

Press release

The Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority met under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. O. Panneerselvam to review the preparedness of the State for the impending Cyclone "Vardah" today at Secretariat at 4.00 pm on Sunday, the 11th of December, 2016.

The Hon'ble Revenue Minister Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar, the Chief Secretary to Government Dr. P. Rama Mohana Rao, IAS, Adviser to Government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, IAS(Retd.), Thiru. Apurva Varma, IAS, Prl. Secretary - Home, Thiru. K. Phanindra Reddy, IAS., Prl. Secretary- Municipal Administration & Water Supply, Dr.Chandra Mohan.B, IAS, Secretary - Revenue, Thiru. S.K Prabhakar, Prl. Secretary - PWD, Tmt. Sabitha, Prl. Secretary – School Education, Thiru Rajeev Ranjan, Addtl. CS - Highways, Thiru Shiv Das Meena, IAS, Prl.Secretary - Public, Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Secretary- Agriculture, Animal husbandry dairying and fisheries, Dr. K. Satyagopal, IAS., State relief commissioner and CRA, Thiru. S.George, IPS - Commissioner of Police, Chennai, Thiru. R.C. Kudawla, IPS - Director Fire services, Dr. D. Karthikeyan, IAS.,Commissioner – Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai participated in the meeting.

After a detailed review of the preparedness of the state machinery and the situation arising out of the impending cyclone "VARDAH", the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued the following instructions:-

- Senior IAS officers appointed as Monitoring Officers for Chennai, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Villupuram to be present in the districts to oversee and monitor cyclone related works in close coordination with the District Collectors.
- District administration and all field officers put on high alert. Field officers/area wise nodal officers positioned in the field to closely oversee the preparedness, rescue and relief works.
- Arrangements to be made for Evacuating people in low lying and vulnerable areas. Relief centres to be kept in readiness along with necessary food, water and other arrangements.
- Army, Navy, Air-force and Coast Guard have been alerted to be on standby for deployment as and when necessary.

- NDRF, SDRF, Fire and Rescue services department personnel already pre-positioned shall be immediately utilized wherever necessary for rescue and relief operations.
- Teams to be deployed with adequate equipment like Power Saws and transportation for removing fallen trees and restoring traffic.
- All local bodies are put on alert and asked to make arrangements for supply of chlorinated drinking water and to fill up all OHTs for ensuring drinking water supply.
- Adequate number of Pump sets and Generator sets to be mobilized to bale out water in low lying areas and also to maintain essential services in the event of power disruption.
- Health department to take measures to organize special camps and to pre-position generators, emergency supplies, medicines and oxygen cylinders in Government hospitals.
- Private hospitals to take all contingency measures to ensure safety and well being of their patients including provision of power back up, oxygen cylinders, emergency supplies and water supply to meet any eventuality during the cyclone.
- All Government, Government aided, private schools, colleges and other educational institutions in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and coastal taluks of Villupuram districts will remain closed on 12/12/16. They should take necessary steps for ensuring the safety of their students especially hostel inmates and their water and food requirements.
- All private establishments/undertakings in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and coastal taluks of Villupuram districts advised to permit their employees to avail holiday/permission or work from home on 12/12/16.
- TANGEDCO (Electricity Board) to take all precautionary measures including disconnection of power supply to ensure safety of the people. Adequate men and material to be mobilized and kept ready to restore any disruption in supply.

- All fishermen instructed not to venture into the sea. Boats to be mobilized for rescue in case of flooding.
- Highways and Minor Ports Department to keep the subways clear and maintain road connectivity.
- Traffic police to ensure free flow of traffic in close coordination with Greater Chennai Corporation.
- Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation to make all necessary arrangements for Chennai city including added areas and keep relief centres ready.
- CMWSSB (Metro Water) to ensure drinking water supply, all manholes are properly covered, UGSS is functional, pumping stations are operational, Sewer Lorries and Super suckers are deployed for clearing stagnant water in coordination with GCC.
- PWD to monitor and manage water ways and water bodies and keep the river mouths open to ensure water flow into the sea. Sand bags and poles to be kept ready in various places to attend to emergencies.
- AAVIN to make necessary arrangements for ensuring supply of milk to the affected areas.

Advisory to be issued to People to

1. Stay indoors during the heavy rains and not allow Children to venture out, to swim or play in water bodies and stagnant water.
2. Stock adequate food stuffs, medicines and drinking water at home and use them judiciously. Keep overhead tanks particularly in multistoried buildings filled up, so as to plan for the contingency of power disruption due to rain.
3. Keep emergency lights and mobile phones charged. Stock adequate quantities of candles and matches.
4. Go to relief centres as and when advised to do so by officials.
5. Avoid using personal vehicle like two wheelers and cars during the cyclone.

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