

Office of the Special Relief Commissioner

Press Release

19.05.2020, 6.30 PM

As per bulletin of India Meteorological Department released at 5.30 PM today on 19.05.2020, the **Super Cyclonic Storm 'AMPHAN' (pronounced as UM-PUN)** over Westcentral Bay of Bengal lay centred at 02.30 PM of 19th May, 2020 as an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm about **360 km nearly south of Paradip** (Odisha). It is very likely to move north-northeastwards across northwest Bay of Bengal and cross West Bengal – Bangladesh coasts between Digha (West Bengal) and Hatiya Islands (Bangladesh) **close to Sundarbans** during Afternoon to Evening hours of 20th May 2020 with maximum sustained wind speed of 155-165 kmph gusting to 185 kmph

Rainfall: Light to moderate rainfall is very likely at most places of coastal Odisha with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Bhadrak Districts and isolated heavy falls over Jajpur, Balasore, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Khordha & Puri districts on 19th May and isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over north coastal Odisha (Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Keonjhar Districts) on 20th May 2020.

Wind Warning: Squally wind, speed reaching 55 to 65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph is prevailing along & off south Odisha coast and 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph along & off north Odisha coast. It is very likely to increase becoming 55 to 65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph along & off north Odisha coast by today evening. The wind speed will gradually increase becoming gale wind speed reaching 75 to 85 kmph gusting to 95 kmph from 20th morning along and off north Odisha coast (Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts). It will gradually increase thereafter becoming 100 to 110 kmph gusting to 125 kmph along & off the above mentioned districts of North Odisha.

Squally wind speed reaching 55-65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph likely to prevail over Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Jajpur districts of Odisha during 20th May 2020.

Sea Condition: Sea condition is Phenomenal and is likely to continue for next 06 hours over southern parts of Westcentral Bay of Bengal. It will become Phenomenal over northern parts of central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Bay of Bengal by today evening and over north Bay of Bengal on 20th May 2020.

Fishermen are advised not to venture into North Bay of Bengal along and off North Odisha, West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh coasts till 20th May 2020.

Damage Expected: Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore, Jajpur & Mayurbhanj districts.

- Total destruction of thatched houses/ extensive damage to kutcha houses. Potential threat from flying objects.
- Bending/ uprooting of power and communication poles.
- Major damage to Kutcha and Pucca roads. Minor disruption of railways, overhead power lines and signalling systems.

- Widespread damage to standing crops, plantations, orchards, falling of green coconuts and tearing of palm fronds. Blowing down of bushy trees like mango.
- Small boats, country crafts may get detached from moorings.

Preparedness Measures:

1. Concerned Departments of the Government and Collectors of 12 coastal and adjoining districts (Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj) have been alerted and advised to undertake required preparedness measures to effectively handle the disaster.
2. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has reviewed the preparedness on 16.05.2020 at 5 PM with concerned Departments and Collectors of 12 vulnerable districts.
3. The District Administration of vulnerable districts have been directed to keep Multipurpose Cyclone and Flood Shelters in readiness and to identify other suitable RCC roofed public buildings for use as safe shelters in case of requirement.
 - 634 MCS/MFS, excluding the Multipurpose Cyclone and Flood Shelters currently being used as TMC for COVID-19, and 7092 other permanent buildings with cumulative capacity to accommodate more than 12 lakh people, maintaining social distancing norms, are kept ready in 12 districts.
 - It has also been directed to arrange for Food, Drinking Water, Lighting, Sanitation and Health facility at each shelter and keep the Tower Light, and Chain Saw and other emergency equipment available in MCS/ MFS in readiness to meet any eventuality.
 - 486 no. of DG sets, 1513 no. of inflatable tower lights and 1497 no. of chain saws are kept in readiness at shelter level.
 - Arrangements are being made to divert the Inflatable tower lights available in Puri, Cuttack and Ganjam districts to Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts.
4. Collectors of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur have been instructed to take immediate steps to evacuate all people living in thatched, asbestos, tile or any other sloped roof houses, huts or in low lying areas in the possible affected areas to the nearest Multipurpose Cyclone/ Flood shelters or other identified safe buildings. It has been intimated to complete the evacuation process by 19.05.2020.

5. Collectors of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur have been requested to take immediate steps to remove all hoardings in ULB areas and roadside hoardings put in rural areas.
6. 4 Senior IAS Officers have been deputed to Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts to provide guidance and support to the District Administrations in management of the Cyclone.
7. Besides, 4 Senior IPS Officers have also been deputed to above mentioned 4 districts to provide guidance and support to the District Superintendent of Police for management of the cyclone.

8. Evacuation:

By 3.00 PM today about 35,000 people have been evacuated to the safe shelters. Further Information on evacuation is being collected.

9. Deployment of Disaster response forces

- 16 NDRF teams, 15 ODRAF teams and 217 Fire Service team have been pre-positioned in 6 coastal and 5 nearby districts.
- 75 teams of OFDC have also been deployed in 5 districts.
- Fire Officers and Deputy Fire Officers are deputed to each of the vulnerable districts for coordination among Fire Service Teams.
- Balance 3 NDRF, 5 ODRAF teams, 17 teams of Fire Service and 10 OFDC teams are kept in standby to be pressed into service.
- Additional 02 teams of NDRF from 10th Battalion Vijayawada have been mobilised.

