



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Depression over Bay of Bengal (18th –19th November 2021): A Report



INSAT-3D Satellite imagery at 0630 UTC of 18th November, 2021

Cyclone Warning Division India Meteorological Department New Delhi November, 2021

Depression over Bay of Bengal (18th – 19th November, 2021)

1. Introduction

- A Low Pressure Area (LPA) formed over south Andaman Sea & adjoining Thailand coast during the noon (0830 hrs IST/0300 UTC) of 13th November.
- It persisted as a low pressure area over south Bay of Bengal(BoB) for around 4 days.
- It moved westwards and lay as a well marked low pressure area (WML) over southwest & adjoining westcentral BoB off north Tamil Nadu and South Andhra Pradesh coasts in the morning (0530 hrs IST/0000 UTC) of 18th Nov.
- Under favourable environmental conditions, it concentrated into a depression over southwest BoB off North Tamil Nadu coast in the forenoon (0830 hrs IST/0300 UTC) of 18th Nov.
- It moved west-northwestwards and crossed north Tamil Nadu coast between Puducherry and Chennai near latitude 12.45°N and longitude 80.1°E during early hours of 19th Nov (0300-0400 hours IST of 19th / 2130-2230 UTC of 18th).
- It weakened into a well marked low pressure area over interior Tamil Nadu on 19th early morning (0530 hrs IST/0000 UTC) and gradually became less marked over same region on 20th November.
- The observed track of the system during 18th 19th November is presented in Fig.1. Best Track parameters associated with the system are presented in Table1.

2. Salient features:

- > The system developed during active phase of northeast monsoon season.
- It had a brief life period of about 27 hours against the average life period (1990-2013) of 48 hours of depression category in post-monsoon season over the BoB.
- It caused heavy to very heavy rainfall at few places with extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal and Rayalseema on 18th November



Fig.1: Observed track of depression over the Bay of Bengal during 18-19th November 2021

 Table 1: Best track positions and other parameters of the Depression over southwest Bay of Bengal during during 18-19th November 2021

Date	Time (UTC)	Centre lat. ⁰ N/ long. ⁰ E		C.I. NO.	Estimated Central Pressure (hPa)	Estimated Maximum Sustained Surface Wind (kt)	Estimated Pressure drop at the Centre (hPa)	Grade
18.112021	0300	11.0	82.3	1.5	1000	25	4	D
	0600	11.2	81.7	1.5	1000	25	4	D
	1200	11.8	80.9	1.5	1000	25	4	D
	1800	12.2	80.5	1.5	1000	25	4	D
		Crossed north Tamilnadu coast between Puducherry & Chennai near Lat. 12.45°N and Long., 80.1°E during 0300-0400 hour IST of 19th November, 2021						
19.11.2021	0000	12.5	80.0	1.5	1000	25	4	D
	0300	12.7	79.7	1.5	1002	20	3	D
	0600	Depression weakened into a Well Marked Low pressure Area over north Tamilnadu & neighborhood.						

3. Brief life history Genesis, Intensification and movement

Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over Gulf of Thailand and neighbourhood, an LPA formed over south Andaman Sea & adjoining Thailand coast at 0300 UTC of 13th November. It persisted as a low pressure area over south BoB for around 4 days.

Under favourable environmental conditions, it concentrated into a WML over southwest BoB at 0000 UTC of 18th and into a depression over southwest BoB off North Tamil Nadu coast at 0300 UTC of 18th Nov. At 0300 UTC of 18th November, the sea surface temperature (SST) was about 29-31°C over southwest BoB. Tropical cyclone heat potential (TCHP) was about 80-100 KJ/cm² over southwest BoB. Madden Julian Oscillation Index was in phase 4 with amplitude close to 1. It was likely to continue in same phase during next 5 days. The positive low level vorticity increased in previous 24 hours and was around $(100 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1})$ over southwest BoB to the south of system centre with vertical extension upto 500 hpa level. Positive low level convergence also increased and was about 30 x10⁻⁵ s⁻¹ to the northwest of system centre. Positive upper level divergence also increased significantly and was around 30x10⁻⁵ s⁻¹ to the northwest of system centre. Vertical wind shear was low (10-15 kts) over system area and upto north Tamilnadu & adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts. The latest total precipitable water vapour imagery at that time indicated moist warm air inflow into the core of system. The upper tropospheric ridge lay near 19.5⁰N. Under these favourable conditions, the low pressure area over central parts of south BoB moved west-northwestwards and intensified into a well marked low pressure area over southwest BoB at 0000 UTC and into a depression at 0300 UTC of 18th November.

