



Cyclone Asani

(May 12th, 2022)

Asani could potentially cause approximately Rs. 2500 crore of damage in Andhra Pradesh, major brunt faced by agriculture

A Severe Cyclonic Storm (89-117 kmph) formed over West-central and adjoining Bay of Bengal, weakened into a Cyclonic Storm Asani (62-88 kmph), made a recurve, and moved north-northeast wards as per the IMD Bulletin on May 12th, 2022 at 0730 IST. Cyclone Asani was moving in a "cone of uncertainty" over the west-central Bay of Bengal for the past two days. Asani weakened into a deep depression over coastal Andhra Pradesh and remained practically stationary since last night. Then, it developed into a depression over the same region, close to the west of Machilipatnam, and has finally transformed into a well-marked low-pressure system.

Rainfall under the influence of Asani has severely affected both agriculture and horticulture crops on about 30,000 hectares in AP. As per the initial estimates by the agriculture department, crops in around 2,500 hectares were damaged in coastal Andhra. Farmers bore the brunt of the Asani cyclone as crops like mango, banana, turmeric, and papaya were damaged on thousands of acres in Kadapa, Kurnool, Prakasam, Krishna, and West Godavari districts. In addition, horticulture crops like papaya, chili, tomato, drumstick, guava, pomegranate, acid lime, oil palm, coconut, betel vine, and vegetables suffered damage in 178 mandals across a majority of districts in the state. Ojili in the Nellore district received the state's highest rainfall (137mm) under the influence of cyclone Asani in the last 24 hours till today morning.

While disastrous for the farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Asani acts as a silver lining for Bengalureans, bringing relief from the summer heat by bringing down the city temperature (24.3 and 25°C) in the last two days. It is the lowest maximum temperature in May in 10 years.

Administrations of the coastal districts have taken all precautions. NDRF has earmarked nine teams and kept more teams on standby in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Odisha. Five Indian Navy ships are on standby with relief material, diving, and medical teams to render assistance in the most affected areas along the coast of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The chief minister has announced Rs 1,000 will be given to every affected person and Rs 2,000 to every affected family.

Various airline flight operations have been cancelled; as many as 17 domestic flights were cancelled at Chennai Airport and 72 flight services at Vizag and Vijayawada Airport.

Table 1 & 2 provides a brief overview of the potential impacts on several Indian states in the last 72 hours.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The below tables provide a brief overview of the potential rainfall and wind impacts over the several Indian states in the last 72 hours.

Table 1: Forecasted impact on the States in the last 72 hours - Rainfall

State	May 10	May 11	May 12
Andhra Pradesh (North Coastal)	Heavy to heavy rainfall at few places; Isolated extremely heavy falls	Light to moderate rain at most places; Heavy to very heavy at few places; Isolated extremely heavy falls	Light to moderate at many places; Heavy rainfall at isolated places
Odisha	Heavy rainfall in isolated places	Heavy rainfall at isolated places in the south coastal districts	Light to moderate at many places over coastal districts
Telangana		Isolated heavy rainfall	
West Bengal			Light to moderate in isolated places

Table 2: Forecasted impact on the States in the last 48 hours - Wind

State	May 11	May 12
Andhra Pradesh	Gale wind (70-80 kmph gusting 90 kmph) along & off Krishna, East & West Godavari, and Visakhapatnam districts Squally winds (50-60 kmph gusting 70 kmph) along with adjoining districts of coastal Andhra Pradesh	Squally wind (45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph) near the coast
Odisha	Squally wind (40-50 kmph gusting 60 kmph) near the coast	Squally wind (40-50 kmph gusting 60 kmph) near the coast
West Bengal	Squally wind (40-50 kmph gusting 60 kmph) near the coast	Squally wind (40-50 kmph gusting 60 kmph) near the coast
Puducherry (Yanam)	Gale wind (70-80 kmph gusting 90 kmph) near the coast	

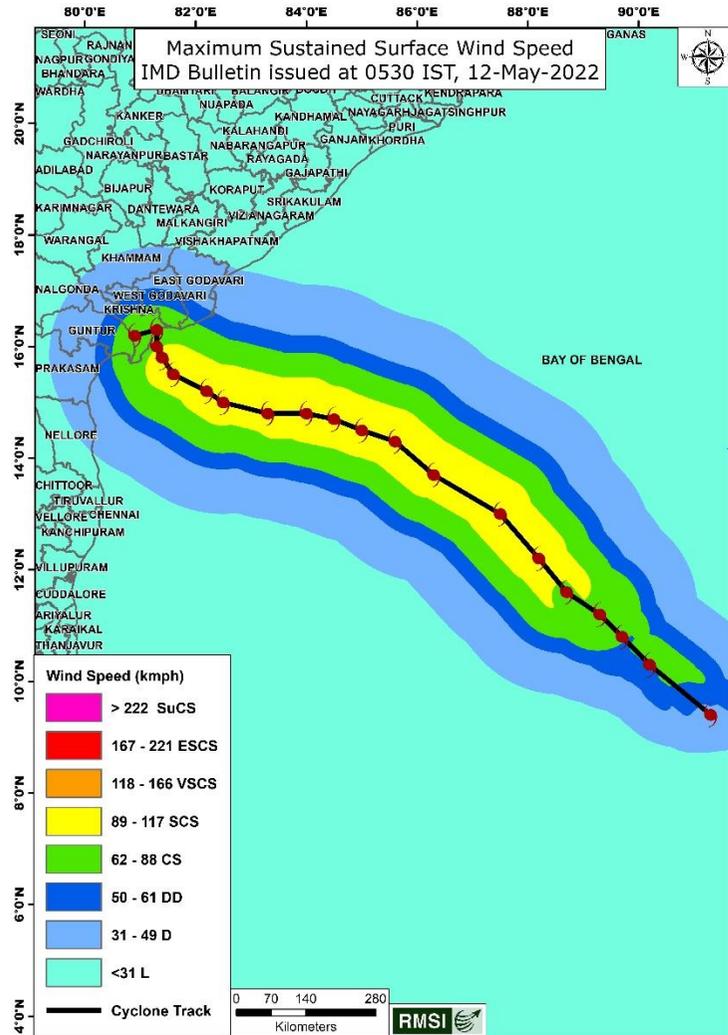


Figure 1: Potential impact due to wind - Cyclone Asani

ANALYSIS

RMSI has analyzed potential flood and wind impact due to Cyclone Asani (based on the IMD bulletin on May 12th, 2022 at 0530 hours IST).

As per our model, Cyclone Asani affected the following districts considerably due to wind hazards: East and West Godavari, Guntur, Krishna, Prakasam, and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Yanam in Puducherry.

Our initial estimate indicates a potential loss of approximately Rs. 2,500 crore with maximum impact on Agriculture with an approximate loss of Rs. 2,000 crore.

It is to be noted that cyclones generally move in a north-westward direction in the Bay of Bengal due to the rotational effect of the Earth. But this track of cyclones is regulated by subtropical Jetstream, which moves in a South-West direction, thereby bringing variability in the cyclone's track.

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