

# DISASTERS UPDATE

[www.nidm.gov.in](http://www.nidm.gov.in)

Date: 23.08.16

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### 18 kids injured as truck ploughs into schoolbus

TNN | Aug 23, 2016, 12.42 AM IST

KOLKATA: Blood of schoolchildren spilled on the city road once again as a sand-laden truck rammed into a bus and toppled it over in [New Town](#) early on Monday morning. The accident left 21 injured — three of them are still recuperating in the hospital — but the situation could have turned for the worse had not some passersby rushed to the rescue of the kids.

A shiver ran down Honey [Sahani](#)'s spine when she heard a crashing sound and saw a bus keel over from the impact of a heavy-duty truck on Street No. 687, barely 500 metres from Akanksha Crossing. She was on her way to drop her son to school. For a moment, she went blank. When realization dawned on her, she realized many children were trapped inside the bus. They were screaming for help.

"By the time I could even act, a few people had already gathered at the spot and were trying to break open the rear windshield of the bus," she recollected. Some of them picked up bricks and started to hammer the glass hard. Few of them tried to break in from the front.

Sahani picked up four injured kids and rushed to the nearest hospital. She admitted two in the hospital and dropped the other two at the school. One of them was Devansh, the three-year old kid with blood splattered all over his face. "He was whimpering and looking for his mother when I took him to my car. I could only pick up three more in my car. As they settled down, I rushed towards [Charnock Hospital](#)," she said.

According to police, the [Newtown School](#) bus was travelling towards [Eco Park](#) from the Rajarhat side when the speeding truck hit it at a crossing (see box). "I was driving straight to pick up some more students. Suddenly, I saw a truck rushing towards the bus from the right. The next thing I remember was a big jerk and the bus toppled to the left," said [Uttam Samanta](#), the driver of the bus. Sitting at the Charnock Hospital, with bandages on his knee and arms, Uttam's voice was still trembling. The truck driver fled the spot.

As the bus lay on its side on the road, the doors got locked. "There was no way kids could be rescued through the doors. We were lucky to be able to break the windshield. The kids were brought out of the rear windshield and the emergency door," said [Nazrul Mandal](#).

A [DPS Newtown](#) bus, which passed by the spot after the incident, informed Newtown School authorities immediately. "A team left for the spot in next 10 minutes. While five were admitted at the Charnock Hospital, three were taken to [Columbia Asia](#) Hospital.

There were 18 students inside the bus," said [Vineet Kansas](#), CEO of The Newtown School.

## **Fire safety norms: CMDA releases list of violators**

**Yogesh Kabirdoss | TNN | Aug 23, 2016, 02.36 AM IST**

CHENNAI: The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has released a list of 43 commercial multistorey buildings which have not complied with fire safety norms.

The buildings, which are largely situated in the business nerve centres of Parry's, Purasawalkam and T Nagar, had applied for regularisation under a scheme announced by the state government in 1999. According to CMDA, the action of the planning body follows a court order. "The court has directed us to bring violators to the notice of the public. So, we have uploaded the list on our website," a CMDA official said. The list mentions specific fire safety violations in the building premises including non-adherence to the suggestions of the fire and rescue services department of the state government.

While the installed firefighting systems were "not working" during an inspection in a building after completion certification was issued for it, there was no response from another proprietor who was asked to demolish unauthorised structures on the fourth and fifth floors. Of the 43 buildings listed, T Nagar tops with seven buildings, followed by Parry's and Purasawalkam. Two hospitals in Parry's and Besant Nagar also figure on the list. B Kannan, secretary of the T Nagar residents welfare association, said that in the event of a fire accident, rescue operations would be a herculean task.

Citing the example of textile showrooms at T Nagar, he said, "Most of the popular retail chains do not have windows. Hence, the probability of people suffocating is high in case of fire accidents." He also wondered how fire brigades would execute their rescue operations in the absence of setback area in the building premises. As per the information on the CMDA website, the applicants approached the committee seeking regularisation of their buildings, after the HC had appointed a panel to examine such applications a decade ago. M G Devasagayam, a member of the monitoring committee, said the proposal of the committee to constitute an enforcement mechanism, comprising officials from the Corporation of Chennai, commissioners of local bodies in the Chennai Metropolitan Area, CMDA, PWD, fire and rescue department and police, has fallen on deaf ears.

"Only such a mechanism under the direct control and supervision of the Corporation commissioner can effectively crack down on violators. This will prevent violations during construction. We have been insisting on it, but nothing seems to have moved on the ground," he said.

