

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

Mud house collapses, three dead

TNN | Aug 19, 2016, 10.01 AM IST

Varanasi: Three members of a family were buried alive and four children received injuries when their mud house collapsed in heavy rains at Pure village in Mirzamurad area on Thursday.

4 dead, 3 hurt as oil tanker rams auto

TNN | Aug 19, 2016, 09.54 AM IST

Vijayawada: Four persons were killed on the spot and three injured seriously when an auto in which they were travelling to Kovvuru town from Tadepalligudem was hit by a speeding oil tanker at Bangarampet junction on Thursday.

Negligent driving and drowsiness of the oil tanker driver was said to be the cause of the accident. Luckily, oil-tanker was empty when the incident took place. Police said eight persons, including the driver, were travelling in the ill-fated auto. The police said the auto was on its way to Kovvur from Tadepalligudem and collided with the oil tanker coming in the opposite direction.

While three of them died on the spot, another succumbed to injuries while being shifted to hospital in an ambulance. The three injured persons were shifted to hospital in Rajahmundry. The deceased are yet to be identified.

Six collegians drown in Sabarmati River near Prantij

TNN | Aug 19, 2016, 06.03 AM IST

Palanpur: Rasload village of Sabakantha district plunged into mourning on Raksha Bandhan day when six youngsters from the village drowned in Sabarmati river in Galteshwar on Thursday.

The victims, all aged between 20 and 21 years, were all studying in various colleges in the district.

HS Parmar, deputy mamlatdar, Prantij taluka, told TOI: "Of the six, two went inside the river to take bath. However, they started drowning and four others plunged inside to save them. However, they were also pulled away into deep waters."

Bihar hooch toll rises to 15

The Hindu, August 19, 2016 01:59 IST

The death toll in the Bihar liquor tragedy reached 15 on Thursday while Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said spurious liquor could be "one of the reasons" for so many deaths in Gopalgunj.

"Though the post mortem reports have no evidence of alcohol, my hunch is that spurious liquor might be one of the reasons for so many deaths in Gopalgunj. Only after the viscera reports come in can anything be said," the CM told journalists in Patna.

He also appealed to the family members of those who died in the tragedy to come forward with their statements without any fear as "no action will be taken against them".

"Action will be taken against those who were manufacturing [spurious] liquor and selling it," asserted Mr. Kumar.

The Bihar Chief Minister added that if it was proved people had died due to the consumption of spurious liquor, the State government, as per the new excise law, would give Rs. 4 lakh compensation to their family members.

"Besides, we're keeping track of this incident very seriously...the Chief Secretary, the State DGP and the Principal Secretary of the Excise Department are taking action and even my office is constantly monitoring the situation," he said.

'Will not backtrack'

He also asserted that the government, "Will face such challenges come what may, but will not backtrack on total prohibition in the state."

However, expressing deep concern over the hooch tragedy in his home town Gopalgunj, the ruling alliance partner and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav asked the state government to, "Ensure stern action against those who were responsible for it."

Meanwhile, the death toll of the Gopalgunj hooch tragedy on Thursday reached 15 as two more people died in a government hospital.

International

7.3-magnitude quake in South Atlantic

PTI, August 19, 2016

A German earthquake monitoring centre says that a 7.3 magnitude quake has occurred in the South Atlantic on Friday.

The Potsdam-based German Research Centre for Geosciences, or GFZ, says the quake struck the South Georgia Island Region at a depth of about 10 kilometres (6.2 miles).

The site is about 1,500 miles east of the southern tip of Argentina.

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