

Office of the Special Relief Commissioner

Press Release

18.05.2020, 6.30 PM

As per bulletin of India Meteorological Department released at 5.30 PM today on 18.05.2020, the **Super Cyclonic Storm 'AMPHAN' (pronounced as UM-PUN)** over west-central and adjoining central parts of South Bay of Bengal lay centred at 2.PM of today, the 18th May, 2020 about **730 km nearly south of Paradip (Odisha)**. It is very likely to move nearly northwards for some more time and then 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 the Afternoon / Evening of 20th May 2020 as an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm with maximum sustained wind speed of 165-175 kmph gusting to 185 kmph.

Rainfall: Coastal Odisha is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall at many places from today evening with heavy falls at isolated places over coastal Odisha (Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur & Kendrapara Districts) on 18th May, 2020. Rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places over north coastal Odisha (Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak & Mayurbhanj Districts) and isolated heavy falls over Khordha & Puri districts on 19th May and isolated heavy rainfall over north Odisha (Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Keonjhar Districts) on 20th May 2020.

Wind Warning: Squally wind speed reaching 45 to 55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is likely to commence along and off south Odisha coast from 18th evening, increase becoming 55 to 65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph extend 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 (Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts). It will gradually increase thereafter becoming 110 to 120 kmph gusting to 135 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 will be Phenomenal over west-central and adjoining central parts of south Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours. It will become Phenomenal 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 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.

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.
 - 600 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 nearly 12 lakh people, maintaining social distancing norms, have been identified 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.
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 that as far as possible, the evacuation should be completed today (18.05.2020) and if some people are left over, they may be shifted to the shelter on 19.05.2020 (FN), unfailingly.
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 by 18.05.2020 positively.
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. **Disaster response forces**
 - 20 teams of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF),
 - 19 Teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and

- 335 units of Fire and Disaster Management are in readiness to be pressed into service.
- 13 NDRF teams, 15 ODRAF teams and 217 Fire Service teams have been pre-positioned in 6 coastal and 5 nearby districts.
- Fire Officers and Deputy Fire Officers are deputed to each of the vulnerable districts for coordination among Fire Service Teams.
- Balance 11 (6 NDRF and 5 ODRAF) teams are kept in standby to be pressed into service. 10 Fire Service Units with 100 manpower are also kept in standby.

8. 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 by 18.05.2020 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.

9. 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.
- 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.

10. 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.

11. Drinking water: Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) Department has kept 164 DG sets for rural Pipe Water Supply (PWS) in 12 districts for uninterrupted water supply in absence of electricity. 724 PVC tanks, 325 vehicles for carrying PVC water tanks and 69 water tankers are in readiness for use. 155 mobile repair units and 103 electricians are ready for taking up repair work on emergency basis. 1568 bags of bleaching powder is available for disinfection.

For urban areas, H&UD Department has prepositioned adequate no. of DG sets and water tankers under the disposal of ULBs for ensuring uninterrupted water supply. Further 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 numbers of tankers have been arranged for deployment in the ULB areas of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur and Mayurbhanj districts.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.
