

DISASTERS UPDATE

www.nidm.net

Issue No.1466

Date: 28.6.09

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

Update on influenza A [H1N1] As On 28th June 2009

Sunday, June 28, 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. 51,648 passengers have been screened on 27.6.2009 of which 39,181 passengers were from affected countries. 224 doctors and 112 paramedics are manning 77 counters at these airports. A cumulative total of 25,33,934 passengers have been screened.

Four new cases are reported today: Hyderabad (1), Gurgaon (1), Kolkata (1) and Mumbai (1). The case in Hyderabad is a 10 year old male child who had travelled from USA to Hyderabad transiting Frankfurt and Mumbai (AI 144) and reaching Hyderabad on 25.6.2009 (AI 140). He had self reported at the identified health facility on 26.6.09. The case in Gurgaon is an indigenous case and is the sister (12/F) of another positive case reported on 26.6.09. The case in Kolkata is a five and half year old female child who travelled from Bangkok by Thai Airways TG 313 reaching Kolkata on 26.6.09. Since she was found having symptoms at the airport, she was admitted in the isolation facility.

The case in Mumbai is 45 year old female, mother of the case reported on 26.6.09. She also travelled from USA to Delhi reaching Delhi on 22.6.09 and from Delhi to Mumbai by train, reaching Mumbai on 26.6.09 and self reported at identified health facility. The contacts are being traced.

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

676 persons have been tested so far of which 93 are positive for Influenza A H1N1 [Swine]. 191 out of the 676 persons have been identified through entry screening, twenty seven through contact tracing and the rest were self reported.

Of the 93 positive cases, 61 have been discharged. Rest of them remains admitted to the identified health facility.

The situation is being monitored.

Heat wave conditions to abate in next 48 hrs: IMD

Sunday, June 28, 2009, PIB Press Release

The heat wave conditions prevailing over some parts of north Madhya Pradesh, north Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh and at isolated pockets of west Uttar Pradesh will abate from the region during next 48 Hrs.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast today suggests Isolated rain/thundershowers over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during next 24 hours and increase thereafter, Rain/thundershowers at many places over Uttar Pradesh and Isolated rain/thunderstorm accompanied with squall over the rest of the North Western region.

The northern limit of southwest monsoon still passes through (Lat. 23.0°N / Long. 60.0°E and Lat. 23.0°N / Long. 65.0°E), Bhuj, Baroda, Indore, Hoshangabad, Rajnandgaon, Cuttack, Balasore, Bankura and Gangtok. However, conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon over some more parts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa and remaining parts of West Bengal & Sikkim and some parts of Bihar, Jharkhand and East Uttar Pradesh during next 2-3 days.

Advance of monsoon is likely to continue over remaining parts of central India and some parts of northwest India after 1st of July.

48-hour weather forecast soon

Special Correspondent, **The Hindu**, Sunday, Jun 28, 2009

500 additional automatic weather stations will be set up

— Photo: K. Gopinathan



FOR CONSERVATION: ISRO Chairman G. Madhavan Nair (right) presenting ‘Bhu Ratna Award’ to T.K.A. Nair, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, at a function in Bangalore on Saturday.

BANGALORE: In about a year from now, India will be in a position to undertake accurate weather forecasting for the next 48 hours.

Disclosing this at the valedictory of a three-day national conference on “challenges and opportunities for bio-industrial watershed development for the prosperity of farming community” organised by the Soil Conservation Society of India in Bangalore on Saturday, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Madhavan Nair said at present the country could take up accurate forecasting only for six hours.

Although it was possible to forecast for 48 hours at present, the chance of success was only 60 per cent. ISRO was working with the Indian Meteorological Department and other agencies to evolve a system which can assure 90 per cent success in forecasting for 48 hours, he said.

The country's weather forecasting system would achieve international standards if it manages to put in place a system of accurate forecasting for 48 hours, he said. This would be achieved by putting an additional 500 automatic weather stations to the existing 500 such weather stations and increasing the number of radars.

Such an advanced forecast would be of help particularly to farmers as details on issues related to farming such as soil moisture, precipitation and cloud movement would be known among other things.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary T.K A. Nair called for carefully examining environmental aspects before finalising any development project. The tendency to ignore environmental aspects had led to environmental degradation which affected poor people the most, he said.

Meanwhile, the workshop recommended to the Union Government to replicate the State's model of forming an exclusive Department of Watershed besides forming a Central Watershed Management Commission.

The other recommendations include steps needed to bring about coordination among the Union Ministries of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Agriculture, Food Processing, Water Resources and Forest, Environment and Ecology. Watershed Development Department Commissioner K.H. Gopalakrishne Gowda and SCSI president Suraj Bhan, SCSI Patron J.S. Bali, and SCSI State unit president G. Praksh were present.

Landslip claims two lives

The Hindu, Sunday, Jun 28, 2009

BERHAMPUR: Two women including a child were killed and two other women were seriously injured in a landslip at the hills near B.Nuagaon village of Singipur panchayat of Ganjam district on Saturday afternoon.

These four women were menial labourers who were chiselling out stone pieces from the hill.

When it rained they took shelter under a large boulder of the hill. But the rain water loosened up the boulder and soil around it causing a landslide.

The four women got buried under. Rita Das (12) and Parma Das (35) died on the spot.

12 people affected by anthrax

Sunday, Jun 28, 2009 - **PTI**

Rourkela: At least 12 people have been suffering from anthrax after they ate raw beef at Pindapathar village in Sundergarh district, 80 km from here.

Of the affected, the condition of four, was stated to be critical at the district headquarters hospital, official sources said, adding the villagers fell ill after eating the flesh of a dead cow last week.

International

G-8 to ask India, China to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

28 Jun 2009, 1948 hrs IST, **PTI**

TOKYO: Group of eight leaders will ask major emerging economies like India and China to adopt actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions "in an indicative range below business as usual," Japanese media reported today.

The G-8 leaders meeting from July 8-10 in L'Aquila, Italy, will urge major emerging economies such as China and India to adopt actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions "in an indicative range below business as usual," where countries employ few measures to cut emissions, by a specified year, says the draft declaration.

The leaders from the eight industrialised nations will also agree to launch a public-private green technology fund for developing nations as part of efforts to curb global warming, according to the draft of declaration, it said.

"We reconfirm our strong commitment to the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) negotiations and to the successful conclusion of a global, wide-ranging and ambitious post-2012 agreement in Copenhagen, involving all countries, developed, emerging and developing, consistently with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities," the draft says.

The draft says the G-8 leaders will urge "all major economies" to share the goal of halving emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases by 2050, repeating similar language to that used in the G-8 leaders' statement issued at last year's summit in Hokkaido, Japan.

Trinidad reports 59 swine flu cases

28 Jun 2009, 0339 hrs IST, **AP**

PORT OF SPAIN: The number of swine flu cases in Trinidad and Tobago has risen to 59, the Health Ministry reported on Saturday.

"The number of confirmed cases of the influenza A(H1N1) cases spiked to 59 on Saturday, with 22 new confirmed cases within 3 days," health officials said.

Of the confirmed cases, the ministry said that 37 patients have already recovered. Authorities on the Caribbean island also noted, however, that "the virus is spreading a lot faster than expected."

The World Health Organization says nearly 60,000 cases of the virus have now been recorded globally, with 263 deaths.

*Compiler
AD Kaushik*