REGIONAL SPECIALISED METEOROLOGICAL CENTRE -TROPICAL CYCLONES, NEW DELHI
SPECIAL TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

DEMS-RSMC TROPICAL CYCLONES NEW DELHI DATED 10.01.2026
SPECIAL TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN (THE BAY OF BENGAL AND THE ARABIAN SEA) VALID FOR THE NEXT 168 HOURS ISSUED AT 0900 UTC UTC OF 10.01.2026 BASED ON 0600 UTC OF 10.01.2026.

Sub: Depression over southwest Bay of Bengal off northeast Sri Lanka coast

The depression over southwest Bay of Bengal off northeast Sri Lanka coast moved west-northwestwards with a speed of 13 kmph during past 6 hours and lay centred at 0600 UTC of today, the 10th January, 2026, over the same region near latitude 9.2°N and longitude 81.0°E, about 20 km east-southeast of Mullaittivu (Sri Lanka, 43410), 70 km north-northwest of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka, 43418), 120 km east-southeast of Jaffna (Sri Lanka, 43404), 230 km southeast of Karaikal (Puducherry, 43346) and 430 km south-southeast of Chennai (Tamil Nadu, 43279).

It is very likely to continue to move west-northwestwards and cross north Sri Lanka coast between Trincomalee and Jaffna close to Mullaittivu as a depression during 0800-1100 UTC of today, 10th January, 2026.

The forecast track and intensity is mentioned in the table below

Date/Time (UTC)	Position (Lat. ^{0}N/ long. ^{0}E)	Maximum sustained surface wind speed (kmph)	Category of cyclonic disturbance
10.01.26/0600	9.2/81.0	40-50 gusting to 60	Depression
10.01.26/1200	9.3/80.5	35-45 gusting to 55	Depression
10.01.26/1800	9.2/80.0	25-35 gusting to 45	Well Marked Low Pressure Area

The estimated central pressure is about 1006 hPa. The associated maximum sustained wind speed is 25 knots gusting to 35 knots. Sea condition is rough with significant wave height around 2.5 to 4.0 m. The hourly observations from Sri Lanka are indicating continuous fall of pressure at Mullaittivu, which reported Mean Sea Level Pressure of 1008.5 hPa and maximum sustained wind speed of 360^0/ 08kt at 0700 UTC. It is indicating that the system is still over the sea.

As per INSAT 3DS, intensity of the system is T1.5/1.5. Associated scattered to broken low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection lay over southwest and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal with minimum cloud top temperature (CTT) as -70^0 C to -90^0 C. Moderate to intense convection lay over North Sri Lanka, East Tamil Nadu and Palk Strait with minimum CTT as -50^0 C to -70^0 C. Poleward outflow is seen in the satellite imagery.

REMARKS:

