

# DISASTERS UPDATE

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## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### **Relief work in cloudburst-hit Leh hit by lack of funds**

DD News, Sunday 26 June, 2011.

**Ten months after a deadly natural disaster claimed over 250 lives, relief and rehabilitation work being carried out by the authorities here is hitting a roadblock-- due to paucity of funds.**

Piles of mud and stone are still lying at Choglumsar, which bore the major brunt of the cloudburst and flashflood, inside various houses, shops on the national highway to Manali and at several other places in and around the town.

Excepting national highways, other link roads are awaiting their restoration in the city which were badly damaged in the disaster that struck on the intervening night of August 5-6 last year.

While locals complain of lackadaisical approach of the government in rebuilding the infrastructure in the ravaged city, authorities seek to shift the blame on the Centre for not sanctioning over Rs 130 crore for the rehabilitation.

"We are trying to rebuild the infrastructure. As far as the rehabilitation work is considered, it is done in a systematic way. Everything has been done in a much better way. As per the temporary restoration is considered, everything was done in a record time," Leh Deputy Commissioner Tsering Angchok said.

According to him, about Rs 133 crore is yet to be received from the Centre on building road and other infrastructure to give momentum to the relief work.

The cloudburst had killed 257 people and damaged 1,448 households-- 665 fully and 783 partially.

#### **Seven killed in road accident**

Special Correspondent, **The Hindu**, Sunday, Jun 26, 2011



**Mangled remains of the two buses that collided near Salem on Saturday night. –**

SALEM: At least seven passengers, including a woman, were killed and many others seriously injured when a private bus from Salem on way to Dharmapuri and an omni bus proceeding to Kerala from Bangalore collided head-on near Pannapatti village on the Salem-Bangalore National Highway on Saturday night.

Wrong lane

Preliminary reports said that the bus from Bangalore had strayed into the wrong lane causing the accident. Drivers of both the buses have died.

The identities of the deceased are yet to be established. Ambulances and Fire and Rescue Service personnel from Salem and Omalur have moved the injured to hospitals in Omalur and Salem.

Superintendent of Police N. M. Mylvahanan is supervising the rescue operations.

### **9 killed, 59 injured as buses collide**

**Press Trust Of India**

**Salem, June 26, 2011**

Nine persons, including a woman, were killed and 59 others injured when a Kerala-bound omni bus and a private bus collided near here, police said on Sunday. The air-conditioned omni bus was on its way to Kottayam from Bangalore while the other was proceeding to Dharmapuri from here when the mishap occurred at Sandhai Thadam village on the National Highway- 7 past midnight yesterday, Salem DIG Venkatraman said.

The head-on collision occurred when the driver of the Salem-Dharmapuri bus suddenly swerved to the right while overtaking a two-wheeler, police said.

Drivers of both the buses were among those deceased, they said adding the injured had been admitted to government hospitals in Omalur and Salem.

### **Truck crushes 4 women to death in Panipat**

**HT Correspondent, Hindustan Times**

**Karnal, June 25, 2011, Last Updated: 19:18 IST(25/6/2011)** A speeding truck crushed four women to death in Panipat on Saturday morning. The victims had gone to pick firewood when the driver of the truck laden with mangoes lost control and ran over them on GT Road. The victims were waiting on the roadside near the district police lines campus. After hitting them, the truck landed in a pit. The driver was arrested.

### **Huts destroyed in fire**

Special Correspondent,**The Hindu**, Sunday, Jun 26, 2011

CHENNAI: About 40 huts were destroyed in a fire that broke out in Kakkanji Nagar at ICF on Saturday.

According to Divisional Fire Officer (South) N. Priya Ravichandran, the fire was noticed from a locked house that spread quickly to others. A fire tender located at ICF fire station reached the scene within a few minutes. Fire tenders were also rushed from the Kilpauk, Villivakkam and J.J. Nagar stations.

“As many as 35 huts were damaged in the fire and we were able to save 160 huts located in the vicinity. Nobody was injured. No major loss of property was reported,” Ms. Priya said. The cause of fire is under investigation.

## **International**

### **60 dead in Afghan hospital bombing**

**DD News**, Sunday 26 June, 2011.

**A huge car bomb at a hospital on Saturday killed 60 in Afghanistan's worst attack for three years, days after US President Barack Obama said 10,000 US forces would leave the country this year.**

The brazen suicide attack in Logar province, about 75 kilometres south of the capital Kabul, killed women and children and also wounded 120.

As an eyewitness described horrific scenes of victims on fire following the blast in the usually safe Azra district, officials described the attack as "unprecedented" in the near-decade-long Afghan war.

"Sixty of our countrymen including children, women, youths and men... have been martyred and 120 others including health workers have been injured," the ministry of public health said in a statement.

"This inhumane act is unprecedented in the history of the conflict in our country and targeted a place where wounds are healed and patients receive treatment."

Din Mohammad Darwaish, the Logar provincial spokesman, said the blast-which took place close to Afghanistan's border with Pakistan was a suicide car bombing.

The Taliban denied it was behind the attack, which completely destroyed the building.

Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said, "We condemn this attack on a hospital... whoever has done this wants to defame the Taliban."

One man who lives near the hospital, Abdul Rahman, told the news agency that he lost seven relatives in the explosion.

"Seven members of my family including three women and two children went to that hospital this morning," he said, through tears

"I was at home, then I heard a big explosion. When I rushed to the site, I saw many dead and injured people".

"Many of them were burning, on fire. There were body parts everywhere. My family is dead, I can't find them, they are under the rubble."

The huge blast caused the highest death toll in Afghanistan since a July 2008 car bomb attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul killed more than 60 people.

It came at the end of a week when Obama announced that 33,000 US forces would leave Afghanistan by the end of next summer.

All foreign combat forces are due to pull out of the country by the end of 2014.

There are currently up to 150,000 foreign forces in Afghanistan, including about 99,000 from the US.

Some analysts fear that Afghan security forces may struggle to contain the insurgency, which has hit record levels of violence, as withdrawals begin.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned the attack as "savage and ignorant" in a statement released by his office.

It came as Karzai told a counterterrorism summit in Tehran that militancy was on the rise in both his country and the region.

"Not only has Afghanistan not yet achieved peace and security but terrorism is expanding and threatening more than ever Afghanistan and the region," he told the opening session.

The two-day summit is being attended by the heads of state of six regional countries, including Afghan neighbours Iran and Pakistan.

The blast in Logar is the second major attack in Afghanistan in two days.

Yesterday, 10 people were killed by a bicycle bomb which went off in a busy bazaar in Khad Abad district of the northern province of Kunduz.

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