



Media Scanning & Verification Cell



Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
7643	13.08.2023	14.08.2023	Delhi	www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/40-students-at-sau-down-with-dengue/articleshowprint/102664896.cms
Title:	40 students at South Asian University in Delhi down with dengue			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – South, SSU- Delhi			

Forty students at South Asian University (SAU) located at Maidan Garhi in south Delhi are infected with dengue.

The students alleged that this sudden outbreak happened because SAU authorities did not carry out any preventive measures. More students are visiting the university health clinic with symptoms like body pain, headache, fever and nausea. Those down with dengue are mostly from the departments of sociology, law and economics.

No official from the university administration responded to calls, messages and emails from TOI.

"The reading room has turned into a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Both the academic building's reading room and the hostels are infested with mosquitoes, making it unbearable for students to stay for extended periods," said a second-year law student on the condition of anonymity.

The students have also alleged that the university lacks adequate health facilities. "The university has just a doctor and a nurse, who are available only until 5 pm. They struggle to cope with the demand. As there is only a single bed available in the

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Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,

Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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clinic, the patients remain in their hostel rooms. The number of dengue cases continues to rise, " a second-year student claimed.

The university, which is sponsored by South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), houses around 700 students. The university offers medical insurance and has tie-ups with private hospitals in Delhi.

"Private hospitals are an unaffordable option for many students with costs exceeding the insurance coverage. One of the students was sent to a private multispecialty hospital in south Delhi, but there was some issue with his medical insurance," added another student.

One of the dengue patients told TOI, "I fell severely ill and puked thrice the other night, but I did not have any access to assistance or emergency helpline numbers. The doctor leaves after 5 in the evening. With the campus situated a significant distance from the main road, I couldn't even book a cab to shift to a hospital." The student now plans to move to his relative's place.

Fumigation has not been conducted in the campus till now, the student alleged.

Another student added, "Since our campus is surrounded by forest, mosquitoes are a usual problem and the authorities should immediately conduct fogging and ensure effective waste management."

The students also alleged that the water at the hostels was unfit for drinking.

Earlier this year, the university had shifted to Maidan Garhi from Chanakyapuri. The university was caught in a controversy in November 2022 with four students and four faculty members facing expulsion for holding protests on the campus demanding an increase in freeships and scholarships owing to inflation.

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