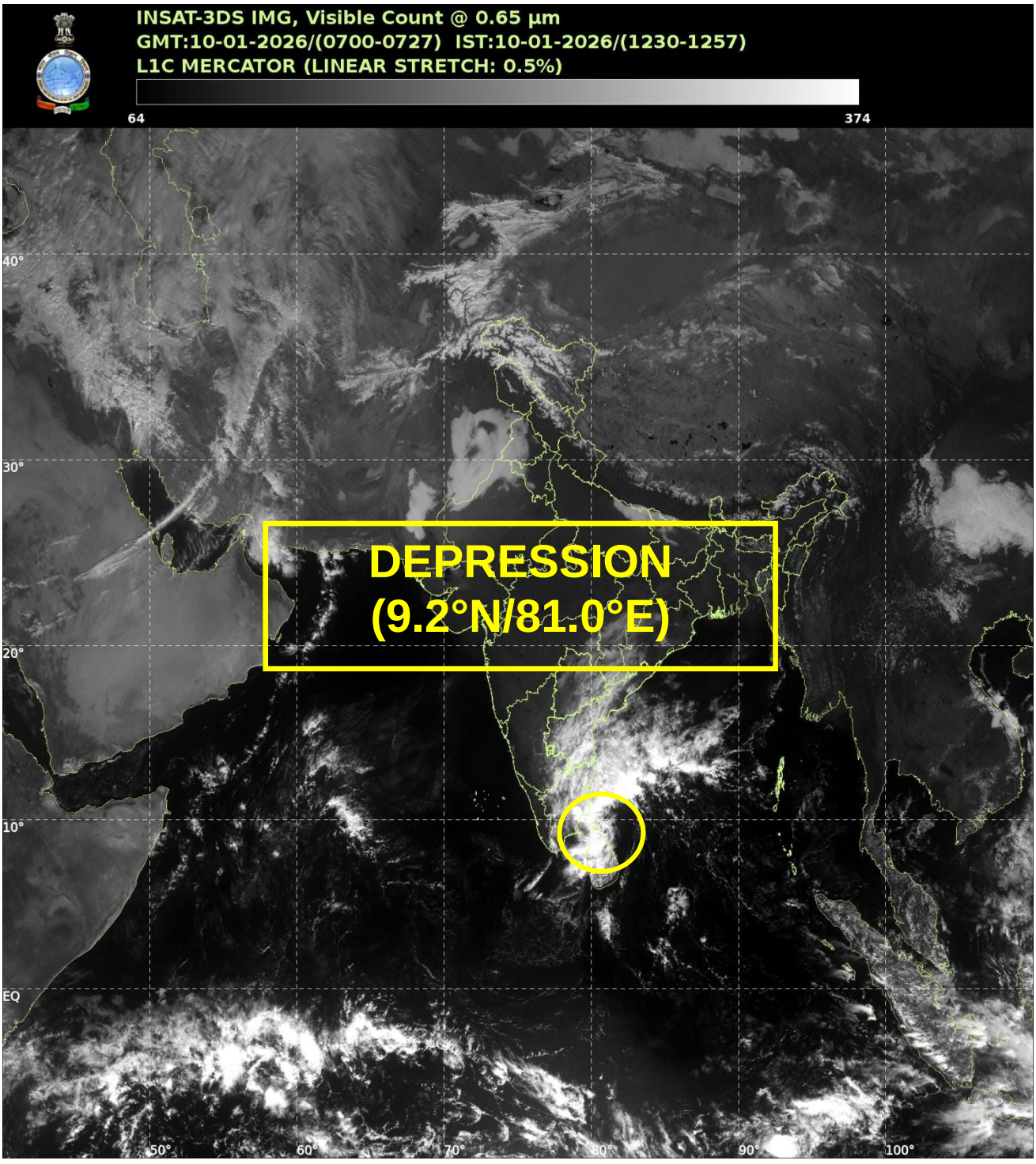
The system has entered into comparatively colder sea with sea surface temperature around 26^0C. The low level relative vorticity at 850 hPa is about 50×10^{-6} s^{-1} to southwest of the system centre. Vertically, it is extending upto 500 hPa. Upper-level divergence is around 10×10^{-6} s^{-1} to the north of

system centre and is southwest-northeast oriented. Low-level convergence is 10×10^{-6} s^{-1} to northeast of the system centre and another to the northwest of system centre is west-east oriented. The upper tropospheric ridge is around 15^0 N. Both deep and mid layer shear are low to moderate around system area and along the predicted path. Total Precipitable water imagery is indicating significant reduction in warm moist air around system area and cold dry air is reaching upto southeast sector. Comparison of IR and water vapour imagery is indicating significant reduction in depth of convection. The current features indicate a moderately favourable environment. The upper tropospheric ridge is near 14^0N. The east-southeasterly winds prevailing over the system area are steering it west-northwestwards.

ECMWF, NCEP-GFS models are indicating the weakening of the system and crossing over North Sri Lanka coast. IMD-GFS and NCUM models are not indicating the system's landfall. Current forecast is based on the consensus derived from persistence, ECMWF, NCEP-GFS and IMD-MME guidance.

