

# DISASTERS UPDATE

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## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### 4 hospitals fail fire safety test, dept. keen on punishing violators

August 18, 2016, The Hindu

In the fourth month of random inspections by the Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department, four hospitals including the administration block of the newest hospital in the capital, the ESI Corporation in Sanatnagar found themselves in the dock for lacking mandatory fire safety infrastructure.

The ESI's new building apart, Paramitha Children's Hospital at Saroornagar, Srikara (Sanatnagar) and Matrix (Ramanthapur) also got prosecution orders here on Wednesday. The exercise is part of a resolve to check buildings coming under the department's ambit and available in its database for fire safety norms with the computer generating inspection sites and choosing officers too, for the task.

It was taken up once issue of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) renewal was made online and once in five years rather than once a year. Surprise inspections on 116 buildings from May across the State revealed that 23 buildings violated fire safety standards. Educational institutions, function places and hospitals form the bulk of violators.

"There is more awareness and desire among citizens about fire safety and compliance now. There is better clarity too, on the rules and implementation within the department and outside. The message that surprise inspections are a reality has been accepted by everyone," explains DG Rajiv Ratan.

He says that 93 NOCs were already issued online and claims that permissions and renewals take less than a month, pending random inspections. Weekly mock drills are also being carried out in all hospitals to help spread alertness and responsiveness. "Our focus is on public buildings of hospitals and schools where the old, the infirm and children are vulnerable in case of fire," he points out.

Although there has not been a single case of anyone being imprisoned so far under the Fire Services Act, Mr. Ratan insists that the department is quite serious about taking punishment

to the logical end of a month's imprisonment and fine of not less than Rs. 5,000 if prosecution notices are ignored by building owners.

#### Inset 1

The Haj House has been asked to take up necessary infrastructure to make the fire safety compliant. Since it was built before the year 2000, it does not come under the Act yet. But considering that it will be packed during the Haj season, officials were asked to get sprinklers and fire extinguishers installed, at a cost of over Rs. 60 lakh. Meanwhile, a fire tender will be stationed all through the season, Mr. Ratan said.

#### Inset 2

The department has stationed over 600 personnel armed with six boats, life jackets, lights, ropes and other paraphernalia to assist the district administrations of Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar to help pilgrims taking a dip during the ongoing Krishna Pushkarams.

## **Rise in dengue, malaria cases after heavy rain: BMC**

TNN | Aug 18, 2016, 01.13 AM IST

Mumbai: The heavy downpour in first week of August has led to a major increase in the number of [malaria](#) and suspected [dengue](#) and leptospirosis cases across the city, according to a civic report.

The [BMC](#) insecticide department has also detected breeding of malaria and dengue mosquitoes in 3,300 spots across the city.

The report stated that malaria cases have nearly trebled, from 100 to 290, in the second week of August. Suspected dengue cases jumped from 154 in the first five days to 321 in the second week but only 26 could be confirmed through laboratory tests, said BMC sources.

A BMC official said that majority of the dengue cases were reported from Ramabai Nagar, Barve Nagar, Golibar road, Vakola Datt Mandir road, Tagore Nagar, Kannamwar Nagar, Worli BDD chawl, Kajupada and Rajendra Nagar in Borivli, Mulund colony and Savarkar Nagar.

However, not many cases of dengue-related [complication](#) have been reported this year.

Suspected leptospirosis cases also saw a rise from 56 to 83 from August 8 to 14, while 209 cases of gastroenteritis were reported.

During the door-to-door surveillance, over 2000 cases of fever were detected. "If you are diagnosed with malaria or dengue, it is necessary to complete the full course of medication, as advised by the doctor," said the BMC official.

The BMC insecticide department had collected around Rs 3lakh as fine for failure to prevent mosquito breeding in July, said officials. The amount of fines collected has exceeded Rs25 lakh now, they added.

## **Temple roof collapses, 2 die**

**TNN | Aug 18, 2016, 01.37 AM IST**

Faizabad: Two devotees in [Ayodhya](#) died on Tuesday after the roof of a temple collapsed under them.

The roof of 'Yadav Mandir' fell when about a dozen devotees were sleeping on the terrace. Most devotees are visitors at the ongoing [Sawan](#) fair. According to the administration, two devotees died and about a dozen were injured. The critically injured ones have been shifted to KGMU's trauma centre.

