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

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
5666	18.12.2019	18.12.2019	Goa	www.navhindtimes.in/English http://www.navhindtimes.in/goa-witnesses-over-600-rise-in-dengue-cases-in-15-years/
Title:	Goa witnesses over 600% rise in dengue cases in 15 years			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Goa			

The state has witnessed a surge in the incidence of dengue by over 600 per cent in the last 15 years. Goa had recorded only one case in 2005, but registered 637 confirmed cases of the viral disease from January to November this year. The figures provided by the directorate of health services indicate that the state recorded 293 cases of dengue in 2015, which was the worst case scenario till then. The outbreak had forced the health department to launch a massive drive to check the disease. The department had managed to bring down the number of dengue cases to 150 in 2016.

However, the disease refused to be tamed as dengue cases rose to 335 in 2018. This year the state has registered the all-time high figure of 637 cases in 11 months. The state has registered four suspected and one confirmed death caused by dengue, this year.

The alarming increase should worry the health authorities who should take proactive measures to wipe out dengue from the state.

National vector-borne disease control programme officer Dr Anant Palekar maintained that the disease has been brought under 'complete control', especially in towns like Margao and Vasco, where maximum cases had been reported.

Both the towns have recorded fewer cases in the last four-six weeks, he said, adding that samples of suspected dengue cases have been collected and sent to the Pune-

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - idsp-msc@nic.in, idsp-npo@nic.in

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based National Institute of Virology for dengue virus serology testing so as to ascertain the type of virus that caused havoc this monsoon. Dengue viruses are comprised four closely related serotypes: DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4. The NIV report will throw light on the strain in circulation in Goa, and will also help the DHS take preventive action against such an outbreak in the next monsoon. Stating that source reduction holds the key to controlling dengue, Dr Palekar advised people to use mosquito repellent and nets, and ensure that water does not get accumulated in the surrounding areas of their residences.

The DHS is now distributing long-lasting insecticidal nets in the areas prone to malaria. LLINs are impregnated with a particular chemical so if a mosquito comes in contact with LLINs then it dies, he said.

"These LLINs are insecticidal for 'aedes aegypti' mosquito, which is the main vector transmitting the virus that causes dengue. It will kill both malaria as well as dengue causing mosquitoes," he explained.

Although dengue cases have been on the rise, malaria cases have declined drastically, and this disease is in the elimination phase.

A total of 246 new malaria cases have been reported in the state from January to November this year.

In 2016, around 742 cases were recorded, which came down to 653 in 2017. The state witnessed a significant decline in 2018, recording 377 malaria cases.

Out of the 33 primary health centres, 18 PHCs have reported zero malaria cases this year. Chimbhel has recorded the highest figure of 64 cases, which is followed by Margao with 38.

In the jurisdiction of the Churchorem PHC, 12 cases have been recorded while Cortalim has registered eight malaria cases up to November this year.

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Email: - ids-p-m-sc@nic.in, ids-p-n-p-o@nic.in

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