

Aila paralyses life in coastal Orissa

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Bhubaneswar, May 25 : Cyclonic storm 'Aila' paralysed life in several parts of coastal Orissa triggering heavy rains and high-velocity wind today prompting government to gear up for relief work.

The storm crossed West Bengal coast close to Sagar Island and lay centred over Gangetic area near Diamong Harbour this evening, according to Cyclone Warning Centre here.

Initiating relief operation in affected areas, mainly Kendrapara district, Orissa government asked officials in the coastal districts to be stationed in their headquarters.

Incessant rains triggered by it submerged low-lying areas in coastal districts like Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore, official sources said, adding, no casualty was reported from any place due to the calamity.

Road traffic was thrown out of gear in many places as gale wind with speed as high as 80-90 kmph uprooted a large number of trees in Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Cuttack districts.

Life was paralysed in Satabhaya and Kanhupur villages in Kendrapara district, perennially prone to sea erosion, after tidal waves smashed into human settlements since yesterday, forcing residents to shift to safe places.

About 1,000 people of Kanhupur village have taken shelter in a local panchayat building while some of them moved to nearby villages, sources said. MORE

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