



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Disaster Management Department - State Disaster Response Fund Norms- Declaration of Coastal High - Tide Flooding/Sea Incursion as State Specific Disaster - Notified - Orders issued.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.5/2026/DMD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 30-01-2026

Read 1 G.O.(Rt) No. 6/2023/DMD dated 18.06.2023

2 G.O.(Ms) No.1/25/DMD dated 09.01.2025

3 Letter No. MTO IV/2037/2025Admin dated 12.10.2025 of Commissioner, Disaster Management.

ORDER

As per order read as 1st paper above, Government had revised the norms of relief assistance as approved by the Government of India in the wake of notified natural disasters with effect from 01.04.2022. State specific disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the notified list of disasters eligible for assistance from State Disaster Response Fund/National Disaster Response Fund, can be met from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) within the limit of 10% of the annual funds allocation of respective window of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

2. Damages caused by floods are treated as disasters and financial assistance is provided in accordance with the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms. However, since tidal rise is a routine natural phenomenon, it is not practicable to declare normal tidal rise as a disaster under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms, and hence financial assistance

cannot be provided under those norms. As per letter read as 3rd paper above, the Disaster Management Commissioner has clarified that the mode of occurrence of flooding (such as extremely heavy rainfall, tidal rise, waves, release of water from dams, urban water logging, swell waves, melting of snow layers, cyclone-induced abnormal waves, etc.) does not lead to any variation in the assistance provided. In this context, Section 2(d) of the Disaster Management Act provides that if flooding caused by tidal rise adversely affects a community and results in loss of life, livelihood, and living conditions, such a natural phenomenon can be considered a disaster.

3. As per the CRZ Notification, the High Tide Line (HTL) is the legally defined coastal line determined using precise scientific methods. Water intruding beyond the High Tide Line generally constitutes dangerous sea incursion exceeding the normal high-tide range. Due to high tide, seawater rises and enters residential areas through the adjoining rivers, backwaters and canals. Along the Kerala coast, particularly in areas such as Vypin, Chellanam, Edakochi and Perumbadappu in the Kochi Corporation Division and Kumbalanghi Panchayat, recurrent tidal flooding caused by seawater ingress occurs frequently in several coastal regions. This has been observed to cause extensive damage to residential areas and infrastructure. It is a serious natural phenomenon that directly affects the lives, livelihoods, and living conditions of fishermen, coastal agricultural sectors, coastal residents, and small traders. Therefore, based on the High Tide Line (HTL), the natural phenomenon termed “Coastal High-Tide Flooding/Sea Incursion” falls within the scope of the definition of “disaster” under the Disaster Management Act in our State and hence can be declared as a State-Specific Disaster. Due to deficiencies in land use (houses/structures located in floodplains and river/water body puramboke lands) and factors such as siltation and reduced depth of rivers and lakes, flooding problems are now occurring during tidal rise in a manner not previously experienced. Unlike

rainfall-induced flooding, tidal flooding is a hazard that can occur throughout the year, which further enhances the relevance of declaring it as a State-Specific Disaster.

4. The Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to order that the damages to life, property, livelihoods, and infrastructure caused by waves intruding from the sea to the land beyond the High Tide Line (HTL), or by the flooding resulting therefrom shall be termed as Coastal High-Tide Flooding / Sea Incursion and shall be declared as a State-Specific Disaster. Therefore the financial assistance, similar to that provided to natural disaster victims under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms and as per the Government Order read as 2nd paper above shall also be granted to victims of Coastal High-Tide Flooding/Sea Incursion.

(By order of the Governor)
M G RAJAMANICKAM
SECRETARY

To:

The Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, NDMA Bhawan, A-1, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029

All Secretaries of the Secretariat.

The Commissioner, Disaster Management, Thiruvananthapuram
The Resident Commissioner, 3, Jantar Mantar Road, Kerala House, New Delhi- 110001

The Principal Accountant General (Audit), Kerala

The Accountant General (A&E), Kerala

General Administration(SC)Department(Item No)

All District Collectors

All District Treasury Officers

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority

The Information officer, Web & New Media, I&PRD

All Departments

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