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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
5054	07.12.2018	07.12.2018	Tamil Nadu	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/health-dept-allays-fears-of-brain-fever-spreading-in-gaja-affected-districts/articleshowprint/66977945.cms
Title:	Health dept allays fears of brain fever spreading in Gaja-affected districts, Tamil Nadu			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Tamil Nadu			

Days after a 45-year-old woman near Vedaranyam tested positive for Japanese encephalitis (JE), commonly referred to as brain fever, the state health department has dismissed rumours that the infection was spreading in the Gaja-affected districts. Speaking at a press meet in Nagapattinam, health secretary J Radhakrishnan said there was no such breakout of JE.

He said that intensified disease control measures were being carried out in the districts of Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Pudukottai. However, immunization drives were also being conducted in 13 districts considered to be JE-endemic — Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Trichy, Madurai, Virudhunagar and Karur. "Rumours were spreading on WhatsApp that JE was spreading in delta districts, which isn't true. Japanese encephalitis has no relation with the cyclone," the health secretary told TOI.

According to officials in the Nagapattinam district health department, a woman, Jayamani from Panchanathikulam East who had symptoms of fever, had gone to a local doctor for treatment on November 25. Since she had shown symptoms of brain

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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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fever including severe headache and high fever, she was referred to a private hospital in Trichy. On December 4, it was confirmed that the woman had JE and as a result, she was provided treatment. Health officials said that she was still hospitalised, but was recovering. In another case, Thiagarajan, 40, from Palaya Agaram, was also referred to a private hospital in Trichy with suspicion of brain fever, but the test results proved negative.

Health officials claimed that because of these two incidents, rumours of brain fever spreading in the delta districts had spread and people started to panic. An official said that they had already conducted inspection at Jayamani's house, undertaken sanitation measures and also held health check-ups for her close contacts and neighbours. "JE doesn't spread from human-to-human, but through mosquitoes. The prevalence of JE-causing mosquitoes is relatively higher in the neighbouring district of Tiruvarur, but we're still on alert. JE can be cured if the patient is taken for treatment early," the official said.

Speaking about the disease control measures being carried out in the Gaja-hit districts, Radhakrishnan said, "So far, 486 static medical units have been put up, 29,168 medical camps were conducted and 8.37 lakh people were treated." Apart from these, 169 special medical camps, six special teams from Kerala, six epidemics teams, 45 food safety units, 134 '108 ambulances, 312 mosquito eradication teams, 372 chlorination teams and about 3,000 doctors, nurses and other sanitary workers have been deployed in these areas, Radhakrishnan added.

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