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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
4502	29.01.2018	30.01.2018	Sindhudurg Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/tick-borne-virus-infects-332-kills-19-in-two-years/articleshow/62700849.cms
Title:	Tick-borne virus infects 332, kills 19 in two years in district Sindhudurg, Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Sindhudurg, SSU-Maharashtra			

The tick-borne virus that causes Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), commonly known as monkey fever, has infected 332 people and killed 19 in Sindhudurg district since its (the virus) confirmation in Maharashtra in January 2016.

The outbreak that was initially confined to a lone village has now spread to other villages in Sindhudurg district. The virus has infected three villagers this month.

"The virus has remained confined to Sindhudurg district so far. We have been educating villagers about precautionary measures to ward off the disease," state surveillance officer Pradeep Awate said.

Health officials have vaccinated 50,000 villagers to mitigate the spread so far. "We aim to vaccinate 1 lakh high-risk people, including farmers, cattle grazers and others," Awate added. Scientists at the Pune-based National Institute of Virology (NIV) have investigated the KFD outbreak in Sindhudurg district with state health authorities. "The tick-control measures initiated by state health authorities in KFD-affected villages and at spots where monkey deaths were reported have helped to restrict KFD spread," scientist Devendra Mourya, director of NIV, said.

Mourya emphasised on sensitising villagers about adopting personal protection measures to ward off the infection. "Health authorities should give sustainable

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
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health education to the people living in the forest areas so that they strictly use tick repellents couple with personal protection measures (long clothes by covering neck, chest, back, and legs) before venturing into forest areas. The population at risk from the area needs to be KFD vaccinated," Mourya added.

The state government has procured dimethyl phthalate oil (99.5%), a tick repellent, and started distributing it to villagers since March 2016.

There are still many unanswered questions on KFD. "Is there a role for host factors affecting the evolution of disease? Why do only specific patients develop haemorrhagic symptoms and biphasic illness? What is the clinical and sub clinical ratio? We need answers to all these questions," he said.

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