically recognised for the Animal Birth Control programme.
Euthanasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rules also mentions euthanasia only for ‘incurably ill and mortally wounded dogs’ as diagnosed and declared by the Local Animal Birth Control Monitoring Committee. • It should be done in a humane manner by a qualified veterinarian.

Feed Spots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rules want the Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to designate feed spots for dogs which shall be least frequented by children and senior citizens.
Complaint Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It also suggests establishment of an Animal Help Centre where complaints about dog or cat bites can be registered. We have 1533 BBMP and we also have a separate Rabies Helpline.

10. Does the Supreme Court order go against Animal Birth Control rules?

- **The ABC Rules**, framed under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**, are a set of guidelines for controlling the stray dog population.
- The rules detail three major steps: **sterilisation**, **vaccination** against rabies, and **release to their original location**.
- The rules mention that **sterilised and vaccinated stray dogs cannot be permanently relocated**.
- This is where the **Supreme Court has objected to** and specifically said that the **strays should be housed in dedicated dog shelters** to be set up by civic authorities.
- The court has made it clear that **no captured animal will be released back on the streets**.
- The **amicus curiae** assisting the top court suggested that the **ABC rule mandating release of strays into the same area "must go"** as there was **no proof that sterilisation stopped dog bites** or eliminated the threat of rabies.



11. How effective are sterilization and vaccination drives for stray dog control?

Effectiveness	Description
Chennai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Chennai, the Blue Cross of India’s ABC-Anti-Rabies initiative led to a sharp decline in rabies deaths from 120 in 1996 to zero by 2007 within the city limits. ● Chennai was declared rabies-free by 2010
Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uttar Pradesh government has adopted a robust approach between 2023 and 2025, sterilizing and vaccinating 2.84 lakh stray dogs across all 17 municipal corporations. ● This program received significant budget support (₹32.7 crore) and introduced 17 permanent ABC centers.

Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goa have achieved zero rabies status through TNR or Trap-neuter-return”, aka the process of live-trapping strays, having them neutered, ear-tipped for identification, and, if possible, vaccinating, then releasing them back into the streets.
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12. What is the extent of the stray dog menace?

- India does have the **highest number of rabies cases globally**.
- It is estimated that **India accounts for approximately 36% of global rabies deaths**.
- Dog bites are the primary cause of rabies transmission in India**, accounting for about **96% of cases**, according to the **National Centre for Disease Control**.
- Between **January and June this year**, **Delhi reported 35,198 animal bite incidents and 49 rabies cases**, municipal data revealed.
- This year In July, a **state-level Kabaddi player, Brijesh Solanki**, from **Uttar Pradesh**, reportedly **died of rabies**, weeks after he was **bitten** by a stray pup he rescued from a drain.



Kabaddi Gold Medallist Brijesh Solanki, 22, Dies of Rabies Weeks After Saving Puppy in Uttar Pradesh; Family Alleges Medical Negligence

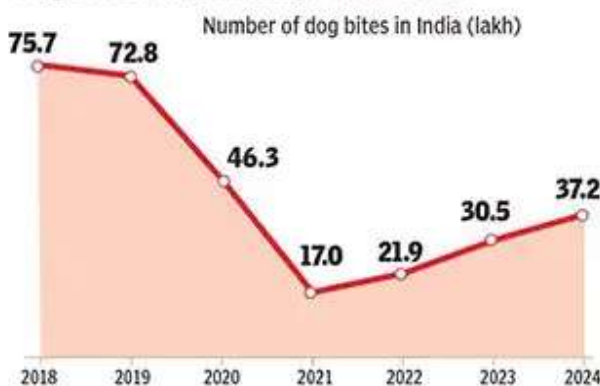
THE LOGICAL INDIAN

13. Mention about dog bites cases in India?

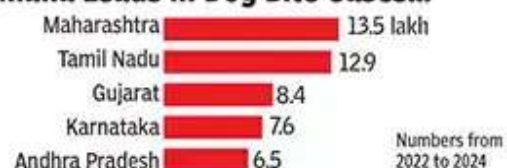
Over 10,000 Get Bitten By Dogs Every Day In India

But the actual number could be much higher. If you just look at the number of rabies deaths, the figures are startling. The govt figure for rabies deaths in 2022 is just 21. WHO, using govt data and other Indian sources, says 305 died of rabies in the same year. But WHO also says that its estimate of rabies deaths in India for 2022 is actually 18,000, reports **Atul Thakur**. So, what would you believe? Take your pick

Dog Bite Cases Rising After Covid



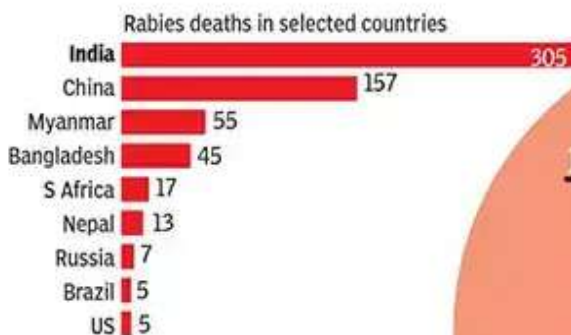
Maha Leads In Dog Bite Cases...



...UP Has Highest Stray Population (2019)



India Has Highest No. Of Rabies Deaths: WHO



Source: PIB, WHO, Department of Animal Husbandry

Three counts of rabies deaths

1 Estimated number of annual rabies deaths in India, according to WHO

18,000-20,000

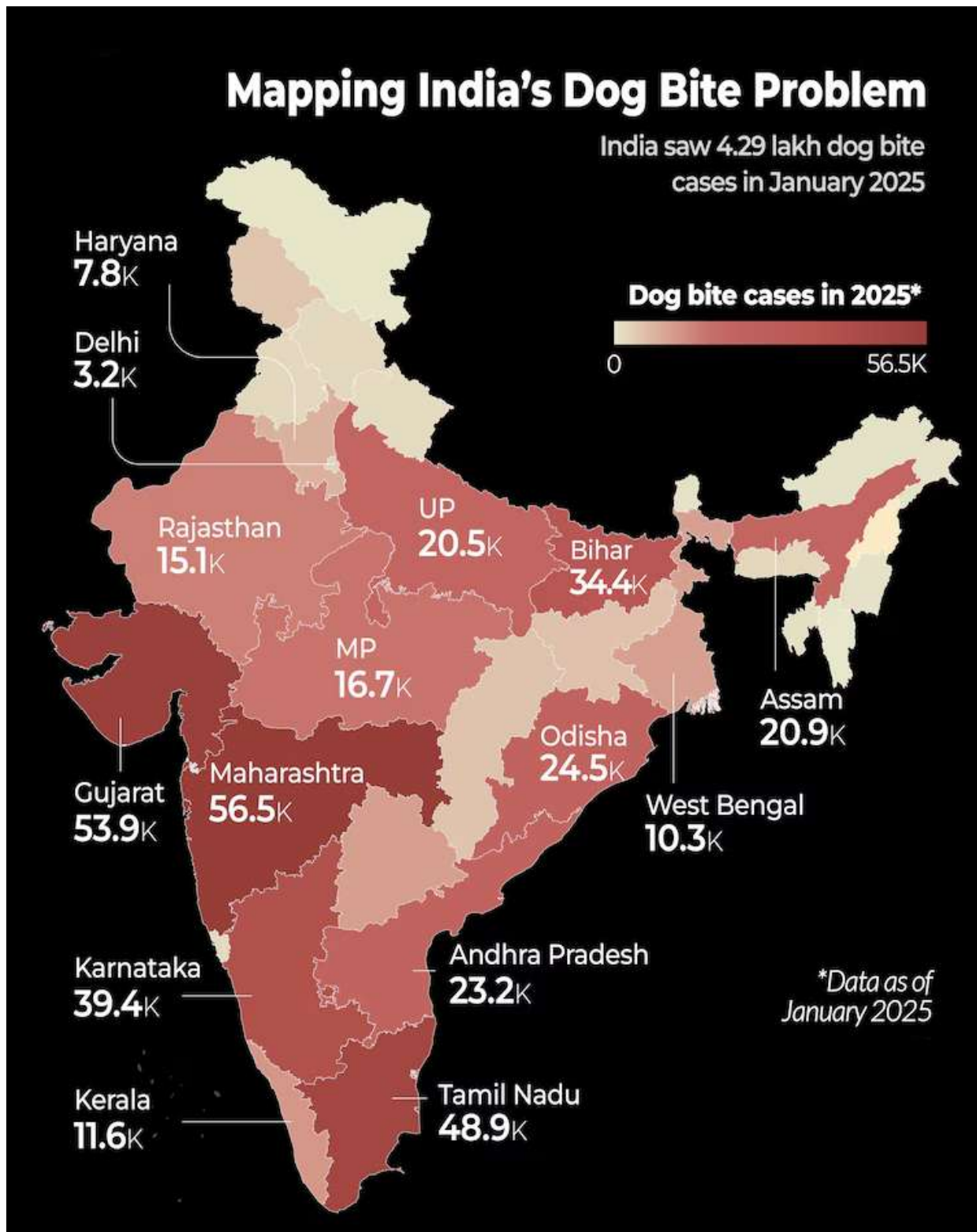
2 WHO reported number for 2022, sourced from govt & other agencies

