THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, AHMEDABAD, GOA, JAIPUR, AND KOLKATA

THURSDAY. 20 MAY 2021

Cyclone caused ₹15,000-cr loss; Guj & Diu worst hit

Partha.Sinha@timesgroup.com

S L Shanth Kumar

A cave-in on the promenade near the Gateway of India on Wednesday. Strong tidal waves owing to cyclone Tauktae destroyed the parapet wall of a jetty. The area around the cavity has been barricaded for now

Mumbai: Cyclone Tauktae is estimated to have caused a loss of about Rs 15,000 crore, that's slightly over $2 billion with the agriculture sector being the worst hit and Gujarat and Diu the most affected regions due to the strong wind and the resultant flooding. Infrastructure (mainly the ports along the western coast) and utilities (electricity and telecom) sectors have also been hit severely leading to such losses, a report by RMSI, a global consultancy firm working in the field of natural calamities, climate change etc., said in a report.

Among the states, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra have been partially affected by the cyclone which made a landfall along the Gujarat and Diu coastlines on Monday late evening. There are expectations that the frequency of such devastating cyclones could increase in near future.

According to Pushpendra Johari, Senior VP, sustainability, RMSI, Tauktae was a unique cyclone that impacted all the states and UTs along India's western coast.

Recent studies on climate change have highlighted the rising sea surface temperature in the Arabian Sea which would increase the frequency of cyclones in these regions, Johari said.

RMSI estimates that out of the total Rs 15,000-crore loss, at least half is expected in Gujarat and Daman & Diu.

About "25-40% losses are expected from the agriculture sector from all the above impacted states. Around 15%-20% of the total was from the transportation sector, primarily ports, and a similar loss share from the utility sector, primarily power and telecom," the report noted. The heaviest brunt was witnessed in Junagadh and Amreli districts in Gujarat and Diu.