



Red alert: Fishermen move boats to safety in Porbandar as coastal areas start witnessing strong sea currents and high waves. PTI

Cyclone Biparjoy set to hit Kutch; Gujarat begins preparations

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

With the “extremely severe cyclonic storm” Biparjoy expected to make landfall on Gujarat’s Kutch coast on Thursday, the State government has started preparations by deploying teams from both national and State disaster response forces in coastal areas. It will set up shelters in six coastal districts in the Saurashtra and Kutch regions.

There is yet no clarity about the exact location of its landing, but the India Meteorological Department said that Biparjoy is very likely to make landfall between Mandvi in Gujarat and Karachi in Pakistan around noon on June 15, with a maximum sustained wind speed of 125 kmph to 135 kmph, gusting to 150 kmph.

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Cyclone Biparjoy set to hit Kutch

On Sunday, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel held a review meeting with district officials. He directed the administration to deploy the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams, and take other precautionary measures in the Kutch, Jamnagar, Morbi, Gir Somnath, Porbandar, and Devbhumi Dwarka districts, which are likely to be impacted by the cyclone. Between June 13 and June 15, they are likely to face heavy rainfall and very high wind speeds that may go up to 150 kmph.

Representatives of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Indian Army were also present during the meeting. The Coast Guard has asked fishermen not to venture into the sea for the next five days. Coastal areas have already started witnessing strong currents in the sea with high waves.

Shelter houses

The government will set up shelter houses in the six vulnerable districts to house those residing within 5 to 10 km from the coastline, who will need to be evacuated to safety.

The IMD has also issued heavy rainfall warnings for Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Junagadh and Morbi districts on June 14 and 15. On June 14, the intensity of rainfall is likely to increase to “heavy to very heavy” in a few places and to “extremely heavy” at isolated places in the affected districts on June 15.

Miles to go

The economy is better poised but still needs deft steering, mindful reforms

India's economy is firmly out of the throes of the pandemic blues, the higher-than-expected 7.2% GDP growth last year could actually be an 'underestimate', and the country is now poised for a decade, if not more, of uninterrupted 6.5%-7% growth, even if no further reforms are undertaken. This was the key message from Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran's prognosis of the state of the economy, conveyed to industry leaders last week. India, he asserted, could now grow for a longer period of seven to 15 years as China did between 1979 and 2008 without "running into overheating problems" as it did after three-four years of strong growth in recent decades. Among the reasons for his optimism – strong momentum, better macro fundamentals with inflation and trade deficits easing in recent months, and cleaner bank and corporate balance sheets, bolstered by reforms such as Goods and Services Tax (GST) and digitisation that are spurring formalisation. The CEA's elaborate elucidation on the economy's bright prospects can well be seen as a fresh official nudge to the private sector to stop worrying and restart investing. At the same time, his comment that the economy could be on 'auto-pilot' mode, may be a hint that the appetite for important pending reforms such as rationalising the GST structure or fixing archaic factor market laws is low, at least till the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

With sectors such as steel and cement seeing higher capacities in action, sections of industry may well start loosening the purse strings soon but a broad-based revival may take longer and needs more actions to buttress the confidence-building. That India has now recovered from the COVID-19 hit on the economy, marked by a 5.8% GDP contraction in 2020-21, is good. But returning to the pre-pandemic trajectory is not enough – remember that growth had slid for seven successive quarters even before the pandemic lockdowns. The economy grew just 3.9% in 2019-20 from 6.5% in the year before, and the quality of the recovery thus far remains uneven. Unless private investment recovers firmly and revs up job creation for millions of youth, demand growth shall not sustain enough to create the virtuous cycle the government is betting on. If India wants to encash the world's China-plus-one supply chain quest, that intent is not often matched by actions. Misadventures such as high import tariffs and the complex 'angel tax' on inbound investments apart, even failing to fix an online service to register a new company does not engender investor confidence. Before the economic engine can be truly on 'auto pilot' mode, the government must desist from unnecessary tinkering with its calibrations and create conducive conditions for a smooth and swift, hurdle-free passage for value and job creators.



The celt discovered in Poothinatham village.

Neolithic-era celt found in T.N. village

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A celt, belonging to the neolithic period, was discovered in Poothinatham village in Dharmapuri district, where archaeological excavations are on.

A. Sivananandam, Deputy Director of the Department of Archaeology, said it was a significant discovery as the celt was used either as a plough or an axe, and was made of Dolomitic stone. It was discovered on June 10 at a depth of 36 cm from the surface.

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Menhir and megalithic burial sites declared as protected monuments at Kodumanal

S.P. Saravanan
ERODE

The Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology has declared five 'menhir' (single stone) and megalithic burial sites at Kodumanal in Erode district as protected monuments.

It has recently placed two noticeboards at the sites, announcing a ban on mining and construction in a 200-metre radius.

Kodumanal, located on the northern banks of the Noyyal and about 42 km from Erode, made it to the archaeology map in 1961 when the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) started the first dig after noticing antique materials scattered across the barren land of the village.