305

3 IDSP/IHIP* count for 2022

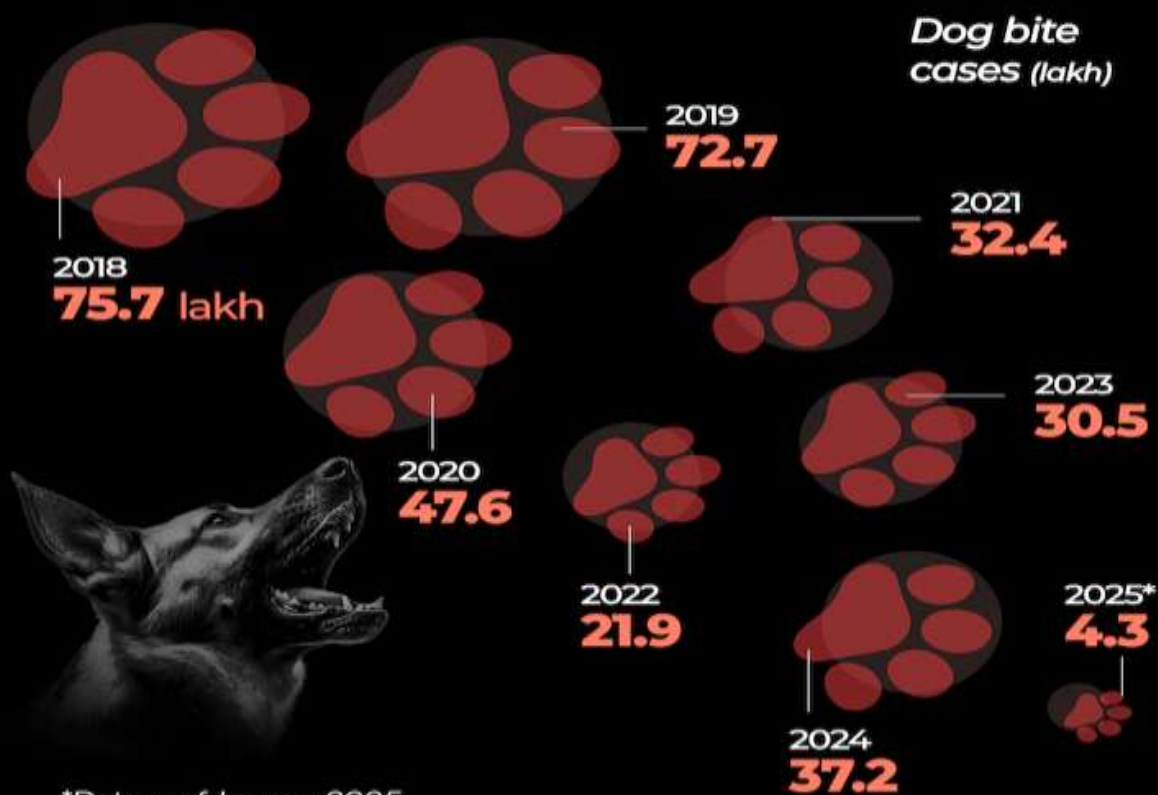
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*Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme/Integrated Health Information Platform



Declining Dog Bite Burden in India

Dog bite incidents declined from 76 lakh in 2018 to 37 lakh in 2024



CANINE WOES

An increase in stray dog bite incidents are keeping residents on edge, both in rural parts of Pune as well as the city and Pimpri Chinchwad

■ Most recently, two dogs bit six persons and 10 cattle in Nagapur village, Ambegaon tehsil

■ The village's sarpanch has blamed animal husbandry department officials for not taking them seriously and responding promptly to the incidents

■ Meanwhile, in PCMC limits, activists have urged the administration to set up night squads to control the problem. They have also pointed out that though the number of dog bites has remained the same over the years, fewer strays are being sterilized



Residents allege that an increase in unmonitored strays on city roads has led to the rise in dog bites

IN NUMBERS

Dog bites in PCMC limits	
Sterilization of strays	
2020-21	13,832
2021-22	13,892
2022-23*	13,191
	27,424
	15,428
	2,429

(*2022-23 data is till December 2022)

Had they taken cognizance of the incident on the first day, other attacks could have been prevented. The tehsil does not have a mechanism to handle such bites. Considering the presence of strays in big numbers in forest areas and villages, authorities should form a team to help us — Ganesh Yadav | SARPANCH, NAGAPUR

14. What are the challenges in implementation of Supreme Court judgement?

Mismanagement at every step

MCD's drive to clear neighbourhoods in its jurisdiction of community dogs ahead of the G20 Summit, and then set them free again starting Monday, has been chaotic, mismanaged and cruel at every step, say activists

1,200
dogs removed,
according to
activists

An unnecessary drive

MCD was not required to rid the streets of community dogs. An order notifying the drive was issued on August 3 but scrapped later after sharp criticism. Further, neither the Centre nor any central agencies asked for dogs to be removed during the G20 Summit. In fact, NDMC, which governs Lutyens's Delhi, did not carry out such a drive.

Local animal welfare bodies not consulted

Groups like People For Animals, House of Stray Animals India, and Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre, said civic authorities did not take them into advisement before or during the drive. Consulting local experts and groups would have ensured dogs were not ill-treated and that neutered dogs were not picked up, as eventually happened to be the case.

Dogs treated inhumanely

Civic authorities used sticks, rods, metal clamps and umbrella nets to force dogs into vans, all methods that are widely considered cruel and have fallen out of favour among animal welfare groups. Videos of dogs being beaten, flayed, dragged and dumped into drains circulated online widely.



SANJEEV VERMA/HT

Neutered dogs picked up illegally

Animal Birth Control Rules allow dogs to be picked up only for sterilisation, but they have to be released back at the same location. However, experts say, in this case, this rule was flouted several times.

Locked away beyond their territory

Dogs were kept in pounds and shelters well beyond their territory, said experts. Canines stripped from their habitats tend to get more aggressive in unknown surroundings.


Dogs not tagged


Experts said dogs were not tagged, as a result of which some were also let go into neighbourhoods at random on Monday. Relocation of dogs leads to them becoming more aggressive. Their feeding sites are not accessible. Their fights with dogs in new territory increased leading them to become more furious. The change in behaviour can lead to more bite cases.

How MCD has responded

"MCD would like to emphasise that the entire process is being carried out in consonance of ABC Rules, 2023 which the Corporation is bound with and conscious of..."

— MCD official statement

Challenges	Description
Lack of dog shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to accommodate approximately 10 lakh street dogs the authorities need to have a sufficient number of shelter homes. Currently, the MCD runs 20 Animal Birth Control centres with NGOs, where dogs are held for up to 10 days after sterilisation before being released, as per the 2023 ABC (Dogs) Rules. 
Financial constraint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Union minister and animal rights advocate Maneka Gandhi called the plan impractical. <i>“You have three lakh dogs in Delhi. To get them all off the roads, you’ll have to make 3,000 pounds (enclosures), each with drainage, water, a shed, a kitchen, and a watchman. That will cost about Rs 15,000 crore. Does Delhi have Rs 15,000 crore for this?”</i>
Lack of Manpower and Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCD lacks manpower and dedicated vans to catch dogs in such large magnitude.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an affidavit submitted by MCD to apex court on Oct 5, 2024, reported that currently only 11 NGOs and four veterinary doctors were working in Delhi's 250 municipal wards to sterilise stray dogs. • MCD currently has about 2-3 vans to catch dogs in every zone, and not enough trained handlers. 
Ecological consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the dogs from NCR are displaced, monkeys and dogs from nearby states will come to Delhi, as there will be more food here. • In Paris in the 1880s, when authorities removed dogs and cats, the city was overrun with rats
Resistance from animal rights activists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protests rippled across Delhi-NCR as the Supreme Court ordered the state government to ensure no stray dogs were seen on the street, with organisations and individuals including PETA India condemning the decision. • Delhi Police detailed a group of protesters who gathered in front of the India Gate to protest the Supreme Court decision.



15. What are the stray animal management laws in other countries?

Countries	Law
South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutering Programmes: • South Korea has witnessed a steady increase in abandoned animals. • To address this, the government implemented a stray cat neutering programme called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), which involves safely capturing stray cats, neutering them, and releasing them back to their original locations. • Under the revised Domestic Animal Protection Law, individuals who abandon animals can face fines, and such cases may be investigated by the police.

Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Protection Laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Switzerland has strict animal protection laws. Abandoning pets is illegal and can result in up to three years in prison. ▪ Potential dog owners must register their pets with cantonal authorities, and in some cantons, completing a certification course is mandatory before acquiring a dog.
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Union does not have a unified legislation for stray animal management; instead, individual member states regulate their stray populations. • In many countries, municipalities handle stray animal control, often implementing measures like sterilisation, vaccination, and adoption programmes.
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Euthanasia Gas Chambers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Japan follows a strict animal welfare framework where stray dogs are captured, quarantined, and put up for adoption. ▪ Veterinarians run low-cost spaying and neutering programmes to help control the growing stray population. ▪ While euthanasia is permitted, it is regulated and generally reserved for sick or dangerous animals. In some areas, including Tokyo, euthanasia is carried out using gas chambers, a method criticised for being inhumane and reportedly causing prolonged suffering, sometimes lasting up to 15 minutes.

UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Euthanasia And Strict Penalties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the UK, abandoned animals are collected, checked for identification, and transferred to shelters if owners are not found within eight days. ▪ Abandoning pets is illegal, punishable by up to three years in prison and a 45,000 Pounds (over Rs 53 lakh) fine. ▪ Unadopted dogs are euthanised within one week in shelters.
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massacre Law: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In July 2024, Turkey enacted a law requiring municipalities to remove approximately 4 million stray dogs from urban streets. ▪ Under this legislation, local authorities must capture the dogs, vaccinate them against diseases, sterilise them, and place them up for adoption. ▪ The law also authorises euthanasia for dogs that are sick, aggressive, in pain, terminally ill, or pose a health risk to humans.

16. How does the world tackle the problem of stray dogs and dog bites?

Country	Measures
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Netherlands is the best model to tackle the problem of dog bites. • The Netherlands resolved its stray dog problem through a state-funded sterilisation programme covering over 70% of female dogs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It also enacted strict animal welfare laws, with prison terms of up to three years for abuse or abandonment. • Fines for such offences range from about ₹13.3 lakh to ₹15.4 lakh. • A high tax was introduced to deter the purchase of puppies, and a nationwide adoption campaign was launched. • Today, over 90% of Dutch households adopt dogs.
South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In South Korea, all pet dogs must be registered, microchipped and vaccinated each year. • Owners can be fined heavily if their dogs are found roaming alone.
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Singapore, every dog must be licensed, and strays are sterilised before being rehomed. Schools and communities run awareness drives to promote responsible pet care.
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Germany, some breeds require owners to pass both a theory and a practical test like a driving licence for dogs. • Annual taxes help fund shelters and animal control.

17. How do other Indian cities tackle the dog bite issue?

HOW DIFFERENT CITIES TACKLE THE ISSUE

Mumbai

Population | 90,700 strays in 2025 (▼ 4,400 since 2014)

Method | Sterilisation & anti-rabies vaccination with NGO support

Stance | No relocation/ confinement

Kolkata



2024 SOP | Feed strays only in designated zones, twice a day (before 7am & after 7pm), with hygiene norms

Enforcement | Arrests in poisoning cases

Lucknow

Bite frequency | 1 incident every 4 minutes

Last 30 days | 9,287 cases from strays & ~1,000 from pets

Sterilisation | 90,000 strays sterilised in 4 years ► reproduction rate cut from 1:6 to 1:1



Impact timeline | Full results expected in 5-6 years

Jaipur

Sterilisation rate | ~30/day

Bite complaints | 10-15/month

Protocol | Capture ► 72 hours' observation ► vaccinate & release

Chandigarh

Bite surge | 5,365 (2022) ► 10,621 (2023)

Compensation |

₹10,000/tooth mark; ₹20,000 per 0.2 cm for flesh loss



Breed ban proposal

► 6 aggressive breeds & crosses

Penalty proposal | ₹10,000 per violation (double from earlier). Non-payment added to property tax/water bill

Stray count | 9,000 in 2025 (▼ from 12,922 in 2018-19)

Sterilisation | Managed by private agency

Kochi

ABC centre | Sterilised 8,510 strays in 10 years

Current capacity | Only 260 dogs sterilised in last 4 months due to medicine & vehicle shortage

Staff crunch | 2 vets, 2 OT assistants, 5 handlers (need more handlers & vehicles)

Population estimate | ~35,000 strays in district

Incentive | ₹300 per dog for trained handlers

(~ stands for approximately)



The Netherlands' Model (Benchmark)

Sterilisation goal
70%+ of female dogs (govt-funded)

Strict laws
Up to

3 years' jail

+ \$16k-\$18.5k fines for abuse & abandonment of dogs; dedicated animal police

Adoption push
High tax on purebred/ store-bought dogs ► shelter adoption



Public awareness
Pet responsibility & sterilisation as norms

Outcome | ~90% households adopt dogs

- There is **no one-size-fits-all** solution to the **dog bite problem** in Indian cities.
- **Different cities have adopted their own tailored strategies** and rules to deal with it.

Cities	Measures
Mumbai	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2025, the city had 90,700 stray dogs,an increase of 4,400 since 2014.• It follows a sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination programme in partnership with NGOs, without relocating or confining the animals.
Kochi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operates an Animal Birth Control (ABC) centre that releases sterilised strays within 48 hours, while aggressive dogs are kept for 72 hours.
Kolkata	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 2024 standard operating procedure allows feeding strays only in designated zones, twice daily before 9 a.m. and after 9 p.m.• Police enforce the rules and make arrests in poisoning cases.

HOW DIFFERENT CITIES TACKLE THE ISSUE

Chandigarh

Bite surge

5,365 (2022) > 10,621 (2023)

Compensation

₹10,000 (wound) max ₹20,000 per man for flesh loss

Breed ban proposal

6 aggressive breeds & crosses

Penalty proposal

₹10,000 per violation (double from earlier). Non-payment added to property tax/water bill

Stray count

11,000 in 2025 (up from 12,922 in 2018-19)

Sterilisation

Managed by private agency

Lucknow

Bite frequency

1 incident every 4 minutes

Last 30 days

9,287 cases from strays + ~1,000 from pets

Sterilisation

50,000 strays sterilised so far; success rate 60%

Timeline

Full results expected in 5-6 years

Jaipur

Sterilisation rate

~30/day

CURBING MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

WHAT THE RULE BOOK SAYS

- > Centre notified the **Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023**, in March
- > Animal Birth Control programme for **sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs** to be carried out by respective local bodies



STERILISATION

- > The civic body claims to have **sterilised 56,045 stray dogs** from April 2022 to February 2023
- > In 2021-22, 83,461 dogs were sterilised
- > MCD has 21 dog sterilisation centres with a capacity to sterilise 10,000 strays per month
- > Of them, five dog sterilisation centres owned and operated by NGOs, 11 operated by NGOs/private vet doctors and five are to be allotted to NGOs
- > **MCD is planning to conduct a survey** on the population of strays this financial year
- > Last survey was done in 2016 in erstwhile SDMC and estimated population of stray dogs was 1,89,285
- > MCD officials said existing infrastructure has to be assessed as per new guidelines

Target 2022-23
80,000
dogs to be sterilised

The rules provide guidelines on dealing with human-stray conflicts without relocating the dogs

Responsibility of RWA or local body's representative to make necessary arrangement for feeding of community animals, includes:

Designating feed spots

- > Fixing feeding time, depending on movement of children, senior citizens

Ensuring

- > Ensuring that no littering takes place at feeding location

FEEDING SPOTS

Animal Welfare Board of India **has set up over 200 feeding points in Delhi-NCR**

Key locations | E1 Colony, Vasant Kunj; Triveni Apartments, Sheikh Sarai; Hill View Apartments, Vasant Vihar






18. Mention about the views of veterinary doctors on recent supreme court judgement?

Veterinary Doctors	Description
Dr Kunal Dev Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Kunal Dev Sharma, veterinary surgeon, MaxPetZ, New Delhi, said that the Supreme Court's order aims to address a complex public health and animal welfare challenge.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the intent, to protect citizens from bites and rabies, is reasonable and necessary, the approach must be rooted in compassion and scientific expertise. • According to Dr Sharma, merely relocating stray dogs into shelters is not a long-term solution. • Instead, a combination of intense sterilization and vaccination drives, in partnership with private hospital and clinic networks, is more sustainable and humane. • “A comprehensive stray dog census, involving RWAs, municipal bodies, and animal feeders, is vital for an accurate assessment and targeted interventions”.
Dr Michelle Simoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Michelle Simoes, consulting vet of Pets of Paradise, considers the order to be beyond unreasonable, calling it “a death sentence for the community animals of Delhi”.


