



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

DEMS-RSMC TROPICAL CYCLONES NEW DELHI DATED 17.02.2026

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 17.02.2026 BASED ON 0300 UTC OF 17.02.2026.

BAY OF BENGAL:

The Low Pressure Area over east Equatorial Indian Ocean & adjoining central parts of south Bay of Bengal moved slowly west-northwestwards and lay over Equatorial Indian Ocean & adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal at 0300 UTC of today, the 17th February, 2026. The associated upper air cyclonic circulation extended upto 5.8 km above mean sea level. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and become more marked over southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining east Equatorial Indian Ocean around 18th February, 2026.

The associated estimated central pressure is 1009 hPa and maximum sustained wind speed is 10-15 kt gusting to 25 kt.

As per INSAT-3DS imagery of 0300 UTC, associated scattered to broken low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection lay over the southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean and Sri Lanka. Minimum cloud top temperature is -90⁰C.

Scattered to broken low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection lay over the south Bay of Bengal & adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean and Andaman Sea. Scattered low to medium clouds lay over the central Bay of Bengal.

Squally weather with wind speed reaching 35 to 45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph is likely to prevail over southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining east Equatorial Indian Ocean and along & off Sri Lanka coast during 17th to 21st February and over Gulf of Mannar & adjoining Comorin Area during 19th to 21st February. Sea condition is likely to be moderate to rough over these areas during 17th to 21st February. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas during 17th to 21st February.

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:

An upper air cyclonic circulation lay over southeast Arabian Sea off south Kerala coast extended upto 0.9 km above mean sea level at 0300 UTC of today, the 17th February, 2026.

Scattered low to medium clouds with embedded isolated weak to moderate convection lay over the south Arabian Sea.

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

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NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

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

REMARKS:

Environmental features indicate a favourable environment with Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) in phase 3 with amplitude more than 1. The equatorial waves show enhanced westerly wind anomaly (>9 mps) over the south Bay of Bengal (BoB) and adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean (EEIO), easterly wind anomaly (7-9 mps) over south Andaman Sea & central BoB, alongwith prevalence of MJO, Equatorial Rossby wave (ERW), Kelvin wave (KW), low frequency back ground wave (LW) during 17th – 19th Feb. The dynamical features continue to remain favourable. The positive low-level convergence has decreased slightly (with maxima as $15 \times 10^{-6} \text{s}^{-1}$) over southwest BoB and adjoining EEIO to the south of Sri Lanka. The positive convergence zone (with maxima as $30 \times 10^{-6} \text{s}^{-1}$) in association with the system over the South Indian Ocean (SIO) has moved westwards as compared to yesterday. The positive upper-level divergence is the same during past 24 hours. However, it has now decoupled from the positive divergence zone over SIO. The positive low level vorticity has decreased slightly (with maxima as $50-60 \times 10^{-6} \text{s}^{-1}$) at 850 hPa and is east-west oriented over south BoB and adjoining EEIO and another zone with maxima as $50-60 \times 10^{-6} \text{s}^{-1}$ is seen over Indonesia and adjoining South Andaman Sea. The positive vorticity zone is extending upto 200 hPa. The wind shear is moderate (15-20 kt) 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 including ECMWF, NCUM(G), NCUM(R), ECAI, NCEP GFS, BFS, GFS, GEFS, NCMRWF AI models (Pangu-Weather, FourCast, GraphCast) are indicating a cyclonic circulation/ low pressure area over southwest BoB & adjoining EEIO with slow west-northwestwards movement of the system over the same region. However, IMD GFS and BFS are indicating formation of depression during 17th – 19th. However, these models are also over-estimating the current intensity of the system. Thus, probability of cyclogenesis is given as NIL during next 7 days. However, a continuous watch is being maintained over the region.

