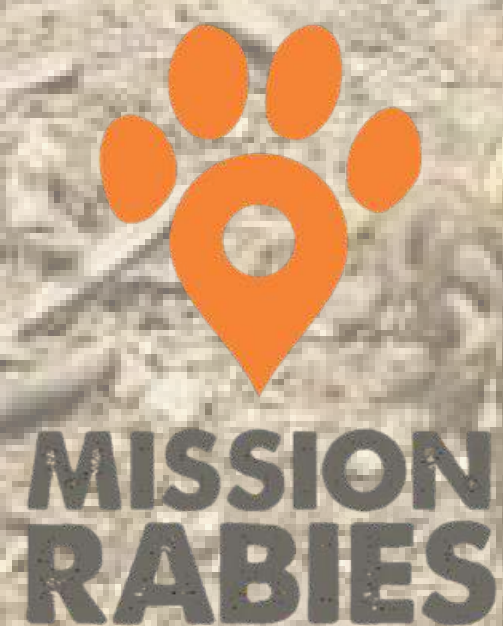


JULY 2026 NE MONTHLY REPORT



HIGHLIGHTS

	GTA
ARV ADMINISTERED	1355
RABIES HOTLINE CALLS	93
INDIVIDUALS EDUCATED	1126
IBCM CASES	7
SUSPECTED RABID ANIMALS	2
CARCASSES TESTED FOR LFA	11
LFA POSITIVE	0
BRAIN SAMPLES COLLECTED FOR DFA	31
DFA TEST CONDUCTED	13
DFA POSITIVE	0
X-RAY	5

