

# Cyclone 'Titli' intensifies into severe storm, Odisha govt starts evacuation

**BHUBANESWAR, OCT 10** /- With cyclone 'Titli' over the Bay of Bengal intensifying into a very severe cyclonic storm and moving towards the coast on Wednesday, the Odisha government began evacuation of people in five coastal districts. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who took stock of the situation, asked the collectors of Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts to go for an immediate evacuation of people in the low-lying areas in the coastal belt.

Chief Secretary A P Padhi said the district administration of Ganjam has already started evacuating people in Gopalpur area, where very severe cyclone 'Titli' is likely to make a landfall at about 5.30 am Thursday. So far, about 1,000 people have been shifted to safer place, he said. Padhi said immediate evacuation was being launched in view of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast of a tidal surge of about 1 m during landfall of cyclone 'Titli'. The chief secretary said the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) personnel have already been positioned in vulnerable districts. "We have not yet sought help of Army. If required we may go for it," Padhi said replying a question. The chief minister has also asked the authorities to ensure "zero casualty" and keep the cyclone shelters ready for housing the people during disaster. Patnaik has also ordered closure of all schools, colleges

and anganwadi centres on Thursday and Friday in view of the IMD's forecast of heavy to very heavy rainfall across the state. The college students union elections, earlier scheduled to be held on Thursday, have also been cancelled. The IMD said cyclone Titli moved at a speed of about 15 kmph during last six hours over west-central Bay of Bengal and laid centre at about 280 km south-southeast of Gopalpur in Odisha.

The storm is likely to move north-northwestwards and cross Odisha and adjoining north Andhra Pradesh coast between Gopalpur and Kalingapatnam around Thursday morning, it said. Thereafter, it is likely to re-curve northeastward, move towards Gangetic West Bengal across Odisha and weaken gradually, said Director of the Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar, H R Biswal.

While several areas in coastal Odisha were lashed by rain on Wednesday, the IMD has forecast "heavy to very heavy rainfall" at several places and "extremely heavy rainfall" at isolated areas till Thursday under the impact of the very severe cyclonic storm. Districts like Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jajpur, Bhantrasak and Balasore are expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall till Thursday, the IMD said. It also forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall for Kandhamal, Boudh and Dhenkanal district from Thursday.

**Odisha Congress opens help cell**

**BHUBANESWAR, OCT 10** /- The Odisha unit of Congress on Wednesday opened a 24-hour emergency cell to help the people likely to be affected by the cyclone 'Titli', which is fast approaching towards the coastal areas of the state. Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik, in a release, said the round-the-clock help cell will start functioning for a week from the evening of October 10 till October 16.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi had on Tuesday urged the party's state unit to extend help to the people in the affected districts can contact on the mobile numbers - 7609852131, 8895203001, 9861011962, 7008799364, 9348161633, 8847858020, 9937948868 and 9237010939. Cyclone 'Titli' is likely to make a landfall at about 5.30 am on Thursday, Odisha chief secretary A P Padhi said. (PTI)

till Thursday, it said. Storm surge of height of about 1 metre above astronomical tide is very likely to inundate the low-lying areas of Ganjam, Khurda and Puri districts, it said. The IMD advised total suspension of fishing operations and shifting of coastal hutment dwellers to safe places. Fishermen along the Odisha coast, and central and North Bay of Bengal were advised not to venture into sea till Friday.

In view of adverse weather conditions, it has advised hoisting of local warning signal LW-4 at all ports of Odisha. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) B P Sethi said the Odisha

government was prepared to face the possible floods in view of the heavy rainfall across the state. Sethi said the state government has already informed the Air Force and Indian Navy about the situation and may take their help if required. Around 300 motor boats have been arranged to assist in rescue operation. There is a likelihood of flood situation due to

likely to make a landfall between Gopalpur in Odisha and Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh early Thursday morning at a speed of 145 kmph. The minister said he has instructed all district collectors to keep a tab on the market as a section of traders are allegedly attempting to hoard essential items. The government will take stringent action against the hoarders, he said.

"There are sufficient food materials in the state and the people should not go for panic buying in view of the cyclone," Patro said. There is no need to procure more and people should purchase the required quantity of provisions, he added.

Meanwhile, the apex body of traders in the state 'Odisha Vyabasyi Mahasangha' spokesman Sudhakar Panda said "The market has enough food items in store. There should be no panic buying." He said the traders have been asked not to sell items like potatoes, onions and other items at high prices. "The people are requested to inform the Mahasangha if anyone charges more prices on commodities," Panda said adding that the people may also lodge complaint with the district collectors.

