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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
6076	13.02.2021	15.02.2021	Kalahandi Odisha	www.newindianexpress.com/English https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2021/feb/13/killer-bacteria-runs-through-odishas-karlapat-forests-claims-fivejumbos-2263476.html
Title:	Killer bacteria runs through Odisha's Karlapat forests, claims five jumbos			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Kalahandi, SSU-Odisha			

Haemorrhagic septicemia appears to be sweeping through the forests of Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi where at least five elephants have fallen to a bacterial organism, prompting the Forest department to send an expert team to the protected area. A team, headed by Prof Niranjana Sahu, from Centre for Wildlife Health of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) is on its way.

The Wildlife Wing has begun immunisation of cattle in Karlapat, Badtikraguda, Tentulipadar, Lilingpadar and Jakam villages, closer to the two forest beats where the elephants' death reports came from, said Shashi Paul, acting PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden.

It has also alerted neighbouring Kalahandi North and Rayagada forest divisions since the disease is communicable. Initially, anthrax as a cause has been ruled out because the symptoms are completely different.

All the deaths occurred within one herd which had come from Narla forests but so far, no death has been reported from that part, sources said. Of the five, four

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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

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

Email: - idsp-msc@nic.in, idsp-npo@nic.in

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elephants were female. The first death was reported on February 1 when carcass of the jumbo was found near Tentulipadar village inside the sanctuary. Post mortem revealed that the dead pachyderm was pregnant. The next three were reported from near Ghusurigudi nullah.

With the calf's death, which was reported on the day, four mortalities have been recorded in as many days which has left the Wildlife Wing concerned. DFO Kalahandi (South) Division Ashok Kumar said post mortem has been conducted and report is awaited. Lab test of the first elephant conducted in OUAT revealed that it was due to haemorrhagic septicemia.

Since oral emissions during grazing can spread haemorrhagic septicemia, the Forest department has been on alert. Locals living in villages inside the sanctuary take their cattle out for grazing inside the forest which is why cattle immunisation in Karlapat, Badtikraguda, Tentulipadar, Lilingpadar and Jakam villages has been started.

Villagers have been requested not to send their cattle to forest in view of the situation. Stagnant water is being treated with bleaching powder to avoid further spread and water samples from different spots are sent for testing.

A team of forest officials is also keeping a close watch on another herd which was in a nearby forest. In Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, there are three herds, DFO said. Forest staff have been directed to conduct a field survey and track elephant herds. Kumar further said that it was yet to be ascertained if any other species of wild animals are affected. Experts from OUAT will be reaching the district for field analysis, he added.

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