Confidence level in estimation of current location of the depression: High.
Confidence level in estimation of estimation of current intensity: High.
Confidence level in forecast track: High.
Confidence level in forecast intensity: High.

Monica Sharma
Scientist -E, RSMC, IMD, New Delhi



Cloud distribution: (a) Isolated: <25%, Scattered:25-50%, Broken: 51-75%, Solid:>75%, Convection Intensity: (a) Weak: Cloud Top Temperature(CTT)>-25°C, (b) Moderate: CTT:-25°Cto-40°C, (c) Intense: CTT: -41°Cto -70°C and (d) Very Intense::Less than -70°C Probability of cyclogenesis (formation of depression) :NIL:0%, LOW:1-33%, MODERATE:34-66% and HIGH:67-100%

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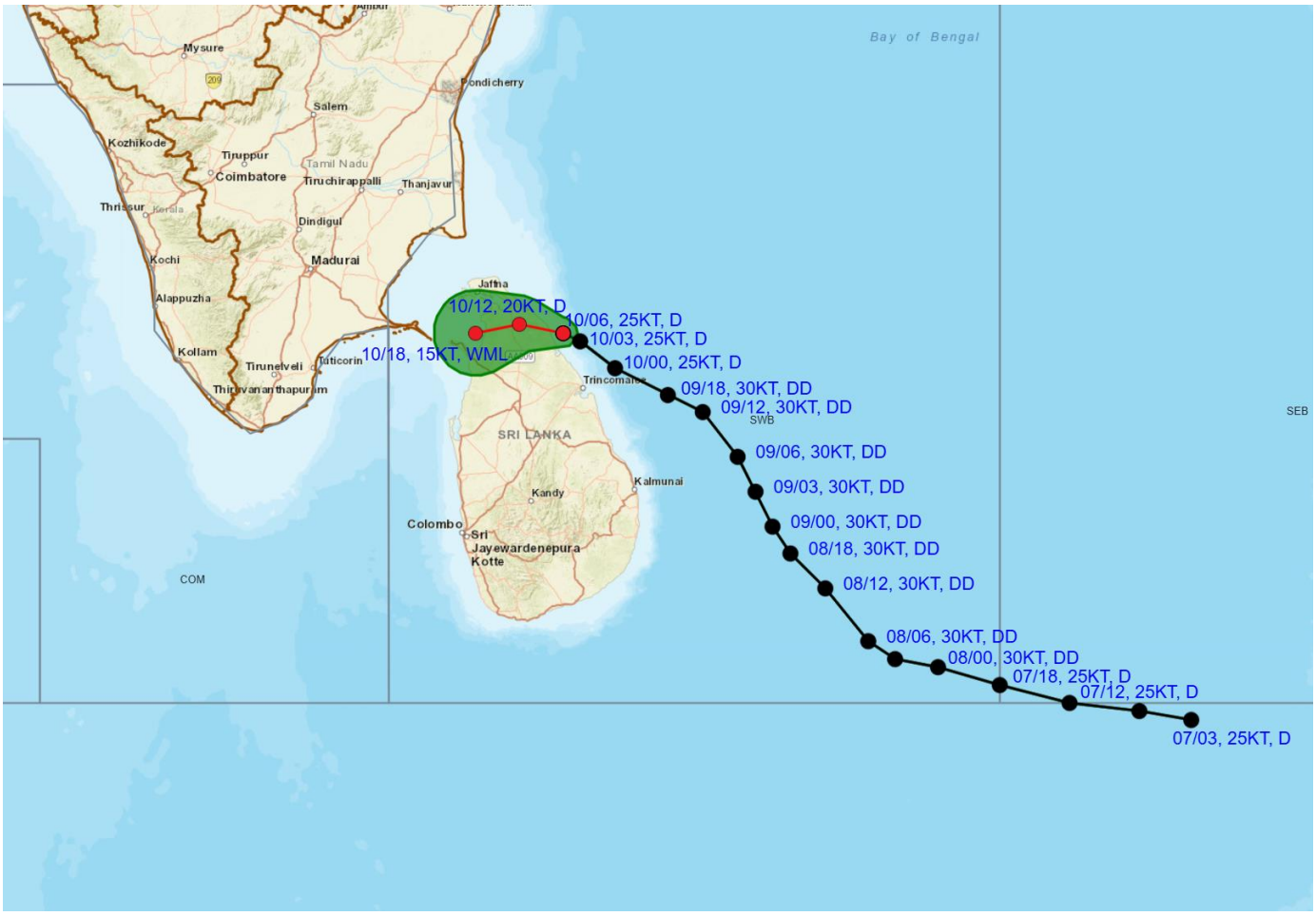
OBSERVED AND FORECAST TRACK ALONGWITH CONE OF UNCERTAINTY OF DEPRESSION OVER SOUTHWEST BAY OF BENGAL OFF NORTHEAST SRI-LANKA COAST BASED ON 0600 UTC (1130 Hrs. IST) OF 10TH JANUARY 2026.



