



# Media Scanning & Verification Cell

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

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
7559	19.07.2023	19.07.2023	Kokrajhar Assam	<a href="http://www.timesofindia.com/English">www.timesofindia.com/English</a> <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/assam-sees-spurt-in-malaria-cases-kokrajhar-epicentre/articleshowprint/101908945.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/assam-sees-spurt-in-malaria-cases-kokrajhar-epicentre/articleshowprint/101908945.cms</a>
Title:	<b>Assam sees spurt in malaria cases, Kokrajhar epicentre</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Kokrajhar, SSU- Assam			

After Japanese Encephalitis and dengue, malaria has reared its ugly head in Assam.

Malaria cases have doubled till date, if the count is compared for the corresponding period last year. The bordering areas close to Bhutan remain the biggest concern for Kokrajhar district from where the highest cases have been reported.

Kokrajhar district in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) reported the highest 82 cases of the 203 malaria cases reported from across the state so far this year. In selected pockets in Kokrajhar, malaria is reported even in the winter, when most districts remain free from the disease. Health department officials blamed unhygienic living conditions inside forest areas without taking preventive measures. But even they are clueless about the sudden rise in malaria cases this year.

“In the last 15 days, we have been detecting four to five malaria cases daily. Most cases are being reported from villages located inside dense forests near the Bhutan border. Many patients did not use mosquito nets in such vulnerable pockets where fogging and anti-malaria spraying efforts remained less effective due to the geography,” Achintya Sundar Sarma, joint director (health), Kokrajhar, told TOI.

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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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Lungsung, Saralpara and Jharbari — all near Bhutan — remain worse affected. “People venture out to the jungles and get bitten,” he said. Nevertheless, Sarma said by and large Kokrajhar town remains free from malaria. July is considered the peak of malaria but the rise in cases is unusual if compared to the last two years. In 2021, only 32 cases and in 2022 only 95 malaria cases were reported in Kokrajhar.

Malaria has also been knocking on the doors of Guwahati, where several students from Mizoram are suffering from the vector-borne disease.

Sources in the state health department said there has been no malaria deaths.

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