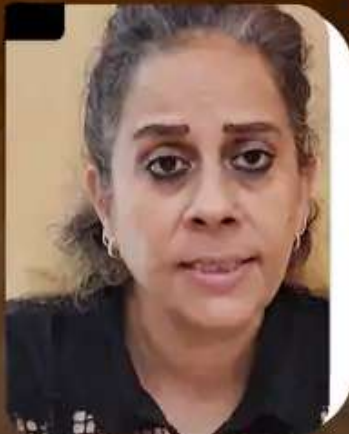
19. Enlist key supreme court judgements for animal rights?

Judgements	Description
Animal Welfare of India v. A Nagaraja and Ors. (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The traditional sport of Jalikattu, which is practiced in the State of Tamil Nadu (involved a series of fights between bulls) as a part of a ritual during the Pongal festival every year was brought under the scanner of the Madras High Court, and the constitutionality of the traditional sport was challenged.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2014, the Supreme Court held that the state law passed by the State of Tamil Nadu was unconstitutional and unreasonable. • It instructed the Union Government to amend the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty Act (PCA), 1960 and laid down guidelines stating that “bulls” shall be included under the ambit of the Act
Gauri Maulekhi v. Union of India, (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This case dealt with the illegal export of cattle and buffaloes from India to Nepal. • In Nepal, the Gadhimai festival is celebrated every five years. • The SC passed the order in line with the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. • The Court held that unnecessary pain or suffering cannot be inflicted upon any non-human living beings simply to satisfy the desires of humans.
Animal Welfare Board of India vs. People for Elimination of Stray Troubles and Ors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2009, the Supreme Court of India stayed the culling of stray dogs, ruling that sterilization and vaccination under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) program were the only legal methods for population control. • This order came after the Bombay High Court's decision to allow relocation and killing of stray dogs, which was appealed by the Animal Welfare Board of India and others, according to strays.in.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court's stay remains in effect, emphasizing compassion for dogs while also acknowledging the need to address public safety concerns related to dog bites and rabies.
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20. Highlight views of animal rights activists on recent Supreme Court judgement?

Activists	Views
Maneka Gandhi	 <p>“</p> <p>It is not a doable order... This is a very strange judgment given by someone who is in anger. Angry judgments are never sensible...</p> <p>Maneka Gandhi</p>
Preeti Khanna	 <p>“</p> <p>MCD centres are not equipped to take care of a large number of stray dogs.</p> <p>Preeti Khanna Founder of NGO Street Animal Welfare Society</p>

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PETA India said that it is “unfeasible” to build enough dog shelters. • Mini Aravindan, PETA India’s senior director of veterinary affairs said that forced removal of some 10 lakh community dogs from the streets will cause suffering for them on a large scale
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21. What are the views of different political leaders on Supreme Court order?

Political Leaders	Description
Former Union Minister Vijay Goel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Union Minister Vijay Goel had welcomed the Supreme Court’s directive to begin moving the stray dogs to shelter homes within eight weeks, calling it an endorsement of his long-standing “No Dogs on Streets” demand. • In a post on X, Mr. Goel said the order would provide relief to children, women, and the elderly, particularly those vulnerable to dog bites. • Citing figures, he claimed that around 200 dog bite cases are reported daily in Delhi, and about 500 in the National Capital Region. 

**Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
Rahul Gandhi**

- **Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi** took to **Twitter** to condemn the SC judgement, calling it “a step back from decades of humane, science-backed policy”.
- “These voiceless souls are not ‘problems’ to be erased.
- **Shelters, sterilisation, vaccination & community care** can keep streets safe - without cruelty.
- **Blanket removals are cruel, shortsighted, and strip us of compassion,”** he posted, adding that **public safety and animal welfare** can go hand in hand.

What you need to know
Powered by CuriousCats.ai

"Among the Gandhis, the most vocal animal lover is BJP MP and former minister Maneka Gandhi, who said that to send dogs to shelters, we will need to make some first."

Deccan Herald

Key quote I found!

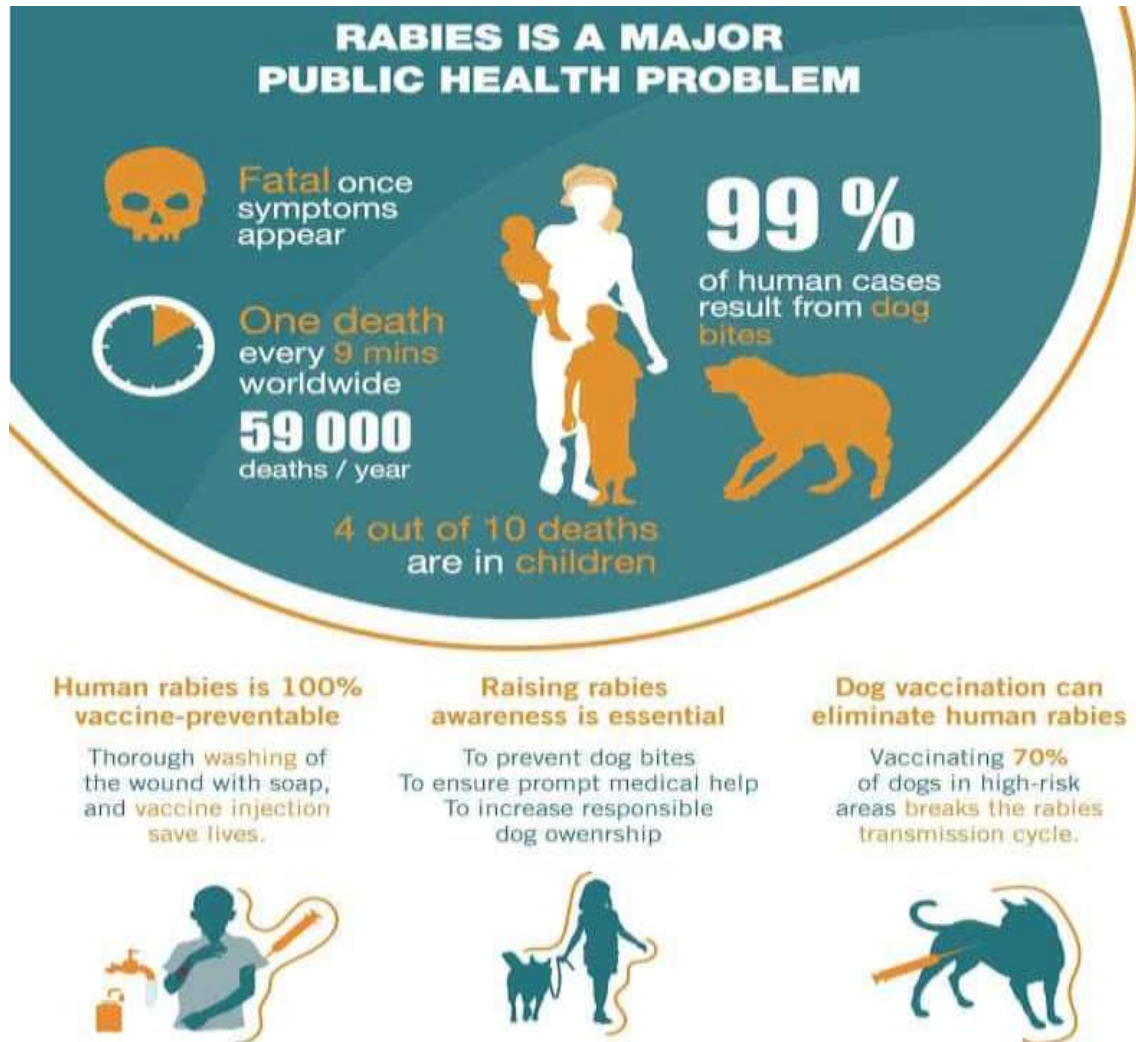
- The **Supreme Court** issued a judgement mandating removal of stray dogs from streets.
- Rahul Gandhi condemned the judgement as a **step back from decades of humane, science-backed policy** and called for **shelters, sterilisation, vaccination, and community care** to keep streets safe without cruelty.
- Priyanka Gandhi criticized the move for causing **horrendously inhumane treatment** due to the lack of sufficient shelters for stray dogs.

Key facts I verified!

	 <p>Rahul Gandhi @RahulG... · 3h</p> <p>The SC's directive to remove all stray dogs from Delhi-NCR is a step back from decades of humane, science-backed policy.</p> <p>These voiceless souls are not "problems" to be erased. Shelters, sterilisation, vaccination & community care can keep streets safe - without cruelty.</p> <p>Blanket removals are cruel, shortsighted, and strip us of compassion.</p> <p>We can ensure public safety and animal welfare go hand in hand.</p> <p>3.1K 6.5K 20K 857K</p> <p>Marwadi @AmeerHuBc</p> <p>Following</p> <p>Replying to @RahulGandhi</p> <p>sir aap gadhe ho aap kyu tension lere ho</p>
<p>Former Union minister Maneka Gandhi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal rights activist and former Union minister Maneka Gandhi strongly criticised the Supreme Court's order on stray dogs in Delhi-NCR, calling the directive "impractical", "financially unviable" and "potentially harmful" to the region's ecological balance. • Ms Gandhi said that the scale of the task makes it "unworkable". • "You have three lakh dogs in Delhi. To get them all off the roads, you'll have to make 3,000 pounds, each with drainage, water, a shed, a kitchen, and a watchman. That will cost about Rs 15,000 crore. Does Delhi have Rs 15,000 crore for this?" said Ms. M. Gandhi.

