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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
4194	18.07.2017	20.07.2017	Tiruvannamalai Tamil Nadu	www.timesofindia.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/mystery-continues-as-seven-members-of-a-tn-family-die-in-eight-months/articleshow/59646662.cms
Title:	Mystery continues as seven members die in eight months in district Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Tiruvannamalai, SSU-Tamil Nadu			

Mystery deaths continues to haunt a family at Thandarai in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. It all started with the death of A Christopher, 13, on October 7, 2016. The family lost six more members since then, the latest being Saran, 4, who died on Monday afternoon. Saran died while undergoing treatment in the Government Tiruvannamalai Medical College Hospital.

Collector Prashant M Wadnere said the boy had been admitted to hospital with fever three days ago. He had been normal till Sunday morning. "His health condition deteriorated suddenly and he started vomiting. Around 3 pm, he died," said the collector.

The collector ruled out the possibility of dengue being the cause of the boy's death. The boy might have been suffering from acute diarrhoea, the collector said quoting doctors. However, they were waiting for the postmortem report to know the exact cause of his death.

After the death of Christopher (son of Anthony Raj) on October 7, five more family members died in the same month -- Vinod Kumar, 23, Nelson, 11, Krithika Merlin, 7,

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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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and Nelson's grandfather Joseph, 70, and Merlin's grandmother Christa, 65. All of them vomited and complained of stomach ache hours before their death. Christa, who died on October 31, was Saran's grandmother. Merlin was his sister.

Citing the postmortem report of Christa, district collector Wandere had stated then that it was a case of "poisoning".

"Yellow phosphorous (rat poison) was found in liver, kidney and blood samples of Christa," said collector citing the final report of toxicology and histopathology.

The case was handed over to the police department for further investigation. However, the police investigation hit a roadblock for want of evidence.

Police put the case on back burner stating lack of cooperation from the family members of the victims.

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