

## Swine Flu takes its toll on India

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**Singapore:** A massive H1N1 outbreak has taken its toll in India, killing at least 75 people and afflicting another 70 according to the country's officials. Most of the deaths have been reported in the state of Telengana and Rajasthan. The virus has claimed two lives each in Delhi and Rajasthan, while seven succumbed to the flu in Haryana and three in Telangana, according to the latest report.

So far the virus has killed nearly 981 Indians in 2009, 1,763 in 2010, 75 in 2011, 405 in 2012 and 692 in 2013, the BBC reported. State official confirmed that hospitals in the afflicted states have set up special isolation wards. Mr Rajendra Rathore, health minister of Rajasthan, expressed worry over the sudden surge in the number of cases.

Officials said that low temperatures due to winter could be a reason for the sudden spike in cases. Health authorities have urged the public not to panic, and ensure proper precautions to prevent further cases. Gujarat has seen nearly 170 cases of swine flu this month and witnessed 22 deaths so far. The state authorities are now launching awareness campaigns against the disease to prevent any further cases of swine flu.