	 <p>SC Stray Dogs Order 'Unrealistic'? Maneka Gandhi Explains Why</p> <p>Impractical, Financially Unviable...</p> <p>DNA</p>
<p>Varun Gandhi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing his mother's views on X, Varun Gandhi said that the judgement is an "institutionalisation of cruelty". • He said, "(It is) a harbinger of a legal structure that seeks to punish those who cannot fend for themselves. How long before this extends to stray cows, the underprivileged and unauthorised settlements... Nations face deeper moral crises when they step away from empathy,"

22. What is Rabies?



- **Rabies is a viral disease** that attacks the brain and the **centre nervous system (CNS) of mammals** and also humans.
- **Once the symptoms of rabies are present, death is almost certain** (Incurable post symptoms appearance).
- However, it is a **preventable disease through vaccination** and post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Rabies is a worldwide issue.
- There are an estimated **59,000 human deaths from rabies annually all over the world** and the number of animals including pets and wild animals dying from rabies is immeasurable.

23. How does rabies spread?

- **Rabies** is spread through the **saliva of an infected animal** when a **person is bitten, or broken skin is licked**.
- It is **not spread in blood, urine or faeces** and **cannot penetrate through intact skin**.
- **Once the bite/lick has taken place**, the virus travels through the nervous system to the brain.
- This can take **days to weeks depending on where the bite is**, how far from the **brain it is** and the **strain of the virus**, as well as whether or not the person has been vaccinated.
- **Once it reaches the brain, the virus replicates and symptoms begin to show**.
- Rabies is usually diagnosed based on clinical signs as they are so distinctive.

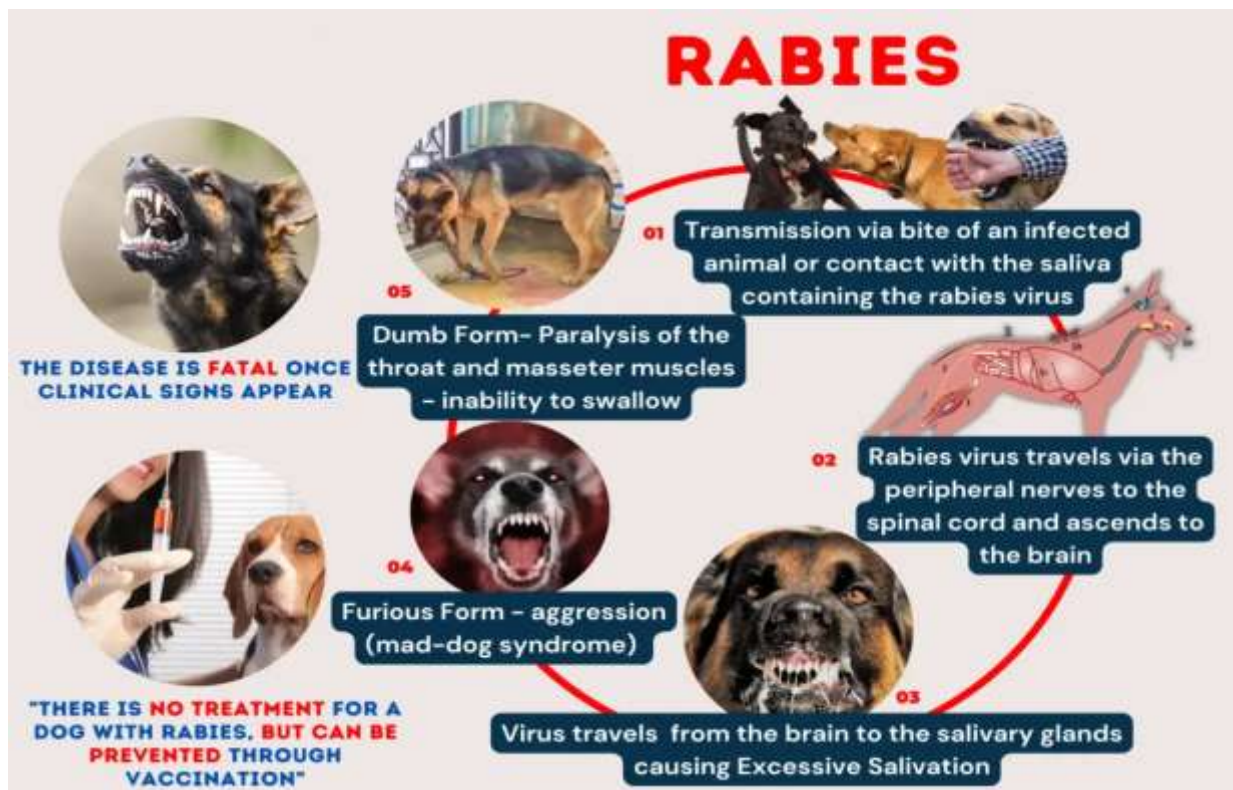


24. What are the symptoms of rabies in humans?

Prodromal symptoms of rabies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever.• Tiredness (fatigue).• Bite wound burning, itching, tingling, pain or numbness.• Cough.• Sore throat.• Muscle pain.• Nausea and vomiting.• Diarrhea.
Acute neurologic symptoms of rabies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agitation and aggression.• Restlessness.• Seizures.• Hallucinations.• Muscle twitching (fasciculations).• Fever.• Racing heart (tachycardia).• Fast breathing (hyperventilation).• Excessive salivation.• Two different-sized pupils (anisocoria).• Facial paralysis (facial palsy).• Fear of water/drinking (hydrophobia).• Fear of air being blown in your face/drafts (aerophobia).• Delirium.
Paralytic rabies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever.• Headache.

symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neck stiffness. • Tingling, “pins and needles” or other strange sensations. • Paralysis. • Coma.
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25. What are the symptoms of rabies in animals?



26. Enlist first aid measures in case of dog bite?

TWO TYPES OF DOG BITES



PROVOKED BITES	
<p>➤ Happens when the dog is prompted to bite when it might not have otherwise</p>	<p>Instances: A person accidentally stepping into dogs' territory, stepping on its leg or tail or going near a dog while it's eating</p>
UNPROVOKED BITES	
<p>➤ Happens if the animal has brain disease or is rabid</p>	<p>Signs of a rabid dog: Has a glazed look in its eyes, expressionless when biting, unable to close its mouth or walk properly</p>

DEALING WITH BITES	PREVENTION
<p>➤ Immediately, clean the wound with water and soap</p> <hr/> <p>➤ Take anti-rabies vaccine (ARV) shot and consult doctors for rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) vaccine shot</p> <hr/> <p>➤ Vaccines should be taken within 24 hours of the bite; so, no time should be wasted</p> <hr/> <p>➤ Go to a nearby hospital and seek treatment</p>	<p>➤ Befriend community dogs in the area</p> <hr/> <p>➤ Keep water bowls during summer in localities where there are many dogs</p> <hr/> <p>➤ Ask GHMC authorities to immunize dogs and return them only to the same locality from where they were picked up</p>



DEATHS OCCUR WHEN...

- Cold chain that preserves the vaccine and RIG is compromised
- If RIG is not administered properly, especially around the wound
- If the strain is highly virulent or there is a rare treatment failure



- Substandard quality or improper handling of vaccine




WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

For government & Health Authorities

- Audit & digitize vaccine cold chain monitoring
- Make RIG & ARV available at all PHCs & CHCs
- Strengthen dog vaccination & sterilization programs
- Launch public awareness campaigns in schools & rural areas
- Mandate real-time digital tracking of dog bite cases

For Citizens

- Learn how to respond to bites
- Hold local bodies accountable for stray animal control
- Report animal attacks immediately

HOW TO HANDLE A DOG BITE?



You are playing with your dog and it suddenly bites you. Learn how to handle dog bites.

Dog Bite Infections



Prevention



What to do if your dog bites another animal or human?

Dos:

- Remain calm.
- Check the wounds and perform triage.
- Take steps to stop the fight.
- Anti-rabies vaccine schedule - 0, 7, 21, 28th days of a dog bite.

Donts:

- Never skip proper medical care.
- Don't put your hand in between fight.