DATE/TIME IN UTC
IST=UTC + 0530
L: LOW PRESSURE AREA
WML: WELL MARKED LOW PRESSURE AREA
D: DEPRESSION (17-27 KT)
DD: DEEP DEPRESSION (28-33 KT)
CS: CYCLONIC STORM (34-47 KT)
SCS: SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM (48-63KT)
VSCS: VERY SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM (64-89 KT)
ESCS: EXTREMELY SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM (90-119 KT)
SuCS: SUPER CYCLONIC STORM (≥ 120 KT)

LESS THAN 34 KT
34-47 KT
≥ 48 KT
OBSERVED TRACK
FORECAST TRACK
CONE OF UNCERTAINTY

Forecast distance (km) and direction of the centre from nearest 5 coastal stations

Forecast Date and Time	Lead Period	Lat	Lon	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
10.01.26/0600	0	9.2	81.0	MULLAITTIVU 1) (21,ESE)	TRINCOMALEE (74,NNW)	VAVUNIYA (74,NE)	ANURADHAPURA (116,NNE)	JAFFNA (119,ESE)
10.01.26/1200	6	9.3	80.5	MULLAITTIVU 1) (35,W)	VAVUNIYA (61,N)	JAFFNA (66,SE)	MANNAR (73,ENE)	KANKASANTURAI 1) (73,SE)
10.01.26/1800	12	9.2	80.0	MANNAR (26,NNE)	JAFFNA (50,S)	KANKASANTURAI 1) (67,S)	VAVUNIYA (74,NW)	PAMBAN (87,E)

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OBSERVED AND FORECAST TRACK ALONGWITH QUADRANT WIND DISTRIBUTION OF DEPRESSION OVER SOUTHWEST BAY OF BENGAL OFF NORTHEAST SRI-LANKA COAST BASED ON 0600 UTC (1130 Hrs. IST) OF 10TH JANUARY 2026.

