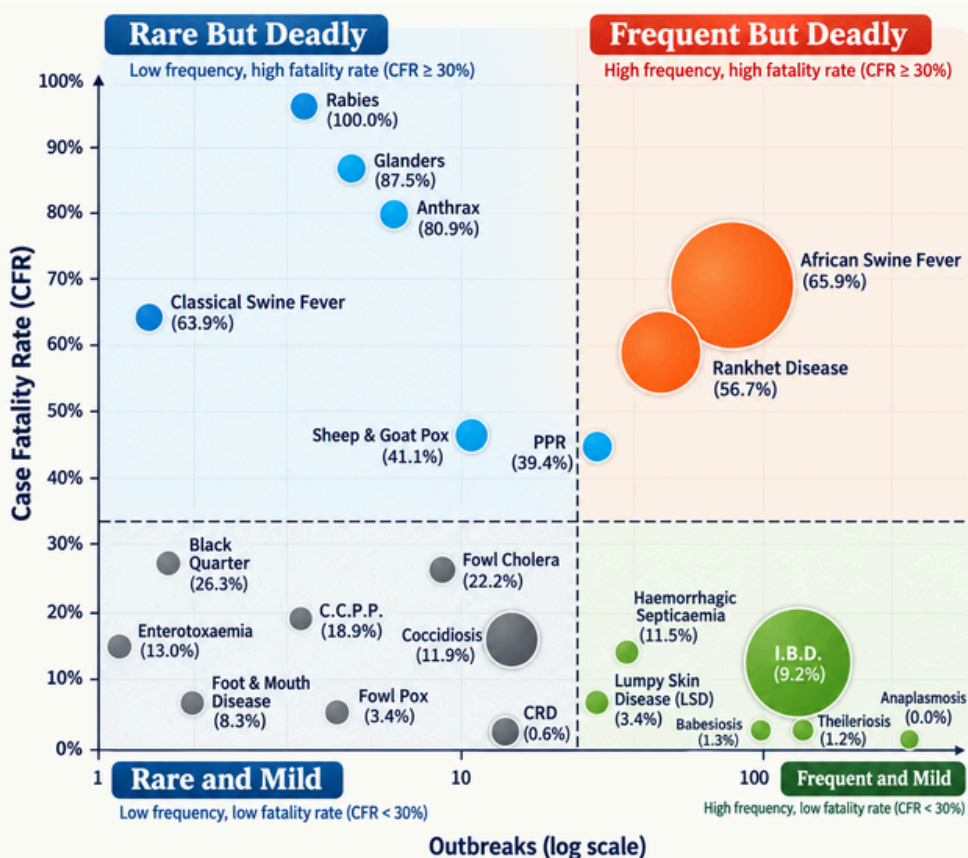
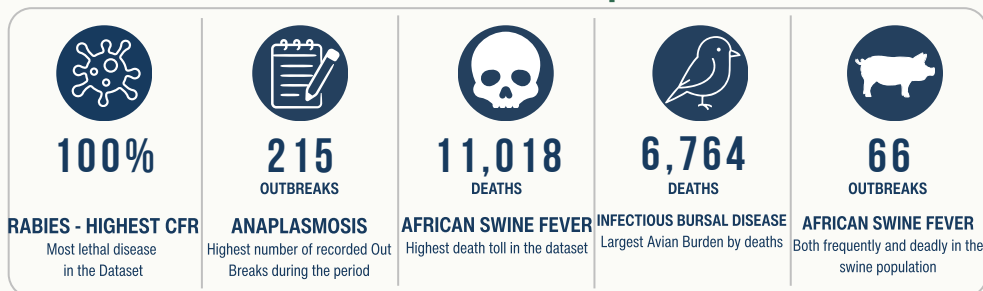


Animal Diseases: How Often, How Deadly

Across 27 livestock diseases reported in Jan-June 2025, how often a disease strikes does not predict how deadly it is. Three diseases, African Swine Fever, Infectious Bursal Disease and Ranikhet, caused 87% of the 26,578 deaths reported.



CONNECTS TO DATA STORY # 14

Data Story #14 revealed a 22-fold gap in animals per veterinary institution across India. Story #15 adds the disease perspective: outbreak frequency alone does not indicate mortality burden. Together, they make the case for strengthening veterinary access alongside disease-specific surveillance, prevention and rapid response.

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Annual Report 2025–26, Annexure XI, "Species-wise incidence of livestock diseases in India during 2025 (January–June)", state-reported. Compiled for the Atlas. CFR, shares of deaths, and correlations (Pearson on raw counts; Spearman on ranks), quadrant cut-offs (30 outbreaks, 30% CFR), sensitivity excluding destroyed animals.