Since 1985, 10 seasons of excavations have been carried out on nearly 25 acres of private and poramboke land. Semi-precious stone beads, bangles, copper, silver, iron, and terracotta are among the items unearthed during the excavations conducted by the ASI as well as the State Department of Archaeology.

Findings

Potsherds containing names inscribed in Tamil-Brahmi script were found in a large number, apart from Roman silver coins, precious stones and quartz. These findings showed that an industrial



A board declaring the menhir as a protected monument has been placed at Kodumanal in Erode district. M. GOVARTHAN

and trade centre had existed here about 2,300 years ago. The last excavation, led by J. Ranjith, Archaeology Officer and Project Director for the excavation during which a structure similar to a stepwell was

unearthed, concluded on September 30, 2021. In the 2021 Budget, the State government announced that Kodumanal would be declared a protected archaeological site. A preliminary notification

was issued then. On November 30, 2022, the government notified five sites – menhir (standing stone) on government poramboke 'vandi pathai' (a cart track) to the extent of 0.20 hectare to 0.34 hectare; a habitation site on 2.4 hectares of PWD land; two megalithic burial sites on 2.5 hectares and 2.68 hectares of PWD land respectively; and a megalithic burial site on 2.3 hectares of government land ('natham').

A recent G.O. declared these sites protected monuments under Tamil Nadu Act 25, of 1966

A recent government order declared the sites protected monuments. A team from the Archaeology Department visited the village and installed two noticeboards: one near the menhir and the other outside a burial site on the PWD land. Three more noticeboards will be placed soon, sources said.

The announcement on the boards says these are the monuments of historical importance under Tamil Nadu Act 25, of 1966, and warns people against destroying, removing or misusing them, and against mining or construction in the areas marked out.



Modi inaugurates first National Training Conclave

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first National Training Conclave in New Delhi on Sunday and highlighted the importance of capacity building, ending silos and enhancing service delivery. He addressed more than 1,500 participants drawn from training and research institutes across the country. A statement said Mr. Modi had been a proponent of improving the governance process and policy implementation in the country through capacity building of civil service. As part of this, the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building was launched to prepare a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, it said. PTI

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Djokovic continues to push the boundaries



Mental fortitude: Whenever the going got tough, Djokovic got going. REUTERS

FRENCH OPEN

Associated Press
PARIS

Novak Djokovic created history on Sunday when he won a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title reinforcing his case to be crowned the greatest player of all time.

The 36-year-old Serb brushed off an early wobble to defeat Casper Ruud 7-6(1), 6-3, 7-5 and snap the tie of 22 Slams he shared with rival Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic was playing in his seventh French Open final and boasted a 4-0 career record over the Norwegian, not having lost a single set.

"It's an incredible feeling to win 23. I'm beyond grateful and blessed to be standing here with so many incredible achievements," said Djokovic.

"Many congrats on this amazing achievement. 23 is a number that just a few years back was impossible to think about, and you made it! Enjoy it with your family and team!" tweeted Nadal, a 14-time Roland-Garros winner who missed this year's tournament through injury.

This was the Serb's third triumph in Paris after successful campaigns in 2016 and 2021. Djokovic added to his total tally of 10 Australian Open titles, seven at Wimbledon and three at the US Open.

"It's no coincidence that my 23rd Grand Slam title has come here because it has been the hardest one for me to win in my career. I am very emotional right now and I am very, very proud," added Djokovic who fired 11 aces and 52 winners in total past Ruud.

Djokovic is the first man to win all four majors at

least three times and is once again halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since Rod Laver in 1969. Only Margaret Court and Serena Williams in women's tennis have managed to rack up 23 Grand Slam titles.

Court's all-time mark of 24 will now be in Djokovic's sights at Wimbledon next month.

"Your skill and unwavering mental fortitude on all surfaces is astonishing," tweeted Laver.

There is little sign of Djokovic slowing down as he is now the oldest French Open champion. The Serb has won 11 of his Slams after turning 30. He will reclaim the world number one ranking on Monday.

Ruud added sportingly: "Novak, another day, another record for you. And another day you rewrite tennis history once again."

India folds up without a fight as Australia triumphs in style

Boland triggers a collapse and Lyon gives the finishing touches with a four-for to seal a commanding 209-run victory; the Cummins-led side becomes the first to win all the men's world titles

WTC FINAL

Ashwin Achal
LONDON

The Indian dream turned into a rude awakening. A torrid batting performance deflated hopes of an epic victory and an elusive ICC title triumph.

Chasing 444, India came undone in the just the morning session. Seven wickets fell for 70 runs at The Oval here on Sunday, allowing Australia to cruise to a 209-run win the ICC World Test Championship final.

The manner of dismissals revealed no stomach for a fight. Overnight batter Virat Kohli, who moves forward irrespective of the length, pushed hard at a wide delivery from Scott Boland. The Australians, acutely aware that Kohli is susceptible outside off, kept at it and eventually got the edge. Steve Smith at second slip showed tremendous reflexes to hold on to a sharp chance.

Two deliveries later, Boland struck again. The pacer got one to move slightly away, leading Ravindra Jadeja to nick it behind. The dual strike, in only the seventh over of the day, marked the beginning of the end.

