

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

148 cyclone shelters to be constructed

Special Correspondent, **The Hindu**, Wednesday, Jun 29, 2011

They are designed as multi-purpose centres: project manager

Each shelter to be constructed at a cost of Rs.85 lakh to Rs.1 crore

Shelters will have all amenities like solar power, toilets, and drinking water



Safety matters: Team leader and consulting engineer of EgisIndia D. Bhavanna Rao explaining quality control aspects of road-laying in coastal areas during a seminar organised by the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

VIJAYAWADA: Risk to native population living within 10 k.m. from the sea coast in nine districts of Andhra Pradesh will be mitigated through grounding of 148 Cyclone Shelters as part of the implementation of The National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP).

Project manager B. Rajendra Prasad told reporters here on Tuesday that each cyclone shelter was designed as a multi-purpose centre after a year-long study of the local

conditions in 13 districts of the State depending on the risk perception in all angles including that from Tsunamis, earthquakes, giant waves rising up to 10 metres.

Each shelter would be constructed at a cost of Rs.85 lakh to Rs.1 crore depending on the size of population in the habitation, Mr. Rajendra Prasad said.

The best possible location was identified with the help of the locals keeping in view proper and quicker approach to the shelter in shortest time in the event of a calamity.

Workshop

A day-long workshop on 'Quality assurance' was organised by the NCRMP in association with the National Disaster Management Authority along with EgisIndia. EgisIndia team leader D. Bhavana Rao explained in detail about the several quality requirements for laying of roads and practical problems and solutions.

A retired Chief Engineer from the State R&B Department, he gave a power-point presentation to a large group of engineers, working for the Rs.771.50 crore World Bank project, at the workshop.

Improving the communication from the coastal villages to central locations from where control rooms were run, was aimed at with improving the existing infrastructure as the key activity during cyclone relief was evacuation, rehabilitation, organising temporary camps. Satellite phones would also be provided in the shelters so that when the terrestrial towers fail, this would be handy.

The shelters will have all amenities like solar power, toilets, drinking water etc. The foundation for the shelters would be laid 10 m below the ground and pillars raised up to 10 m. and on that ground plus one or two floors constructed depending on the local need. It is a three-year project and tenders finalised.

National Consultation Workshop on Preparation of State Disaster Management Plans

PIB, Ministry of Home Affairs, 28-June, 2011 17:47 IST

Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has said that Disaster Management Plans (DMP) are living documents that would require constant improvement and innovation as the States continue to deal with various disasters. He was delivering the inaugural address at the 2-day National Consultation Workshop on Preparation of State Disaster Management Plans at NDMA Bhawan here today. States/ UTs are in different stages of preparation of the DMPs.

The aim of the workshop is to provide an opportunity to the States to share various measures taken by them for the preparation of State DMP and exchanging ideas and technical information thereby learn from each other in developing actionable State DMP.

Preparation of DMP is a mandatory requirement as per Disaster Management Act. NDMA had issued Guidelines for preparation of the State SDMPs in August 2007 in accordance with the provision of the Section 6(2)(d) of the Disaster Management Act. NDMA has been supporting the State/ UT Governments to prepare their DMPs through various initiatives.

Shri Reddy said that the National Executive Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary, to assist NDMA, has set up three committees for National Response Plan, National Mitigation Plan and National Capacity Building Plan. State Plans must also address these issues in the planning process. He emphasized that all stakeholders must play their part in preparation of these plans and the process must be institutionalized. A deadline of end of 2011 has been set for all the States to come up with their State DMPs. Further district and city DM Plans will be prepared in due course.

Members of NDMA, Senior Officers of NDMA, Senior Officers and Consultants from the States, experts from UNDP & UNDMT and other senior Disaster Management experts participated in the first day of the workshop.

17 dead, 9 lakh affected in West Bengal rains

Special Correspondent, **The Hindu**, Wednesday, Jun 29, 2011

— PHOTO: PTI



IN DEEP WATERS: People cross a bridge flooded by the Shali river in Bankura district of West Bengal on Tuesday.

Kolkata: Seventeen people have died and over nine lakh people have been affected in the nearly fortnight-long spell of rains in West Bengal. Ten districts have been affected by heavy floods, Disaster Management Minister Javed Khan has said in the Assembly.

