



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
7677	23.08.2023	23.08.2023	Kachchh (Kutch) Gujarat	www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/rajkot/several-fall-ill-after-eating-amul-products-in-kutch/articleshow/102963207.cms?from=mdr
Title:	Several fell ill after eating 'Amul' products in Kachchh (Kutch), Gujarat			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Kachchh, SSU- Gujarat			

Hundreds of people across half-a-dozen talukas of Kutch district have fallen ill due to suspected contamination of Amul milk products including buttermilk, curd and milk, over the last three days. The district administration has initiated a probe into several cases of people suffering severe diarrhoea and vomiting after consuming Amul products.

However, Sarhad Dairy, a member of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) that is responsible for the processing and sale of milk under the brand Amul in Kutch district, has termed the reports as incorrect.

“In response to media and social media reports suggesting that many people in Kutch have been hospitalised after consuming substandard chhaas (buttermilk) made by Sarhad Dairy, we would like to clarify that the reports are not correct,” Sarhad Dairy said in a statement.

Valamji Hubal chairman of Sarhad Dairy and vice chairman of GCMMF could not be contacted for comment despite several attempts.

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**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

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The Kutch district health department and local food and drugs officials have collected samples of milk, buttermilk and curd from retail outlets in towns where the cases were reported and sent them for testing.

According to the sources, over 3,000 people from the talukas of Mundra, Mandvi, Bhuj Anjar, Naliya and Rapar, have been affected by the 'contaminated' milk products.

Most of them reported food poisoning-like symptoms.

When contacted Kutch district collector Amit Arora said, "We are taking the details from all the talukas. Prima facie it is suspected that food poisoning was caused due to Amul products. The food and drugs department has already collected the samples and sent them for testing."

According to the sources, most cases have been reported from Mundra and Naliya talukas. Videos of people under treatment in a private hospital of Mundra have gone viral on social media. In the video, people are seen sleeping on the hospital floor as there were no beds available.

Dr Jitesh Khorasiya, medical officer (epidemic) in Kutch told media persons, "We have come to know that people have fallen sick after consuming contaminated Amul milk and buttermilk. We appeal to people not to drink this milk and buttermilk and to be careful."

Sarhad Dairy in a statement said, "We want to reassure our valued customers that all dairy products, including milk, produced by Sarhad Dairy, are of high quality and adhere to the highest standards. Moreover, we would like to affirm that we have not received any grievances concerning the quality of the curd manufactured by our company."

"Separately, we have learnt that a doctor at the Adani Hospital in Mundra reported that more than 90 patients have been treated at the hospital due to diarrhoea and vomiting. The doctor said that the illness was a result of contamination in water. The doctor also advised people not to use the water bottles that were supplied yesterday and to boil the water before consuming it," it added.

"Upon learning about reports, we took immediate action by collecting chhaas samples from the market for testing. Additionally, control samples from the same production batches underwent testing as well. The results show that all samples meet the requisite health and safety standards, and no issues regarding quality were

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identified. Nonetheless, as a precautionary measure, we have proactively initiated a recall of any unsold chhaas pouches from the market,” the statement added.

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