

## Preparedness of Flood Situation (South West Monsoon) in Tripura - 2021

### Background:

The average rainfall of Tripura is 2241.8mm per year. This year, the monsoon arrived the State on 6 June, 2021.

IMD forecast shows that the South West monsoon seasonal rainfall (June-September) for North East region likely to be less than 95% of long period average rainfall which is below the normal average. The seasonal pre-monsoon (March-May) rainfall received by the State was 61% of below normal. During April 2021, the state has received 85% below normal rainfall and during May, 2021, the average was 50% below the normal. However, for the month of June, 2021, the probability of rainfall likely to be above normal.

Agartala is situated at 15mtr above the mean sea level. All the districts are prone to floods both normal as well as flash floods. About 40% of the geographical areas are vulnerable to floods and most of them are low lying.

### Flood preparedness:

For preparedness of South-West Monsoon and Kalbaishakhi, the State level coordination meeting held on 9 March 2021 with all line departments, key agencies and district administrations. Similarly, all the district administrations also reviewed the district level Kalbaishakhi and Monsoon preparedness at the district level.

PWD(WR) and Central Water Commission have their gauge stations in all major rivers (i.e. in Haora, Katakhal, Gomti, Khowai, Manu, Dhalai, Muhuri, Feni, Juri, Kakri and Deo rivers) for providing flood forecasting. North East Space Application Centre (NESAC) has also developed Flood Early Warning System for Dhalai, Gomti, Manu, Haora and Khowai to provide flood early warnings during monsoon.

IMD Agartala station provides weather forecasting, nowcasting and rainfall status on regular basis.

State and District Emergency Operation Centres are functioning on 24x7 basis. Besides, ERSS Control Room (112) is also functioning for any emergency response and coordination. The Incident Command and Control Centre (ICCC) is functioning in IT Bhawan for providing real time water inundation and flood water drainage in major locations of Agartala city.

A standard checklist has been provided to all districts for ensuring flood preparedness at the district levels.

The daily online situation reporting is being updated at sub-division, district and state level on daily basis.

The State has total 176 boats including 120 motor boats, which are available at districts, sub-divisions, TSR Bns, Fire Services, Training Centre (CTI) and other key agencies. Besides, motor boats are also available with NDRF teams.

All DMs have been requested to keep readiness of wooden boats at vulnerable locations for immediate response.

Besides boats, other 40 types of critical equipments are also available at different locations. Trained volunteers and officials have been identified for operating and maintaining those equipments.

Two teams of NDRF stationed at Agartala and Kumarghat for responding to any flood situation.

Adequate fund (SDRF) is available with the district administrations for immediate rescue and relief operations.

All the districts are having district disaster management plans that includes vulnerable locations, resources, key personnel, roles and responsibilities of key agencies and departments, flood shelters, guidelines and standard operating procedures for handling disaster situations in the districts.

Considering the present COVID situation all district administrations have been requested to identify more flood shelters and adopt appropriate COVID-19 behavior during flood response.

India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) is being updated monthly basis at the district level for mobilization of equipment and trained manpower at the time of need.

PWD(WR) has been requested to check the vulnerable embankments and take immediate safety measures. The department was also advised to keep adequate sand bags, cement boulders and flood protection materials at strategic locations for immediate restoration.

Key line departments like health, PWD(R&B), power, drinking water, urban development, food and civil supplies, fire services, telecommunications have been advised to take flood preparedness measures at their end.

Disaster safety awareness are being generated on floods, cyclones, lightning, landslides for the general public through print, social and electronic media regularly.