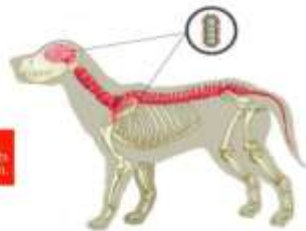


Dog bite wound healing time



Rabies

A viral illness that affects the dog's spinal cord and brain.



Prevention of rabies for dogs



Inject Rabies Vaccination.

Vaccinate your pets against disease.

Maintain Good Hygiene.



TIPS TO PREVENT DOG BITES

1



Don't disturb me or frighten me, particularly when I am eating or tied up.

- Don't disturb me when I am with my toys, my puppies, in a car, behind a fence or when I am asleep or ill.

2



Keep away from me when I am angry or scared.

- When I am angry, I will show my teeth.
- When I am scared, my tail will be between my legs and I will try to run away.

3



Don't move if I approach you when I am not on a lead.

- Stand still like a tree trunk.
- If you fall over, curl up and stay as still and heavy as a rock.

4



Approach me slowly and quietly.

- Ask my owner or your parents/guardian's permission before you touch me. Let me sniff your hand before you touch me. When you stroke me, stroke my back first.

5



If a dog bites you act quickly. Wash the wound with soap and water and look for a first aid centre.

- Remember to tell your parents that you were bitten. Tell them which dog it was and where you were when it bit you.

#WHO

27. Mention about the global cases of rabies and measures taken by WHO?

- Globally, rabies is estimated to cause **59,000 human deaths annually**.
- This translates to approximately **160 deaths per day**. While the disease is present in over **150 countries**, **95% of human rabies cases** occur in **Asia and Africa**, according to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- The **majority** of these deaths are **attributed to dog bites**.



RABIES: THE FACTS

VIRUS TRANSMISSION



Saliva of infected animals



99% of human cases are caused by dog bites

The virus attacks the brain
Rabies is **fatal** once symptoms appear



FATALITIES

Rabies affects poor rural communities mostly in Asia and Africa



About One death every 9 mins

40% of the victims are children younger than 15

TREATMENT



Thorough washing of the wound with soap, and, vaccine injections can avoid symptoms and **save lives**.
Seek immediate medical care if bitten.



HOW TO PREVENT RABIES TRANSMISSION FROM DOGS?



Raise public awareness

Learn dog body language



NO DOG BITE = NO RABIES

VACCINATING DOGS SAVES HUMAN LIVES

Rabies is 100% preventable



Vaccinating 70% of dogs **breaks rabies transmission cycle** in an area at risk

Every dog owner is concerned



28 September

• World Rabies Day •

#rabies

28. What is Gandhiji's view on stray dogs?

- **Ninety-nine years ago, in the pages of Young India, Mahatma Gandhi addressed the stray dog menace.**
- **He lambasted those who sentimentalised the issue of stray dogs, saying, “*Roving dogs do not indicate compassion and civilisation in society; instead, they betray the ignorance and lethargy of its members.*”**
- **Mahatma Gandhi emphasised responsible ownership of dogs.**
- **His words, rooted in ahimsa, underscored that true compassion involves preventing suffering for both humans and animals, with humans coming first.**

29. What is the recent Bombay High Court ruling on pigeon feeding?

- **On August 4, the Bombay High Court ruled that publicly feeding a large number of pigeons presents a health hazard and asked BMC officials to act against those involved in such activities.**
- **The bench of Justice GS Kulkarni and Justice Arif Doctor said pigeon droppings posed significant health risks to people of all age groups.**
- **The High Court said "Such acts undoubtedly expose people at large and particularly those who dwell or occupy property in the vicinity to an eminent danger from the spread of infections/diseases dangerous to human life, in addition to causing a large-scale public nuisance".**



First-ever FIR for feeding pigeons 👍

Police booked an unidentified person under BNS sections 270 and 223, amid growing health concerns and a court mandated push to eradicate pigeon feeding at heritage sites

Apoorva Agashe and Sameer Surve
mirrorfeedback@timesofindia.com

In a landmark move marking the city's escalating battle against its burgeoning pigeon population, the Mumbai Police have filed their first-ever FIR against an unknown person for feeding pigeons. The incident, which took place in Mahim, signals a new, stricter enforcement of rules that have sparked a massive city-wide debate.

According to officials at the Mahim police station, a person was spotted feeding pigeons from inside a car on L.G. Road. The cops intervened, but the car's number plate was not clearly visible, making it impossible to identify the accused. The FIR has been registered under sections 270 and 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Legal experts clarify that BNS Section 270 pertains to "public nuisance" and Section 223 deals with "disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant," which carries a penalty of imprisonment up to one year.

The police officials from Mahim police station said that they will also go through CCTV footages to check the details of the car. Mahim police is further investigating the case. This punitive step comes after the Bombay High Court's recent directive to file FIRs against persistent violators.

The crackdown follows months of growing public outcry. While activists and trusts — including



Person booked was seen feeding pigeons from inside a car on L.G. Road

those advocating for the iconic Dadar Kabutarkhana — have approached the court to protect heritage feeding spots, health experts have issued dire warnings. Feeding pigeons has been linked to a rise in respiratory illnesses, particularly a serious lung condition known as "pigeon lung" or hypersensitivity pneumonitis, caused by inhaling dust from droppings and feathers.

BMC crackdown

In response to the High Court's order, the BMC has stepped up its efforts. A joint team of BMC and police officials visited the Dadar Kabutarkhana on Friday and decided to deploy staff round-the-clock. Assistant Municipal Commissioner

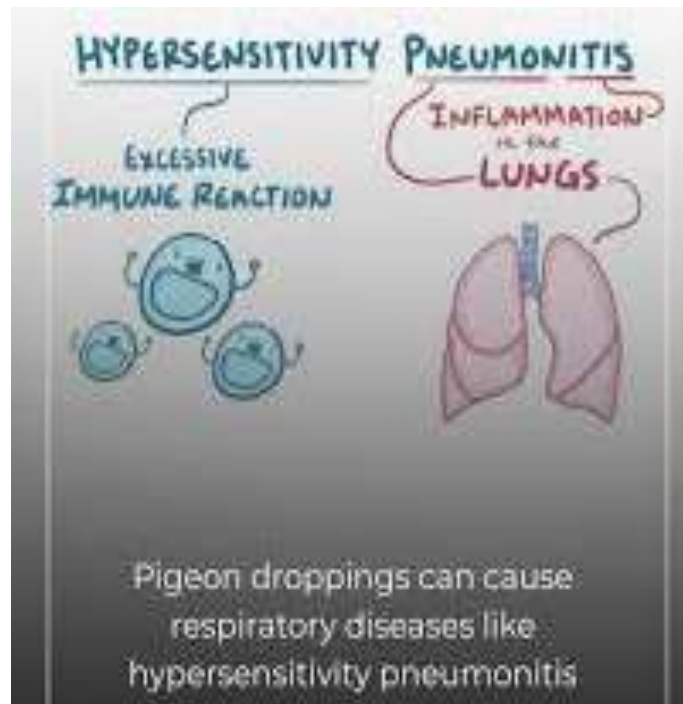
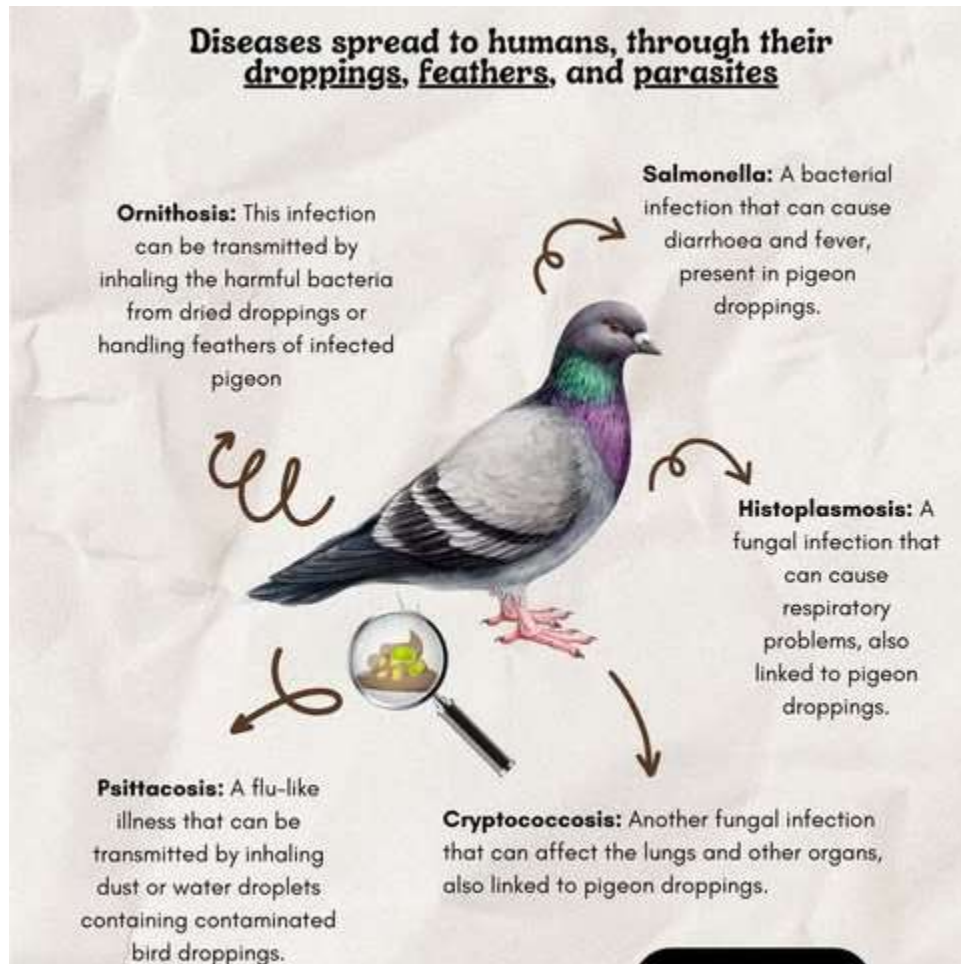
Vinayak Vispute confirmed the move, stating, "We will depute a person for vigilance in three shifts to ensure strict compliance with the court order." This marks a significant escalation from the earlier 12-hour watch.

