The severe Cyclonic storm Amphan weakened into an extremely severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal Tuesday afternoon as it rolled towards the Indian shores in West Bengal and Odisha where lakhs of people were evacuated from vulnerable areas and shifted to safety. The storm expected to make landfall in Bangladesh coasts between Digha and the Hatia island on May 19, the IMD said.

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 prepositioned in 6 coastal and 5 nearby districts.

Health and drinking water

Mobile health teams have been organized for deployment to affected areas. Contingency plan have been made for opening of Medical Relief Centers and providing treatment to the trauma patients at health facilities. Arrangements are made for screening all migrant workers in Temporary Medical Centres (TMC) located within 5 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. Plan for shifting of pregnant women from interior areas to delivery point/ Maa Gruha made.

Electricity and telecom

24X7 Control room set up in OPTCL/ GRIDCO for sharing of information. 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. Steps have been taken for mobilizing technical gangs and materials to take up the restoration immediately.

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 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!

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.
All 4115 number of boats went to sea for fishing have returned. 22050 number of boats plying in Khurda 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.

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. Crop advisory has been disseminated through All India Radio, Community Radio stations across the state and Door Darshan Kendras

**Highlights**

- About 500 people evacuated from Gajapati in the landslide affected areas
- 4 districts (Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak and Balasore have initiated evacuation of people from all kutcha houses withing 5 KM from the coast.
- Jajpur & Puri district have been kept in alert for evacuation and if needed will do it.
- All evacuation work to be complete by today afternoon
- About 250 Water tankers and 700 trucks with PVC tanks have been kept in readiness in all these districts
- About 70 teams from Fire department and forest department are also kept in readiness for deployment as per the need.
- VHF sets are being deployed to maintain emergency communication in Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak and Balasore districts
- Looking at the covid situation all response teams have been alerted to maintain social distancing and use of PPE.
- In case of need domestic animals will be relocated to the ground floor of the multipurpose disaster shelters to be used for keeping the evacuated people.
- SMS based alerts are being sent to the people in all would be affected districts.
- 20000 persons have been evacuated in Odisha till 3p.m of 19.5.2020.