People, especially in the coastal areas of the state were seen buying extra quantities of vegetables and other food items and even fuel in view of the cyclone. They are also demanding additional diesel for the generators to operate water pumps. Commodities like candles and torches are also in high demand. (PTI)



IndiaOil executive director (West Bengal state office) Dipankar Ray handing over renovated school building, filtered drinking water facility, computers, furniture and sound system to the management of Bipin Smriti Samiti Abitanik Prathamik Vidyalaya, Budge Budge, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal recently—EOL Photo

## Police can't enter Puri's Jagannath temple with guns, shoes: SC

**NEW DELHI, OCT 10** /- The Supreme Court said Wednesday that no policeman should enter the Jagannath temple at Puri "with weapons and shoes" after the issue was brought to its notice following the October 3 violence at the famous shrine. A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta took note of the violence which took place during a protest against the introduction of queue system for devotees at the temple. A lawyer, representing an organisation which has filed an application for intervention in the matter, alleged in the Apex Court that during the violence, policemen had entered the temple with guns and boots on.

"Last time, in Golden Temple, the Army had entered. We know that," the counsel said. To this, the bench said, "Do not compare it with Golden Temple." In June 1984, Indian Army had carried out operation Blue Star, ordered by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, to remove religious extremist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his armed followers from the Golden Temple complex.

The bench then asked the counsel appearing for the Odisha government, "Tell us, is it a fact that police has gone there with guns and all?" The Odisha government's counsel termed the allegations as "absolutely false" and said no policeman had entered the temple as the incident had taken place at the office of Shree Jagannath temple administration which is situated around 500 metres from the main temple. He told the bench that the administration's office was

attacked and ransacked during the violence and 47 persons have been arrested so far. The lawyer representing the temple administration also told the bench that no policemen had entered the temple and a mob had attacked their office and destroyed several files lying there.

The bench asked the counsel appearing for the parties to file their responses to the plea filed by the organisation seeking to intervene in the matter. "You file your reply. Please tell the police not to enter there with guns and boots," the bench told the state's counsel. During the hearing, the state government told the bench that situation there was under control and no violence had taken place inside the temple premises. "We make it clear that no policemen should enter the temple with weapons and shoes," the bench noted in its order and posted the matter for hearing on October 31.

Nine policemen were injured in the violence that had taken place on October 3 during a 12-hour bandh called by a socio-cultural organisation protesting the introduction of a queue system for devotees visiting the Jagannath Temple, police had said. The dawn-to-dusk shutdown in the seaside town called by Sri Jagannath Sena had turned violent as a mob barged into the shrine, uprooted barricades erected on Baisi Pahacha and near Singhadwara and ransacked the office of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), they had said. (PTI)

## Tripura govt revises pay structure of employees

**AGARTALA, OCT 10** /- The Tripura government on Tuesday revised the pay structure of its two lakh employees with effect from October 1 this year and claimed that it is on a par with the 7th Central Pay Commission. The revised pay scale was prepared based on recommendations made by a committee headed by former Assam chief secretary P P Varma, chief minister Bipin Kumar Deb told a press conference. The recommendations were submitted to the government on Friday and accepted in a special cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Deb said. The BJP had pledged for implementation of the 7th Pay Commission for the employee before the assembly election.

"The (previous) left Front government left a burden of Rs 11,000 crore. Despite that, we could fulfill the demands of the employees. We implemented our promises in a tough situation," he said. He said 9 per cent DA is still pending for the employees, but that chapter is yet to be closed.

As per the revised scale, minimum pay at the entry level of the pay matrix would be Rs 18,000 per month for Group-C employees and Rs 16,000 for Group-D employees. Fixed pay employees would get benefits at par with regular employees under the revised salary structure. Deputy secretary P V Varma, chief minister Bipin Kumar Deb told a press conference. The recommendations were submitted to the government on Friday and accepted in a special cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Deb said. The BJP had pledged for implementation of the 7th Pay Commission for the employee before the assembly election.

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# CLW observes World Mental Health Day



**CHITTARANJAN, OCT 10** /- World Mental Health Day was observed by Family Welfare department of K. G. Hospital (KGH), Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) on Wednesday at K.G. Hospital seminar hall.