Jaydeep More, Assistant Municipal Commissioner of 'A' ward — which includes major kabutarkhanas at GPO and the Gateway of India — said the BMC would also seek police support and use CCTV surveillance to monitor the spots.

With 51 officially recognized kabutarkhanas across Mumbai, the city-wide effort is officially taking flight — marking a dramatic shift from awareness campaigns to legal enforcement.

30. What problems are caused by uncontrolled pigeon feeding?

- Pigeons, **while seemingly harmless**, carry various pathogens that can significantly **impact human health**.
- Their droppings and feathers **harbor allergens and harmful fungi, including Histoplasma and Cryptococcus**.
- Consequently, these **airborne particles** can lead to severe respiratory conditions.
- For example, **medical professionals in India** are increasingly reporting cases of **hypersensitivity pneumonitis**, also known as “**bird fancier’s lung**,” which results from **chronic exposure to pigeon-related antigens**.
- **Droppings can mix with dust and become airborne**, potentially triggering **allergic reactions, lung infections, and chronic respiratory diseases**, particularly **hypersensitivity pneumonitis**.
- This condition can cause **irreversible lung damage**, manifesting as a **dry cough, breathlessness**, and even requiring lung transplantation in severe cases.
- Additionally, **pigeons** can transmit other **diseases such as cryptococcal meningitis, a fungal infection affecting the brain and spinal cord, and psittacosis, a bacterial infection with pneumonia-like symptoms**.
- Furthermore, **salmonella bacteria**, deposited through **pigeon defecation**, can cause salmonellosis and paratyphoid fever.
- Thus, **public health authorities** consistently emphasize the need for stringent measures to **control pigeon populations and prevent these health hazards**.



31. Can pigeon droppings cause diseases? If yes, which ones?

- Yes, pigeon droppings can transmit diseases to humans.
- Several diseases are associated with pigeon droppings, including **histoplasmosis**, **cryptococcosis**, **salmonellosis**, and infections caused by **E. coli**.
- These diseases can be contracted through **inhalation of dried droppings** or **contact with contaminated surfaces**.



HOW DO BIRDS SPREAD DISEASE?



100+ DISEASES

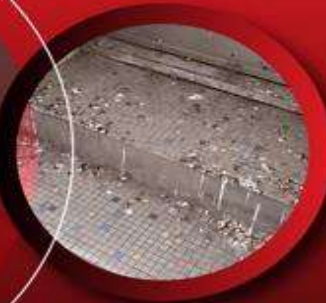
Birds carry more than 60 different infectious diseases such as histoplasmosis, salmonellosis, E. coli, and many others. Pigeons, sparrows, crows, and gulls live on our buildings, eat our food, and play in our parks. These diseases are primarily spread via their droppings.

FOOD AND WATER CONTAMINATION



Birds don't just poop on sidewalks and freshly washed cars; they poop in reservoirs, near food preparation areas, loading bays, outdoor cafes and picnic areas.

FECAL DUST



When dried droppings are disturbed, spores break off and float into the air. These airborne particles carry disease with them wherever they go. One significant way that fecal dust becomes airborne is from AC and HVAC units, pulling particles into homes and businesses.

DISEASES PASS FROM BIRD FECES TO HUMANS IN THREE WAYS



WE EAT THEM

- Airborne particles settle down onto exposed food and water, then consumed.
- Experts estimate that several thousand cases of salmonellosis are caused this way.



WE BREATHE THEM

- Pathogens are aerosolized and inhaled into the lungs.
- The warm, moist lining of the pulmonary system provides the perfect environment for disease growth.
- In most cases our bodies fight off these diseases, however major infection or even death can result.



DIRECT CONTACT

- Illness from direct contact occurs when fecal-borne pathogens enter the body through an open cut or wound.
- Protective gear must always be worn when cleaning a bird infested site.



32. Should penalties be imposed for irresponsible pet ownership and abandonment?

- **People should face jail time for abandoning pets** because it is a cruel, irresponsible, and **often lethal act** that carries significant consequences, not only for the **animal but also for society**.
- **Abandonment is not simply a matter of inconvenience**; it's a form of neglect that often leads to the **animal's suffering and death**.
- Furthermore, it contributes to a **larger societal problem of stray animal populations**, which can strain local resources and present public health concerns.
- **Holding individuals accountable through legal penalties**, including **incarceration**, is a necessary step to **deter this harmful behavior and promote responsible pet ownership**.
- **Abandoning a domestic animal** is a conscious choice that demonstrates a **disregard for the animal's well-being** and the social contract of care and responsibility.

The Legal and Ethical Imperative for Penalties	
Why Fines Are Insufficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While financial penalties can deter some from abandoning their pets, they are often not enough to address the severity of the crime. • Fines can sometimes be seen as simply the cost of “getting rid” of an unwanted pet, without actually preventing the behavior. • Moreover, finances may not be effective for individuals who lack the financial means to care for their pet in the first place.
Importance of Incarceration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incarceration, even for short periods, sends a powerful message that animal abandonment is a serious offense with significant legal consequences. • It helps to establish a clear social standard for the care and treatment of domestic animals. • Acts as a deterrent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The fear of losing one’s freedom is a powerful deterrent that can discourage people from abandoning their pets. • Provides a form of retribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incarceration holds individuals accountable for their actions and sends a message that the harm they inflict on defenseless animals will be punished. • Promotes public safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By removing individuals who demonstrate a disregard for animal welfare from the community, incarceration can reduce the likelihood of further harm.