Frequency and Lethality Are Different Questions



Outbreak counts say how often a disease strikes, not how dangerous it is. Across 27 diseases reported in January-June 2025 the two are unrelated, and most deaths come from three diseases, two of them in poultry.

Frequency does not predict lethality — Across the 27 diseases, outbreak count and case-fatality rate (CFR, deaths ÷ animals attacked) show no clear link: Pearson $r = -0.21$ ($p = 0.29$), Spearman $\rho = +0.09$ ($p = 0.67$). With 27 points and extreme outliers, the safe reading is “no detectable relationship”.

Rare diseases can be deadly, but on tiny numbers — Rabies (7 attacked, 7 died), glanders (8 attacked, 7 died) and anthrax (115 attacked, 93 died) each had fewer than 10 outbreaks. Five diseases had 8 or fewer animals attacked, so their CFRs rest on a handful of cases. Rabies in dogs is also widely thought to be under-reported.

The common diseases are often mild — Anaplasmosis (215 outbreaks, the most of any disease), theileriosis (127) and babesiosis (99) together attacked 896 animals and killed 7. Six of the 27 diseases reported no deaths at all.

Three diseases carry the death toll — African swine fever (11,018 deaths, 41.5%), infectious bursal disease (6,764, 25.4%) and Ranikhet (5,224, 19.7%) make up 86.6% of the 26,578 deaths. Only ASF and Ranikhet are both frequent (30+ outbreaks) and deadly (CFR of 30%+).

Count deaths, not just outbreaks — Ranked by outbreaks, anaplasmosis comes first (215) and African swine fever fifth (66). Ranked by deaths, swine fever is first (11,018) and anaplasmosis has none. Tracking both shows where animals are really being lost, and three diseases hold 87% of the deaths reported.

Data Table

Disease	Main species	Outbreaks	Attacked	Deaths	CFR %	Share of deaths
Rabies	Bovine/Canine	5	7	7	100.00%	<0.1%
Glanders	Equine	7	8	7	87.50%	<0.1%
Anthrax	Bovine/Sheep-goat	9	115	93	80.90%	0.30%
African Swine Fever	Swine	66	16,707	11,018	65.90%	41.50%
Classical Swine Fever	Swine	4	72	46	63.90%	0.20%
Ranikhet Disease	Poultry	40	9,213	5,224	56.70%	19.70%
Sheep & Goat Pox	Sheep-goat	13	664	273	41.10%	1.00%
PPR	Sheep-goat	29	971	383	39.40%	1.40%
Black Quarter	Bovine	3	19	5	26.30%	<0.1%
Fowl Cholera	Poultry	12	1,092	242	22.20%	0.90%
C.C.P.P.	Sheep-goat	5	53	10	18.90%	<0.1%
Enterotoxaemia	Sheep-goat	2	23	3	13.00%	<0.1%
Coccidiosis	Poultry	16	11,941	1,416	11.90%	5.30%
Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	Bovine	46	87	10	11.50%	<0.1%
I.B.D.	Poultry	125	73,435	6,764	9.20%	25.40%
Foot & Mouth Disease	Bovine/Swine	6	84	7	8.30%	<0.1%
Fowl Pox	Poultry	10	1,719	59	3.40%	0.20%
Lumpy Skin Disease	Bovine	20	561	19	3.40%	<0.1%
Babesiosis	Bovine	99	231	3	1.30%	<0.1%
Theileriosis	Bovine	127	331	4	1.20%	<0.1%
CRD	Poultry	19	175,450	985	0.60%	3.70%
Blue Tongue	Sheep-goat	2	6	0	0.00%	0.00%
Marek's Disease	Poultry	1	63	0	0.00%	0.00%
Trypanosomiasis	Bovine	3	3	0	0.00%	0.00%
Mange	Bovine	1	1	0	0.00%	0.00%
Anaplasmosis	Bovine	215	334	0	0.00%	0.00%
Brucellosis	Bovine	6	43	0	0.00%	0.00%
All 27 diseases		891	293,233	26,578	9.10%	100%

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Annual Report 2025–26, Annexure XI, “Species-wise incidence of livestock diseases in India during 2025 (January–June)”, state-reported. Compiled by the Atlas. CFR, shares of deaths, and correlations (Pearson on raw counts; Spearman on ranks), quadrant cut-offs (30 outbreaks, 30% CFR), sensitivity excluding destroyed animals.

