

# DISASTERS UPDATE

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

Date: 31.08.16

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### AP govt promoting disaster risk reduction: HRD minister

TNN | Aug 31, 2016, 06.52 AM IST



Visakhapatnam: The Andhra Pradesh government is taking various measures to promote disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the state disaster management strategy, said HRD minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao, adding that schemes would be included in the DRR to enhance resilience and partnerships at the regional, national and global levels.

Addressing the gathering at the inauguration of the three-day joint disaster management exercise - - Prakampana -- at Samudrika Auditorium here on Tuesday, the minister said, "The state government has already formed the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) with a strength of 600 trained personnel on the lines of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). We are also busy with the land allotment process to set up a separate NDRF base in the city. It is also necessary to strengthen the SDRF at par with the NDRF. Chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has suggested the preparation of a blue book on the adoption of latest methodology to face and overcome disasters."

AP chief secretary Satya Prakash Takkar suggested that the National Disaster Management Authority to look into the requirement of an insurance mechanism in India similar to that in the US.

ENC chief vice-admiral HCS Bisht said the armed forces have always played instrumental roles in disaster management and relief. "They are the first responders in such situations because they have disciplined and trained manpower, equipment and available boats and ships. However, there is an immediate need to improve cooperation among all the stakeholders and people deployed on ground during a disaster," he added.

## Lightning kills 4 fishermen

TNN | Aug 31, 2016, 07.07 AM IST



*(Representative Image)*

GUWAHATI: Four fishermen died after being struck by lightning on Dandua Beel (pond) in Morigaon district of the state on Tuesday.

Three others, also fishermen, were critically injured.

Chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal expressed grief over the deaths and announced Rs four lakh ex gratia for the kin of the deceased. He also announced Rs 60,000 for the injured.

Sonowal also directed the deputy commissioner of Morigaon to make arrangements for the treatment of the injured.

## 9 new cases, city dengue tally at 96

TNN | Aug 31, 2016, 12.58 AM IST

Lucknow: Offices, work places and schools are turning out to be common hide-outs of the Aedes Aegypti mosquito which has left scores suffering from dengue this season. On Tuesday, nine new cases were reported by the district health office. With this, the dengue tally for the city has touched 96.

Talking to reporters, chief medical officer SNS [Yadav](#) said, "Dengue mosquito bites during the day time. It may be found more commonly in offices, work places, schools and parks than in homes. Therefore, it is important to use mosquito repellents in all these places."

Dr Yadav added, "People normally keep their homes clean but that is not the case with offices, schools or other work places. To protect oneself, office-goers and schoolchildren must use mosquito repellents, creams or lotions. Avoiding the bite is the best way to avoid dengue infection."

The general notion among people is that mosquitoes breed in drains and puddles on roads. However, Aedes Aegypti mosquito breeds in clean water in domestic containers, plastic bottles, disposable cups, coolers and flower pots,

## 7 killed as rains batter Hyderabad, chaos on roads

ToI, Aug 31, 2016, 10.45 AM IST

HYDERABAD: At least seven people were killed, three of them in a wall collapse near Hyderabad, even as heavy rains battered the city, disrupting the normal life.

While three people have died in Ramanthapur, four in Bholakpur due to heavy rains. City mayor Bontu Rammohan has ordered action against the contractor of the building whose wall collapsed due to rain. He has also announced Rs 1 lakh ex-gratia for the families of deceased.

The government has given permission to come one hour late to offices in the city to avoid the unforeseen incidents due to heavy rains in the city. Weathermen have forecast heaviest ever rainfall in 15 years in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the next three days.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Janardhan Reddy has appealed to denizens, except municipal employees and other emergency teams, not to travel for one hour in the city due to heavy rains.

He is also expected to meet with the chief secretary to review the situation. The areas affected include Nampally, Medicity Hospital, Adikmet flyover, Tilak Nagar Railway Bridge, Allagadabavi, Chilkalguda, Road No 10 Banjara Hills, KCP Junction, Afzal Gunj, ST. Anns School, Fever Hospital, Tolichowki X Road, Begum Bazar L&O PS, Nalgonda X road, AY Mandali, Panjagutta, Nagarjuna Circle.

Traffic slowdown was also witnessed at Balkampet X Road, Taj Krishna towards KCP, Road no 1/12, Sri Nagar T Junction due to heavy waterlogging.

Water has entered some houses in Yakutpura Qazipura.

### **Flash floods**

Reports added that heavy rains in parts of Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra Pradesh have resulted in flash floods, with many streams being full. Heavy inflows into dams and reservoirs were also reported even as the pilgrims have been affected in Tirumala. People in the backwaters of Pulichintala dam have been evacuated to safety.

## **Floods could have been averted, says HC**

**The Hindu, August 31, 2016 06:57 IST**



**The State is reluctant to take action, HC observed. —File Photo**

Observing that the State Disaster Management plan still remains on paper as a draft for six years, the Madras High Court, on Tuesday, observed that last year's December floods could have been averted if the plan was in place. The First Bench of Chief Justice S.K. Kaul and Justice R. Mahadevan made the observation on a batch of PILs to find out the reasons for last year's floods, and to remove encroachment in the waterbodies across the city.

"The plan should have been drafted into the provisions of the 2005 Act long time ago. The fact remains that after six years, the plan is still at the draft stage!" the Bench observed.

“Had the plan been done, possibly the situation which arose last year could have been avoided,” it noted. Pointing out that it had raised the issue of the upgradation of the Disaster Management Plan in its last order as it was of “vintage 2010”, the Bench said that the affidavit of the Revenue Department, the first respondent, only stated that the draft State Disaster Management Plan was prepared during 2010 as per the mandate of Section 23(1) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005,

According to the affidavit, it was shared with the National Disaster Management Authority and thereafter, updated by the National Disaster Management of Anna Institute of Management as per the National Disaster Management Authority guidelines. Commenting on the affidavit, the Bench said the plan was still in the draft stage.

Referring to the another affidavit filed by the Public Works Department (PWD), the Bench said: “Thus, on the one side, it has been contended that the reason for flooding was the growth of unregulated slum areas numbering 28 on the Banks of River Adyar and yet, on the other hand, there is reluctance to take action against the encroachments. We say so, as in respect of Buckingham Canal, which has been declared a waterway under the National Waterways Act, 2016.”

The submission of the State government was found unacceptable as the issue was again of the shrinking space of the Buckingham Canal on account of the encroachments. We also find that the authorities have stated that action was taken from January to March 4 to clear the banks of Adyar and thereafter, the State Elections intervened, it noted.

Pointing out that nothing has been said as to what had happened from the end of May till the end of August, the judges said: “This suggests that once again nothing has been done.” The Bench also directed the authorities concerned to file “a better affidavit” within a week and posted the petitions to September 7 for further hearing.

*Compiled by  
Dr.AD Kaushik*