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

DEMS-RSMC SPECIAL TROPICAL CYCLONES NEW DELHI DATED 18.08.2026

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 1500 UTC OF 18.08.2026 BASED ON 1200 UTC OF 18.08.2026.

Sub: Depression over Jharkhand

Depression over Jharkhand moved slowly west-northwestwards with a speed of 3 kmph during past 6 hours and lay centred at 1200 UTC of today, the 18th August, 2026, over the same region, near latitude 24.1°N and longitude 85.3°E, close to north-northwest of Hazaribagh (42699, Jharkhand), 90 km north of Ranchi (42701, Jharkhand), 80 km south-southeast of Gaya (42591, Bihar), 130 km east of Daltonganj (42587, Jharkhand) and 150 km southeast of Dehri (42588, Bihar).

It is very likely to continue to move west-northwestwards across Jharkhand & Bihar and weaken into a well marked low pressure area during next 12 hours.

As per INSAT 3D(S), intense convective cloud mass lay to the northwest of system centre. Associated scattered to broken low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection lay over Southeast Uttar Pradesh, East Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal. Minimum cloud top temperature is MINUS 70-90^0 C.

The estimated central pressure is 997 hPa and associated maximum sustained wind speed is 20 kt gusting to 30 kt. Sea condition is very likely to be rough to moderate over North Bay of Bengal & along and off West Bengal-Bangladesh; Odisha & north Andhra Pradesh coasts till 0000 UTC of 19th August and improve gradually thereafter.

Ranchi (42701, Jharkhand) reported mean sea level pressure (MSLP) as 997.8 hPa, pressure change in past 24 hrs (P24) as -1.7 hPa and Maximum Sustained Wind Speed (MSW) as 270^0/04 kt. Barhi (Jharkhand) reported MSLP as 999.0 hPa and MSW as 360^0/10 kt.

REMARKS:

Madden Julian Oscillation index is in phase 6 with amplitude more than 1. It is predicted to continue in same phase with a decreasing trend in amplitude during next 8-10 days. The guidance from NCICS model indicates westerly weak wind anomaly (1-3 mps) over central parts of BoB and prevalence of Equatorial Rossby wave (ERW) over north BoB with easterly wind anomaly (3-5 mps) over eastern parts of India & Bangladesh on 18th August. The low-level vorticity is the same and is about 70-80 X 10^{-6} s^{-1} over system area. Vertically, it is extending up to 500 hPa level. The low-level convergence has increased and is around 20 X10^{-6} s^{-1} over system area. Upper-level divergence has decreased and is around 10 X10^{-6} s^{-1} to the southwest of system area. Vertical wind shear of horizontal wind is moderate (10-15 kt) over the system area and along the expected path. These favourable features are supporting the system to maintain its intensity over land.

Various NWP models are indicating the system to move slowly west-northwestwards as a well-marked low pressure area over Jharkhand by 1200 UTC of 18th August.

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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Based on the observations and guidance from various numerical models:
Confidence Level in estimation of current location and intensity: High
Confidence Level in prediction of forecast track: High
Confidence Level in prediction of forecast intensity: High

Considering all the above, depression over Jharkhand is very likely to continue to move west-northwestwards across Jharkhand & Bihar and weaken into a well marked low pressure area during next 12 hours.

