

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

Flood threat looms with monsoon arrival

Pradeep Rai, TNN | Jun 27, 2011, 04.51am IST

AMBALA/YAMUNANAGAR: Monsoon rains have caught district authorities in the two towns napping as incomplete measures to tackle raging waters in Tangri River could cause floods for second consecutive year.

According to information, the areas which had faced the fury of floods last year could also be at the receiving end due to incomplete work in constructing ring dam on the Tangri River. Residents alleged that half-hearted measures taken in the aftermath of the floods, last year, are not sufficient to protect city from floods.

Ambala was the worst affected in last year floods when most of the market areas including cloth market also submerged underwater causing huge losses. The cantonment board demanded to construct ring dam along the Tangri River after flood, which has not been completed so far. The authorities are still in the process of completing formalities like floating tenders to cleanse and desilt the drain even as monsoon has arrived,

Sources informed that administration has just allotted tender to clean the main drain of Ambala and Rs 5 lakh will be paid to contractor every month for cleaning the drains. But the work is yet to start as the contractor is complaining of non availability of laborer.

MLA from Ambala Cantt Anil Vij and leader of opposition said that the proposal to construct the ring dam on the river started during the previous [INLD government](#) led by Om Prakash Chautala. "The then government started the work but a few months after code of conduct came into force, due to declaration of election schedule. Later Congress government led by [Bhupinder Singh Hooda](#) shelved the project," he alleged.

Ambala SDM Mukesh Ahuja maintained that the work of disilting the drain had begun two month ago. The town has witnessed floods last year when waters stormed the residential areas in colonies including Prabhu Prem Puram Colony, Ajit Nagar and other parts of Mahesh Nagar. Most of the newly habited areas of Ambala cantt are covered in these colonies. There are many points where no work has been done to strengthen the edges of Tangri River from Prabhu Prem Colony to [Khojkipur](#) (situated adjoining Tangri River) which was worst affected last year.

Executive engineer drainage, R K Gupta said that work was going on in various areas.

Residents of Yamunanagar had also faced floods last year. DC Yamunanagar Ashok Sangwan said that the work in flood protection measures will complete by June 30. "We will pay attention to areas where minor work is pending, and for the same I will visit in a day or two," he added.

Heavy rain paralyses normal life in western districts of UP

News on AIR, Jun 27, 10:10 AM

In Uttar Pradesh, heavy rain has paralysed normal life in several western districts. At least three people have perished in lightning and house collapse incidents and properties worth lakhs of rupees has been damaged. The met office has predicted widespread rain in several divisions of west UP during next 48 hours.

The heavy rain in Meerut, Saharnpur, Moradabad, Jhansi, Muzaffarnagar and adjoining places has paralysed normal life. The low lying areas have been waterlogged while road traffic and electricity supply was badly affected. The met office has predicted heavy to moderate rain in most of the western districts and a few places in eastern region during next 24 hours. Salman Haider/AIR news Gorakhpur."

Bihar government asked to invoke Epidemic Act

Shoumojit Banerjee, **The Hindu**, Monday, Jun 27, 2011

Patna: With 41 children falling prey to the 'mystery disease' ravaging North Bihar, the Muzaffarpur district administration on Sunday recommended that the State government invoke the Epidemic Diseases Act throughout the afflicted area. While 41 is the official death toll, unconfirmed reports from different pockets of the Tirhut division put the figure at 48.

On Sunday, the District Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon sent a letter to the State Health Department, recommending that Muzaffarpur be declared an epidemic-zone.

None of the 18 samples sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune has tested positive for Japanese encephalitis (JE), the Nipahvirus (after Nipah in Malaysia) or the Chandipura virus (after the village in Maharashtra's Nagpur division).

A five-member expert committee has been constituted to formulate the kind of treatment to be administered in the district's afflicted blocks.

3 killed, 12 injured after being hit by train

Press Trust Of India

Azamgarh, June 27, 2011

Three people were killed and 12 others injured after being run over by a speeding train near Ranipur village here, police said today. The victims were removing a tree, which

had fallen on the railway track last night when Chappra-Kanpur Utsarg Express hit them, killing one person on the spot, they said.

