

# DISASTERS UPDATE

[www.nidm.net](http://www.nidm.net)

Issue No.1683

Date: 01.02.2010

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### 1 dead, 11 feared drowned in boat capsized near Vizag-Andhra Pradesh

*Staff Reporter, The Hindu*



**Last-ditch effort: Search operation being carried out after the boat capsized in Tandava reservoir in Visakhapatnam district on Sunday.**

**VISAKHAPATNAM:** Close on the heels of the boat tragedy in the Godavari, one person died and 11 others, most of them children, were feared drowned when they went for a picnic in two country boats in the Tandava reservoir in Golugonda mandal in the district on Sunday.

Two persons – Pokala Suribabu, 18, and Ch. Sai, 10 -- had a miraculous escape. The group, which came to attend the village festival at Ammapeta, set off in two basket-shaped boats (called putti in local parlance) by tying one another with a rope. The tragedy occurred when all the persons shifted to one 'putti' after spotting a snake coming towards them. The overcrowded putti sank while Suribabu and Sai survived by clinging to the other 'putti'.

Superintendent of Police Vineet Brijjal, who rushed to the spot, said that a naval team had been requisitioned along with two helicopters to undertake rescue operation in the night. Generators had already been brought to continue the operation. The body of Durga, 18, was found in the afternoon. The incident occurred at about 11 a.m.

Friends and relatives of people from Ammapeta came in large numbers to take part in local deity's annual festival. The missing persons belonged to Pakalapadu, Kothamalammapeta, Ammapeta, Ramannapalem and Lingalapalem villages of Golugonda, Kotavaratla and Narsipatnam mandals. The SP said rescue operation would continue in the night.

## Five killed in road mishap

*The Hindu*

**Muzaffarnagar:** Five persons of a family were killed and six others injured when a car in which they were travelling collided with a loaded truck in the district early morning on Sunday. Police said the accident took place on Pauri-Delhi Highway near Dewar village. The occupants of the car were returning from Delhi to Kiratpur, in neighbouring Bijnore district. The injured were rushed to different hospitals in serious condition, they said.

## International

### 33 feared drowned in Indonesia boat sinking

*Agence France-Presse  
Jakarta, February 01, 2010*

Thirty-three people including 25 Chinese nationals are feared to have drowned after their speed boat sank in heavy seas off eastern Indonesia last week, police said Monday.

Maluku province police spokesman John Huwae said the 12-metre (40-foot) long vessel was travelling from Aru to Tual islands when it sank on Thursday due to bad weather.

"One Chinese passenger was found alive and an Indonesian crew member was found dead," he told AFP, adding that the search for any survivors continued. The boat's skipper had ignored warnings from the meteorological office about bad weather, he said. Indonesia's 234 million people are spread across 17,000 islands and are heavily dependent on a network of ships and boats, which have a poor safety record.

Up to 335 people were killed when a heavily overloaded ferry sank off Sulawesi island in January last year. In December 2006 a ferry went down in a storm off the coast of Java, killing more than 500 people.

**Compiled by  
Sushma Guleria**