

NGT seeks compliance reports on rainwater harvesting

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a compliance report from authorities including the Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Development Authority, Public Works Department of the city government and four others on the functioning of rainwater harvesting systems in the national capital. The NGT had directed the authorities concerned in September 2019 to take measures like not installing rainwater harvesting systems (RWHS) near stormwater drains, closing deficient RWHS, installing instruments for monitoring the quality of recharged water and separating pollutants.

A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava noted the submission of the petitioner's counsel that the directions were not complied with.

The bench, also comprising judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel, said it was issuing notice to the authorities concerned.

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CHENNAI FELT MAXIMUM FURY OF CYCLONE MICHAUNG

Michaung weakens into depression, relief work on in affected areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMRAVATI/CHENNAI: Severe cyclonic storm Michaung that ravaged parts of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday has now weakened into a depression and moved northwards, said a Meteorological official on Wednesday.

The weather system is expected to move northwards and further weaken into a well marked low pressure area in the next six hours, the official said.

"The deep depression (remnant of cyclonic storm Michaung) over central coastal Andhra Pradesh moved nearly northwards with a speed of 11 kmph during the past six hours, weakened into a depression and lay centred at 5:30 am on December 6 near latitude 17.4 degrees north and longitude 80.5 degrees east," Amaravati Meteorological Centre head



Emergency services personnel rescue stranded residents from a flooded colony after heavy rainfall owing to Cyclone Michaung, in Chennai, on Wednesday PTI

Stella Kiran said.

Under the influence of the depression, the Meteorological Department forecast heavy rainfall, 64.5 mm to 115.5 mm, for the districts of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema and Eluru.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said his thoughts are with the families of those who have lost their loved ones due to Cyclone Michaung, and noted that

authorities have been working tirelessly on the ground to assist those affected.

Severe cyclonic storm Michaung made landfall crossing south Andhra Pradesh coast between 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm on Tuesday leaving its maximum fury to be felt on Monday in Chennai and adjoining areas in neighbouring Tamil Nadu. Southern districts of Odisha and eastern Telangana continue to be on alert.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu

Highlights

- » The Meteorological Department forecasts heavy rainfall for the districts of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema and Eluru
- » Michaung made landfall crossing south Andhra Pradesh coast on Tuesday
- » Tamil Nadu has sought an interim relief of Rs 5,060 crore from the Centre in connection with the damage caused by Cyclone Michaung

has sought an interim relief of Rs 5,060 crore from the Centre in connection with the damage caused by Cyclone Michaung, the state government said on Wednesday.

With a survey underway to assess the total damage, a detailed report will be prepared later and additional funds sought, an official release here said.

It said Chief Minister M K Stalin has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday seeking grant

of interim relief of Rs 5,060 crore and that the letter will be handed over to the PM by DMK MP TR Baalu.

DMK MP TR Baalu on Wednesday demanded that the floods caused by Cyclone Michaung in Tamil Nadu be declared as a national calamity, and sought the Centre's assistance to tide over the situation. "After 47 years this type of flood has occurred. Heavy damage has been inflicted on properties, and more than 17 people have died," he said.

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Michaung damages infra in AP, subsides

AMARAVATI

Severe cyclonic storm Michaung, which crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast near Bapatla on Tuesday and subsequently weakened into a cyclonic storm, left a trail of destruction in its wake.

Michaung is expected to subside into a deep depression over the next six hours, said an official. The storm damaged 770-km roads, uprooted 35 trees and killed three livestock, among others.

According to data shared by the CMO, nearly 40 lakh people from 194 villages and two towns were affected, including the inundation of 25 villages. Though there was no loss of human life on Tuesday, AP State Disaster Management Authority said a four-year-old boy died after a hut wall collapsed on him in Tirupati. PTI



A woman wades through a flooded street after heavy rains in Chennai, on Wednesday. — Photo: AFP (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 8)

Cyclone toll rises to 27, bodies found in flooded Chennai homes

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Vijayawada/Chennai: At least 27 people were feared dead until Wednesday as Cyclone Michaung wreaked havoc, causing intense rainfall and gale-force winds reaching nearly 100kmph after making landfall at Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday afternoon and curving northwards along the east coast of Bay of Bengal.

Andhra and Telangana reported five and two deaths, respectively, while the toll in Chennai and its adjoining areas rose from 16 to 20 with the discovery of four bodies in submerged homes over the past 24 hours. The cyclone caused substantial damage to standing crops and orchards in Andhra, while weather-related accidents resulted in five fatalities, including a constable engaged in relief and res-

cue in Kadapa district, crushed by a falling tree.

Chennai, grappling with widespread waterlogging and power cuts, experienced relief as the rain stopped. However, the city struggled with flood-related challenges, discovering bodies in submerged homes. The aftermath saw a substantial exodus of residents from flooded localities ferried to safety by rescue workers.