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

DEMS-RSMC TROPICAL CYCLONES NEW DELHI DATED 06.01.2026
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 06.01.2026 BASED ON 0300 UTC OF 06.01.2026.

BAY OF BENGAL:

(a) Under the influence of yesterday's upper air cyclonic circulation over East Equatorial Indian Ocean (EIO) and adjoining central parts of south Bay of Bengal (BoB), a low-pressure area formed over southeast BoB and adjoining East EIO at 1200 UTC of 5th January, 2026. It lay as a Well Marked Low pressure area (WML) over the same region at 0000 UTC of today, the 6th January, 2026. It persisted as a WML over the same region at 0300 UTC of today, the 6th January 2026. The associated cyclonic circulation extended upto 5.8 km above mean sea level.

It is likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression over southwest Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours. Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards across southwest Bay of Bengal during subsequent 48 hours.

The estimated central pressure is about 1007 hPa. The associated maximum sustained wind speed is about 10-15 knots gusting upto 25 knots. Sea condition is moderate to rough with significant wave height of 1.25-4.0 m. A ship near 6.2° N/ 85.6° E reported mean sea level pressure of 1007 hPa and maximum sustained wind as 90°/ 20 kt.

As per INSAT 3DS, the VORTEX lay over Southeast BoB & adjoining East EIO within half a degree of 4.5N/88.0E. Intensity of the system is T1.0. Scattered to broken low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection lay over south Bay of Bengal & adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean and Sri Lanka. Minimum cloud top temperature is -90°C. Scattered low and medium clouds with embedded isolated weak to moderate convection lay over central Bay of Bengal and south Andaman 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
LOW	LOW	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

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

(b) Yesterday's trough in the easterlies over Maldives and adjoining Lakshadweep area at 3.1km above mean sea level persisted at 0300 UTC of today, the 06th January 2026.

(c) A cyclonic circulation lay over Comorian area & neighbourhood at 0.9 km above mean sea level at 0300 UTC of today, the 06th January 2026.

ARABIAN SEA:

A cyclonic circulation lay over Eastcentral Arabian Sea & adjoining Lakshadweep area at 3.1 km above mean sea level at 0300 UTC of today, the 06th January 2026.

Scattered low and medium clouds with embedded isolated weak to moderate convection lay over south Arabian Sea, Maldives and Comorin area.

***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:

The guidance from ECMM model indicates that the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) index is presently in phase 6 with amplitude less than 1 and is likely to continue in same phase during next 5 days. The sea surface temperature is around 29^0 C over Equatorial Indian Ocean (EIO) and adjoining south BoB. Gradually it is decreasing, becoming 27^o C off Sri Lanka coast and southwest Bay of Bengal adjacent to Tamil Nadu coast. The guidance from NCICS model indicates westerly wind anomaly (7-9 mps) along with prevalence of low frequency background wave (LW) over the EIO and adjoining central parts of south BoB and easterly wind anomaly (3-5 mps) to its north over central & adjoining south BoB during next 3 days. Thus, Equatorial waves are likely to support enhanced convective activity in association with the low pressure area over the region till 8^{th} January. Thereafter, slight weakening of these features is indicated.

