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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
4753	18.07.2018	23.07.2018	Mumbai Maharashtra	www.thehindu.com/English https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/leptospirosis-scared-killed-211-lakh-rats-claims-bmc/article24446709.ece
Title:	Leptospirosis scare: killed 2.11 lakh rats, claims BMC in district Mumbai, Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Mumbai, SSU-Maharashtra			

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), faced with four deaths due to leptospirosis — a disease caused by rats — this monsoon, said on Tuesday that it has killed 2.11 lakh rodents in the past six months. It also said a several measures have been taken to bring the city's rodent population under control.

On July 13, a 17-year-old boy from Worli succumbed to the disease after three days of fever at the civic-run KEM Hospital. His family said he had contracted leptospirosis while walking through waterlogged areas. Civic authorities said the cause of death will be confirmed by an expert committee. In June, three people lost their lives to the disease.

Rajan Naringrekar, Insecticide Officer, BMC, said, "One pair of rats gives birth to five to 14 offspring after conception in 21-day cycle. Each rat reaches adulthood in five weeks and creates more rats. Thus, one pair of rats can foster almost 15,000 rats in a year. That is why rat control is a big challenge."

Save Water- Save Life, Save a tree- Don't print unless it's really necessary!

Disclaimer:- This is a media alert subject to verification.

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

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The civic body has laid emphasis on hygiene to control the menace through a four-step approach: deny entry, shelter, food to rats and destroy them. It has suggested that households control rats by installing rat guards on water supply and sewage pipes, as they enter homes through them, building a threshold for doors among other measures.

The department controls rats by laying traps, using poison, fumigating burrows and killing them. Poison is used in areas that see heavy waterlogging, and in slums and markets. Rat killers are employed to hunt and kill rodents at night. The BMC said maximum number of rats killed was in Govandi, followed by Byculla.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection transmitted to humans through rat and cattle urine and excreta. Most commonly, it is transmitted via unhealed wounds, abrasions and cuts, especially on the feet when one wades through contaminated water.

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