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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
5057	08.12.2018	10.12.2018	Chandigarh	www.punjabnewsexpress.com/English http://punjabnewsexpress.com/chandigarh/news/chandigarh-prepares-to-tackle-malaria-440-cases-highest-in-seven-years-reported-82982.aspx
Title:	Chandigarh prepares to tackle malaria, 440 cases highest in seven years reported			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Chandigarh			

From open defecation free (ODF) city, Chandigarh seems to be all set to hold malaria by its horn which is a major health problem. Malaria despite being curable has become a great worry for the city and lays bare infirmities of healthcare. The number of malaria cases in the city rose to 440. This is more than the number of malaria cases reported during the past seven years. The Chandigarh Administration has set the target to achieve malaria-free city by 2020.

The department's plan moving away from the 'one-size-fits-all' approach to use interventions tailored to local epidemiology and endemicity paid dividends,

Dr U.J.S Gill, Assistant Director, Malaria, Chandigarh said that city has recorded sharpest reduction in malaria cases within a year. Now city recorded 61.4 per cent reduction in malaria cases compared to 24 per cent at national level. Dr Gill revealed that up to now the city has only 44 indigenous cases of malaria compared to 114 in 2017. In 2011 city reported 440 cases of malaria which was down to 201 in 2012; 150 in 2013 and it made a slight increase to 152 in 2015 but again decrease to 122 in 2016.

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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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Besides, Dr Gill said that during 2018, the department has issued 13,095 notices to the violators while in 2017 number of notices was 3040. On the other, this year 80 show-cause notices were issued against six notices in 2017. "The department has also conducted 2473 fogging operations at mosquito breeding places in the city," says he. Eight violators of rules were served with challans in 2018. The department has also identified 651 sites of mosquito breeding across the city and while 300 of these have been sealed.

The department has intensified measures for prevention and control of malaria by involving volunteers of NSS in the awareness campaigns. Team of health department conducted surveys across the city and listing out some Do's and Don'ts with almost clockwork precision, and staff was working hard to control the spread of disease which ultimately paid dividends, said Dr Gill.

Dr Gill said that the two-pronged strategy adopted by the department to meet the challenge has paid dividends and he was optimistic of achieving the malaria-free target by 2020. He further said that it could only be achieved if the surrounding areas of Punjab and Haryana also achieved the intervention level alike Chandigarh, he says.

The Administration launched a plan under National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination that shifted focus from malaria 'control' to 'elimination' and prepared a road map with targets to achieve the Target-2020, said Dr Gill.

Chandigarh also caters to the medical needs of the three neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh puts added pressure on its infrastructure and healthcare facilities. The Administration has to factor in all this while drawing up any strategy or plan on this front, summed up he.

A new World Health Organization (WHO) reports says that programme's achievements have led to India being a rare success story in the global battle against Malaria. India registered almost three million fewer malaria cases in 2017 and the only one among 11 high-burden countries to reduce malaria incidences, states the report 2018.

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