He said that 25,750 mud houses have been damaged or washed away due to the rains caused by a depression. The districts affected were Malda, Murshidabad, Purba

Medinipur, Howrah, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Bankura, Purulia and Darjeeling. He said that in Bankura alone, nine people have died.

Pointing out that relief has been extended to the affected people, he said the situation could be managed better by some advance planning by his department. "There were also no irregularities in the distribution of relief," he claimed, saying that it was done in a transparent and streamlined manner.

More rain lashes North India; 12 killed in U.P.

The Hindu, Wednesday, Jun 29, 2011

New Delhi: Monsoon rain continued to lash most parts of North India on Tuesday even as 14 people were killed due to rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh and the hill State of Uttarakhand.

At least 12 persons, including women and children, were killed in rain-related incidents as heavy to moderate rain lashed Uttar Pradesh in the last 24 hours, officials said.

While nine persons were killed in Farukhabad district in separate incidents of roof collapse, drowning and lightning, two persons were killed in Fatehpur and one in Jaunpur district, they said.

Lucknow, which recorded a rainfall of 6.8 mm, settled at a high of 31.4 degrees Celsius, six notches below normal, said the weatherman.

Meanwhile, two women were washed away in a flash flood following heavy rain in Bagi village of Dunda tehsil of Uttarkashi district, police said.

Rain continued to lash several places in Punjab and Haryana, causing a dip in the mercury.

Chandigarh recorded a maximum of 32.8 degrees, down four notches, while Ambala's maximum settled at 33.3 degrees, also four degrees below normal. Hisar registered a high of 35.6 degrees.

Amritsar in Punjab received heavy rainfall (43.2 mm), recording a maximum of 31.5 degrees, down seven notches.

Rain lashed several parts of Mumbai resulting in slow traffic and complaints of water logging reported from low-lying areas.

According to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Disaster Management Cell, the city recorded 31.3 mm of rain, eastern suburbs received 26.1 mm while western suburbs recorded 11.5 mm rainfall from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Complaints of water-

logging were reported from areas like Hindmata, Bycualla, Parel, Sion, Kalabadevi, Andheri, Juhu and Bandra, officials said.

Meanwhile, light rain lashed some places in Rajasthan with Fatehpur recording a rainfall of 8 cm while Taranagar, Kishanganj received 7 cm each, Navalgarh, Mangraol, Dausa, Pipalda, Khanpur received 5 cm each in the last 24 hours. - **PTI**

‘Mystery fever’ death toll up to 46

The Hindu, Wednesday, Jun 29, 2011

MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR): A ‘mystery fever’ has claimed one more life, of a child, in Muzaffarpur district on Tuesday, taking the toll to 46. — **PTI**

Mystery fever scare rises in Ludhiana

Shivani Mehra, **TNN** | Jun 29, 2011, 06.48am IST

LUDHIANA: There's a mystery fever that has gripped the city of Ludhiana and with even doctors failing to pinpoint the cause or type of the illness, residents have begun panicking. Those complaining of the baffling fever are also more by the day as doctors say the cases pouring in have increased by 60%. The symptoms include high fever, stomach pain and low platelet count.

While the patients and their families have failed to understand the cause of this fever, doctors too are not clear about what is causing it. From next to no case till a few months ago, as many as seven people are daily being now diagnosed with this fever these days.

A doctor in Apollo Hospital's medicine department, **Gautam Aggarwal**, said, "I am treating as many as eight such patients every day. Monsoons have brought some viral and bacterial infections and this one seems unclassified."

Most of those suffering from the ailment include people in the age group of 15 to 45 years. "Though the cause is still a mystery, it takes nearly four days for a patient to recover from the fever. People must take precautions but even these can become ineffective as the infections are air-borne," the doctor added.

Medical superintendent of Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital **R S Sodhi** said more than 50 patients of mystery fever visit the hospital every week. "The numbers have gone up tremendously. It is a non-specific form of fever and cannot be diagnosed as the city lacks testing equipment," Sodhi added.