10. Health preparedness:

- Mobile health teams have been organized for deployment to affected areas.
- Power back up arrangement has been made in all hospitals with sufficient quantity of fuel.
- Essential medicines, anti snake venom have been kept ready.
- Arrangements are made for screening all migrant workers in Temporary Medical Centres (TMC) located within 3 km of the coastline and to send the COVID negative cases to home quarantine and positive cases to COVID facilities immediately.

- Nodal Officers have been identified for districts and blocks for continuous monitoring of disaster response activities.
- Contingency plan have been made for opening of Medical Relief Centers and providing treatment to the trauma patients at health facilities.
- Plan for shifting of pregnant women from interior areas to delivery point/ Maa Gruha made.
- Contingency plan for sanitation is in place and stocking of bleaching power/ ORS/ Halogen tablets at PHC, CHC, DHHs and their availability up to ASHA level being ensured.

11. Electricity:

- Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) and Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) have taken advance action for mobilizing technical gangs and materials to take up the restoration immediately after the cyclone. Gangs with Gen Sets, gas cutters and vehicles are in readiness for immediate deployment.
- 340 no. of gangs each comprising 10 work men, 4305 no. of poles, 365 km of conductors, 116 KM of AB Cable, 115 no. of DTR, 3850 no. of insulators have been mobilized and prepositioned by CESU, NESCO and SOUTHCO.
- As power supply is likely to be shut down before the cyclone, the life line institutions including Government offices have been asked to make power back up arrangement (Genset with sufficient fuel).
- 24X7 Control room set up in OPTCL/ GRIDCO for sharing of information.
- District wise nodal officers have been allotted.

12. Telecom: The 2nd round of meeting with Telecom Service Providers was held on 18.05.2020. All the telecom operators have agreed to make all the DG sets functional with fuel reserve of 24 hours. They have also agreed to keep movable DG sets ready at central locations for movement in case of need.

All the TSPs have agreed to keep **Cell-on- Wheels** in readiness for deployment in case there is damage to mobile towers in district due to impact of AMPHAN. All the telecom operators were advised to be ready with adequate numbers of technical manpower for restoration of any affected telecom towers and Optical Fiber Cables (OFC).

13. Drinking water:

Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) Department:

- 236 DG sets kept ready for rural Pipe Water Supply (PWS) in 12 districts for uninterrupted water supply in absence of electricity.
- 805 vehicles loaded with PVC tanks and 74 water tankers are in readiness for use.
- 199 mobile repair units (each comprising two SEMs) and 106 local electricians are ready for taking up repair work on emergency basis.
- 2690 no. of overhead tanks are kept loaded with water.
- 1768 bags of bleaching powder are available for disinfection.

Housing & Urban Development Department:

- Adequate no. of DG sets and water tankers are prepositioned under the disposal of ULBs for ensuring uninterrupted water supply.
- 20 storage reservoirs are to be kept full by continuous pumping operation to ensure availability of adequate stock in 24 hours immediately after the cyclone.
- 113 DG sets, 95 tankers and 240 PVC tanks have been arranged for deployment in the ULB areas of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur and Mayurbhanj districts.

14. Fishery and Animal Husbandry:

- All 4115 number of boats went to sea for fishing have returned.
- 22050 number of boats plying in Khurdha and 6 coastal districts berthed in safe places like fishing harbour and fish landing centres.
- As on 18.05.2020, all fishing vessels have been safely anchored in their respective marine bases.
- Awareness campaign on protection of animal resources from possible cyclone situation launched in electronic as well as print media.
- Supply of required medicines and vaccines to the CDVOs for distribution to vulnerable areas expedited.
- People have been advised to shelter the cattle and domestic animals at safe places. In case of necessity, they can evacuate them to the ground floors of the multipurpose cyclone and flood shelters and other suitable buildings.

15. Agriculture:

- Agro based crop advisory, prepared by OUAT and Directorate of Agriculture for protection of matured and harvested paddy as well as non-paddy crops along

with other crop protection practices have been issued by the A&FE Department for wide circulation among the field functionaries and farmers.

- Crop advisory has been disseminated through All India Radio, Community Radio stations across the state and Door Darshan Kendras.
- Out of a crop coverage area of 2,65,800 hectares in north and south coastal districts 1,37,400 hectares have been harvested in a week time. Harvesting of the rest of the area is underway.
- Awareness camps and Mike Announcement will be done in different villages to take the harvested crops/ grains to a safer place and to cover the crops/grains in polythene sheets.

16. Water Resources: Following actions have been taken up by WR Department in view of the cyclonic event.

- 12 senior level Engineers are deputed to each of the identified 12 districts since 17.05.2020.
- All critically vulnerable and vulnerable locations of embankments are restored and sufficient flood fighting materials are in position.
- In view of anticipated rain fall, the major and medium reservoirs are depleted to 60 % capacity.
- The field Engineers are on high alert and in touch with District Administrations.
- Control rooms in each Division, Circle and CE Office are operational 24X7.

17. Rural Development: Executive Engineers of vulnerable districts have been instructed to take all precautionary measures with men, machine, roller etc. in vulnerable locations of different roads, so as to avoid any dislocation in road communication system.

18. Communication: The Collectors, State Disaster Response Forces and other officers having Satellite Phones have been directed to recharge and keep the phones ready for use. The Digital Mobile Radio installed in six coastal districts are also tested and kept ready for use for communication with Collectors, BDOs and others in case the telephone / cell phone networks are down due to cyclone. The V-sat communications at State HQ and in 3 districts (Khordha, Jajpur and Cuttack) are also ready.
