



Cyclone Asna

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Context

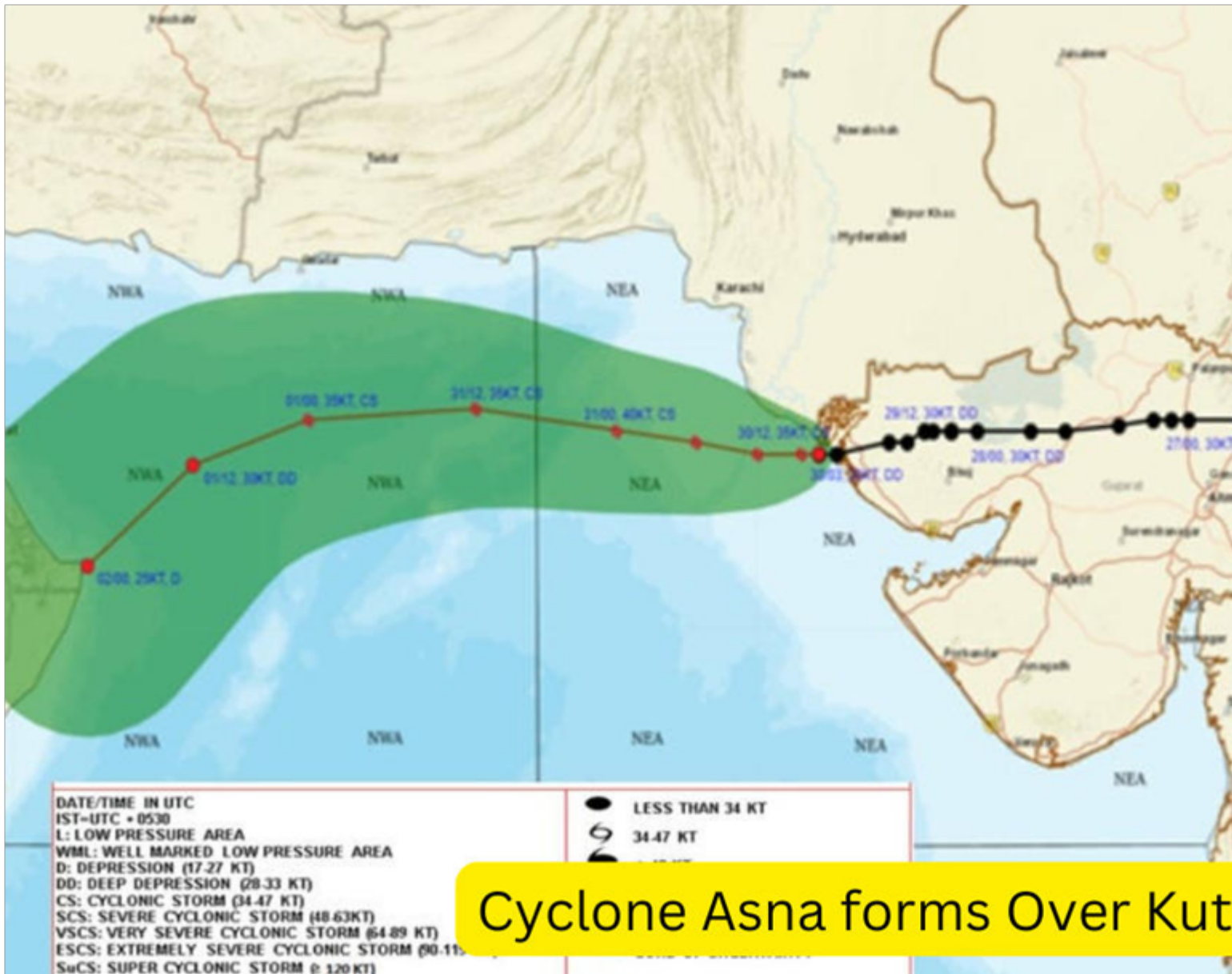
A deep depression currently situated over Saurashtra and Kachchh regions of Gujarat is expected to intensify into a **cyclonic storm(Cyclone Asna)**. Cyclone Asna would be the first cyclone to form in August in the **North Indian Ocean (NIO) regions** since 1981 and the first in the **Arabian Sea** since 1976.

What are Cyclones?

- A cyclone is **large-scale system of air** that rotates around the centre of **low-pressure area**
- The cyclone forms around the low-pressure area, called **depression**, along a zone of cold and warm air exchange called the '**eye wall**'. The eye is the central and calmest part of the cyclone
- From this eye wall, long, arching cloud and rain systems called **rainbands spiral outwards**, which bring alternating periods of intense rain and calm spells during a cyclone.
- The air circulates inward in an:
- **anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere**
- **clockwise in the Southern hemisphere**

Worldwide terminology

- Cyclones are given many names in different regions of the world – They are known as:
- **Typhoons** in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean
- **Hurricanes** in the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
- **Tornados** in the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA
- **Willy-willies** in north-western Australia
- **Tropical cyclones** in the Indian Ocean



Who gave this name?

Asna name has been **given by Pakistan**.

How are cyclones named?

- In the year **2000**, **nations in the northern Indian Ocean adopted a new system** for naming tropical cyclones; the **names are listed alphabetically by country and are gender-neutral**.
- The name list is usually proposed by WMO Members' National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in a particular region and approved by the respective tropical cyclone regional bodies at their annual/biannual sessions.

Rotational Basis: Cyclones are named by countries on a **rotational basis**.

Regional Meteorological Centers: Worldwide, **six specialized regional meteorological centers (RSMCs)** and **five regional Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs)** are mandated for issuing advisories and naming tropical cyclones.

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IMD's Role: The **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** is one of the **RSMCs** providing advisories and naming for the **north Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.**

Member Countries: **IMD serves 13 member countries** under the **WMO/Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP) Panel**, including *Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.*

- **List of 169 Names:** IMD released a list of **169** cyclone names in **2020**, with **13** suggestions from each of the **13** member countries.