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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
3467	12.06.2016	13.06.2016	Deogarh Odisha	www.timesofindia.com/english http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Three-jumbos-die-in-Odisha-Deogarh-forest-Anthrax-infection-suspected/articleshow/52717521.cms
Title:	Three jumbos die in Odisha's Deogarh forest, Anthrax infection suspected			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Deogarh, SSU-Odisha			

Three elephants, including a calf, died at Asurkhol in Prabhasuni reserve forest in Deogarh district on Sunday due to suspected Anthrax infection. Seven elephants have died of different causes in past one week.

The locals discovered the carcasses of the pachyderms inside the reserve forest and informed the forest personnel. "There are strong reasons to believe that the animals died of Anthrax. There was nasal and anal bleeding indicating Anthrax infection. There were no other external injuries such as wound or gunshots," principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) Siddhant Das told TOI.

The viscera of the dead animals will be sent to Orissa University of Agriculture Technology (OUAT) to find out the exact cause of death, he added. "Besides Anthrax, we are also suspecting poisoning," the top wildlife officer said.

According to official sources, the three elephants belonged to a herd of around 60 elephants. They roam in the adjoining forests in Deogarh, Angul and Sambalpur districts.

The sources said between June 5 and June 7, three other elephants died in different forest divisions. On June 5, while an elephant had died due to prolonged illness in Asurkhol forest, a 25-year old tusker died of electrocution in a mango orchard in Hindol range in Dhenkanal district. On June 7, another elephant died at Dhandatopa range under Athmallik division, reportedly due to illness.

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Disclaimer:-This is a Media Alert and pending verification.

**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - idspmediaalert@gmail.com, idsp-msc@nic.in, idsp-npo@nic.in

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Page 1

In March, forest minister Bikram Keshari Arukh had told the assembly that out of 38 elephants who died due to unnatural reasons in the past two years, poaching and electrocution killed 32.

Wildlife campaigner Biswajit Mohanty claimed that between January 1 and June 1, 14 elephants died in the state. "I suspect the three elephants died a week ago. Including the recent seven deaths, the state has lost 21 elephants in six months," he told TOI adding there should be a fair probe to ascertain the exact cause of deaths so that unnatural death is checked.

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Email: - idsppediaalert@gmail.com, idspp-misc@nic.in, idspp-npo@nic.in

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