The system was steered west-northwestwards by the east-southeasterly winds in the southern periphery of the upper tropospheric ridge. However, the land interactions inhibited further intensification of the system. Under these conditions, the depression over southwest BoB moved further west-northwestwards and maintained it's intensity.

At 1200 UTC of 18th November, similar sea and MJO conditions prevailed. The positive low level vorticity was around 100 x10-6 s-1 over southwest BoB to the south of system centre with vertical extension upto 500 hpa level. Positive low level convergence reduced slightly and was about 20 x10-5 s-1 to the west of system centre. Positive upper level divergence also reduced and was around 05-10 x 10-5 s-1 to the northwest of system centre. Vertical wind shear was low (15-20 kts) over system area and along forecast track. The upper tropospheric ridge lay near 19.50N. The system was continuously steered west-northwestwards by the east-southeasterly winds prevailing in the southern periphery of the upper tropospheric ridge.

At 1800 UTC of 18th November, similar sea and MJO conditions prevailed. The positive low level vorticity was around 100 x10-6 s-1 over southwest BoB to the south of system centre with vertical extension upto 500 hpa level. Positive low level convergence was about 20 x10-5 s-1 to the west of system centre. Positive upper level divergence was around 15-20 x 10-5 s-1 to the northwest of system centre. Vertical wind shear was low to moderate (15-20 kts) over system area and along forecast track. The upper tropospheric ridge lay near 19.50N. The system moved northwestwards by the east-southeasterly winds prevailing in the southern periphery of the upper tropospheric ridge and crossed north Tamilnadu coast between Puducherry & Chennai near 12.45°N/80.1°E during 0300-0400 hours IST of 19th (2130-2230 UTC of 18th).

At 0300 UTC of 19^{th} November, positive low level vorticity was about 100×10^{-6} s⁻¹ over Tamilnadu to the south of system centre. Positive low level convergence was about 10×10^{-5} s⁻¹ to the northeast of system centre. Positive upper level divergence was 20×10^{-5} s⁻¹ to the northwest of system centre. Wind shear was low (05-10 kt) over system area and increased gradually becoming 15 kt to it's northwest, along the forecast track. Upper tropospheric ridge ran along 18^{0} N. Under these conditions, the system moved west-northwestwards and weakened marginally.

Similar unfavourable trends in the environmental features continued and because of land interactions, the system weakened into a WML over interior Tamil Nadu on at 0600 UTC of 19th and gradually became less marked over the same region on 20th November morning.

4. Monitoring of depression over southwest Bay of Bengal

India Meteorological Department (IMD) maintained round the clock watch over the north Indian Ocean and the system was monitored since 10th November (3 days prior to formation of LPA over south Andaman Sea and adjoining Thailand on 13th November and 8 days prior to formation of depression over southwest BoB on 18th November).

The depression was monitored with the help of available satellite observations from INSAT 3D & 3DR and polar orbiting satellites. Various numerical weather prediction models developed by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) institutions and dynamical-statistical models were utilized to predict the genesis, track, landfall and intensity of the system. A digitized forecasting system of IMD was utilized for analysis and comparison of various model guidance, decision making process and warning product generation.

4. 1. Features observed through satellite

Satellite monitoring of the system was mainly done by using half hourly INSAT-3D and 3DR imageries. Satellite imageries of international geostationary satellites Meteosat-8, high resolution polar orbiting satellites and scatterometer imageries from ASCAT were also considered for monitoring the system. Typical INSAT-3D visible/ IR imageries, enhanced colored imageries and ASCAT(Met-Op A) imageries are presented in Fig.2. As per INSAT-3D at 0300 UTC of 18th November, the intensity of the system was characterised as T 1.5. The cloud mass over southwest BoB and neighbourhood further organised. Intense convective cloud mass was sheared to the west of system centre. The western part of the convective cloud mass entered northeast Tamilnadu & a secondary cloud band was observed over Andhra Pradesh. Broken low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection lay over southwest and adjoining westcentral BoB between bet latitude 9.0N & 13.5N and west of longitude 82.5E, over Tamilnadu & adjoining south Andhra Pradesh & Palk Strait. Minimum cloud top temperature (CTT) was minus 93^oC.



