Arnab to weaken into deep depression: IMD

Impact of cyclone kills 5 in Andhra

Amaravati: At least five people died in Cyclone Arnab-related incidents in Andhra Pradesh, chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Wednesday.

Naidu, detailing the damage caused by the cyclone, said five people were killed in incidents of electrocution and wall collapse.



People negotiate strong winds and rain at a coastal area in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday. (PTI)

Addressing a media conference at the Real Time Governance System (RTGS) in the secretariat, Naidu said one person died in Visakhapatnam when he came in contact with a live electric wire after a tree fell on it. A woman died in Vizag Rural when an electric pole fell on her, followed by an uprooted palm tree knocking down a man in Bhimavaram. A woman died in Anakapalli due to electrocution and another died in a wall collapse in Sakinetipalli.

"Despite many efforts, five people died today. We have been warning, some cooperated, some were casual and ventured out and misfortune will strike us," said Naidu.

Flash flood alert

The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Cyclone Warning Centre on Wednesday issued a moderate-to-high flash flood risk warning for 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh and Yanam until 5.30am on Thursday due to Arnab.

The warning covered Bapatla, Guntur, NTR, Krishna, Eluru, East Godavari, Kakinada, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Anakapalli, Parvathipuram Manyam and West Godavari districts.

"Under the influence of the very severe cyclonic storm Arnab, moderate to heavy flash flood risk is likely over a few watersheds and neighbourhoods," the centre said in its latest bulletin.

It warned that surface runoff and inundation could occur in areas with saturated soil and in low-lying areas identified as vulnerable.

The centre issued a storm surge warning for the North Andhra coast and a large part of the Odisha coast from 11.30am on Wednesday until 5.30am on Thursday. Gale-force winds were forecast to reach speeds of up to 120kmph.

The IMD forecast squally weather, with winds reaching 50kmph and gusting to 60kmph, along the Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Bengal coasts, as well as the northern Tamil Nadu coast, from 5.30am on October 29 to 5.30am on October 30.

Extremely heavy rainfall was recorded in Andhra Pradesh, while very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall was reported in Odisha in the 24 hours until 8.30am on Wednesday.

The IMD said Arnab had completed its landfall by 8am on Wednesday, with the storm's central region moving entirely over land. The system continued to move northwestwards and was centred over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and the adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal at 8.30am.

The IMD said the system was likely to move north-northwestwards over the next 48 hours and weaken gradually. It was expected to weaken into a cyclonic storm within six hours and further into a deep depression over the subsequent six hours.

PTI