

Cyclone Hudhud heads for Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

A year after the super cyclone Phailin hit shore, Odisha is bracing for another cyclonic storm, given the name Hudhud. The cyclone has been named after Hudhud, an Afro-Eurasian which is the national bird of Israel, and is an official entry to the list of cyclone names contributed by Oman.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), confirmed the formation of Cyclonic storm 'Hud Hud' over north Andaman Sea. "It is now crossing Andaman & Nicobar Islands close to Long Island. The system would cross north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coast between Visakhapatnam and Goplapur around noon of October 12.

Cyclone Hudhud would be less intense than Cyclone Phailin, but disaster management preparations were in full swing in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. "The wind speed of Phailin was 210-220 km an hour. On the contrary, Hudhud is expected to have wind speeds of 130-140 km an hour.

"The deep depression over north Andaman Sea & neighbourhood moved west-northwestward, intensified into a Cyclonic Storm 'HUD HUD' and lay centered at 08:30 am IST on October 08 over north Andaman Sea near latitude 12.3°N and longitude 92.9°E, close to Long Island," the IMD said.

Though Cyclone Hudhud is most likely to make landfall in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, southern parts of Odisha could experience heavy rainfall along with wind.

The Meteorological office advised hoisting of storm warning of distant cautionary signal number two (DC-II) by replacing the earlier distant warning signal number one (DW-I) at Paradip and Gopalpur Ports in Odisha.

It also advised fishermen in deep sea to return to the coast immediately.

On October 10 the severe cyclonic storm will take the form of very severe cyclonic storm with gusting upto 125 kmph on October 10, it said. The very severe cyclonic storm condition would continue till October 12 when the maximum speed could reach 145 kmph, the IMD said.

The state government has cancelled leaves of its employees and put 16 coastal districts on alert. Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and fire service personnel are also preparing for the emerging situation.

The government also asked district authorities to open round-the-clock control room to coordinate with different departments.

The districts which have been alerted are Balasore, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Cuttack, Khurdha, Nayagarh, Gajapati, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Malkangiri and Koraput districts, Deputy Relief Commissioner Pravat Ranjan Mohapatra said.

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