Amit Berry, a doctor at DMC Hospital, said they had started receiving patients of mystery fever, adding the number might increase during the coming months. "We call it viral but nobody is sure about the type of fever," he added.

Sangeeta Sharma, a resident of Vikas Nagar, said her 15-year-old son was suffering from

this fever, adding the doctors called it seasonal viral fever. "My son Rohan does not eat out... we're not sure what caused the malady," she added.

12 die, 20 injured in Chhattisgarh wall collapse

PTI | Jun 28, 2011, 03.21pm IST

RAIPUR: Twelve people were killed and 20 others injured on Tuesday when a portion of a bungalow of a superintendent of police (SP) collapsed in Chhattisgarh following heavy rains, police said.

The Chhattisgarh government has announced Rs 100,000 as compensation for the families of each of those killed and Rs 25,000 to each injured.

The accident took place at SP OP Pal's bungalow in Ambikapur town of Surguja district, some 350 km north of here.

Pal said on telephone that he was on leave in his home state, Uttar Pradesh.

"I have been told that a shed of my bungalow collapsed where daily wagers gather every day seeking work," he said.

G.S. Dhananjay, collector of Surguja, told IANS: "It's an accident. No one should be blamed for it. It was an old building and the incessant rain weakened the outer wall of the SP's bungalow."

The victims were poor people who were waiting to catch vehicles to leave for Ramanujganj, a small town of Surguja district, close to Jharkhand state border, he added.

He said the injured were rushed to a government hospital where majority of them were stated to be 'out of danger'.

When asked whether he will order a probe into the matter, the collector remarked: "I will see whether the incident requires to be probed because whatever had to happen, has happened."

Ambikapur mayor Prabodh Minj said majority of the portion of the bungalow was constructed during the British regime and its outer wall, which is about 10-feet in height, was not maintained for several years. But he too attributed the collapse to consistent rains in the area.

Nine killed in accidents

Staff Reporter, **The Hindu**, Wednesday, Jun 29, 2011



Mangled remains: The vehicle which was hit by a bus near Burgupally village, 5-km. from Siddipet town. Five people were killed while five were hurt in the accident.

SANGAREDDY: Five persons, including two children, were killed on the spot in a road accident that took place near Burgupally village, 5-km. away from Siddipet town on Tuesday evening.

A bus coming from Medak town hit an auto coming in the opposite direction killing five persons instantly and injuring another five. One of the injured was shifted to Hyderabad for treatment.

According to N. Koti Reddy, OSD, Siddipet, those who were killed in the accident were identified as A. Chennaiah (43), B. Chandravva (48), A. Renuka (28), B. Abhiram (3) and A Yaswant (1).

The five hurt in the accident were shifted to the government hospital in Siddipet. One B. Devamma, a pregnant woman, was shifted to Hyderabad for better treatment.

Siddipet police registered a case and investigating.

Guntur Staff Reporter writes: Four persons were killed and five others were grievously hurt in a road accident that took place at Brahmanapalli village near Piduguralla on Tuesday afternoon. Circle Inspector Kalesha Vali said that the accident took place at about 12 noon. He said that a lorry laden with raw plastic material rammed into a multi-seater auto (Tata Ace Magic) coming from Dachepalli.

Police suspect that the lorry driver was trying to overtake a vehicle and rammed into the auto coming in the opposite direction.

Four killed in Uttar Pradesh accident

Indo-Asian News Service

Lucknow, June 29, 2011

At least four people on their way back from a wedding were killed when their car fell into a canal in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district, police said on Wednesday. Some of those in the car are missing. The accident took place late Tuesday when the speeding Scorpio skidded off the road and fell into the

Shival canal in Bauria town, some 300 km from Lucknow.

"Eyewitnesses say six-seven people were present inside the car. Four bodies were fished out today (Wednesday)," said police inspector T.B. Singh.

The victims were returning to their native place in Ballia after attending a marriage party in Gopalnagar town of the district.

International

Wildfire threatens US nuclear laboratory

AP | Jun 29, 2011, 02.45am IST

LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO: [Firefighters](#) battled a vicious wildfire that was spreading Tuesday through the mountains above the northern [New Mexico](#) town that is home to a government [nuclear laboratory](#).