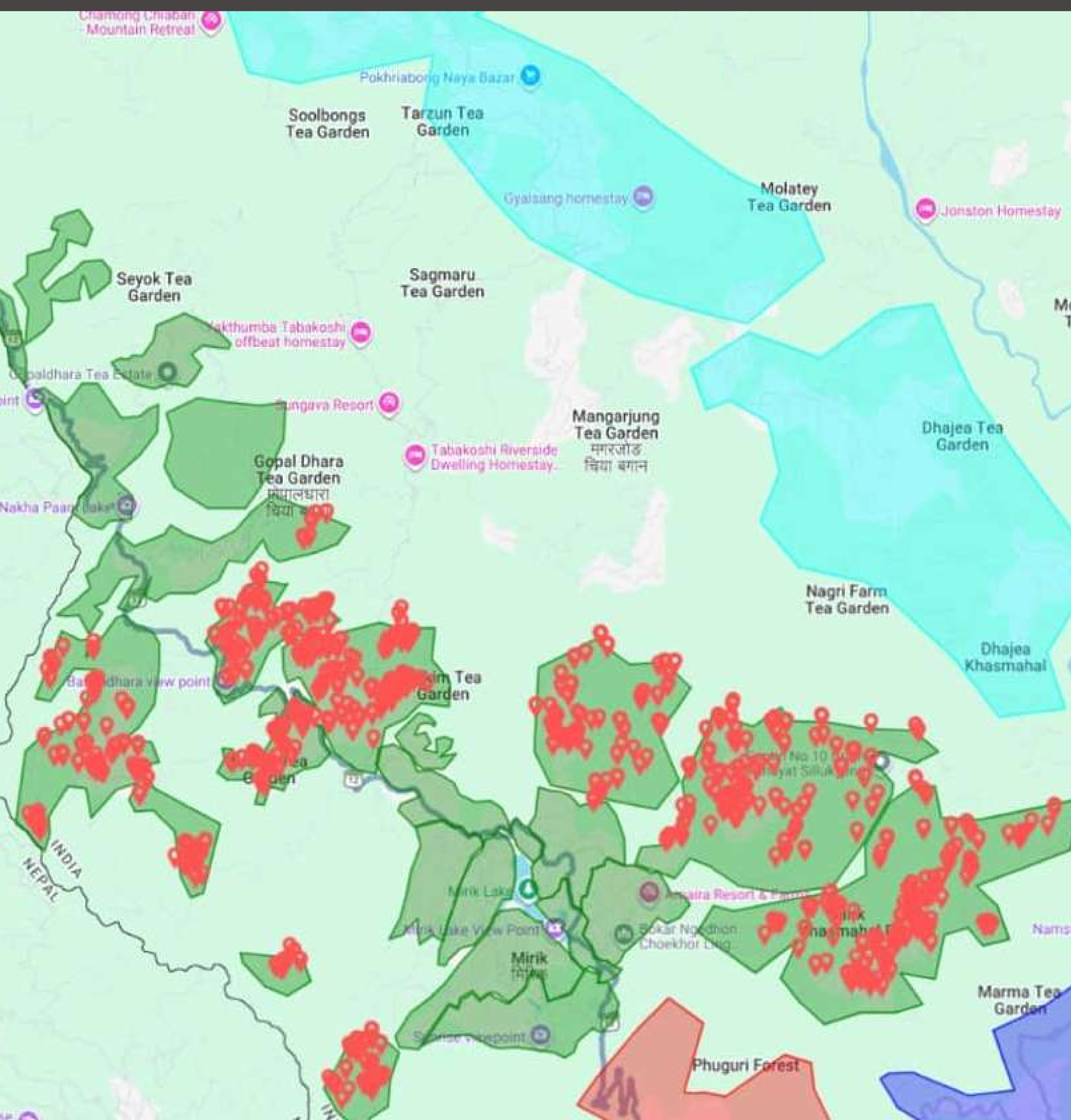
GTA

THROUGH MUD, MOUNTAINS AND MONSOON: REACHING EVERY DOG THAT MATTERS

Despite heavy monsoon rains, landslides, and difficult terrain, the vaccination team successfully reached remote communities across Mirik and surrounding areas. Vaccines and equipment were carried through inaccessible routes to ensure uninterrupted service delivery. A total of 1,355 anti-rabies vaccinations were administered during the reporting period, reinforcing the programme's commitment to ensuring that no community is left behind.



GTA THROUGH MUD, MOUNTAINS AND MONSOON: REACHING EVERY DOG THAT MATTERS



GTA

THROUGH MUD, MOUNTAINS AND MONSOON: REACHING EVERY DOG THAT MATTERS



On 15 June, while travelling to Duptin village in the Mirik Division for a planned dog vaccination campaign, the team's vehicle became stuck in deep mud after heavy rains made the hill roads difficult to navigate. Reaching remote communities in the Himalayas often means negotiating steep slopes, unpaved roads, and unpredictable weather, making every vaccination effort a logistical challenge.

GTA

THROUGH MUD, MOUNTAINS AND MONSOON: REACHING EVERY DOG THAT MATTERS



Our the team worked to free the vehicle, members of the local community—who had been waiting with their dogs for the campaign to begin—immediately came forward to help. Together, they pushed and guided the vehicle out of the mud, ensuring the team could continue its journey without abandoning the day's work.

This simple yet powerful act of community participation reflects the spirit of the programme. Rabies elimination is not achieved by vaccination teams alone; it depends on the trust, ownership, and support of local communities. Even in the most challenging terrain, working together helps ensure that **no village is left behind**

GTA **THROUGH MUD, MOUNTAINS AND** **MONSOON: REACHING EVERY DOG THAT** **MATTERS**



GTA

TAKING LIFE-SAVING KNOWLEDGE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Rabies awareness sessions were conducted among tea garden workers and remote rural communities with limited access to health education. Participants were trained on immediate wound washing, timely medical care, and completion of the anti-rabies vaccination schedule. The sessions strengthened community preparedness and promoted evidence-based practices for rabies prevention.



GTA

TAKING LIFE-SAVING KNOWLEDGE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST



