

# DISASTERS UPDATE

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## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### IAEA for action on lessons from Japan

P. S. Suryanarayana, **The Hindu**, Saturday, Jun 25, 2011

SINGAPORE: The International Atomic Energy Agency on Friday expressed “urgency” and “determination” to take “appropriate action” on the basis of lessons from the civil nuclear accident at the quake-and-tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan.

Amid such a rising global consensus, the authorities in Fukushima prefecture announced plans to distribute dosimeters to tens of thousands of schoolchildren. The objective was to continuously monitor their exposure to nuclear radiation at the grassroots and take follow-up action. However, parents continued to express concern over the public health hazard their children were exposed to.

On radiation concerns in the wider East Asian region, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said in Tokyo on Friday that a Chinese research ship was detected within the Japanese exclusive economic zone. Mr. Edano said China should have first contacted Japan about any radiation concerns even if the ship was sent for collecting seawater samples in that regard.

On a related front, IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano told the concluding session of an international ministerial conference in Vienna on Friday that there was “widespread support ... to systematically review the safety of all nuclear power plants.”

#### 16 feared dead in Sikkim landslides

**Pramod Giri**, Hindustan Times

**Gangtok, June 24, 2011**

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Sixteen persons are reported to have died in landslides caused by heavy rain in West Sikkim on Thursday night. One of the 16 was a three-month-old baby whose gender could not be established. The landslides, which occurred around tourism hot spots in Sikkim, have damaged roads and destroyed at least four houses. Among the victims are 11 members of a family.

West Sikkim district collector Shanta Pradhan confirmed 16 persons went missing. She said there were no tourists in the areas where the landslides took place.

The district had been witnessing non-stop rain for three days. On Thursday night, sensing danger, some locals and a group of daily wage labourers who were staying as tenants at a place 10 km from district headquarters took shelter in a two-storeyed wooden house. But the house was washed away and 14 persons became untraceable (the other two of the 16 were from other places). Only Indra Maya Gurung (45), the landlady, survived, said Jigme Bhutia, district disaster management officer.

Gurung, who suffered injuries, has been admitted to hospital. Talking to Hindustan Times, Bhutia said of the 16 persons feared dead, four were locals and the rest daily wage-earners from Darjeeling and Nepal.

### **Four pilgrims killed in road accident**

**The Hindu**, Saturday, Jun 25, 2011

Dehra Dun: Four pilgrims were killed and eight injured when a car in which they were travelling to Badrinath shrine fell into Alaknanda river at Gauchar in Chamoli district, police said on Friday.

The incident took place when the driver lost control over the vehicle, an Innova, at a sharp bend. Police and ITBP personnel have recovered the four bodies from the river.

The injured were admitted to a government hospital in Karnaprayag. Four have sustained serious injuries, doctors stated.

The identity of the victims is yet to be established. – **PTI**

### **3 die in accident**

Staff Reporter, **The Hindu**, Saturday, Jun 25, 2011

Namakkal: Three persons – including two women and a one-year-old child – got killed when a sand tipper truck overturned and fell on them on the Venanthur Cross Road on the National Highway during the late hours of Friday.

Police said that the three were waiting for a bus.

They added that the tipper truck was carrying sand from Namakkal to Salem was nearing Masakalipatti near the Venanthur Cross Road when it was involved in a head on collision with a van that came in the wrong side – opposite direction.

The truck went out of control and fell on its side.

Locals who were standing near the busy junction rushed to the spot to remove the heap of sand under which a few persons waiting in the bus stop got caught.

They dug the sand manually and first rescued one-year-old U. Vishnupriya of Venanthur but she died on the way to the hospital.

The bodies of her mother U. Revanthi and another woman M. Vasantha (40) of Masakalipatti were taken out. They had died on the spot under the sand heap.

Two other persons – Eashwari and Kanammal – who were injured are getting treated at Rasipuram Government Hospital.

## **International**

### **Mild quake in Haiti sparks panic, seven injured**

DD News, Saturday 25 June, 2011.

**A small tremor struck the Haitian capital, and seven people suffered minor injuries when they were caught up in panicking crowd, the director of the city's public hospital said.**

Haiti is still recovering from a devastating earthquake which struck Port-au-Prince 18 months ago, by most accounts leaving more than 200,000 dead and a million homeless.

Friday's tremor registered 3.5 on the Moment magnitude scale, according to the US Geological Survey, considered a light earthquake.

Last year's quake, which struck on 12th January, registered 7.0 and left the city in ruins.

"We have admitted seven injured people, including a seven-year-old, two university students, two primary students and two young adults," Alix Lassegue, who directs the Port au Prince public hospital, said.

The quake occurred around 9 am (local time) and was felt in several neighbourhoods in central Port-au-Prince and the administrative buildings at the airport, according to witnesses.

Panicked residents fled their offices and homes, running into the streets.

The USGS, which monitors earthquakes worldwide, said the quake's epicenter was 16 kilometres from the capital at a depth of 10 kilometres.

### **Eight killed in mine collapse in China**

Indo-Asian News Service

Beijing, June 25, 2011

Eight people were killed and seven injured after an iron ore mine collapsed in China's Fujian province on Friday, said authorities on Saturday. The cave-in was triggered by a nearby landslide at around 1.30 p.m. Friday in Peifeng township, Yongding County, Xinhua reported. The police were hunting down the mine's three owners who fled after the accident. The mine was being illegally operated, a county government statement said.

### **30 killed in bomb blast in Afghanistan**

**News on AIR, Jun 25, 2:12 PM**

In Afghanistan, at least 30 people have been killed and 45 others injured in a suspected suicide car bombing at a hospital in Logar province today. Most of the casualties were civilians. The death toll is likely to go up as some of the injured are in a serious condition. The head of Logar's provincial council, Abdul Wali Wakeel, has confirmed the toll. He said the attack, in Azra district, was carried out by a suicide attacker in an SUV packed with explosives.

Ten people were killed yesterday when a bicycle bomb exploded in a bazaar in the northern part of the country. A police officer was among those killed. Twentyfour people, including five women and a policeman, were wounded in the blast in the Khanabad district of Kunduz province. Both the attacks come days after US President Barack Obama announced a partial troop pullout from Afghanistan. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks so far.

*Compiled by  
Dr.AD Kaushik*