



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
6403	04.11.2021	05.11.2021	West Champaran, Gopalganj Bihar	www.thehindu.com/English https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/many-die-in-two-bihar-districts-after-consuming-suspected-spurious-liquor/article37335038.ece
Title:	24 dead in two districts West Champaran, Gopalganj after consuming suspected spurious liquor, Bihar			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-West Champaran & Gopalganj, SSU - Bihar			

Eight persons died in West Champaran district, while the toll in another incident in Gopalganj climbed to 16.

At least 24 people have died and several others fell ill after consuming suspected spurious liquor in Gopalganj and West Champaran districts of Bihar, where total prohibition is in place, in the last two days.

Eight persons died on November 4 after allegedly consuming hooch in Telhua village at Bettiah, the headquarters of West Champaran district, while the toll in another incident of consumption of suspected spurious liquor in Gopalganj climbed to 16 on November 4 with six more deaths being confirmed by the district authorities. The administrations of both districts have not confirmed the cause of the deaths so far.

The Telhua hooch tragedy is the third incident such incident in north Bihar in the last 10 days.

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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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Bihar Minister Janak Ram rushed to Gopalganj. He later told reporters, "I have visited the houses of persons who died allegedly because of consuming spurious liquor. It could be a conspiracy to defame the NDA government." Gopalganj Superintendent of Police Anand Kumar said, "Some people have died under mysterious circumstances in Muhammadpur village in the district in the last two days. The cause of their death cannot be confirmed as autopsy reports are still awaited. Three teams are probing the case." Some of the bodies have been cremated by their families, the local police said.

They said that four persons died on November 4 when they were undergoing treatment and another two on way to the hospital.

Prima facie these deaths appear to have occurred due to the consumption of some poisonous substance and the police have registered a case. Four persons have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place between November 2 and 3, the police said. Over 20 persons, mostly belonging to the Scheduled Castes, had allegedly consumed spurious liquor being sold by local traders in the area and have been identified by the police.

The dead in West Champaran have been identified as residents of wards 2, 3 and 4 of Telhua village. In this incident too the district administration is yet to confirm the reason for their death.

West Champaran Superintendent of Police Upendra Nath Verma said that investigation into the case is on and senior officials of the district administration and police are camping at Telhua.

Villagers claimed that all the victims had consumed liquor at Chamartoli area of Telhua village on November 3 evening. "After consuming liquor, the condition of eight of them deteriorated and they were taken to the nearby hospital where they died today".

There are reports that some more villagers who too consumed liquor, have been admitted to different hospitals in the area.

Eight persons died since October 28 in a hooch tragedy at Rupauli village in Muzaffarpur district and four are undergoing treatment in different hospitals in Muzaffarpur, officials said. From January to October 31, 2021, around 70 people have died and many others lost their sight after consuming alleged spurious liquor in Nawada, West Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Siwan and Rohtas districts, they said.

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Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on November 1 told reporters in the sidelines of his weekly outreach programme that the ban on alcohol is in the interest of the society. “We introduced prohibition in the state since alcohol is a dirty thing. The ill-effects of liquor get multiplied when consumed in an adulterated form. I know that majority of people are in favour of the liquor ban in the state. There are only a handful of people who violate it”.

The Nitish Kumar government on April 5, 2016 banned the manufacture, trade, storage, transportation, sale and consumption of liquor in the State.

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav alleged that the State government has failed to stop the sale and supply of spurious liquor in the dry State. “Police is disposing of the bodies of the dead without conducting the post-mortem of the dead,” he said. “Is Nitish Kumar who is making tall claims on prohibition, not responsible for these deaths?”

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