

Ministry of Home Affairs
Disaster Management Division
(National Emergency Response Centre)

Brief regarding depression over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal (Cyclone Alert for Tamilnadu and Puducherry coasts- Yellow Message) as on 23rd November, 2020.

1. IMD Forecast:

- a) The Depression over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestwards with a speed of 11 kmph during past 06 hours and lay centred at 1130 hrs IST of 23rd November, 2020 over the same region, about 520 km east-southeast of Puducherry and 560 km southeast of Chennai. It is very likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm during next 24 hours.
- b) It is very likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm during next 24 hours. It is very likely to move northwestwards and cross Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram around 25th November 2020 afternoon as a severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph.

(ii) Heavy Rainfall Warning

Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall/thunderstorm activity very likely over Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal during 24th to 26th November and over south Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema during 25th to 26th and Telangana during 26th to 27th November, 2020. Isolated extremely heavy rainfall activity also very likely over Tamilnadu & Puducherry (**Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Karaikal, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Ariyalur & Perabalu** districts during 24th and **Kadalur, Kallakurchi, Puducherry, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Chengalpattu to Ariyalur, Perambalur and Karaikal** districts during 25th) and over south Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Rayalaseema (**Nellore and Chittoor districts**) on 25th & 26th and over Telangana on 26th November, 2020.

(iii) Damage expected over and Action suggested:

- a) Major damage to thatched houses/ huts with possibility of roof tops being blown off and Unattached metal sheets may fly.
- b) Damage to power and communication lines.
- c) Major damage to Kutcha and some damage to Pucca roads. Flooding of escape routes.

- d) Breaking of tree branches, uprooting of large avenue trees. Severe damage to banana and papaya trees, horticulture and crops & orchards. Large dead limbs blown from trees.
- e) Major damage to coastal crops.
- f) Damage to embankments/ salt pans.

2. Steps taken by Central Government:

- i. Situation is being closely monitored 24x7 at highest level.
- ii. Cabinet Secretary today chaired a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review the status of impending Cyclone through video conferencing with the Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
 - The Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry briefed the NCMC about their preparedness and mentioned that the authorities are fully prepared to meet any eventuality. They also informed about the coordination with the NDRF and other agencies to meet this challenge.
 - DG, India Meteorological Department made presentation on the present situation and mentioned that the status is being shared with the concerned State Governments. He mentioned that the impending Cyclone is going to affect coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry between 24th to 26th November, 2020.
 - The Cabinet Secretary mentioned that we all are aiming at zero loss of life and early restoration of normalcy in the affected areas. He mentioned that the advisories to fishermen not to go into the sea should be strictly implemented. People living in 'kutcha' houses may be advised suitably according to the situation, he added.
 - Secretaries from Home, Power, Telecommunication, Civil Aviation, Shipping, Health Ministry, Chairman, Railway Board, Member Secretary, NDMA, DG, NDRF and representative of Ministry of Defence also informed the NCMC about the arrangements and assistance to the concerned states.
- iii. Since 23.11.2020 special message and advisories received from IMD have been regularly shared with States/UT Concerned for taking precautionary and preparedness measures.

iv. Deployment of NDRF

BN	States/UT	Standby Teams	Teams alerted/ pre-positioned	No. of Teams
04 Bn	Tamilnadu	BHQ Arakkonam -03 Teams	Chennai	02
			Madurai	01 (On the way)
			Cuddalore	06
	Puducherry		Karaikal	01 (On the way)
			Puducherry	02 (On the way)
10 Bn	Andhra Pradesh	BHQ Guntur – 12 Teams	Vishakhapatnam	03
Total		18 Teams	Total	15

All teams have reliable wireless & Satellite communications, tree cutters/ pole cutters for post land fall restoration, if need arises.

3. Steps taken by State Governments: -

Andhra Pradesh-

- i. National Weather Bulletins being received from IMD are being communicated to all the districts.
- ii. All the district collectors have instructed to take necessary steps for preparedness to take mitigation measures.
- iii. Besides the APSDMA is also giving the weather local forecast to all the district collectors from time to time for taking appropriate action at the instant.

Tamil Nadu –

- i. District Collectors have been alerted through e-mail and Whatsapp.
- ii. Warning /Alert Message received from IMD was also communicated to all the Monitoring Officers and other Higher Officials through e-mail and Whatsapp.
- iii. Warning /Alert Message was posted in TNSMART APP (2,33,202 users) and TWITTER (52000 followers) handle for the use of general public.
- iv. Instructions issued by the Chief Secretary to Government, Government of Tamil Nadu that Senior I.A.S officers have been deputed to the coastal and most vulnerable districts for monitoring the situation.
- v. Special instructions to District Collectors:-

- To get the tanks inspected to identify any breaches and get them plugged.
- To ensure that all the storm water drains, culverts and bridges are desilted.
- To make a quick assessment of the need to evacuate people from the vulnerable areas and make necessary arrangements.
- To ensure that the relief centres comply Covid -19 safety measures.
- To arrange to shift the people living in weak buildings to safe places.
- To issue necessary caution to the general public about snapped EB lines
- To depute Police and Revenue personnel to monitor the water bodies and sea shore to turn away people.
- Local bodies shall keep adequate number of pumps, pumpsets to bale out water from residential areas.
- Generators to be arranged for ensuring uninterrupted drinking water supply in the event of a disaster.
- Inter departmental zonal monitoring teams and first responders to be in the state of readiness.
- General Public shall be asked to keep essential items including batteries and torch lights to last for a week.

Puduchery-

- i. The bulletins and advisory issued by IMD had been disseminated to all ESF/Line Departments regarding Pre-Cyclone Watch for Puducherry and Karaikal through SEOC.
- ii. Control room opened by all ESF Teams and Line Departments and manned 24 x 7.
- iii. Fishermen warning have been issued through Fisheries Department.
- iv. A meeting has been convened on 23.11.2020 (Monday) at 11.00 AM by Special Secretary (Relief & Rehabilitation) - cum- Director, State Emergency Centre with all ESF Team Leaders/ Line Departments.
- v. Task Force Team has been constituted to all Villages headed by Tahsildar.
- vi. Relief shelters are kept ready.
- vii. Central kitchen are kept ready for providing food.
- viii. Port and Fisheries department are monitoring the situation and control rooms are manned 24 x 7.
- ix. Coast guard is requested to be alert.
- x. Fire and municipalities are alerted.
