

Office of the Special Relief Commissioner

Press Release

16.5.2020, 6.30 PM

As per bulletin of India Meteorological Department released at 4.45 PM today on 16.05.2020, the depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal lay centred at 2.30 pm about 1040 km south of Paradip. It is very likely to intensify rapidly into a cyclonic storm during next 12 hours and further into a severe cyclonic storm during subsequent 24 hours and rapidly intensify into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm by 18th morning. It is likely to move north-northwest wards initially till 17th May and then re-curve north-northeastward across northwest Bay of Bengal towards west Bengal and adjoining Odisha coast during 18th - 20th May 2020.

Rainfall:

Coastal Odisha is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall at many places with heavy falls at isolated places from 18th May evening and heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places on 19th May and isolated heavy rainfall over north east Odisha on 20th May 2020.

Wind Warning:

Squally wind speed reaching 45 -55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is likely to commence along and off south Odisha coast from 18th evening and extent over north Odisha coast from 19th morning. The wind speed will gradually increase to gale wind speed reaching 75 -85 kmph gusting to 95 kmph from 20th Morning along and off north Odisha coast.

Sea Condition:

Sea condition will be high over south west and adjoining central Bay of Bengal from 16th may evening , and very high over the same region from 17th May morning. **Fishermen** are advised not to venture into the sea along and off Odisha coast from 18th to 20th May 2020.

1. Concerned Departments of the Government and 12 coastal and adjoining districts (Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj) have been alerted and they have been advised to undertake required preparedness measures to effectively handle the disaster. Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts have been instructed to remain fully prepared.
2. 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. They have been directed to make arrangement 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.
3. Disaster response forces
20 teams of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), 17 Teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 335 units of Fire and Disaster Management have been directed to be in readiness to be pressed into service.

4 NDRF teams, moved to Kendrapada, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur and Balasore districts

11 ODRAF units have been pre-positioned in 08 coastal and nearby districts.

Further deployment is being planned.

4. **Health preparedness:** Hospitals, mobile health teams have been organized for deployment to affected areas. Power back up arrangement has been made in all hospitals.
5. **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. 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).
6. **Telecom:** A meeting has been held with the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the State. TSPs have been asked to take advance action to arrange DG sets and store sufficient quantity of fuel to keep the mobile towers functioning if electricity supply is disrupted due to cyclone.

TSPs have also been asked to organize and keep some **Cell-on- Wheels** for deployment if required and adequate spares for restoration of telecom service.

Steps would be taken to send early warning messages through SMS to people of likely affected areas.
7. **Drinking water:** Generators have been organized for operating the rural piped water supply projects in absence of electricity. Tankers are also kept ready for supply of drinking water.
8. **Fishing:** The advisory of IMD for fishermen is being strictly implemented. There will be complete fishing ban from 18th. Fishermen on sea have been informed to come back to shore by 17th. This is being closely monitored. As per information received all fishermen in Dhamra area of Bhadrak district have already returned to the shore.
9. **Animal Husbandry:** 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.
10. **Agriculture:** Advisory for farmers has been issued to take action to protect the standing crops especially ripe summer crops. Agriculture field officials are in touch with farmers.
11. **Water Resources:** Some of the Medium reservoirs in the districts likely to be affected by the cyclone have been depleted keeping in view the heavy rainfall likely to be received due to the cyclone.
12. **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.
