

TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, CHENNAI TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012



OIL TANKER PRATIBHA CAUVERY LEFT IN THE LURCH, OFFICIALS SAY IT MIGHT NOT GET A BERTH AT PORT | 4

KARUNANIDHI SETS THE STAGE FOR LOK SABHA POLLS, HARDENS STANCE ON LANKAN ISSUE | 7

IN NO. OF CASES OF VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES LIKE DENGUE, CHIKUNGUNYA IN THE COUNTRY

Home to state in a sting

of cases 800. During this year, one in four dengue deaths and one in three chikungunya cases were reported from Chennai. Senior officials of the public health directorate said the increase only meant that the state was much better in diagnosis and reporting. "We actively update our registry and forward it to the Union health ministry," said a senior official, refusing to be quoted. But healthcare NGOs like the Public Health Association of India said the incidence of these diseases is indeed on the rise in Tamil Nadu. "Despite under-reporting, there is a huge increase in

the number of cases. One of the main reasons is the lack of an efficient vector control system, said the association's state wing president Dr S Elango. Public healthcare experts say that the state has not been up to the mark when it comes to vector control. Until 10 years ago, fogging and spraying of insecticides at every construction site was taken up diligently. Today, most civic bodies, including Chennai Corporation don't do it so rigorously. "At construction sites, water is allowed to stagnate for several days to strengthen the building. But this water also becomes the breeding ground for several disease-causing mosquitoes," said Elango. Doctors at private hospitals agree. "This is the fever season. We are seeing a lot more cases this year. Children are the most

“We are seeing a lot more cases this year. Children are the most vulnerable



RISING CONCERN

Death due to vector-borne diseases is on the rise in Tamil Nadu, but doctors say rigorous action is not in place

DENGUE IN TN



DENGUE IN INDIA IN 2012



No. of cases in India in 2012 **32,263**

CHIKUNGUNYA CASES IN TN



CHIKUNGUNYA CASES IN INDIA IN 2012



No. of cases in India in 2012 **13,827**

JE IN TN



JE IN INDIA IN 2012



No. of cases in India in 2012 **7,315**

Lab finds homeo cure for dengue

Pushpa Narayan | TNN

A homeopathic drug extracted from a plant native to the US and used as a traditional medicine in that country the 19th century, promises a cure for dengue, says a study by the state-run King Institute of Preventive Medicine.

The King Institute team headed by a Chennai-based homoeopath administered the drug extracted from Eupatorium perfoliatum to 50 patients with secondary dengue and found all of them recovered. "The platelet counts came under control for almost all patients and blood tests showed marked improvement," said King Institute director Dr P Gunasekaran. The study, led by Dr N R Jayakumar of Madan Homoeo Clinic, was presented at an international symposium on 'Challenges and strategies in the prevention and management of viral infections' at Central Leather Research Institute recently. Jayakumar said it wasn't a new idea to administer the drug to patients with dengue. Earlier the drug was given to

patients in Delhi and Sri Lanka during epidemics. In June, the drug was administered to dengue patients at the Madurai Government Rajaji Hospitals. "We wanted to scientifically prove the drug is efficient. The patients were given two doses a day. The platelet count of all the patients improved. The good thing about this drug is that it can also be given alongside allopathic medicines," Dr Jayakumar said. "In allopathic medicine, there is no drug for this dis-

PLANT TO RESCUE

ease. The only treatment is IV fluids to replace body fluids. Most patients we chose for the study had platelet count less than 10,000. We prevented death and blood transfusion in all the 50 patients who took this drug," said Dr Gunasekaran.

Dengue virus is spread by aedes mosquito. The symptoms include fever, headache, body pain and rashes. Some patients develop life-threatening dengue hemorrhagic fever, resulting in bleeding, low levels of blood platelets and blood plasma leakage.