

# DISASTERS UPDATE

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## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### NATIONAL

Delhi hit-and-run victim bleeds slowly to death after getting no help from passers-by

**Source: The Times of India**

**Date: 11 August 2016**

NEW DELHI: After being hit by a tempo van and receiving no help whatsoever from its driver or passers-by, a Delhi man was allowed to bleed slowly to death in Subhash Nagar on Tuesday, ANI quoted Joint Commissioner of Police Deependra Pathak as saying. He added that a search for the perpetrators of the hit-and-run is under way.

"We are examining CCTV footage. All efforts to identify the culprits are on," assured Pathak while making a statement on the hit-and-run incident, which he called "inhuman."

The victim was a security guard, Pathak said. As he lay on the ground after being hit, the driver of the tempo fled. Then, in a remarkable show of callousness, a rickshaw-puller stole the dying man's cellphone. "No one helped him," Pathak remarked.

**Two of missing Bengal fishermen feared dead BoB**

**Source: The New Indian Express**

**Date: 11 August 2016**

KOLKATA: At least two of the 60 odd fishermen who went missing in the Bay of Bengal after their trawlers were caught in a storm are feared dead, a West Bengal minister said on Thursday.

Minister of Fisheries Chandranath Sinha said: "While all the trawlers that had gone missing have been rescued and most of the fishermen have returned, of the five still missing at least two are feared dead."

It is being feared that the two fishermen, identified as Badal Das (48) and Bibekananda Sarkar (38), must have fallen off their boats.

At least eight trawlers had left from Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas district, and were reported missing on Tuesday following which the Coast Guard had launched a massive search and rescue operation.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 10 killed in China road accident

**Source: Business Standard**

**Date: 11 August 2016**

At least 10 persons were killed and 20 others injured in a multiple-vehicle accident in China's Shandong province on Thursday.

The pile up occurred in Boshan district at around 8.20 a.m. when a truck collided with two buses, a car and a motorcycle on a village road, Xinhua news agency quoted the district government as saying.

The exact cause of the accident was being ascertained.

### 13 Premature Babies Killed In Baghdad Hospital Fire

**Source: NDTV**

**Date: 11 August 2016**

BAGHDAD: Thirteen prematurely born babies were killed in a fire that broke out early on Wednesday in a maternity ward in a Baghdad hospital and was probably caused by an electrical fault, Iraqi authorities said.

Eleven or 12 other babies and 29 women were rescued from the Yarmuk hospital's maternity ward and transferred to other hospitals, Hani al-Okabi, a member of parliament who previously managed a health directorate in Baghdad, told journalists after visiting the hospital and speaking to the management.

Firefighters and hospital staff took about three hours to put out the blaze that engulfed the ward, according to one medic. Yarmuk is a major hospital on the western side of the capital, with emergency care facilities among others.

"My son's birth was difficult," Shaima Hussein, one of the grieving mothers, told Reuters TV at the gate of the hospital. She said she was not given a chance to rescue her newborn.

"I came with milk powder for him, and then this happened ... They shut the electricity and the doors," she said.

Hassan Omar said he was upset that the hospital would not give him information about his twins other than that he may have to have DNA checks to check if they were among the dead.

"I went to the other hospital, they are not there, so where are they?" he said.

Health Minister Adila Hamoud offered to resign if the investigation proved that the fire was caused by negligence at her department. She also announced in a statement the sacking of the hospital director.

The incident intensified public accusations of state corruption and mismanagement.

Pictures posted on social media showed the hospital in a state of neglect, with cockroaches crawling out from between broken tiles, dustbins overflowing with rubbish, dirty toilets and patients lying on stretchers in the courtyard.

The relative of a patient who died recently in the hospital from meningitis said he saw a cockroach crawling along the tube of an oxygen mask. "It was so dirty," he said. "We had to bring our own bed sheets."

Thirteen years after the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, the oil-rich Arab state still suffers a shortage of electricity, water, schools and hospitals.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has been trying for more than two years to tackle corruption in Iraq, which ranks 161 out of 168 on Transparency International's Corruption Index, but has encountered resistance from much of the political elite.

Graft has exacerbated the effects on the economy of a sharp decline in oil revenue caused by falling crude prices and the costs of fighting ISIS, the terrorist group that has controlled large parts of northern and western Iraq since 2014.

## **Fires ravage southern France, Portugal; 4 dead, scores flee**

**Source: The Hindu**

**Date: 11 August 2016**

Multiple fires form a column marching toward the Mediterranean port city of Marseille, on Wednesday, hundreds of miles away, a fire swept overnight into Funchal, the capital of Portugal's Madeira Islands.

Fires whipped by high winds ravaged swaths of southern France and Portugal, killing at least four people, burning scores of homes and forcing the evacuation of thousands, including tourists.

In France, multiple fires formed a column marching toward the Mediterranean port city of Marseille, yesterday. Hundreds of miles away, a fire swept overnight into Funchal, the capital of Portugal's Madeira Islands, killing three elderly people and leaving more than 300 with minor burns and smoke inhalation.

#### Forest watchman burnt alive

A forest watchman was killed on the mainland during the night when one of more than 100 blazes engulfed the caravan he was sleeping in 150 kilometres (95 miles) north of Lisbon.

Two people were reported injured, one seriously, as the fire in southern France moved toward Marseille, fire-fighters said, and 20 to 25 homes were burned. At least 2,700 hectares (6,670 acres) of land were devastated.

#### Four fire-fighters suffer burns

Four fire-fighters were injured, three seriously, battling a separate blaze in the nearby Hérault region after bringing under control a fire in an industrial area outside Marseille that stocks oil and petrochemicals.

The Marseille airport rerouted incoming flights to make way for fire-fighting aircraft, while officials in Marseilles, France's second-largest city, were bracing for flames that risked lapping at its doors, and the airport warned flights risk delays or cancellations on Thursday.

Thick layers of ochre-coloured smoke dimmed the afternoon skies of sun-drenched Marseille, while black plumes rose above Vitrolles and Pennes-Mirabeau.

#### 'Really like the end of the world'

"It was a scene really like the end of the world," Caroline Vidal, a Vitrolles resident told iTele TV, describing the scene as she fled her home to her grandmother's house and saw people running on the highway to escape.

Assistant Prefect Yves Rousset, asked at a pre-dawn meeting with reporters in Marseille, whether the fire might reach France's second-largest city overnight, said, "We can never say there will be no risk, but we're doing everything so it doesn't." Fire-fighting aircraft were restarting duty at daybreak, while the battle continued on the ground.

#### Multiple blazes

Fire-fighters in both countries battled multiple blazes fanned by high winds and fed by brush in a hot, dry summer, considered fire season in both countries. A full 186 wildfires were counted on Wednesday on Portugal's mainland.

But the blazes were exceptionally powerful in both countries, roaring through Madeira and southern France at the height of the tourist season, a mainstay of the economy of Madeira islands, off northwest Africa.

Portugal's untrammelled wildfires

Portugal's National Civil Protection Service reported 14 major wildfires burning out of control in mainland Portugal where almost 4,500 fire-fighters were in action in a massive operation, supported by 28 water-dumping aircraft and 1,300 vehicles. Desperate, the government requested help from other European Union countries.