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

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4414	16.11.2017	16.11.2017	West Bengal	The Hindu English Newspaper 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov., 2017/Page No. 06
<b>Title:</b>	<b>New data deepen confusion over dengue spread in Bengal</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU- West Bengal			

About 40% of the 8,000 blood samples sent by the West Bengal government to the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED) have tested positive for dengue, the institute's authorities confirmed on Wednesday.

Dr. Shanta Dutta, the director of NICED, said that majority of the blood samples which tested positive were Den II (dengue strain type II). "There was also a significant number of DEN IV (dengue strain type IV) among the samples sent by the State's Health Department," she added.

There are four serotypes of the dengue virus — DEN 1, DEN 2, DEN 3 and DEN 4. Serotype is a distinct variation within a species of bacteria or virus.

According to the Bengal government's latest estimate of dengue outbreak in the State, 40 people have died because of the disease while about 20,500 have been diagnosed with it.

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**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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Recently, there has been a controversy over the State government's affidavit regarding dengue outbreak, with the Calcutta High Court expressing its displeasure over the lack of clarity in the submission.

In its affidavit submitted on November 9, the State government stated that since January this year, 18,135 dengue cases have been reported at government hospitals. "It is unfortunate that 19 patients died despite providing best possible care where the treatment is absolutely free of cost to any patient," the State government said.

The affidavit, however, did not mention the number of dengue cases and deaths at private hospitals.

It also did not mention dengue while describing the reasons behind the "fever cases" in the State. "The fever cases during October 2017 could largely be attributed to a very abrupt behaviour of climate, severe and low rainfall conditions favouring transmission of vector-borne diseases, combined with huge movement of population during long holiday seasons," the affidavit said. It was submitted in relation to three public interest litigations filed over the dengue outbreak in the State.

"Dissatisfied" with the affidavit, the Calcutta High Court asked the State government on Tuesday to submit updated information regarding the disease outbreak.

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