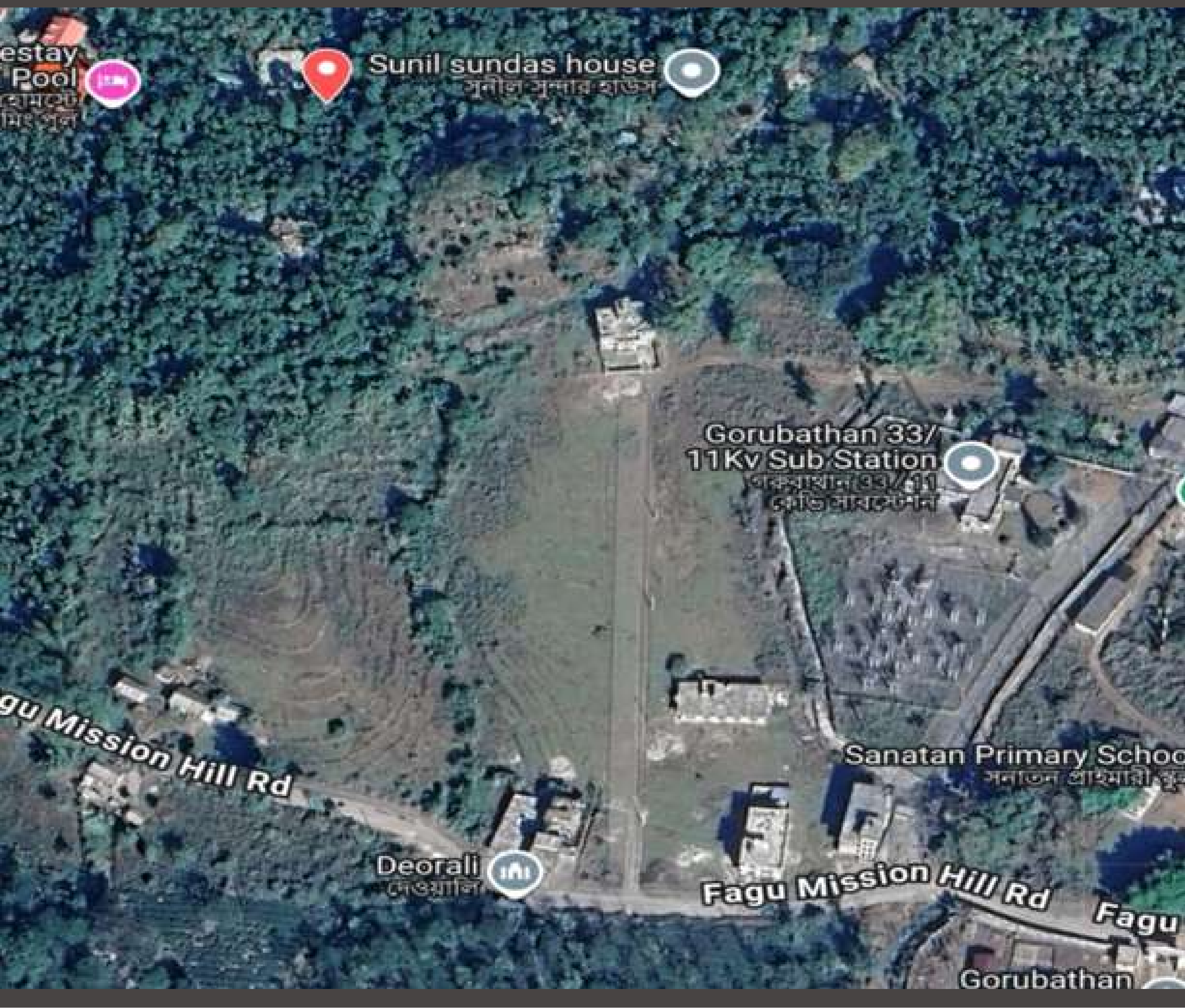
GTA TAKING LIFE-SAVING KNOWLEDGE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST



GTA

WHEN A "RABID DOG" WASN'T RABID

A reported suspected rabid dog case in Gorubathan triggered an immediate field investigation by the surveillance team. Clinical assessment, witness interviews, and community enquiries confirmed that the dog's behaviour was maternal and territorial rather than indicative of rabies. The case was closed as a low-risk non-rabies incident, demonstrating the importance of evidence-based surveillance and risk assessment.



GTA

EVERY BITE DESERVES EVIDENCE, NOT ASSUMPTIONS

Following a dog bite incident involving an elderly resident in Lebong, the animal was safely rescued and placed under a 15-day rabies observation period. Continuous monitoring revealed no clinical signs of rabies, and the incident was determined to be situational and defensive in nature. The case highlighted the value of systematic investigation and responsible observation in rabies surveillance.



GTA

**EVERY BITE DESERVES EVIDENCE,
NOT ASSUMPTIONS**



GTA

EVERY NEGATIVE TEST IS STILL A VICTORY

Routine LFA testing and brain sample collection were continued to strengthen rabies surveillance across the region. Although none of the tested animals were positive for rabies, each sample contributed valuable information for disease monitoring and public health decision-making. Consistent diagnostic surveillance remains essential for maintaining vigilance against rabies.



