Preparedness

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

Health and drinking water
Hospitals, mobile health teams have been organized for deployment to affected areas. Power back up arrangement has been made in all hospitals. 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, 359 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.

Electricity and telecom
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.

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.

12 districts in Odisha are on high alert!

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.

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.

Cyclone 'Amphan' intensified into a super cyclonic storm on Monday and is likely to move across the northeast Bay of Bengal, and cross the West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts between Digha and the Hatia island on May 20, the IMD said
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.

Further, district administrations 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 chainsaws are kept in readiness at shelter level. 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.

Highlights

- Ersama, Balikuda, Kujang blocks are in high alert for Jagatsinghpur District. Similarly, high alert to Dhamera, Chandbali and Basudevpur Block in Bhadrak area. In Jajpur, 10 blocks are in high alert list
- Collectors of alerted districts have initiated the evacuation of people from thatched houses or kutcha houses to nearest cyclone shelters.
- 4 most efficient IAS officers are allocated for the strict monitoring of the situation in the most vulnerable districts of Odisha
- Migrant Entry to the vulnerable districts has been prohibited till 21st May, 2020
- Those who have tested negative for COVID-19 and have a pucca house, will be discharged
- 200 officials of forest services and senior officials from other departments have also been mobilised
- Expectant women and other people with an illness which need medical attention will be shifted to the nearest hospital by tomorrow.
- 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
- All the Tractors, JCBs and instruments are kept Standby for clearance of road
- All the work for Cyclone rescue operations are being conducted maintain social distance