## **Five die in a road mishap at Vile Parle, Mumbai**

**TNN | Aug 18, 2016, 09.08 AM IST**

MUMBAI: Five, including a woman, died after the Honda City they travelled crashed on to a tree on service road in Vile Parle (east) on the Western Express Highway early morning on Thursday. The accident occurred at around 5am when the car was heading towards South Mumbai when it lost control near Milan Subway. Motorists passing from the spot called the police control room and informed about the incident. Police are getting information of the purpose of the five who were on way to south Mumbai and has alerted their family members. Police yet have to identify two who died in the mishap. Four of them—Muzzamil Kamosiya (22), Rashida Shaikh (25) and two others—were declared dead before admission in the hospital while the one Juniad Shaikh (22) died with severe injuries while undergoing treatment few hours after the accident. "The incident, according to motorists, occurred because the Honda City was driven at high speed and suddenly lost control. We are awaiting for report to know whether those died where driving drunk" said a police officer of the Vile Parle police station.

The incident occurred when the car tyre brushed the side divider of the service road and rammed in to a tree. "The car travelled like a rocket to 8-9 feet high and crashed down killing four on the spot while fifth died while undergoing treatment," said the police.

All the five are Mira Road resident. A case will be registered against the one who was driving rash.

Case registered against Muzzamil Kanosiya, the driver, who is among the five deceased in the accident.

## **Rain fury kills seven in Madhya Pradesh**

**TNN | Aug 18, 2016, 11.37 AM IST**

Bhopal: Seven people were killed in flooding and incessant rain in Madhya Pradesh while thousands have been shifted to safer places in Rewa and Satna districts. Heavy rain in the last two days have crippled life in the region with several roads being washed away and settlements flooded.

Two casualties have been reported in past 24 hours from these districts; rain have also claimed two lives in Umaria and three in Shivpuri each taking the total casualties in the state during the past 24 hours to seven.

About 700 people living in the urban area of Rewa have been shifted to safer places and conditions are worse in Teothar tehsil of the district where at least 40 villages are submerged, said sources. On Wednesday evening the officials started shifting villagers from the 40 villages of Teothar tehsil and around 800-900 people are to be shifted. The problem is due to the increase in water level of Tamas river and its backwaters. Tamas river and Belan river flows mostly in adjoining areas of Uttar Pradesh meet near Teothar and due to increase in water levels of these rivers, the backwaters lead to submergence in several villages, said sources.

A 40-member strong State Disaster Relief team reached Rewa on Tuesday and a team from Gwalior has also arrived on Wednesday, said sources. Similarly in Satna, around 300 people have been shifted to safer places. "Mainly the people from the low lying areas of town have been shifted, but in rural areas some villages are under submergence like Birsinghpur, however the water has started receding, now. But we are on alert," district collector Satna, Naresh Pal told TOI.

He added, "Overflowing Tamas river is leading to submergence but as rain intensity has gone down situation is returning to normalcy".

"One death was reported on Tuesday and information about a teenager being washed away from a village in Nagaud has been received but it is yet to be confirmed," Pal said.

In another incident a father and daughter duo, died after a house caved in at Umaria district. The incident took place at Karkati village under Pali police station of the district early morning hours. Gandhu Singh, 45, and his daughter Poonam Singh, 15, were sleeping when their house caved following rains in killing both on spot, said police.

Likewise, in Shivpuri district, three youth who went for a bath in Anand Sagar pond under Karera police station were also missing.

## **International**

### **80,000 flee monstrous California wildfire**

**August 18, 2016, The Hindu**

It tore through canyons and flew over ridges in every direction with astonishing speed, sending flames 80 feet skyward and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes.

The Southern California wildfire that began as a small midmorning patch of flame next to Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass had by Tuesday's end turned into a 28-square-mile monster that had burned an untold number of homes.

"This moved so fast," said Darren Dalton, 51, who along with his wife and son had to get out of his house in Wrightwood, a mountain town of 4,500 popular with skiers in winter.

"It went from 'have you heard there's a fire?' to 'mandatory evacuation' before you could take it all in."

Shannon Anderson of Blue Mountain Farms horse ranch in Phelan had to load up and evacuate 40 horses as the fire approached. "It's raining ash," Mr. Anderson said, breathing hard.

They were among more than 82,000 people from over 34,000 homes were under evacuation orders.

*Compiled by  
Dr.AD Kaushik*