Hopes vanish

The massive crowd, comprising primarily of India supporters, entered the venue with a spring in their step. India was primed to complete a world-record chase, they would have believed. When Ajinkya Rahane –



On top of the world: Cummins and his men pose with the mace, the symbol of Test supremacy. GETTY IMAGES

an experienced, reliable batter – threw his hands wildly at a rising Mitchell Starc length ball, the spectators gave up all hope.

Rahane realised his folly immediately, hitting his glove on the helmet as he walked back to the pavilion.

K.S. Bharat (23, 41b, 2x4), who never looked settled, was the ninth wicket to fall. The wicket-keeper-batter tried to slog off-spinner Nathan Lyon out of the park, but skied it straight up. The tail-enders predictably provided no resistance.

Lyon, who took out Rohit Sharma on Saturday, finished with four wickets. Boland (three for 46), the chief architect of the Indian collapse, was the best bowler on view. India has

now gone eight tournaments and 10 years without an ICC trophy, while Australia became the first side to win all the men's world titles.

Australia has emerged as the most consistent team in this two-year WTC cycle. "To make it to the final, you have to win everywhere in the world. Our cycle consisted of 20 matches, and we only lost three of them. The boys were fantastic all the way through, which makes it so satisfying," Pat Cummins said at the post-match press conference.

Cummins was happy with the performance of Boland, especially the way the speedster worked out Kohli. "Boland just keeps finding another level; he is unbelievable. He was our

best bowler all game. To get two wickets in an over was just reward," Cummins said.

On how the WTC win compares to other world

titles, Cummins said, "This win is right up there. Test matches is our favourite format. It is the biggest challenge in every way."

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA – 1ST INNINGS

469 in 121.3 overs

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS

296 in 69.4 overs

AUSTRALIA – 2ND INNINGS

270 for eight decl in 84.3 overs

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS

(Target: 444)

Rohit Sharma lbw b Lyon 43 (60b,

7x4, 1x6), Shubman Gill c Green b

Boland 18 (19b, 2x4), Cheteshwar

Pujara c Carey b Cummins 27

(47b, 5x4), Virat Kohli c Smith b

Boland 49 (78b, 7x4), Ajinkya

Rahane c Carey b Starc 46 (208b,

7x4), Ravindra Jadeja c Carey b

Boland 0 (2b), K.S. Bharat c & b

Lyon 23 (41b, 2x4), Shardul

Thakur lbw b Lyon 0 (5b), Umesh

Yadav c Carey b Starc 1 (2b),
Mohammad Shami (not out) 13
(8b, 2x4), Mohammed Siraj c
Boland b Lyon 1 (6b), Extras (lb-2,
w-6, nb-5): 13; Total (in 63.3
overs): 234.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-41 (Gill, 7.1 overs), 2-92 (Rohit,

19.5), 3-93 (Pujara, 20.4), 4-179

(Kohli, 46.3), 5-179 (Jadeja, 46.5),

6-212 (Rahane, 56.2), 7-213

(Shardul, 57.4), 8-220 (Umesh,

60.2), 9-224 (Bharat, 61.5).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Cummins 13-1-55-1, Boland

16-2-46-3, Starc 14-1-77-2, Green

5-0-13-0, Lyon 15.3-2-41-4.

POW: Travis Head.

Australia won by 209 runs.

India women clinch maiden junior Asia Cup crown

The team stuns four-time champion South Korea 2-1 with Annu and Neelam doing the scoring, secures a spot in the Junior World Cup scheduled to be held in Chile later this year

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India

KAKAMIGAHARA (JAPAN)

India put up a collective show to stun four-time champion South Korea 2-1 and clinch its maiden Women's Junior Hockey Asia Cup here on Sunday.

Annu and Neelam scored for India while Park Seo Yeon scored the lone goal for South Korea.

After a barren first quarter, India got going with a 22nd minute goal by Annu from a penalty corner.

Annu made amends for her miss in the semifinal against Japan, as she stepped up in style to beat the goalkeeper and give India the lead against the run of play.

South Korea took three minutes to draw level when Yeon struck from the right following a brilliant surge.

Neelam struck powerfully to the low right of the



Cock-a-hoop: The Indian players are on cloud nine after emerging champions. ASIAN HOCKEY FEDERATION

South Korean goalkeeper to help India regain the lead in the 41st minute.

India held on to its slender lead in the third quarter to seal the issue.

Indian captain Preeti, who was named the Player-of-the-Match, said they had their strategy in place following a 1-1 draw against the Koreans in the round-robin stage.

"We were acutely aware

of the specific areas we needed to excel in order to overcome the Koreans," Preeti said.

Cash award

Hockey India has declared a cash prize of ₹2 lakh for each player, while the support staff will receive ₹1 lakh for their splendid show.

India finished unbeaten in the tournament and also

secured a spot in the Junior World Cup 2023 slated in Chile later this year.

"We are filled with immense pride as the Indian Junior Women's team clinched their maiden Junior Asia Cup, leaving us all in awe. It will serve as a strong foundation for their upcoming challenge at the Junior World Cup later this year," Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said.