



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

DEMS-RSMC TROPICAL CYCLONES NEW DELHI DATED 18.02.2026

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 18.02.2026 BASED ON 0300 UTC OF 18.02.2026.

BAY OF BENGAL:

The **Low Pressure Area** over Equatorial Indian Ocean & adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal persisted over the same region at 0300 UTC of today, the 18th February, 2026. The associated upper air cyclonic circulation extended upto 5.8 km above mean sea level. It is likely to move west-northwestwards towards Sri Lanka and become more marked over southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean during next 24 hours.

The associated estimated central pressure is 1008 hPa and maximum sustained wind speed is 10-15 kt gusting to 25 kt.

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 intense to very intense convection lay over the southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean and Sri Lanka. Minimum cloud top temperature is -90°C.

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.

In association with the low pressure area and strong pressure gradient in the northern sector of the low pressure area, squally weather with wind speed reaching 45 to 55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is likely to prevail over southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean and along & off East Sri Lanka coast during 18th to 21st February. Squally weather with wind speed reaching 40-50 gusting to 60 kmph is also likely over Gulf of Mannar & adjoining Comorin Area and along & off southwest coast of Sri Lanka during 18th to 21st February. Sea condition is likely to be rough over these areas during 18th to 21st February. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas during 18th 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:

Yesterday's upper air cyclonic circulation over southeast Arabian Sea off south Kerala coast became less marked at 0300 UTC of today, the 18th February, 2026.

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

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

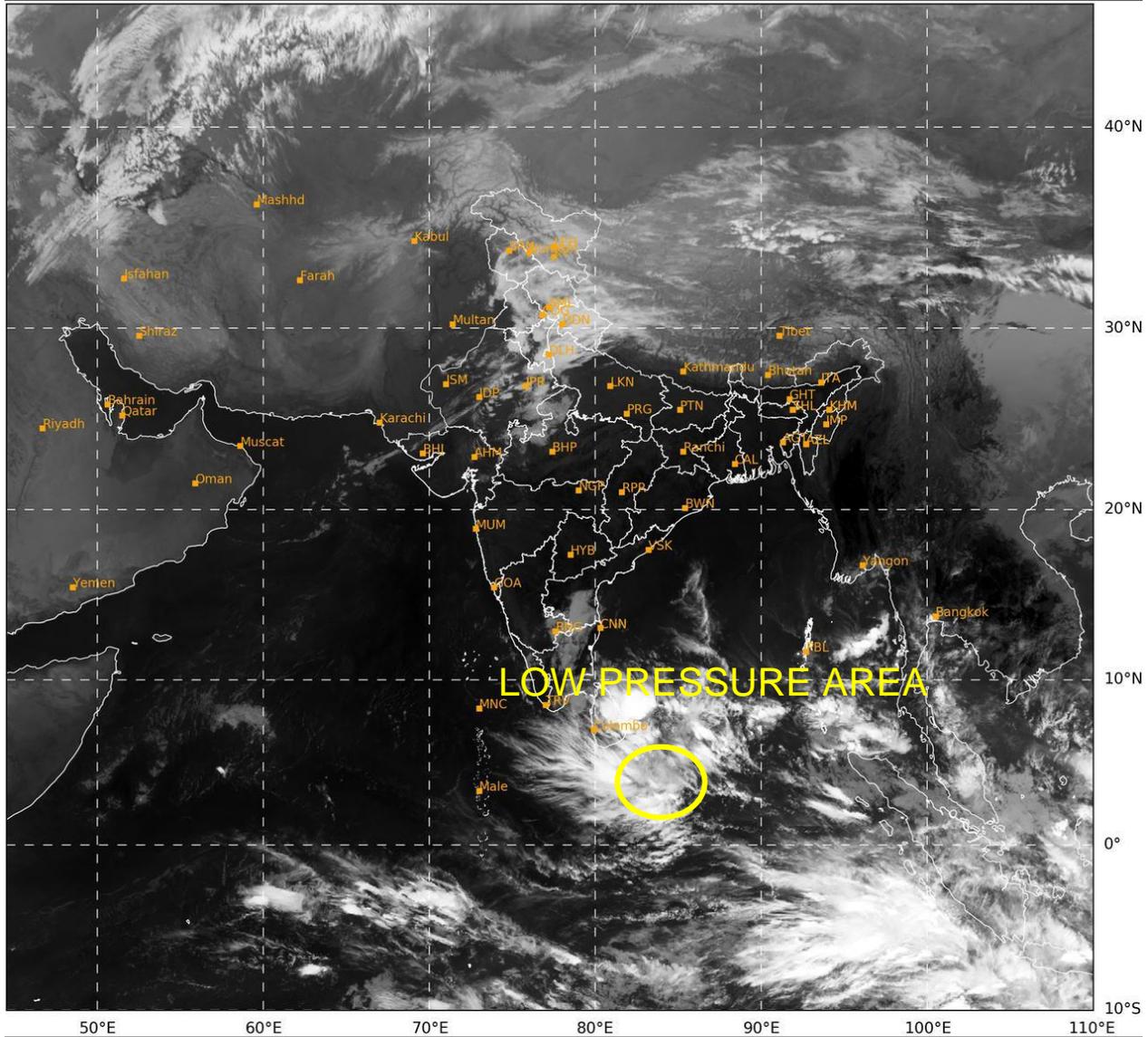
| 24 HOURS | 24-48 HOURS | 48-72 HOURS | 72-96 HOURS | 96-120 HOURS | 120-144 HOURS | 144-168 HOURS |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL |

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

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 18th – 19th Feb. The dynamical features continue to remain favourable. The positive low-level convergence is the same (with maxima as $15 \times 10^{-6} \text{s}^{-1}$) over southwest BoB and adjoining EEIO to the south of Sri Lanka. The positive upper-level divergence is the same during past 24 hours. The positive low level vorticity is the same (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 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 during next 2 days. However, IMD GFS and BFS are over estimating the intensity of the system. ECMWF and NCEP GFS are indicating development of a fresh low pressure area over southeast BoB around 21st February with west-northwestwards movement towards Sri Lanka coast till 23rd February. Considering all the above, probability of cyclogenesis is given as NIL during next 7 days. However, a continuous watch is being maintained over the region.



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