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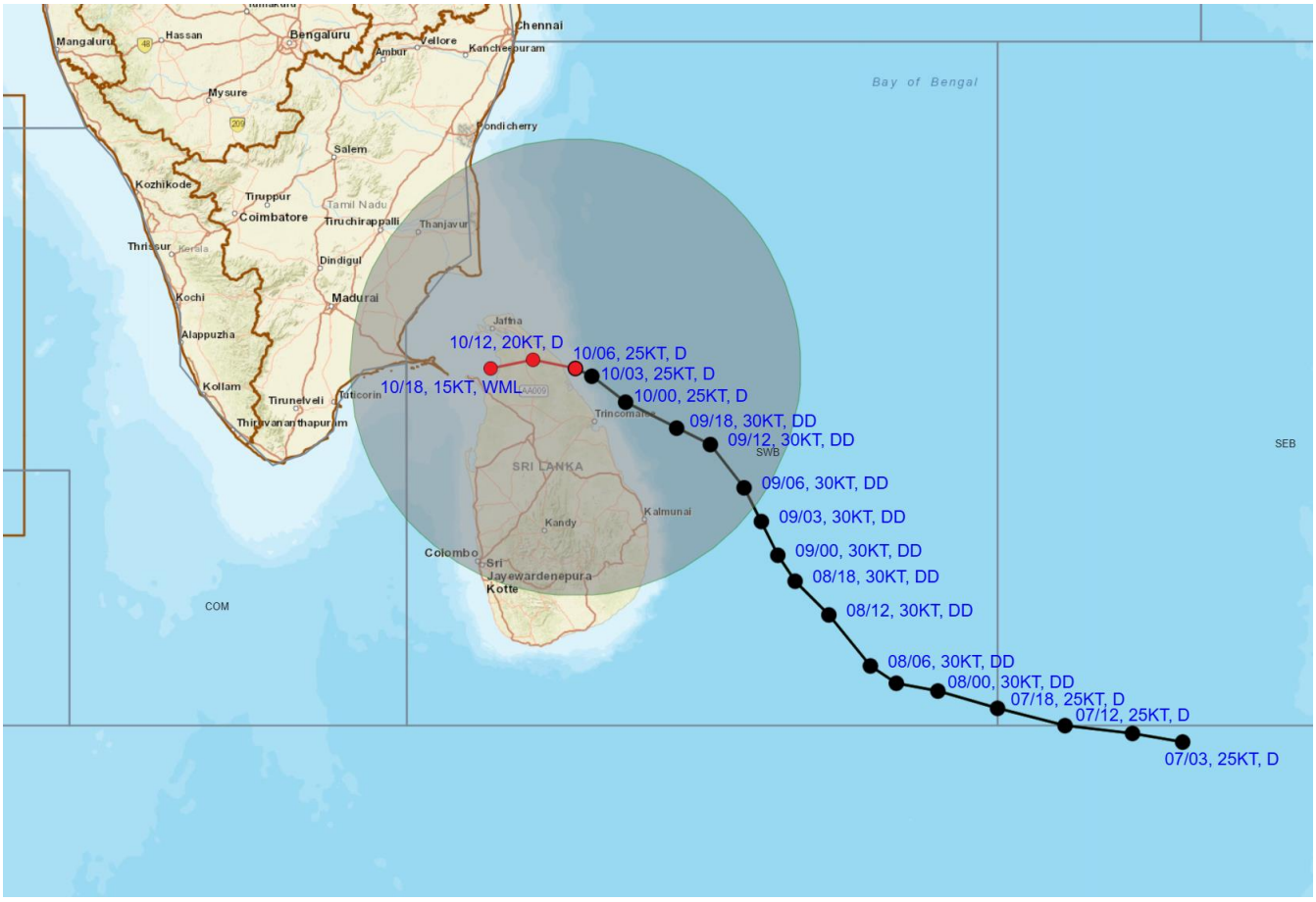

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LESS THAN 34 KT
34-47 KT
≥ 48 KT
OBSERVED TRACK
FORECAST TRACK
CONE OF UNCERTAINTY
AREA OF MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WIND SPEED:
20-25 KT (40-50 KMPH)

IMPACT OVER THE SEA

MSW (knot/kmph)	Impact	Action
20-25 KT (40-50 kmph)	Rough seas	Total suspension of fishing operations