## **10 killed as bus falls in canal**

**TNN | Aug 23, 2016, 08.15 AM IST**



Ten persons were killed and 19 suffered serious injuries when a private bus, on its way to Kakinada from Hyderabad, fell into an irrigation canal near Nayakangudem of Kunamanchi mandal in Khammam district, in the early hours on Monday.

### **5.5-magnitude earthquake jolts Northeast**

**INTERNET DESK, , THE HINDU, August 23, 2016 09:27 IST**

A 5.5 magnitude earthquake hit northeast India on Tuesday morning, according to the Indian Meteorological Department.

The epicentre of the earthquake was in Myanmar and regions across the India-Myanmar border felt the tremors.

The earthquake occurred at 0741 hrs and there are no immediate reports of any casualties.

### **5 States reel under flood impact, Farakka gates to be opened**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, THE HINDU, August 23, 2016 14:05 IST**



Residents of Daraganj in Allahabad, U.P., use boats to move to dry ground on Monday after their neighbourhood got flooded by the Ganga. —PHOTO: AFP

The Ganga and many of its tributaries were in spate after torrential rain, and the monsoonal deluge left thousands of people in five States struggling to cope on Monday.

As the Ganga swelled, the Central Water Resources Ministry directed that all the flood gates of the Farraka barrage in West Bengal be opened to relieve the danger to Bihar.

Heavy rain over the last two days in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand caused several rivers—tributaries of the Ganga—to flood and rise to record levels. In Bihar, flood waters spread to Bhojpur, Buxar, Munger, Bhagalpur and Khagaria districts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed concern over the situation in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and promised the Centre's support for rescue and relief operations.

Mr. Modi spoke to Chief Ministers Akhilesh Yadav, Nitish Kumar and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, official sources said. Home Minister Rajnath Singh was closely monitoring the situation and had spoken to the Chief Ministers of the five states.

### **NDRF rescues thousands**

As a large number of people reeled under the impact of floods, more than 26,400 were rescued by the National Disaster Response Force. The NDRF put together an emergency operation with 56 rescue and relief teams and had two Deputy Inspector General-rank officers in Bihar and UP monitoring the situation.

The order to open the Farakka barrage was seen as crucial. “I spoke to the Bihar Chief Secretary,” Shashi Shekhar, Secretary, Water Resources Ministry said. “We have directed that all gates of the Farakka barrage be opened. This should help somewhat in managing the flood.”

The Farakka barrage has 104 gates and they are being opened to manage nearly 11 lakh cusecs of water that have inundated Bihar and affected nearly 10 lakh residents in the past week.

On Sunday, Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, had said that the Farakka barrage needed to be “removed” and a national desilting policy put in place to prevent flooding.

“It is not possible to protect Bihar from devastating floods without removal of the Farakka barrage on the Ganga,” Nitish Kumar said, before going on an aerial survey of the flood-hit districts.

The barrage, built in 1975 close to the Bangladesh border, was designed to transfer 1,100 cubic metres per second of water from the Ganga to the Hoogly to flush out sediments. However it has been controversial, with complaints that it is choking up the river’s natural flow and affecting aquatic life. The Centre says the States have to take a role in managing problems with the barrage.

People forced to move to relief camps in Bihar protested at some places as they could not get food and fodder. Many residents of Patna and adjoining Vaishali districts shifted to relief camps.

Similar protests by flood-affected communities in Nathnagar of Bhagalpur and Begusarai, Saran and Bakhtiyarpur were reported, over lack of government aid and relief. In West Bengal, nearly 200 people were left homeless as an entire village in Malda district was submerged by the Ganga on Sunday.

### **28 injured as bus falls into ditch**

**PTI, August 23, 2016 08:33 IST**

Twenty-eight people were injured when their bus met with an accident in Bihar’s Nawada district on Monday morning.

The official said the incident occurred when a private bus, on its way to Patna from Kolkata, fell into a ditch after its driver lost control over the vehicle.

The incident took place around 2:30 am near Rajauli check post of the district, he said. Forty-four passengers were in the bus.

All the injured have been admitted to Rajauli sub-divisional hospital for treatment, the police official said and added that the driver and the cleaner of the bus managed to escape from the site of incident. – PTI

# International

## **1,900 killed in Philippines anti-drug drive**

**REUTERS, August 23, 2016 23:57 IST**

More than 1,900 people, or about 36 per day, have been killed in a violent campaign against drugs in the Philippines since President Rodrigo Duterte came to office seven weeks ago, the country's national police chief said on Tuesday.

Director-General Ronald dela Rosa told a Senate hearing there was no declared policy to kill drug users and pushers and that about 1,100 deaths were still being investigated.

The rest of the dead were people killed in police anti-narcotics operations, Mr. dela Rosa said.

*Compiled by  
Dr.AD Kaushik*