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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
3951	28.03.2017	28.03.2017	Chittoor Andhra Pradesh	www.thehindu.com/English http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/dengue-haunts-chittoor-village/article17692233.ece
Title:	Dengue cases reported in district Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Chittoor, SSU-Andhra Pradesh			

Thimmasamudram, a vibrant industrial village in K.V.B. Puram mandal, near Srikalahasti in Chittoor district is now a silent witness to the ravage of dengue, typhoid and jaundice, which took three lives and affected over 30 people in three weeks. After panicky moments and voluntary confinement in the four walls of their houses for several days, the youth are slowly coming out into the open thanks to the frantic awareness campaign and the emergency relief efforts of the medical officials. When a homemaker Sasi Amma (34) developed 104 degrees temperature on March 3, she was rushed to a private hospital in Tirupati. The family members had to shift her from one hospital to the other, before she breathed her last on March 5. A few days later, an eerie atmosphere engulfed the village with fever cases getting reported from several houses. Between March 5 and 20, over 50 villagers were admitted to various private hospitals and the Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) in Tirupati. The situation turned alarming with the death of Vasanthamma (50) on March 17.

Protest staged

As they could not get access to the higher officials of the medical and health department, the villagers contacted Collector Siddarth Jain and poured out their woes. On March 17 evening, an emergency medical team consisting of the faculty

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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: - idsppediaalert@gmail.com, idspp-misc@nic.in, idspp-npo@nic.in

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from the SVIMS and the SVRR Hospital rushed to Thimmasamudram. The next day, the villagers staged a protest against the panchayat and health officials asking them to leave the village as they had never bothered to take up sanitation there.

District Malaria Officer J. Lavanya and District Health Educator M. Kalavathi pacified them. Leading a team of youth and paramedical staff, the duo visited all the 22 habitations in Thimmasamudram and initiated steps to rush all those suffering from symptoms of dengue to various hospitals, besides making a follow up of cases who were already under admission. A youth, Chenchukumar, joined the campaign immediately after performing the funeral rites of her mother Vasanthamma.

During the next three days, the two officials supervised the sanitation work, clearing heaps of garbage all around the village deploying tractors and an earthmover. Over 70% of the houses had turned into a haven for mosquitoes with water stagnation all over. Coupled with dengue, positive cases of malaria and typhoid were reported in the village, which the officials found to be the worst hit with open defecation.

Containing the impact

On March 25, the third death occurred from the village at the SVIMS hospital. The victim, Munikumar (39), suffered multiple organ failure after dengue turned acute.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Monday, Dr. Lavanya confirmed that all the three deaths were due to dengue, and 30 more positive cases had been reported over three weeks.

"Apart from dengue, the village is also affected by typhoid and jaundice. We have launched all measures to contain the impact of the outbreak of dengue. Sanitation drive is launched in the entire village. A special team is kept at the village for round-the-clock surveillance," Dr Lavanya said.

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