Fig. 2a: INSAT-3D IR imageries during life cycle of Depression during 18th-19th Nov, 2021



Fig. 2 b: INSAT-3D VIS imageries during 18-19 Nov, 2021



Fig. 2 c: INSAT-3D BD curve imageries during 18-19 November, 2021



Fig.2d: INSAT-3D enhanced colored imageries during 18-19 November, 2021

At 1200 UTC of 18th November, the intensity of the system was characterised as T 1.5. The clouds were organised in shear pattern. Intense convective cloud mass was sheared to the west of system centre. Due to land interaction the convective cloud mass over Tamilnadu got disorganised. The cloud mass was spread across north Tamilnadu, south Andhra Pradesh and south interior Karnataka. Broken low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection lay over southwest and adjoining westcentral BoB between bet latitude 11.0N & 15.0N and west of longitude 80.5E and also over Tamilnadu & adjoining south Andhra Pradesh & south interior Karnataka. Minimum CTT was minus 93^oC. Microwave imagery at 1055 UT of 18th indicated exposed low level circulation to the east of the cloud mass.

The system moved northwestwards and was over land during 2130-2230 UTC of 18th. Thereafter, due to land interactions the system started disorganizing.

At 0300 UTC of 19th November, broken low and medium clouds with embedded moderate to intense convection lay over northwest Tamilnadu, Rayalseema, adjoining south coastal Andhra Pradesh and south interior Karnataka. Minimum CTT was minus 70^oC.



Fig. 2e: ASCAT imageries on 18th -19th November 2021

5. Dynamical features

IMD GFS analysis fields of mean sea level pressure (MSLP), 10m wind, winds at 850, 500 & 200 hPa levels at 0000 UTC of 18^{th} and 19^{th} November are presented in Fig. 3 (a-b). The analysis fields based on 0000 UTC of 18^{th} November indicated a depression over southwest BoB with vertical extension upto 500 hPa level. At upper level, the ridge was captured near 19^{0} N (Fig. 3a).



Fig.3 (a): IMD GFS (T1534) mean sea level pressure (MSLP), winds at 10m, 850, 500 and 200 hPa levels based on 0000 UTC of 18th November 2021

The analysis fields based on 0000 UTC of 19th November indicated that the depression was centred over north Tamil Nadu and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts close to Chennai. At upper level, the ridge was captured near 19⁰N (Fig. 3b).



Fig.3 (b): IMD GFS (T1534) mean sea level pressure (MSLP), winds at 10m, 850, 500 and 200 hPa levels based on 0000 UTC of 19th November 2021

Thus, IMD GFS could capture the broad scale features, location, intensity and movement of system correctly throughout the life period of the system.

6. Realized Weather: 6.1. Realised rainfall

Rainfall associated with the depression over BoB based on IMD-NCMRWF GPM merged gauge rainfall data is depicted in **Fig 4**. It indicates heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places over north Tamil Nadu & south Andhra Pradesh and at isolated places over Rayalseema and north interior Karnataka on 18th November. On 19th, heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places over north interior Tamil Nadu, south

Andhra Pradesh, Rayalseema and north interior Karnataka with extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places over north interior Tamil Nadu and Rayalseema.



Fig.4: IMD-NCMRWF GPM merged gauge rainfall plots during 16th -22nd November 2021

Realized 24 hrs accumulated rainfall (\geq 7cm) ending at 0830 hrs IST of date during the life cycle of the system is presented below:

Rainfall Dated 18.11.2021

Tamilnadu: Tiruppur district: Dharmapuram-13, Palladam-8, Tiruppur, Avinasi-7 each, Thanjavur district: Thanjavur-12, Ayyampettai-10, Budalur-8, Thanjai Papanasam, Tiruvaiyaru-7 each, Tenkasi district: Sankarankoil-11, Perambalur district: Chettikulam-11, Coimbatore district: Sulur-10, Valparai-8, Chinnakalur-7, Dindigul: Odanchatram-9, Palani-7; Erode district Bhavanisagar-9; Tiruvarur district: Needamangalam, Valangaiman-9 each; Tirunelveli district: Palayamkottai-9, Ambasamudram-7, Toothukudi district: Srivaikuntam, Surangudi, Kayathar-9 each, Kayalpattinam-8, Virudhunagar district: Sattur-8, Virudhunagar-7, Nilgiris district: Avalanche-8; Cuddalore district: Tozhudur-7;

Rayalaseema: YSR District: Atlur-10, Penagaluru-9, Rajampet, Cuddapah Vallur, Utukuru-7 each, **Chittoor district**: Tirupati-9, Srikalahasti, Thottambedu-7 each, Theni: gudalur, Veerapandi-7 each;

Coastal Andhra Pradesh: Nellore district: Atmakur-8, Vinjamur-7; **North Interior Karnataka: Haveri district**: Hirekerur-10.

