

DoT Holds Meeting on Readiness For Cyclone Nisarga With Telcos

New Delhi, 2nd June, 2020: Tropical storm "Nisarga", which is headed towards the coasts in Maharashtra, Mumbai and Gujarat, is likely to intensify into a cyclone in the next 12 hours and is expected to make a landfall close to Mumbai tomorrow.

This would be the first cyclonic storm to impact India's financial capital, which has logged over 41,000 coronavirus cases so far, since 1882.

In order to ensure telecom connectivity in Maharashtra, Mumbai and Gujarat, the Department of Telecommunications held a meeting with all the Telecom Service Providers, Infrastructure Providers, LSA's, Tower & Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA) and COAI.

Mr.T.R.Dua, Director-General, Tower & Infrastructure Providers Association said, All our IP's members have taken necessary steps to ensure connectivity 24/7 in the areas which are likely to be affected by the cyclone and all the background arrangements like additional DG sets, battery banks, spare parts, stocking of diesel are taken care off. Our IP's have also deployed additional rescue teams which are kept on standby mode for all major districts like to get impacted during Nisarga.

A storm surge - as high as two metres above the astronomical tide - will inundate the low-lying coastal areas of Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts during the landfall. It is expected that the storm may cause major damage to thatched houses, huts, power and communication lines and coastal crops.

We have requested the Chief Secretaries and DoT for unrestricted movement for man and material for inter-state movement, arrangement of issuing E-passes and availability of diesel supply, **Mr.Dua further added.**

In the meeting, the issue of Gujarat state needs to notify a tower policy that is aligned with Right of Way (RoW) rules was also stressed upon to ensure seamless network connectivity and hindering the rollout of essential critical telecom infrastructure across the state.