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Another man dies of rabies in Andhra News

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[Hyderabad](#), May 18 (IANS) A man died of rabies in Andhra Pradesh Wednesday, taking the toll due to dog bites to five in 10 days, officials said.

Subba Rao, a daily-wage labourer, died of rabies at a government hospital in Kakinada in East Godavari district of coastal Andhra, doctors said.

The 45-year-old bit his wife before his death, and she too was admitted to the hospital.

Rao was bitten by a stray dog four months ago, but he did not take anti-rabies vaccine.

All five deaths have occurred in East Godavari district, leaving the people scared. The government has constituted a technical committee to inquire into the deaths.

While three people, including an eight-year-old girl, died in Rajahmundry, two deaths have been reported from Kakinada.

Activists of various political parties Wednesday staged a protest outside Rajahmundry municipal corporation office. They blamed the municipal authorities for the deaths.

They also alleged that government-run hospitals have not stocked adequate doses of anti-rabies vaccines.

Three of the victims had approached the hospitals after dog bites, but were reportedly sent back as the vaccines were not available.

Meanwhile, the state government Wednesday submitted a report to state human rights commission on the death of eight-year-old Anusha due to lack of anti-rabies vaccines at Rajahmundry hospital.

The state government as well as the district administration admitted in their reports that there was a shortage of the vaccine between April 4 and 26.

The commission, which has issued notice to the government, adjourned the hearing to June 28.

According to [health](#) authorities, there are close to 67,000 stray dogs in the urban areas of East Godavari district alone, while their number is over 20 lakh across the state.