(Monica Sharma)
Scientist-E
RSMC New Delhi

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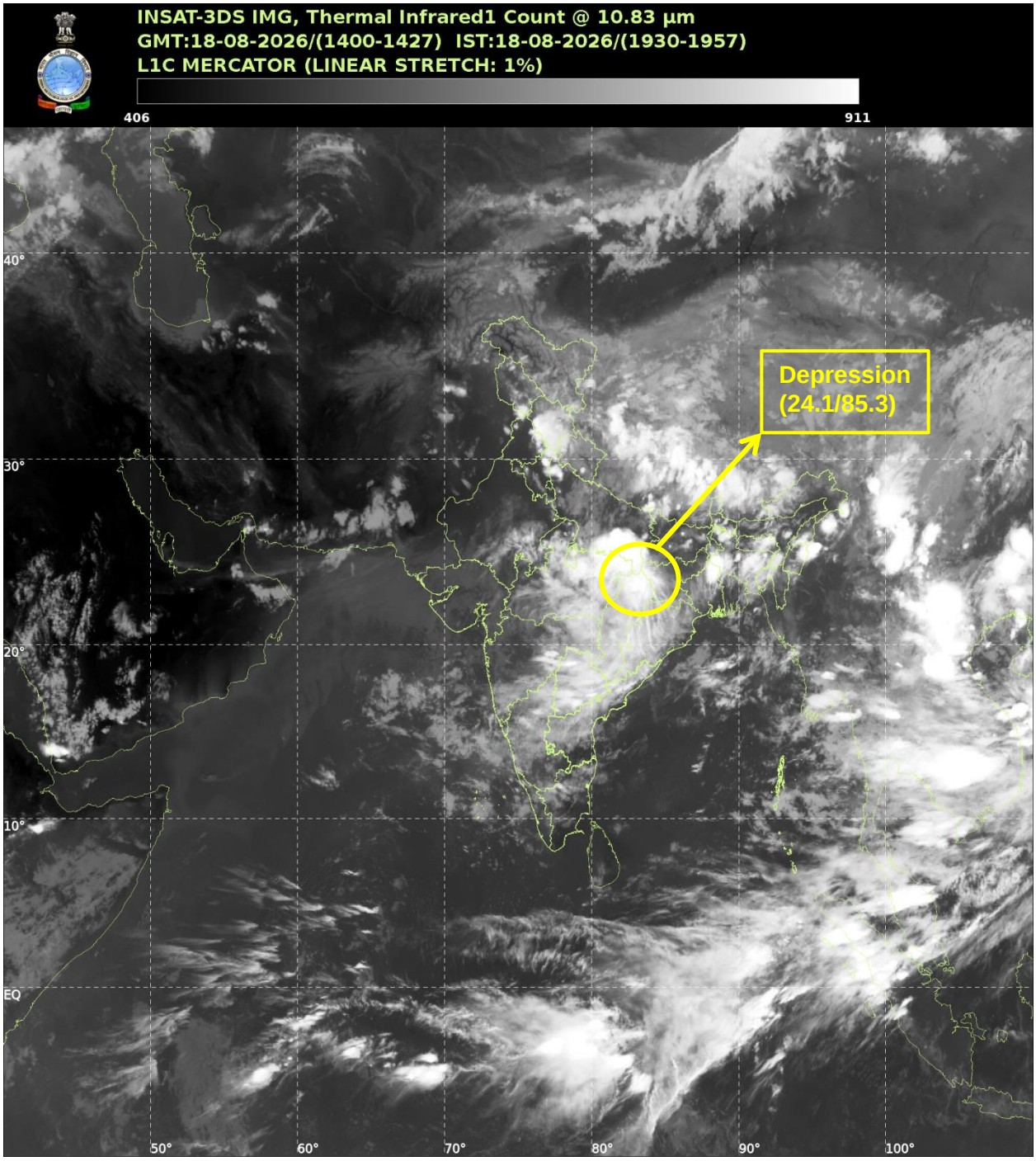

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OBSERVED AND FORECAST TRACK OF DEPRESSION OVER JHARKHAND BASED ON 1200 UTC (1730 Hrs. IST) OF 18TH AUGUST 2026

DATE/TIME IN UTC
IST = UTC + 0530
L: LOW PRESSURE AREA
D: DEPRESSION (17-27 KT)
DD: DEEP DEPRESSION (28-33 KT)
CS: CYCLONIC STORM (34-47 KT)
SCS: SEVERE CYCLONIC STRORM (48-63 KT)
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 (hrs)	Lat	Lon	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
18.08.26/1200	0	24.1	85.3	Hazaribagh (10, NNW)	RANCHI (90, N)	GAYA (80, SSE)	DALTONGANJ (130, E)	DEHRI (150, SE)