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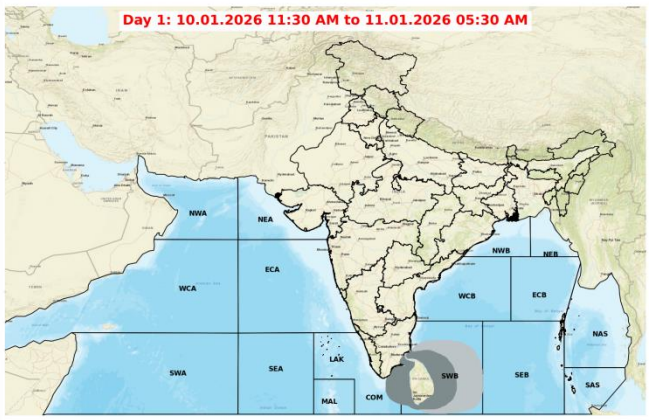
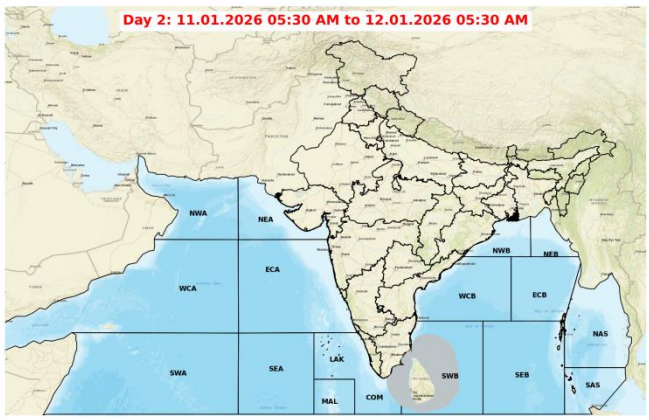
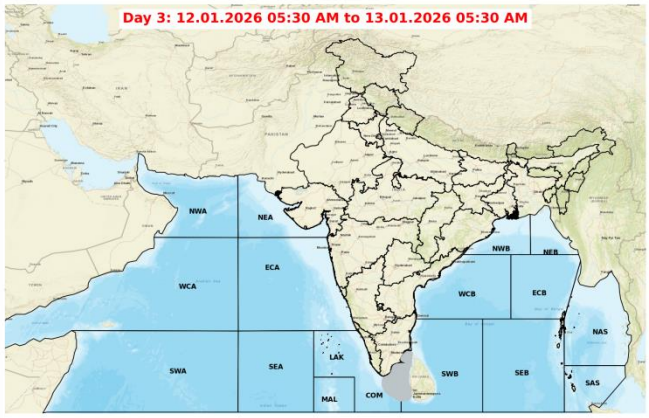
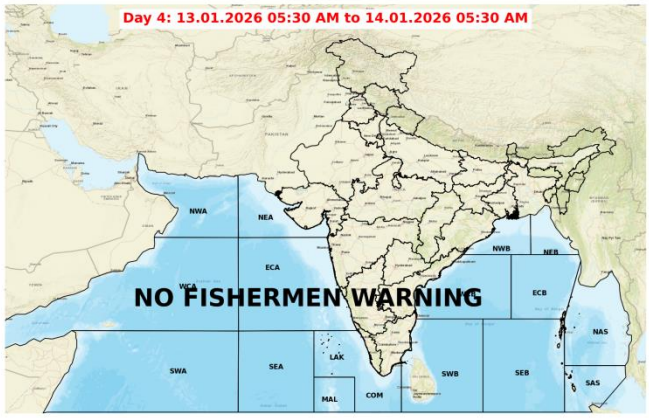
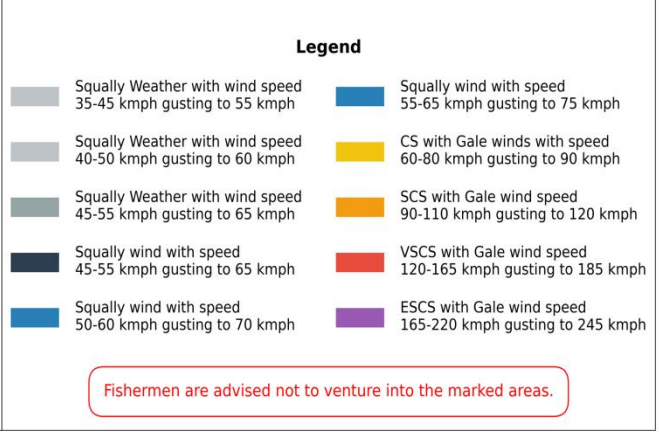
Fishermen Warning Graphics











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