

## **DoT Holds Meeting With Telecom Infrastructure Providers on Readiness For Cyclone “Tauktae”**

**New Delhi, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2021:** Late evening today, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) held a review meeting with telecom infrastructure providers to take a stock of readiness to mitigate the impact of cyclone “Tauktae” which is likely to landfall at Gujarat coast on 18<sup>th</sup> May but also likely to impact some areas of States like Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa while passing due to heavy rainfall and winds.

This is the first cyclone of 2021 which is the nation going to face, likely to reach up to 150-170 kilometres per hour wind speed around 17-18<sup>th</sup> May.

In order to ensure uninterrupted telecom connectivity in these states Maharashtra, Mumbai and Gujarat, the Department of Telecommunications held a meeting with all the Telecom infrastructure providers and their representative body Tower & Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA). The meeting was chaired by Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary (Telecom), Department of Telecommunications and was also attended by the telecom operators along with various senior DoT officials including Shri TK Paul, DG Telecom and other officials from State offices.

**Mr. T. R. Dua, Director-General, Tower & Infrastructure Providers Association said,** “All our IP’s members have taken necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted connectivity in these areas which are likely to be affected by the cyclonic storm and all the background arrangements like additional DG sets, battery banks, spare parts, stocking of diesel are taken care of. Our IPs have also deployed additional restoration teams which are kept on standby mode for all major districts and areas likely to get impacted.”

**While Secretary (DoT) appreciated the efforts of the telecom industry including the infrastructure providers during recent cyclones, he further emphasized on readiness for “Tauktae” on account of:**

1. Availability of adequate Diesel at Telecom installations in the likely affected coastal districts of State(s);
2. Readiness of spare battery sets and other Telecom spares;
3. Availability of extra Cell on Wheels (CoWs)
4. Response and restoration teams who can be immediately moved to the impacted areas.

We have requested the DoT and are also in touch with these State Governments for unrestricted movement for man and material within and from one State to other, priority access to sites for our restoration teams and field staff and availability of adequate diesel supply on priority, **Mr.Dua further added.**