Dr Alok Majumdar, Chief Medical Officer gave a brief speech on importance of mental health of adolescence and youth as help of the mental disturbances

## Train related info in connection with "Titli"

**KOLKATA, OCT 10** /- In view of severe cyclonic storm "Titli" supposed to affect North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha Coasts, it has been decided not to allow train services between Khurda Road and Vizianagaram from both the directions after 10.00 pm on October 10 till further advice. Trains from Howrah/Kharagpur side (Trains supposed to go South direction) will not be allowed via East Coast Railway jurisdiction. Trains from Hyderabad/Visakhapatnam side (Trains supposed to go North directions) will not be allowed via Visakhapatnam and Khurda Road Divisions of East Coast Railway.

Long distance trains supposed to pass through East Coast Railway jurisdiction between Khurda Road and Vizianagaram, i.e. in Howrah-Chennai Main Line are being diverted. In view of the above, considering safety of passengers, it has been decided to regulate the following trains.

## Trains Cancelled

- 12773 (Shalimar - Secunderabad) AC Express journey commencing on October 10 will be cancelled.
- Diversion of Trains (via Kharagpur - Jharsuguda - Sambalpur - Rayagada - Vizianagaram)
  - 12504 (Agartala - Bengaluru Cant) Humsafar Exp. scheduled to leave Howrah on October 10.
  - 12841 (Howrah - Chennai) Coromandel Exp scheduled to leave Howrah on October 10.
  - 22831 (Howrah - Sri Satya Sai Prashanti Nilayam) Exp scheduled to leave Howrah on October 10.
  - 12863 (Howrah - Yesvantpur) Express scheduled to leave Howrah on October 10.

## Trains Re-scheduled

- 12839 (Howrah - Chennai) Mail has been rescheduled to leave Howrah at 8.00 hrs on 11.10.2018 instead of 11.45 pm of 10.10.2018
- 12660 (Shalimar Nagercoil) Gurudev Express has been rescheduled to leave Shalimar at 8.15 am on October 11 instead of 11.05 pm on October 10.
- Short Termination of Trains
  - 12254 (Bhagalpur - Yesvantpur) Anga Express will be short terminated at Howrah Station.
  - 12516 (Silchar - Thiruvananthapuram) Express will be short terminated at Howrah Station. (EOIC)

## Metro RPF recovers laptop



**KOLKATA, OCT 10** /- On October 9 around 12.50 am an on-duty RPF constable of Shovabazar - Sutanuti Metro Station recovered a left-behind bag containing a laptop. The constable deposited the same to the office of the station master. After sometime a lady passenger hailing from East Midnapore came to the station master's office at Shovabazar-Sutanuti station and inquired about the bag. After proper verification and written acknowledgement, the bag along with the laptop was handed over to the lady. She thanked and appreciated the RPF personnel for their alertness and for extending a helping hand to the commuters when needed. (EOIC)

## State Notes

### Woman bank official shot dead in car

**RANGIA, OCT 10** /- A woman bank official was shot dead inside her car by an unidentified assailant in Kamrup district near Guwahati on Tuesday evening, police said. When the chauffeur driven car slowed down at Agiathori area, a man on a motorbike wearing a helmet that covered his face broke window pane of the car and shot her from close range, police said. Her driver rushed her to a nearby hospital where she was declared brought dead. The woman was identified as Junu Sarma, an official of Dadara branch of a nationalised bank. The driver has been detained for questioning police said adding that the cause of the attack is not immediately known. Search for the assailant has been launched. (PTI)

### Inter-state gang of truck lifters busted

**Jajpur, Oct 10** /- With the arrest of four persons, police on Tuesday claimed to have busted an inter district gang of truck lifters. Two revolvers, four motor bikes and six mobile phones were recovered from the gang members, police said. Police arrested the four after the driver of a stolen truck reported to the vehicle owner that unknown miscreants had fled with the truck after assaulting him. Two members of the gang are still at large and they would be arrested soon, police said. (PTI)

### Expedite Naga peace talks: NPF

**KOIHMA, OCT 10** /- The Opposition Naga Peoples Front (NPF) has appealed to Naga national workers and the Centre to expedite the Naga peace talks and bring it to a logical conclusion. The appeal was made as part of the resolution of the NPF's 3rd Central Executive Council (CEC) meeting at Kohima on Tuesday.

The NPF also urged Naga national groups who have not joined the peace process to reconsider their decisions in the interest of the Naga people. Reiterating the party's stand on integration of all contiguous Naga areas, the CEC of NPF appealed to neighbouring states and communities to extend their cooperation in finding solution to the protracted Naga political issue. The CEC resolved to uphold the leadership of Shurohozele Liezietsu as party president and T R Zeiang as leader of NPF Legislature Party. It urged the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) government led by Neiphiu Rio to stop blaming the weather and repair the roads in the state. (PTI)