



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

DEMS-RSMC TROPICAL CYCLONES NEW DELHI DATED 20.02.2026

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN (THE BAY OF BENGAL AND THE ARABIAN SEA) VALID FOR THE NEXT 168 HOURS ISSUED AT 0600 UTC OF 20.02.2026 BASED ON 0300 UTC OF 20.02.2026.

BAY OF BENGAL:

(a) The **Low Pressure Area** over Equatorial Indian Ocean & adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal became less marked at 0300 UTC of today, the 20th February, 2026. However, the associated upper air cyclonic circulation lay over the same region extended upto 3.1 km above mean sea level. It is likely to move west-northwestwards towards Sri Lanka during next 24 hours.

As per INSAT-3DS imagery of 0300 UTC, low level cyclonic circulation lay over Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal. The associated scattered to broken low and medium clouds with embedded moderate to intense convection lay over the southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean and Sri Lanka. Minimum cloud top temperature is minus 50-70°C.

Squally weather with wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely to prevail over southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean (EEIO), Gulf of Mannar, Comorin area and along & off Sri Lanka coast on 20th February. Squally weather with wind speed 40 to 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph likely to prevail over Lakshadweep & adjoining Comorin area and along & off Kerala coast on 21st February. The sea condition is likely to rough over these areas. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas

(b) Yesterday's upper air cyclonic circulation over Equatorial Indian Ocean & adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal extended upto 5.8 km above mean sea level persisted over the same region at 0300 UTC of today, the 20th February, 2026. Under its influence a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region during next 48 hours. It is likely to move west-northwestwards thereafter.

Scattered to broken low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection over the southeast Bay of Bengal & adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean and south Andaman Sea persisted during past 12 hours (minimum cloud top temperature is minus 70-90°C). Scattered low to medium clouds with embedded isolated weak convection lay over the north and central Bay of Bengal.

Squally weather with wind speed 40 to 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph likely to prevail over southern parts of southeast Bay of Bengal adjoining areas of EEIO & adjoining South Andaman Sea and along & off Nicobar Islands on 20th February, over central parts of south BoB & adjoining EEIO on 21st and over southwest BoB & adjoining EEIO and along & off East Sri Lanka coast during 22nd to 24th February. The sea condition is likely to rough over these areas. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas.

PROBABILITY OF CYCLOGENESIS (FORMATION OF DEPRESSION) DURING NEXT 168 HRS)

24 HOURS	24-48 HOURS	48-72 HOURS	72-96 HOURS	96-120 HOURS	120-144 HOURS	144-168 HOURS
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

***NOTE: EVERY 24HR FORECAST IS VALID UPTO 0300 UTC (0830 IST) OF NEXT DAY**

ARABIAN SEA:

Scattered low to medium clouds with embedded isolated weak to moderate convection lay over the southwest Arabian Sea, Maldives and Comorin area. Scattered low to medium clouds lay over rest of the Arabian Sea and Lakshadweep Islands area.

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REMARKS:

Environmental features indicate a favourable environment with Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) in phase 3 with amplitude close to 1. Thereafter, it is likely to move across phase 3 & 4 with amplitude remaining close to 1 during next 5 days. The equatorial waves show enhanced westerly wind anomaly (>9 mps) over the south Bay of Bengal (BoB), southeast Arabian Sea (AS) and adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean (EEIO), easterly wind anomaly (7-9 mps) over south Andaman Sea & central BoB, South Peninsular India alongwith prevalence of MJO, Equatorial Rossby wave (ERW), Kelvin wave (KW), low frequency back ground wave (LW) on 20th Feb. These features indicate a favourable environment for enhancement of convective activity over the south BoB and over South Peninsular India & Sri Lanka.

The dynamical features indicate a favourable for development of a cyclonic circulation/low pressure area over South BoB and Comorin area. Broad zone of positive convergence is seen over South BoB with maxima ($15 \times 10^{-6} \text{s}^{-1}$) over southeast & adjoining EIO. Broad zone of positive upper-level divergence is seen over south BoB with primary maxima ($20 \times 10^{-6} \text{s}^{-1}$) over southeast BoB and another of $10 \times 10^{-6} \text{s}^{-1}$ to the south of Sri Lanka. Similarly broad scale vorticity is seen over south BoB with maxima over southeast BoB. However, scatterometer winds are not indicating any clear circulation over southeast BoB. The wind shear is moderate (15-20 kts) over the system area. The upper tropospheric ridge lay near 10°N . All these features indicate a favourable environment for maintenance of intensity of the system.

Various deterministic and ensemble models are indicating active easterly wave over south BoB during 21st-23rd with embedded cyclonic circulations. ECMWF & NCEP GFS are indicating development of low pressure area over southwest BoB around 21st with west-northwestwards movement towards North Sri Lanka till 23rd.

Considering all the above, probability of cyclogenesis is given as NIL during next 7 days. However, a continuous watch is being maintained with respect to development of low pressure area and associated adverse weather over south BoB during 21st to 23rd February.

