

# DISASTERS UPDATE

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## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### Ensure safe water during floods: Centre

Special Correspondent, **The Hindu**, Saturday, Jun 27, 2009

NEW DELHI: The Centre has directed all States to ensure availability of safe and clean drinking water to people living in rural areas, in the eventuality of floods during the monsoon.

Drinking Water Supply Department Secretary Shantanu Consul, in his letter, also called for action to ensure proper sanitation facilities to avoid waterborne diseases.

#### Sensitive people

Underlining the need for of proper planning, advance preparedness and preventive action, Mr. Consul asked the States to sensitise people to these issues through training programmes, carry out sanitary inspections of drinking water sources, and initiate steps to avoid contamination.

He suggested chlorination of water, particularly in schools and anganwadis, and for distribution among households.

The department was equally concerned about measures to be taken during and after floods, to protect the affected population in remote and inaccessible areas.

The Department, under the Rural Development Ministry, has decided to hold a meeting of State Secretaries on July 1 to drive home the importance of its initiative.

#### Update on Influenza a [H1N1] as on 27th June 2009

Saturday, June 27, 2009, PIB Press Release

World Health Organization has reported 59814 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A/H1N1 infection from 112 countries as on 26th June 2009. There have been 263 deaths. No further update is available.

Health screening of passengers coming from affected countries is continuing in 22 International airports. 54,113 passengers have been screened on 26.6.2009 of which 37,296 passengers were from affected countries. 224 doctors and 112 paramedics are manning 77 counters at these airports. A cumulative total of 24,82,286 passengers have been screened.

The nine new cases are reported from Bangalore (4), Delhi (4) and Punjab (1). A family of four who travelled from Newark, USA ( 38 year old Male, 32 yr Female, 9 year old female and 2 year old Male ) transiting Germany reached Bangalore on 26.06.09 by Lufthansa Flight LH 403/ 753 were quarantined at the Bangalore airport and shifted to the identified health facility. All of them have tested positive. The four cases reported from Delhi include a nine year old child who travelled from Seattle USA transiting Seoul and reaching Delhi by Asiana Airlines on 25.06.09 was quarantined at the Delhi airport and shifted to the identified health facility. The remaining three cases (40/F, 13/F and 9/M) have all travelled from USA reaching Delhi on 23.06.09 and reported to identified health facility on 26.06.09. The case from Gurdaspur, Punjab is an indigenous case, a contact of positive case reported earlier on 23.06.09.

The indigenous positive case [66 year old female] at Delhi, covered in earlier reports, is stable.

645 persons have been tested so far of which 89 are positive for Influenza A H1N1 [Swine]. 187 out of the 645 persons have been identified through entry screening, twenty seven through contact tracing and the rest were self reported. Of the 89 cases, 59 have been discharged. Rest of them remain admitted to the identified health facility.

The situation is being monitored.

## **9 more test positive for swine flu, total rises to 91**

27 Jun 2009, 2235 hrs IST, **PTI**

NEW DELHI: Nine new cases of swine flu were reported in the country on Saturday taking the total number of cases to 91.

Four cases each was reported from Delhi and Bangalore while one from Punjab, a senior health ministry official said.

In Bangalore, a family of four, which reached yesterday transiting through Germany from Newark in the United States by Lufthansa flight, tested positive for the virus.

The 38-year-old man, his 32-year-old wife and two children -- nine-year-old daughter and two-year-old son -- were quarantined at the Bangalore airport and later shifted to the identified health facility, the official said.

Four new cases were reported from the national capital which include a nine-year-old child who arrived here on Friday from Seattle by Asiana Airlines.

The other three, two women aged 40 years and 13 years and a nine-year-old boy, reported to the hospital yesterday after they had shown some symptoms. The three had reached Delhi on June 23 from the United States.

The swine flu case from Gurdaspur in Punjab was an indigenous one which developed after contacts with a positive case reported on June 23, the official said.

About 645 persons have been tested so far of which 91 were found positive for swine flu. Meanwhile, screening of inbound passengers from affected countries continues at 22 international airports. Till yesterday, 54,113 passengers have been screened out of which 37,296 came from affected countries. Of the 91 positive cases, 59 have been discharged.

The World Health Organisation has reported 59,814 confirmed cases of swine flu from 112 countries as on June 26. A total of 263 deaths have also been reported.

## Scorching heat gets to Patna zoo inmates

[Prabhakar Kumar](#) / [CNN-IBN](#)

Published on Sat, Jun 27, 2009 at 13:33 in [India](#) section

**Patna:** The scorching heat is getting to the inmates of the Patna zoo. The tigers are doing their best to cool down, bathing twice a day and sleeping with a water cooler on.

Director Patna Zoo, Rakesh Kumar says, "We are ensuring that round the clock water is available to them for drinking. We give them a bath daily and after that we use gluline homeopathy medicine and glucose is provided to them."

But of the 120 inmates, only the privileged ones get special arrangements for protection from the heat. Lions and tigers get coolers while there are fans for the monkeys. Alligators and hippos take to water to keep cool.

