

DISASTER UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

50 tehsils in Chhattisgarh drought-affected – The Hindu

The Chhattisgarh Government on Monday declared 50 tehsils from nine district of the State as drought-affected areas. Collection of revenues from these tehsils has been suspended.

Boat tragedy: five more bodies recovered – The Hindu

Special Correspondent



***Sharing grief:* PR president K. Chiranjeevi with the relatives of the boat tragedy victims at Tandava reservoir in Visakhapatnam on Monday.**

VISAKHAPATNAM: Five more bodies were recovered from the Tandava reservoir in Golugonda mandal on Monday during a search conducted by the Navy personnel. Search would continue for the six more persons who were missing after a “putty” (pan shaped country boat) in which they crammed themselves in capsized on Sunday.

Two persons, an 18-year-old youth and a 10-year-old boy had survived while the body of Nelli (18) was found on Sunday itself. The 14 were on their way in the two putties, tied to each other, to a local deity’s festival at Ammapeta. All moved into one putty after sighting a snake in one putty.

Praja Rajyam president Chiranjeevi went to the banks of the reservoir on Monday and consoled the families of the victims. He handed over Rs. 10,000 to families of each victim.

Tribal Welfare Minister P. Balaraju was near the Tandava reservoir from morning till late in the evening supervising the efforts being made while Superintendent of Police Vineet Brij Lal went into the reservoir on a boat and coordinated the search operation with the Navy personnel.

District Minister in-charge Kanna Lakshminarayana and Anakapalle MP Sabbam Hari also visited the area.

Bodies of Mandali Chinna (13), Poliparthi Devi (12), Varre Lalitha (12), Ralla Swamy (9) and Gade Swamy (12) were recovered on Monday.

Bellary building collapse toll goes up to 20 – The Hindu

Staff Correspondent

Search and rescue teams to continue operations till Tuesday evening

Ten construction workers still feared trapped under the debris

BELLARY: The death toll in the building collapse at Gandhi Nagar in Bellary went up to 20 with rescue teams retrieving eight bodies from under the debris on Monday, seven days after the accident.

Four bodies were retrieved in the morning in the front portion of the collapsed building, after the gigantic CombiCutter equipment was pressed into service to demolish the remains of the collapsed building to remove the dead weight, and pave a path for rescue teams to enter the building and take up search and rescue operations. In the evening, three more bodies, a mother and two children, were removed from under from the debris in the southern part of the ill-fated building.

About ten construction workers are still feared trapped. The National Disaster Rescue Force, the Madras Engineer Group and Centre, Bangalore, the Fire and Emergency Services personnel and experts from JSW Steel Ltd., and the Hutti Gold Mines strove to extricate the bodies from under the debris.

Deputy Commissioner B. Shivappa, who has been personally supervising the search and rescue operations, told *The Hindu* that the operations would continue till Tuesday evening.

90 hurt in accident – The Hindu

PALAKKAD: Ninety persons were injured when a private bus overturned at Edathanattukara, near Mannarkad, on Monday. Thirty-five passengers were school students. Two persons who suffered grievous injuries have been admitted to a private hospital in Perinthalmanna.

International

13 killed at Mexico high school party – DD News



Gunmen drove up to a house where a high school party was in full swing and opened fire killing 13 people and wounding 17 others, the city public safety agency said on Monday in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez.

Most of the victims were "youngsters," said the Chihuahua state attorney general's office.

Witnesses said the gunmen drove up to the house in several cars, first shooting at people gathered outside the dwelling, then pursuing some of the youngsters who jumped over a fence to get away.

Local press reports said the party host's father was among the dead.

The shooting took place in Ciudad Juarez, the city on the border with the US state of Texas that holds Mexico's record in bloodshed, with more than 2,500 people killed last year in drug-related gangland crimes. (SS-01/02)