

# *DISASTER UPDATE*

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## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### **Gas leak in Andhra plant kills 2 – The Hindustan Times**

**Ashok Das, Hindustan Times**

Email Author

Hyderabad, February 03, 2010

At least two people were killed and six others were taken seriously ill after inhaling liquid ammonia that leaked from a faulty valve at the Coromandel fertiliser plant at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh on Monday evening.

Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories K. Parameswara Rao said that the liquid ammonia that was being unloaded from a ship to a tanker leaked when the gasket in the tank ruptured.

He said that on noticing the leak, two operators, D. Madhusudan Rao(52) and G. Ramaprasad (48) rushed to plug it. But they fell unconscious and died soon after. Fire fighting personnel from nearby factories and the state fire brigade helped plug the leak. Police said that 40 people were admitted to local hospital.

Rao said that negligence case was booked against the company. "We will take necessary action against the company management," he said. People in nearby Vakalapadu village complained of breathing problems.

#### **Building collapse: toll touches 22 – The Hindu**

Staff Correspondent

BELLARY: With two more bodies recovered from the collapsed multi-storeyed building in Gandhi Nagar locality in the city, the death toll has risen to 22, since the rescue operations were launched on January 26.

Meanwhile, the demolition of the collapsed apartment was under progress. Around 90 per cent of the building had been razed with the help of a concrete cutting machine, and several excavators were pressed into service to remove the debris to help search operations and to retrieve the bodies.

“The manner in which the multi-storeyed building collapsed is called as the ‘pancake’ situation and the chances of survival of those trapped in it is very remote. Eight days have passed since the collapse and we apprehend that only bodies will be retrieved,” Amrinder Kumar, Inspector of National Disaster Rescue Force, Vth Battalion, Pune, told *The Hindu*.

According to him, the rescue teams were finding it very difficult to undertake search and rescue operations because of the debris and broken concrete beams that were an obstruction. “Our team is trained to take up rescue operations. In Bellary, it is a different type of situation and we have gained new experience, which would be used in other similar disasters,” he said. The body of Balakrishna Murthy, a security guard, was retrieved this afternoon and another body was taken out in the evening. Still around six to eight bodies are feared to be trapped.