33. What can be the possible way ahead?

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO



Feeding in small groups instead of a pack is the right thing to do

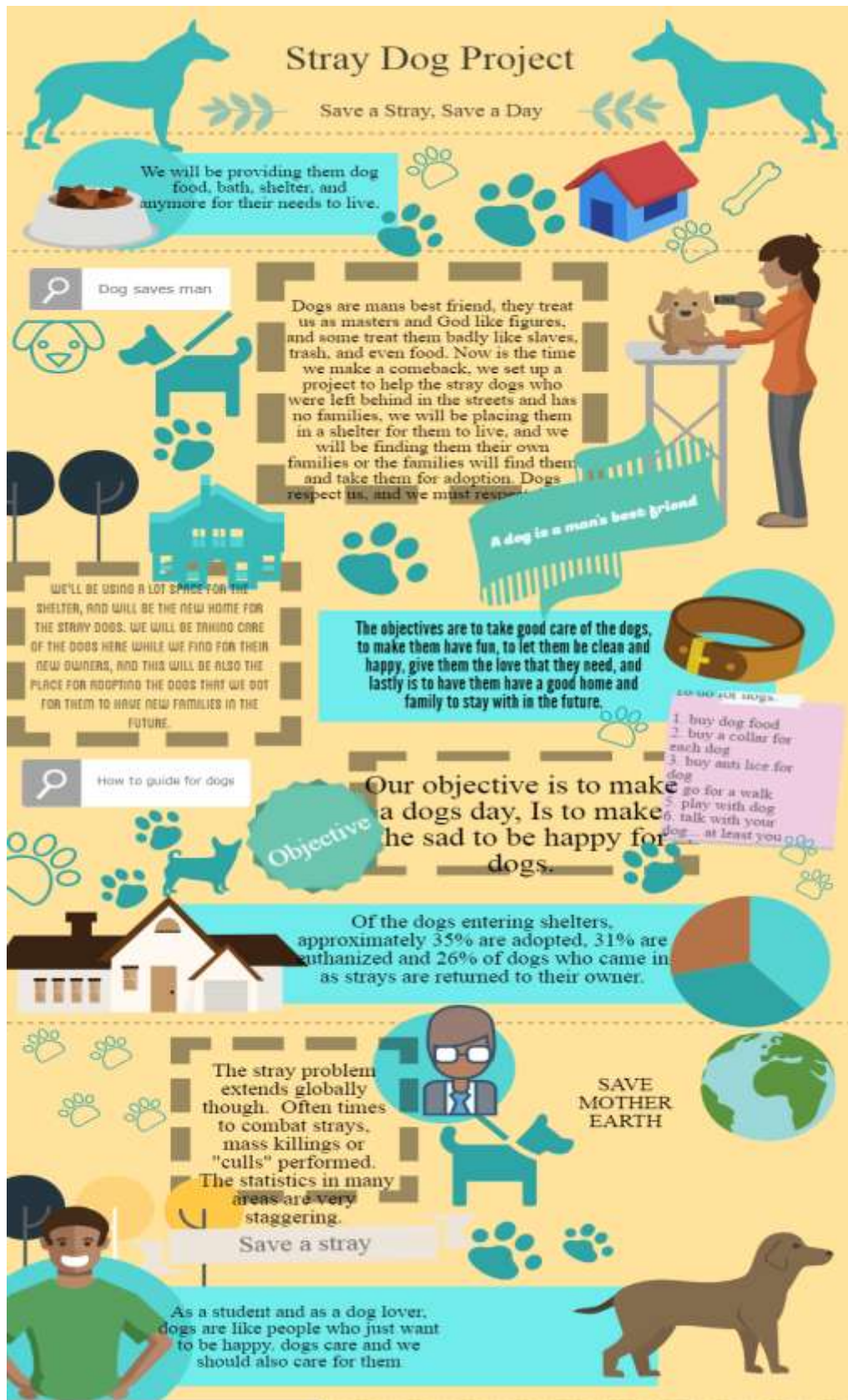
- Use small containers to feed strays
- Feed dogs in small groups instead of bringing them


- together at one place
- Establishing feeding stations is necessary
- These food stations

- should be chosen in remote areas
- Dog lovers need to guard till strays finish eating



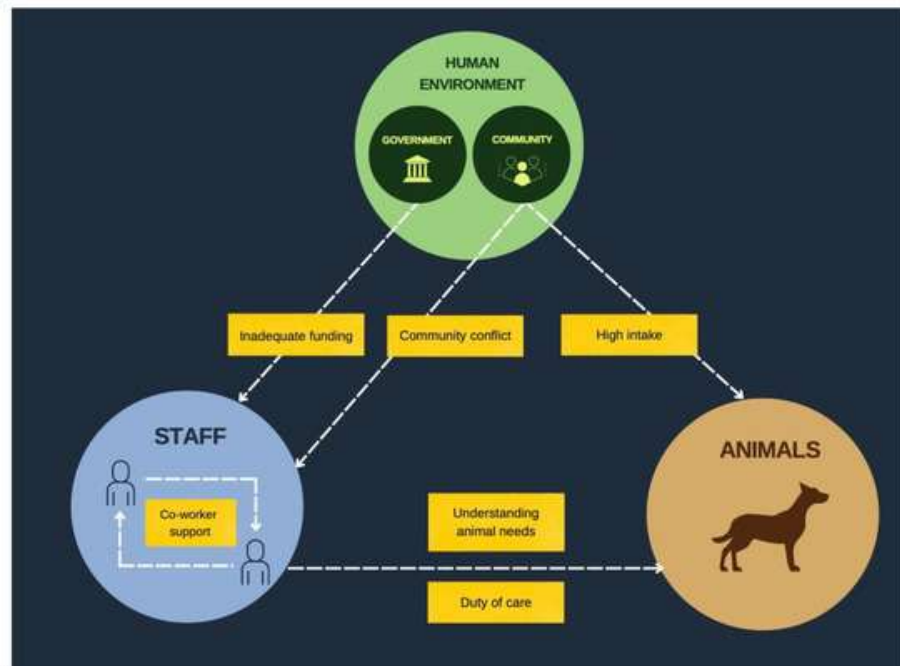






Possible Way Ahead	Analysis
Public awareness campaigns to bring change in attitudes toward stray animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness campaigns can significantly change attitudes towards stray animals by educating the public, promoting compassion, and encouraging responsible pet ownership. • These campaigns can highlight the importance of sterilization, adoption, and humane treatment, ultimately fostering a more compassionate and supportive environment for stray animals. • Highlighting Responsible Ownership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Campaigns can emphasize the responsibilities of pet ownership, including providing proper care, nutrition, and veterinary attention. • Fostering Empathy and Compassion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By sharing stories of rescue and rehabilitation, campaigns can evoke empathy and encourage people to treat stray animals with kindness. <div data-bbox="505 1228 1404 1612">  <p>How effective are awareness campaigns in reducing the stray dog population?</p> </div>
Community-based adoption programs to reduce stray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based adaptation programs focusing on sterilization and vaccination are effective in reducing stray dog populations and managing human-animal conflict.

dog populations

- These programs involve **local communities** in the process, **promoting responsible pet ownership**, and creating a more harmonious environment for **both humans and animals**.
- **Community Involvement:**
 - **Local residents** can be involved in **identifying stray dogs**, assisting with trapping and transport for **sterilization**, and **even participating in vaccination drives**.
- **Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs):**
 - They can play a vital role in organizing and **implementing these programs within their communities**.
- **Education and awareness campaigns:**
 - They are crucial to **dispel myths** and misconceptions about **stray dogs** and **promote responsible pet ownership**.



<p>Public Safety vs. Animal Welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing the need for public safety from dog bites and rabies with the ethical responsibility to ensure the well-being of stray animals. 
<p>Humane Population Control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employing methods like sterilization and vaccination to control stray dog populations without causing unnecessary suffering.
<p>Responsibility and Moral Agency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizing the moral responsibility of individuals and communities in managing stray dog populations and addressing the root causes of abandonment.
<p>Compassion and Empathy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering a compassionate approach to stray dogs, acknowledging their capacity to feel pain and distress.

<p>Legal and Policy Framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhering to legal and policy frameworks that prioritize animal welfare and humane treatment, such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
<p>Avoiding Unnecessary Suffering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Striving to minimize any pain or suffering caused to stray dogs during capture, handling, and population control measures. 
<p>Accountability and Transparency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of stray dog management programs, including proper training and monitoring of personnel. <div data-bbox="664 1434 1243 1881"> <p>DOG RULES</p> <div> <p>Procedure To Be Followed After Receiving Complaint As Per AWBI Devise a mitigation strategy to prevent further conflict. This will include educating the community from where complaint has been received, and may also include counseling, designation of dog feeding spots and prioritizing ABC and vaccination. If this does not yield result, the street dog must be humanely captured, removed from the area.</p> </div> <div> <p>AWBI's Observations and Suggestions About Stray Dogs Main factors lead to aggression in street dogs like migration and mating and also protection of pups by the female dogs. When strays are sterilised and put back in same area where they were picked up from, aggression is invariably eliminated. Strays do not generally bite unless provoked. People who dislike strays are capable of registering false complaints</p>  </div> </div>

<p>Long-Term Solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on long-term solutions that address the root causes of stray dog populations, such as responsible pet ownership, waste management, and community education.  <p>THE GOAL • SAFE COMMUNITIES AND HUMANE TREATMENT FOR STRAY DOGS THROUGH LARGE-SCALE STERILISATION, RABIES VACCINATION, AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION. • A BALANCED, SCIENCE-BASED SOLUTION FOR LONG-TERM PUBLIC SAFETY AND ANIMAL WELFARE.</p>
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34. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **For Prelims:** DPSP, Fundamental Duties, Article 48 A, Rabies
- **For Mains:** Balancing People Rights Vs Animal Welfare

Some previous years prelims questions.

Q1. Consider the following statements: **(2024)**

Statement I: The Indian Flying Fox is placed under the “vermin” category in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Statement II: The Indian Flying Fox feeds on the blood of other animals.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Ans: (c)

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Suman Sharma mam:

- Which state recently declared Human Wildlife conflict as a disaster?

Board Suman Sharma mam:

- What is One Health?
- Why do we need to look at Animal Health and Human health together?

Board BB Swain sir:

- What is the impact of Human-animal conflict on various sectors?

Some questions for QUIZ.

Q1. Consider the following Diseases:

1. Rabies
2. Malaria
3. Typhoid
4. Tuberculosis
5. AIDS

How many of the above countries are communicable diseases?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Ans: (c)

Some questions for POLL.

Q1. Do you agree with the recent Supreme Court decision on stray dogs?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Are stray dogs dangerous to society?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

