



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
6777	09.06.2022	10.06.2022	Patna Bihar	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/70-of-kala-azar-cases-20-deaths-in-state-last-yr/articleshowprint/92094634.cms
Title:	70% of kala azar cases, 20 deaths in Bihar last yr			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Patna, SSU- Bihar			

People generally believed that kala azar (black fever) had been tamed, but the recent cases sounded an alarm bell as it claimed at least 28 lives, including 20 in Bihar, 5 in neighbouring Jharkhand, two in West Bengal and one in Uttar Pradesh in 2021, as per the data shared by the National Centre for Vector-borne Diseases Control. There have been four deaths in Bihar this year till March.

The data revealed that 1267 cases of kala azar were reported from across the country last year, including 70% of them (891) in Bihar.

Comparing the number of 2021 kala azar cases and deaths with that of previous years shows a declining trend in new cases, but increase in the number of deaths during the Covid-19 period. There were 8,500 cases and five deaths nationally in 2015, including 6517 cases and all deaths from Bihar. In 2016, 6249 cases were reported in the country, out of which 4773 in Bihar, with no death. In 2017, the number of cases declined further to 5758, including 4127 in Bihar, with the only death from Jharkhand. In 2018, 4386 cases and three deaths were reported in India, including 3423 in Bihar with no casualty. Even in 2019 and 2020, the state registered zero kala azar death.

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Disclaimer:- This is a media alert subject to verification.

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

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Talking about the increase in the deaths in 2021, Care India team lead for kala azar, Bikas Sinha, said it's because of change in the method of recording the casualties.

“Earlier, oral treatment were given for many days and deaths in that period were recorded as due to kala azar. Later, single-dose treatment was started and reporting the deaths referring to classic definition was not appropriate. In 2020, the mode of reporting was changed and death of all the kala azar patients within six months of investigation were considered taking verbal autopsy into account. Now a team goes and collects the information before declaring it as a kala azar death. For instance, a kala azar patient dying due to an accident will not be recorded as death due to that particular disease,” he said.

He further said there were a total of 448 endemic blocks in the state, but only two had cases above the threshold level. The two blocks include Ishupur in Saran and Goriyakothi in Siwan.

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