The zoo administration has shown sensitivity towards the caged inmates, but the effort being done is hardly sufficient. The zoo has lost its inmates to intense heat waves in the last one decade. This year, it's a grim situation once again as leopards and monkeys are already getting heat strokes say zoo employees. It seems like all people in India, animals too are looking heavenwards for the rain gods to bless them.

## Chitradurga district records 373 cases of malaria this year

Staff Correspondent, **The Hindu**, Saturday, Jun 27, 2009

*Only five of the 16 fogging machines are functioning*

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*The district has recorded three cases of dengue this year*

*Folk artistes are being roped in to conduct awareness programmes*

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Chitradurga: Chitradurga district has recorded three cases of dengue, 373 cases of malaria and 24 cases of chikungunya so far this year. Also, four suspected cases of dengue have been recorded in the district so far in 2009.

District Malaria Officer V. Jayamma told *The Hindu* that 333 cases of malaria were reported from Rampur village alone in Molakalmur taluk and 14 cases were reported in Mattodahalli village of Hosadurga taluk.

Of the three confirmed dengue cases, one was reported from Hireguntanur village in Chitradurga taluk and others from Abavadagikatte village and Amrutapur village both in Holalkere taluk.

“All the three patients have undergone treatment. There has been no report of death due to dengue or malaria in the district this year,” she said. Dr. Jayamma said that Rampura and Mattodahalli were considered malaria-prone villages. On the preventive steps taken up by the district Health Department, she said that a team had been visiting various places in the district and spraying insecticides.

Only five of the 16 fogging machines in the department were functioning and therefore it was not possible for the authorities to take up fogging operations regularly, she said.

“We are also conducting programmes in both rural and urban areas to create awareness among people about the importance of maintaining cleanliness. We have observed that in many villages, people don’t keep their surroundings clean and this increases mosquito breeding.”

Dr. Jayamma said that folk artistes were being roped in to conduct awareness programmes. On the dengue test centre, she said that the department, which had received all equipment, was waiting for the Government’s approval to start the centre’s functioning.

“We have written to the higher officials urging them to permit us to use the equipment as we are now sending samples to the Virology Diagnostic Laboratory in Shimoga,” she added.

## **Heavy rain lashes Mumbai**

Saturday, Jun 27, 2009— **PTI**

Mumbai: Mumbaikars had a respite from sweltering heat as heavy rain lashed the city on Friday, inundating many low-lying areas and disrupting road, train and air transport.

## **International**

### **US House passes historic climate change bill**

27 Jun 2009, 0518 hrs IST, **AFP**

WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives on Friday narrowly passed historic legislation to cut carbon emissions blamed for climate change, handing President Barack [Obama](#) a hard-fought victory.

After hours of bitter debate, lawmakers voted 219-212 to put the US economy under a "cap-and-trade" system in a move supporters said would restore shaky US leadership on the issue of global warming.

The pitched political battle on how best to address the problem now shifts to the US Senate, which is not expected to take any major steps before a self-imposed mid-September deadline for laying out legislation.

The House's "American Clean Energy and Security Act" aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17 per cent from 2005 levels by 2020, and 83 per cent by 2050, create "green" jobs and wean the US economy from oil imports.

"Just remember these four words for what this legislation means - jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. Let's vote

for jobs," Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi exhorted her colleagues minutes before the vote.

Her comments came after Republican House Minority Leader John Boehner, relying on traditional House perks for party leaders, stretched an allotted two minutes to speak about the measure into a one-hour, one-minute intervention.

The 1,200-page bill, the fruit of months of tough negotiations, would create a "cap-and-trade" system limiting overall pollution from large industrial sources and then allocating and selling pollution permits.

The Democratic-crafted bill would require utilities, by 2020, to get 15 per cent of their electricity from renewable resources - solar, wind, geothermal, and [biomass](#) - and show annual energy savings of five percent from efficiency measures. The European Union plan calls for getting 20 per cent of all electricity from renewable resources by 2020.

### **Three more swine flu cases in Iraq**

27 Jun 2009, 0055 hrs IST, **AFP**

SULAIMANIYAH: Iraq's northern autonomous region diagnosed three more cases of swine flu on Friday, including the 12-year-old brother of a female basketball player struck down by the condition.

One of the new victims was on the same plane as five members of a women's basketball team and their male coach, returning from the [United States](#), who were diagnosed a day earlier, said regional health minister Ziryan Osman.

"We recorded three more cases," Osman said.

"Two of the people are from Sulaimaniyah, one of whom lives there, and the other is an Egyptian who works there. One case is a 12-year old child, who is the brother of one of the female basketball players."

The six previously confirmed swine flu sufferers returned to Iraqi Kurdistan from [Chicago](#) a week ago and were kept in hospital for tests until their condition was confirmed on Thursday.

On their way back from the US city, the team passed through the Jordanian capital Amman, where another female player was held because tests found she had the A(H1N1) virus.

"The Egyptian man was on the plane that transported the basketball players from Amman to Sulaimaniyah," Osman said.

The third newly-diagnosed case involved a Malaysian man who had flown from [Dubai](#) to the Kurdish capital Arbil, the health minister added.

Swine flu has infected 59,814 people in 113 countries worldwide and killed 263, according to figures released by the World Health Organisation on Friday.

*Compiler  
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