

Sitrep-1: Cyclonic Storm, VARDHA 12th December 2016

A. SITUATION REPORT

The very severe cyclonic storm, VARDHA is in the process of crossing the north Tamil Nadu coast close to Chennai as a severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 100 to 110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph as on 12th December, 2016. Over 9,400 people living along coast in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district evacuated to relief camps, 7357 evacuated in Tamil Nadu whereas 02 casualties are reported from Chennai.

Source: IMD, BULLETIN NO.: 44 (BOB 06/2016), IAG-AP, IAG-TN and Medias

B. IMPACT OF VERY SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM, VARDHA:

IMPACT & WARNING FOR TAMIL NADU AND ANDHRA PRADESH:

- 02 killed, 190 trees uprooted , 37 electric poles damaged , major powercuts in city, 200 roads blocked in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- All operations at Chennai Airport suspended till 3 pm
- South Central Railway has cancelled some passenger trains between Sullurpeta and Chennai in view of the cyclone.
- Massive uprooting of trees reported from Northern Tamil Nadu.

Impacts on Infrastructure: Not reported

Warning:

- **Heavy Rainfall Warning:** Rainfall at most places with isolated heavy to very heavy falls over south coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, north coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry is very likely during next 12 hrs. Heavy to very heavy rainfall (7-19 cm) at a few places and isolated extremely heavy rainfall (≥ 20 cm) very likely over Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts of Tamil Nadu and Nellore and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh during next 12 hours.
- **Wind warning:** Gale winds speed reaching 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph very likely to prevail during next 06 hours along & off Chennai & Thiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu and Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. Squally wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph very likely to prevail over remaining districts of north Tamilnadu & Puducherry and south Andhra Pradesh coasts during the same period.
- **Sea condition:** Sea condition will be phenomenal all along the coasts of Chennai, Thiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu and Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh during next 06 hours.
- **Storm surge :** The tidal (storm surge wave of about one meter height above the astronomical tide is very likely to inundate the low lying areas of Chennai and Thiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh associated with landfall.

- **Damage Expected:** Damages to thatched huts/houses.
 - Roof tops may blow off.
 - Unattached metal sheets may fly.
 - Minor damage to power & communication lines.
 - Breaking of branches and uprooting of trees.
 - Major damage to Kutcha and damage to Pucca roads. Damage to paddy crops, banana, papaya trees and orchards, Flooding of escape routes over Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts of Tamil Nadu & Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh
- **Action Suggested:** Fishermen are advised not to venture into sea along & off south Andhra Pradesh, north Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts during next 24 hrs. Coastal hutment dwellers are advised to move to safer places
- **Post Landfall Outlook:**

(a) Even after landfall, the system is likely to maintain its cyclonic storm intensity for next 06 Hours and weaken gradually thereafter. Under its influence, rains at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at few places very likely to continue in Chennai, Thiruvallur & Kanchipuram districts of north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh during next 12 hrs after landfall. Winds speed reaching 65-75 kmph gusting to 85 kmph likely to continue over these districts during next 06 hrs after landfall and gradually decrease thereafter.

(b) As the cyclone moves inland north Interior districts of Tamil Nadu and Rayalaseema may also experience heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places during next 24 hours after land fall and squally winds reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph likely during next 12 hrs after the landfall.

(c) People are advised to remain in safe places and cooperate with state government officials and disaster management agencies.

Source: IMD-BULLETIN NO.: 44 (BOB 06/2016), IAG-AP, IAG-TN and Medias

C. RESPONSE BY GOVERNMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

Government Response:

- India's labor department has also issued an advisory instructing companies to allow employees to work from home.
- Over 9,400 people living along the Bay of Bengal coast in SPS Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh were evacuated to safer places from 255 low-lying areas
- Schools and colleges remain closed in Chennai, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur districts and the coastal areas of Viluppuram district in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- More than 170 relief camps have been set up in Chennai and National Disaster and Reponse Force (NDRF) teams have been deployed to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Humanitarian Response:

- Inter Agency Groups (IAGs)-Tamil Nadu and IAGs- Andhra Pradesh is closely monitoring the situation.
- IAC, Committee Coordination Telecon meeting on very severe cyclonic storm, VARDHA was held on 2-3pm on 12th December, 2016 at national level (Sphere India) to take account on the impact of the situation.

Source: IAG-Manipur WhatsApp Group and Media

D. KEY CONTACTS

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***Disclaimer:** Sphere India is compiling the information and makes every effort to verify the information contained in its Situation Reports. As the ground situation changes rapidly in emergency situations, users should check with concerned agencies before making any decisions based on the information provided in this report.*