

Office of the Special Relief Commissioner

Press Release

17.05.2020, 06.30 PM

As per bulletin of India Meteorological Department released at 5.15 PM today on 17.05.2020, the Severe Cyclonic Storm ' **AMPHAN**' over central parts of South Bay of Bengal has further intensified into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm and lay centred at 2.30 PM about 960 km south of Paradip. It is very likely to intensify further into a Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm during next 24 hours. It is very likely to move nearly northwards slowly during next 12 hours and then re-curve north-northeastwards and move fast across northwest Bay of Bengal and cross West Bengal – Bangladesh coasts between Digha (West Bengal) and Hatiya Islands (Bangladesh) during the Afternoon / Evening of 20th May 2020 as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm.

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

Wind Warning: Squally wind speed reaching 45 to 55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is likely along and off south Odisha coast from 18th evening, extended to along & off north Odisha coast from 19th morning. 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. It will gradually increase thereafter becoming 110 to 120 kmph gusting to 135 kmph along & off North Odisha coast.

Sea Condition: Sea condition will very high over central parts of south Bay of Bengal and adjoining central Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours. It will become phenomenal over southern parts of central Bay of Bengal from tonight, over northern parts of central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Bay of Bengal on 19th May and over north Bay of Bengal on 20th May 2020. **Fishermen** fishermen are advised not to venture into north Bay of Bengal along and off North Odisha, West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh coasts during 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 Hon'ble Chief Minister 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. Excluding the Multipurpose Cyclone and Flood Shelters currently being used as TMC for COVID-19, a total of 567 no. of MCS/MFS and 7092 no. of other

permanent buildings with capacity to accommodate nearly 11 lakh people, maintaining the social distancing norms, has been identified in 12 districts.

4. Further, 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. 486 no. of DG sets, 1513 no. of inflatable tower light and 1497 no. of chain saws are kept in readiness at shelter level.

5. 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 are in readiness to be pressed into service.

10 NDRF teams and 15 ODRAF units have been pre-positioned in 6 coastal and 4 nearby districts.

Further deployment is being planned.

6. **Health preparedness:** Hospitals, mobile health teams have been organized for deployment to affected areas. Power back up arrangement has been made in all hospitals.
7. **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).
8. **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.

9. **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. A total of 163 no. of DG sets for rural PWS, 725 no. of PVC tanks, 339 no. of vehicles for carrying PVC water tanks and 37 no. of water tankers are in readiness in 12 districts. Further, 79 no. of local electricians are also kept standby for emergency repair.
10. **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.

- 11. 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.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.