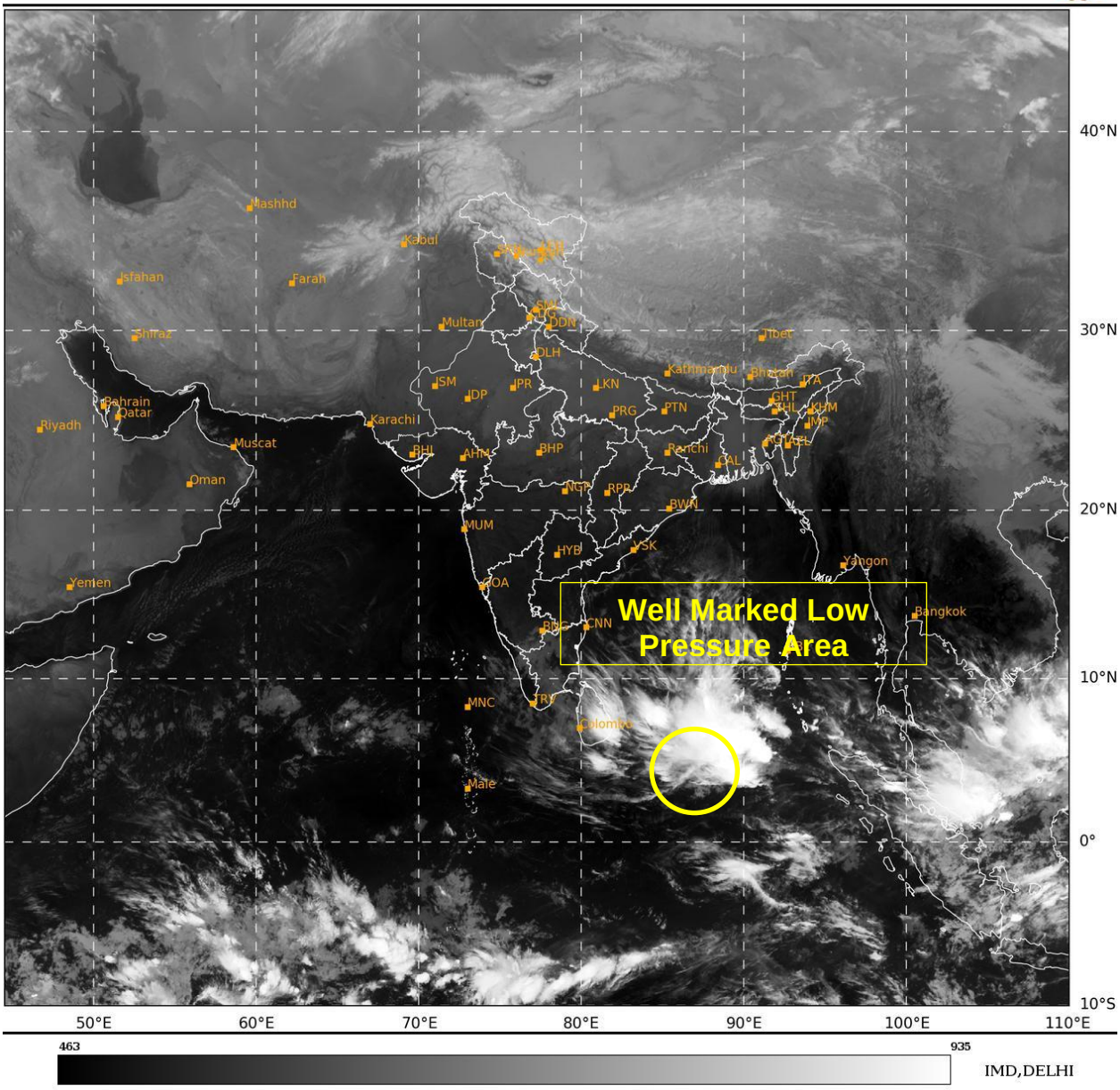
The low level relative vorticity at 850 hPa is about 50×10^{-6} s^{-1} to the south of system centre. Vertically the positive vorticity zone is extending up to 200 hPa and tilting slightly southwestwards with height. Upper-level divergence is around 20×10^{-6} s^{-1} over the system centre and is east-west oriented. Northward bulge is also seen, indicating poleward outflow. Low-level convergence is around 10×10^{-6} s^{-1} arond system centre and is east-west oriented. Both deep and mid layer shear is around (10-15 kts) and anti-cyclonic over the system area which is favorable to intensify further. The total precipitable water imagery suggests warm air advection into the system area. Comparison of IR and water vapor imagery indicates that convection is extending beyond mid-tropospheric level and warm air advection is suporting deep convection. The upper tropospheric ridge is around 14^0 N. Deep layer mean wind suggest west-northwestward movement with speed of 10-15 kt upto 85^o E. Thereafter, it is suggesting north-northeastward recurvature.

There is good consensus among various models with respect to west-northwestwards movement of the system across southwest Bay of Bengal during next 3 days. However, models like ECMWF and GFS are indicating marginal intensification of the system into a depression over southwest Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours.

Confidence level in estimation of current location of well marked low pressure area: Moderate.
Confidence level in estimation of estimation of current intensity: High.
Confidence level in forecast track: High.
Confidence level in forecast intensity: Low.

SAT : INSAT-3DR IMG
IMG_TIR1 10.8 um
L1C Mercator

06-01-2026/(0315 to 0342) GMT
06-01-2026/(0845 to 0912) IST



Cloud distribution: (a) Isolated: <25%, Scattered:25-50%, Broken: 51-75%, Solid:>75%, Convection Intensity: (a) Weak: Cloud Top Temperature(CTT)>-25°C, (b) Moderate: CTT:-25°Cto-40°C, (c) Intense: CTT: -41°Cto -70°C and (d) Very Intense::Less than -70°C Probability of cyclogenesis (formation of depression) :NIL:0%, LOW:1-33%, MODERATE:34-66% and HIGH:67-100%

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