While the two others succumbed to their injuries on way to hospital, the rest of the injured were admitted to the district hospital, police said. The deceased have been identified as Sadan (65), Israwati (35), Lakhpatia (50), they added.

International

Landslide in china leaves 9 dead & 4 injured

News on AIR, Jun 27, 11:0 AM

In China, at least nine people died and another four were injured in a landslide at an iron ore dressing factory in northern Shanxi Province. Officials today said the landslide occurred yesterday at the factory in Baiyuli Village of Xingao Township. An array of miners dormitories at the site have been buried, but the exact number of people buried is still not available. Rescue work is under way, and cause of the landslide is being investigated.

Japan earthquake toll rises to 15,500

Indo-Asian News Service

Moscow, June 27, 2011

The toll from the magnitude-9 earthquake and ensuing tsunami which struck north-east Japan March 11 has risen to 15,500, police said Sunday. Another 7,306 people remain missing after the twin disasters which destroyed infrastructure and triggered a major crisis at the Fukushima nuclear plant. Work is continuing to stabilise the crippled plant which is still leaking radioactive material.

Last month, Japan's parliament passed a \$49 billion emergency budget for reconstruction following the March disaster. A small extra budget is due to be submitted to parliament next month.

In a statement last week, Japan's government said the direct material damage from the disaster stood at \$210 billion.

Robot, drone fail on Japan nuke-plant missions

DD News, Monday 27 June, 2011.

Two high-tech machines intended to help workers at Japan's tsunami-hit nuclear plant malfunctioned on Friday, including a long-awaited Japanese robot making its first attempt to take important measurements in areas too dangerous for humans.

The other machine that failed was a drone helicopter that made an emergency landing on a reactor roof at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant.

Operator Tokyo Electric Power Co is trying to cool down three molten reactor cores and stop radiation leaks to end a crisis set off when the March 11 earthquake and tsunami crippled the plant.

The job is expected to take several more months, and is complicated by massive amounts of radioactive water that could soon leak into the sea.

The Quince robot, developed by Chiba Institute of Technology for nuclear and biological disaster relief activity, had ventured out into the Unit 2 reactor building to set up a gauge to measure the contaminated water pooling in the basement.

Radioactivity inside the reactor buildings is too high for workers to take measurements there.

The machine got stuck at a staircase landing and failed to go downstairs, TEPCO spokesman Junichi Matsumoto said.

A cable that was supposed to drop a gauge into the basement also malfunctioned.

The workers retrieved the robot and were going to make adjustments before sending it back in for another try, Matsumoto said. He did not elaborate.

The other machine that malfunctioned Friday was a T-Hawk drone helicopter, made in the US by Honeywell, that is used to inspect hard-to-access areas of the plant.

The drone developed engine trouble during a radiation sampling flight and made a remote-controlled emergency landing on the roof of Unit 2, the only one of the four damaged reactor buildings that still has a roof, Matsumoto said.

Matsumoto said photos taken by a camera installed on a water pumping vehicle showed the drone was lying on its side, but neither the aircraft nor the roof suffered major damage.

The cause of the engine failure was under investigation.

Matsumoto said it was not immediately known when or how the drone may be retrieved, but a backup drone can take over the mission.(ST-24/06)

Strong 6.4 quake rattles Indonesia

Agence France-Presse

Jakarta, June 26, 2011, Last Updated: 20:12 IST(26/6/2011)

A strong 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck near the coast of Indonesia's Papua province on Sunday, geologists said, but there were no immediate reports of damage or tsunami

warnings issued. The quake struck at a depth of 36 kilometres (20 miles), 161 kilometres from Enarotali, at 9.16pm (1216 GMT), the US Geological Survey said.

There was no warning or advisory posted on the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre website.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where the meeting of continental plates causes high seismic activity, and is frequently hit by earthquakes.

16 dead in road accident in Indonesia

News on AIR, Jun 27, 12:47 PM

In Indonesia, 16 people were killed in a road accident in North Sumatra Province yesterday. The mishap occurred when an inter-provincial bus plunged into a river in South Tapanuli. There were 65 people in the bus when the accident happened. Forty-nine people survived the mishap. Relief efforts have been hampered due to heavy rain in the area.

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