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## PM announces Rs 1,000 crore assistance for West Bengal

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**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced an advance assistance of Rs 1,000 crore for Cyclone Amphan-hit West Bengal.

The announcement came after he undertook an aerial survey of affected areas with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar. The cyclone has so far claimed 86 lives.

He also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of deceased and Rs 50,000 for those who sustained serious injuries.

Speaking after an administrative review meeting with the chief minister and other senior state government officials, the prime minister said that Mamata has given him a detailed estimate of the damages caused by the cyclone.

"A central team will arrive in the state and conduct a survey of the affected areas. Together we will work on rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction. We will extend our full cooperation to West Bengal in these testing times," said Modi.



Damaged boats are seen partially submerged, in the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan, near Sunderbans area in South 24 Paraganas district of West Bengal, on Friday. PTI

The PM praised the state government for the effort taken to curb the spread of the coronavirus and dealing with a natural calamity like the cyclone. "West Bengal is fighting two different battles at the same time. Despite that under the leadership of Mamata ji the state government has made a commendable effort," said Modi.

### Rs 500 crore for Odisha

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced an advance financial assistance of Rs 500 crore for cyclone-battered Odisha, where around 45 lakh people have been affected and scores of houses damaged by Amphan, reports PTI from Bhubaneswar.

Soon after his arrival here, the prime minister spent around 90 minutes conducting an aerial survey of the cyclone-affected areas.