

Mumbai city to get a new early warning flood alert system on 12 June, 2020

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) along with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) are working together to develop a flood warning system for Mumbai city which would be capable of issuing weather alerts 72 hours in advance along with six-hourly *Nowcast* on immediate weather related updates.



According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), the flood warning system will be made available to BMC on 12 June 2020. The effectiveness of this early flood warning system developed for BMC can be practically tested during the next monsoon season. The early warning forecast would include alerts on rainfall information, tide levels, storm surge for low-lying areas anticipated to be affected, thereby minimizing the damage from

cyclones and heavy rain events in Mumbai by evacuating people to safe areas. In the last two years, researchers have been conducting studies to provide real-time weather information by measuring the city's rainfall, how much water has drained out and a host of other factors.

Dr. M Rajeevan, Secretary, MoES said that 4 X-band Doppler radars would be installed in 2021 which would enhance the long-range weather monitoring, detection and forecasts for weather conditions such as rain, cloud formation, thunderstorms and tropical storms, with ranges of up to 50–60 km. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these Doppler radars from the United States of America (USA) could not be shipped in time. At present two radars are made functional in Mumbai, one each in Thane and Navi Mumbai. Another major radar is functioning from the Regional Meteorological Centre in Colaba, which have a weather surveillance capability covering a radius of 300 km. The next second large radar is planned to be installed in Goregaon very soon.