GTA

**EVERY NEGATIVE TEST IS STILL A
VICTORY**



GTA BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS BEFORE BUILDING PROGRAMMES

Coordination meetings were conducted with tea estate managers, school authorities, and community organizations to plan upcoming rabies awareness and vaccination activities. These engagements helped secure institutional support, improve logistical coordination, and strengthen local ownership of rabies prevention efforts. The partnerships established during the month will support future outreach and community-based interventions.



GTA

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS BEFORE BUILDING PROGRAMMES



GTA MAKING PROGRESS VISIBLE

In collaboration with Darjeeling Municipality, a permanent public information board was installed to showcase the progress of the rabies control programme from 2020–2025. The board displays vaccination, sterilization, rescue, and animal health service achievements, along with bite management guidance and hotline information. The initiative promotes transparency, accountability, and public engagement in the journey towards a rabies-free Darjeeling.



GTA

WHEN ONE EMERGENCY BECAME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE MANY



After a veterinary camp was cancelled due to severe weather and road blockages, the team responded to an emergency calving case in Tari Gaon. During the intervention, community members were provided with rabies awareness, hotline information, and guidance on bite management and post-exposure care. The incident demonstrated how emergency veterinary response can also serve as an opportunity for public health education.



GTA FROM DIAGNOSIS TO RECOVERY: A PEDIATRIC FRACTURE CASE

A total of five radiographic examinations were performed during the month, comprising four dogs and one cat.

One notable case involved a 3.5-month-old rescue puppy that presented with acute non-weight-bearing lameness of the right hind limb following trauma. Radiographic examination revealed a displaced distal femoral fracture. Due to the patient's age and limited surgical resources, the fracture was managed conservatively using a modified Robert Jones bandage, multimodal analgesia, nutritional supplementation, and strict cage rest. Follow-up evaluations demonstrated progressive healing with restoration of normal weight-bearing and excellent functional recovery, highlighting the effectiveness of timely diagnosis and appropriate conservative management in selected pediatric fracture cases.



GTA FROM THE FIELD TO THE SCIENTIFIC STAGE-APCRICON 2026

Beyond Numbers:

2026

Community Ownership - Building a Sustainable One Health Rabies Elimination Programme in Kurseong



FOR APCRICON 2026

PRESENTED BY
DR. SHIVANI PRADHAN
GTA REGION
PROJECT LEAD

The experiences of the GTA Region Rabies Elimination Programme were showcased at APCRICON 2026, where Dr. Shivani Pradhan delivered an oral scientific presentation on building a sustainable One Health rabies elimination programme through community ownership. Drawing from field experiences across the GTA Region, the presentation highlighted innovative approaches in vaccination, surveillance, education, and stakeholder engagement. The observations presented were well received by delegates and experts, reflecting the value of translating field-based experience into scientific knowledge that can inform rabies elimination efforts elsewhere.

FROM THE FIELD TO THE SCIENTIFIC GTA STAGE-APCRICON 2026



GTA

FIELD TEAMS SHARE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH RABIES PROFESSIONALS

As part of ongoing capacity-building efforts, Dr. Mihir Mazagaonkar and Dr. Shivani Pradhan conducted an interactive training workshop for the JBF–Mission Rabies field team on 3 July. Drawing on practical experiences from the DGAS–Mission Rabies Programme, the session combined technical instruction with practical lessons and proven approaches to navigating real-world field challenges, while covering rabies surveillance, mass dog vaccination strategies, field protocols, map-based navigation, and the Mission Rabies field application for accurate data collection and reporting. The highly interactive workshop encouraged active participation and hands-on learning, strengthening the team's technical skills and preparedness for effective field implementation.



GTA

FIELD TEAMS SHARE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH RABIES PROFESSIONALS



During July 2026, the Animal Rabies Diagnosis Laboratory processed 16 brain samples, of which 3 tested positive for rabies, resulting in an overall positivity rate of 18.75%. All three positive cases originated from Assam, while all 13 samples received from West Bengal tested negative, reflecting continued surveillance and timely laboratory support for rabies diagnosis across the region. Dogs accounted for the majority of submissions (13/16), with cats (2) and a monkey (1) comprising the remaining samples.

