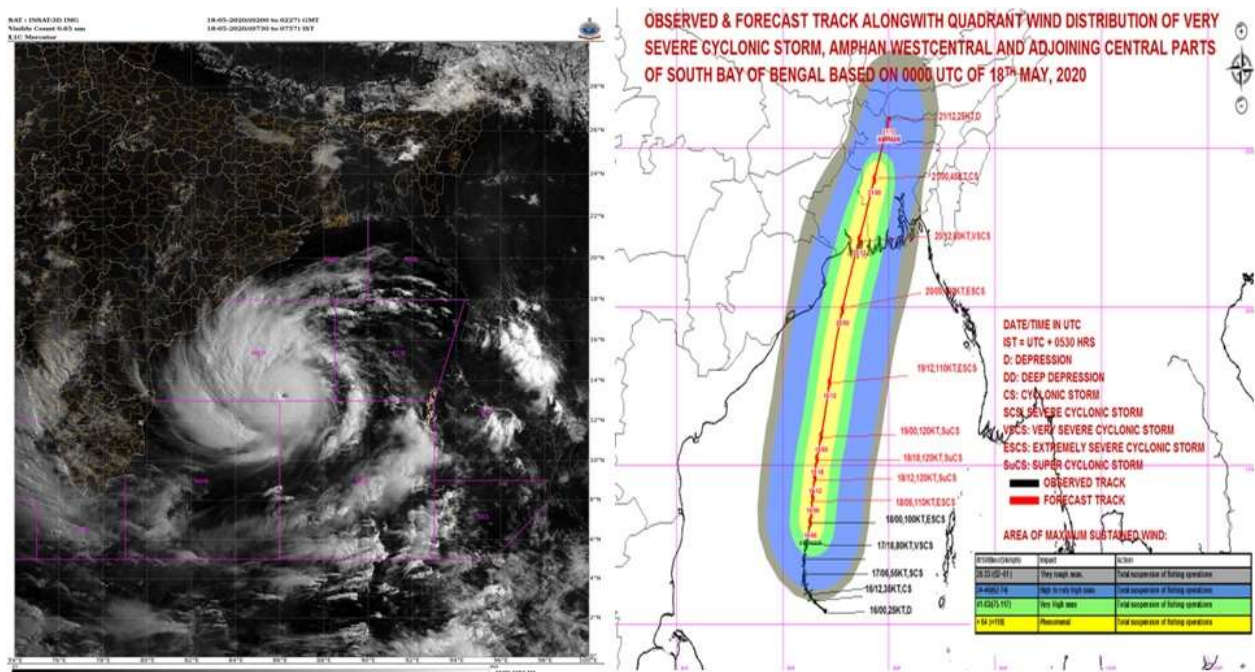


Cyclone 'Amphan' to intensify: Odisha, Bengal on alert

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Amphan (pronounced as UM-PUN) that covers a large part of the Bay of Bengal has intensified into an extremely severe cyclonic storm, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said today morning.

The extremely severe cyclonic storm is also expected to move north-northeastwards across the northwest Bay of Bengal and cross West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts between Digha (West Bengal) and Hatiya Islands (Bangladesh) during afternoon/evening of 20 May 2020 at high velocity, the weather office said.



As per IMD, Amphan has moved from the central parts of South Bay of Bengal and adjoining Central Bay of Bengal towards northwards in the past six hours at a speed of

13 kmph. This has intensified into an extremely severe cyclonic storm lay centered at 0530 hrs IST today, May 18, 2020 over west-central and adjacent parts of the South Bay of Bengal near latitude 13.2°N and longitude 86.3°E, about 790 km south of Paradip (Odisha), 940 km south-southwest of Digha (West Bengal) and 1060 km south-southwest of Khepupara (Bangladesh)

It is anticipated that the super cyclonic storm will intensify further during the next 12 hours. Twelve coastal districts of Odisha - Gajapati, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Ganjam, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Cuttack, Khurda and Nayagarh - have been put on high alert.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the West Bengal-Odisha coasts as well as the northern Bay of Bengal by 20 May 2020.