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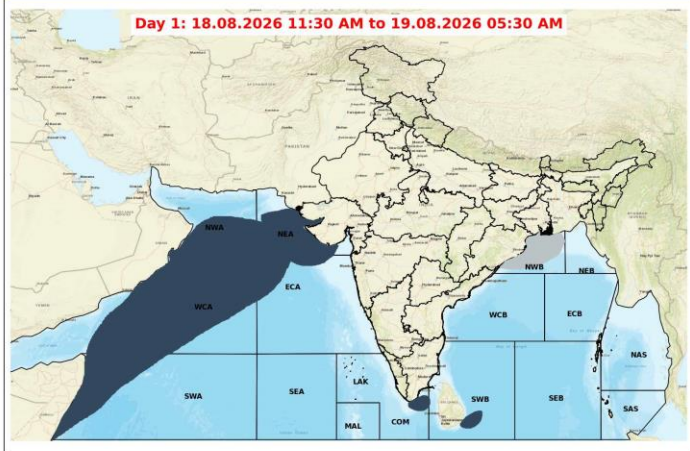
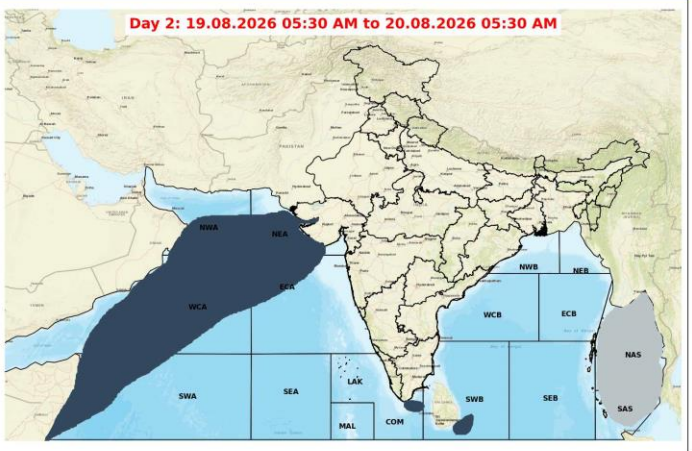
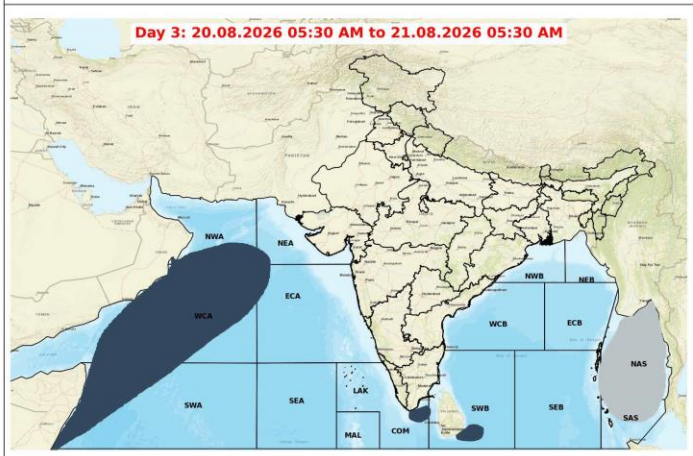
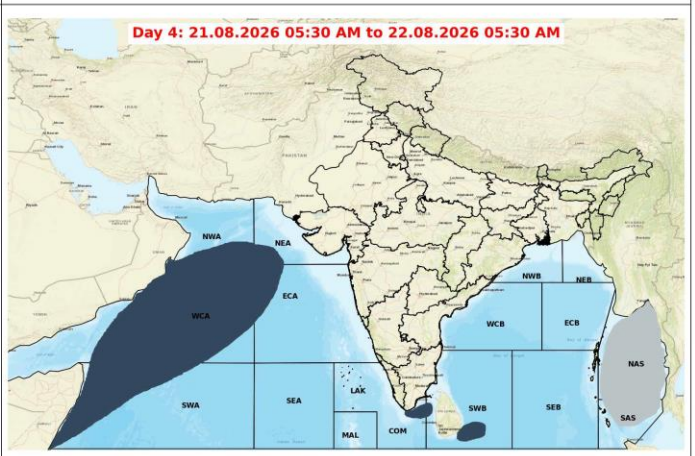
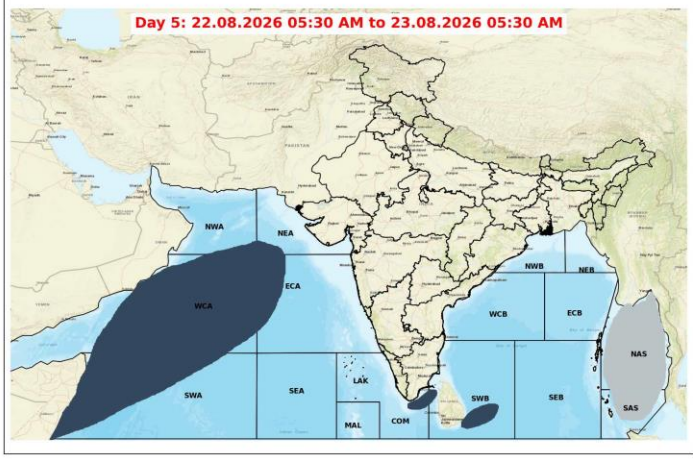
Fishermen Warning Graphics











Legend

- Squally Weather with wind speed 35-45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph
- Squally Weather with wind speed 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph
- Squally Weather with wind speed 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph
- Squally wind with speed 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph
- Squally wind with speed 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph
- Squally wind with speed 55-65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph
- CS with Gale winds with speed 60-80 kmph gusting to 90 kmph
- SCS with Gale wind speed 90-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph
- VSCS with Gale wind speed 120-165 kmph gusting to 185 kmph
- ESCS with Gale wind speed 165-220 kmph gusting to 245 kmph

Fishermen are advised not to venture into the marked areas.

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