Firefighters battled a vicious wildfire that was spreading Tuesday through the mountains above the northern New Mexico town that is home to a government nuclear laboratory.

The wildfire, which began Sunday, had destroyed 30 structures south and west of [Los Alamos](#) by early Monday and forced the closure of the lab while stirring memories of a devastating blaze in May 2000 that destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings.

The ominous orange glow was visible at night from deserted Trinity Drive in Los Alamos, from which 12,500 residents were evacuated. The evacuation was so calm and orderly that there wasn't even a traffic accident, police chief Wayne Torpy said. A crew that had been working at the Arizona wildfires took over efforts at the New Mexico fire on Monday, about 18 hours after the blaze started. It has quickly grown to 44,000 acres — or 68 square miles (176 square kilometers) — and ignited a spot fire on lab property.

Another firefighting team was expected to arrive Tuesday because of the potential for the blaze to more than double in size. Los Alamos laboratory officials said the wildfire sparked a spot fire on its property that was soon contained Monday, and no contamination was released. They also assured that radioactive materials stored in spots

on the sprawling lab were safe. Flames were just across the road from the southern edge of the famed lab, where scientists developed the first atomic bomb during World War II.

Tonnes of toxic water leaking from Fukushima

Reuters | Jun 29, 2011, 02:52am IST

TOKYO: Tonnes of [radioactive water](#) were discovered on Tuesday to have leaked into the ground from Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant, the latest in a series of leaks at the plant damaged in a March [earthquake](#) and [tsunami](#), the country's nuclear watchdog said.

More than three months after the disaster, authorities are struggling to bring under control damaged reactors at the power plant, 240 km north of [Tokyo](#). About 15 tonnes of water with a low level of radiation leaked from a storage tank at the plant on the Pacific coast, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said. Tepco said it was investigating the cause of the leak which was later repaired.

E coli death toll rises to 48 in Germany

AFP | Jun 28, 2011, 10:59pm IST

BERLIN: The death toll from an outbreak of a killer strain of E coli [bacteria](#) centred in Germany rose to at least 48 today, health authorities said.

All but one of the fatalities from enterohaemorrhagic E coli (EHEC) have been in Germany, with the other being a woman in [Sweden](#) who had just returned from Germany.

The outbreak, blamed on organic vegetable sprouts grown in northern Germany, has left 3,901 people ill in Germany, 838 of them seriously, Germany's Robert Koch Institute (RKI) said.

The [World Health Organisation](#) said on its website on Monday that 3,043 people have become sick in 16 countries, 877 of them seriously with kidney complaint haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS).

Six people trapped underground in China mine flood

News on AIR, Jun 29, 11:11 AM

In China, at least six people have been trapped underground after an illegal private coal mine flooded in the eastern Shandong Province. Local government sources on Wednesday said the accident occurred last night at Shantou Village of Zibo City. Rescue work is under way, and cause of the accident is being investigated.

Storms kill 22 people in northern Vietnam

Associated Press

Hanoi, June 28, 2011, Last Updated: 19:15 IST(28/6/2011)

The government says storms in northern Vietnam have killed 22 people as five more bodies were recovered. Five others are missing and 65 have been injured. The Floods and Storms Control Department said on its website today that 12 of the victims were killed by lightning. The rest died from falling trees, collapsed houses or were washed away by floods in eight northern provinces before and after Tropical Storm Haima hit the region last week.

Nearly 2,700 homes were destroyed or damaged, and 990,000 acres (40,000 hectares) of rice paddy were inundated. Vietnam is prone to floods and storms which kill hundreds of people a year.

Worse drought in 60 years hits 10 million in Horn of Africa

Agence France-Presse

Geneva, June 28, 2011, Last Updated: 23:03 IST(28/6/2011)

Ten million people in the Horn of Africa have been hit by the worst drought in 60 years, with the situation deteriorating to the point of famine in some areas, the UN said on Tuesday. "Over ten million people are affected by the drought in one way or other," said Elisabeth Byrs, spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"We believe that the drought situation in certain regions is the worst in 60 years. In several regions, we can speak of famine," she added.

Countries affected include Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

*Compiled by
Dr.AD Kaushik*