Rainfall Dated 19.11.2021

Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal: Puducherry district -Puducherry-19, Dharmapuri district: Dharmapuri-18, Harur and Palacode-12, Kanchipuram district -Uthiramerur-14, Cuddalore district -Cuddalore-14, Krishnagiri district -Uthangiri-14, Penikondapuram- 11, Barur-10, Chengalpattu district -Cheyyur-10, Ranipet district -Wallajah-12, Tirupattur district -Alangayam-13;

Rayalaseema: Anantapuramu district -Nambulipulikunta-24, **YSR district** - Sambalpur, Royachoti and Vemapalle-18 each, Pulivendla-17, Lakkireddipalle-16;

Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam: Prakasham district -Kandukur-11, Nellore district -Venkatagiri-10, Sullupreta-8, Udaigiri, Vinjamur, Rapur and Atmakun-7 each; East Godavari district -Amlapuram-9, Krishna district -Avanigada-7;

South Interior Karnataka: Bengaluru district: Hoskte-10, Electronic City-12; **Chikaballapura district:** Chintamani-12; **Kolar district:** Bangapet-18, Malur-17, Kolar PWD-15; **Tumkuru district:** Gubbi-15.

6.2. Realised Wind

Realised estimated maximum sustained surface wind was 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph over north Tamil Nadu in the early hours of 19th November at the time of landfall.

7. Damage due to the system

As per media reports, 9 persons including four kids, died in house collapse in Vellore's Pernambut (Source: Indian Express dated 19th November)

8. Operational Forecast Performance

8.1. Genesis, Track and Intensity Forecast

- First information about likely formation of a low pressure area over Andaman Sea around 14th November was indicated in the daily detailed prognostic & diagnostic report issued on 8th November under Forecast Demonstration Project (about 5 days prior to formation of low pressure area on 13th and 10 days prior to formation of depression on 18th November).
- Subsequently, in the Tropical Weather Outlook bulletin issued at 1130 hrs IST/0600 UTC of 10th November, the information was further updated and it was indicated that a low pressure area would form over south Andaman Sea around 13th November. It was also indicated that the system would move westnorthwestwards and intensify further.
- Actually, low pressure area formed over Andaman Sea on 13th November. It moved gradually west-northwestwards and intensified into a depression over southwest BoB on 18th November.
- In the first National Bulletin issued at 1145 hrs IST of 18th November, it was indicated that the system would move west– northwestwards and cross north Tamilnadu & adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts around Chennai by the early morning of 19th November, 2021 and the system crossed coast between Puducherry and Chennai during 0300-0400 IST of 19th November.

8.2. Adverse weather warning verification

The verifications of adverse weather like heavy rainfall and gale wind forecast issued by IMD are presented in Tables 2-3. It is found that the adverse weather was predicted accurately and well in advance

Date/	24 hr Heavy	
	-	
Base Time	rainfall warning	ending at 0300 UTC of 3 rd April
of	ending at 0300	
observation	UTC of next day	
18.11.2021	Heavy to very	Tamilnadu: Tiruppur: Dharmapuram-13, Palladam-
/0300UTC	heavy rainfall at a	8, Tiruppur, Avinasi-7 each, Thanjavur: Thanjavur-
	few places and	12, Ayyampettai-10, Budalur-8, Thanjai Papanasam,
	extremely heavy	Tiruvaiyaru-7 each, Tenkasi : Sankarankoil-11,
	falls at isolated	Perambalur: Chettikulam-11, Coimbatore: Sulur-
	places very likely	10, Valparai-8, Chinnakalur-7, Dindigul :
	over Tamil Nadu,	Odanchatram-9, Palani-7; Erode : Bhavanisagar-9;
	Puducherry &	Tiruvarur : Needamangalam, Valangaiman-9 each;
	Karaikal, heavy to	Tirunelveli : Palayamkottai-9, Ambasamudram-7,
	very heavy rainfall	Toothukudi: Srivaikuntam, Surangudi, Kayathar-9
	and extremely	each, Kayalpattinam-8, Virudhunagar: Sattur-8,
	heavy falls at	Virudhunagar-7, Nilgiris: Avalanche-8; Cuddalore:
	isolated places	Tozhudur-7; Rayalaseema: YSR District: Atlur-10,
	over adjoining	Penagaluru-9, Rajampet, Cuddapah Vallur, Utukuru-
	districts of	7 each, Chittoor : Tirupati-9, Srikalahasti,
	Rayalaseema and	Thottambedu-7 each, Theni: gudalur, Veerapandi-7
	heavy to very	each; Coastal Andhra Pradesh: Nellore: Atmakur-
	heavy rainfall at	8, Vinjamur-7; North Interior Karnataka: Haveri:
	isolated places	Hirekerur-10.
	over south coastal	Rayalaseema: Anantapuramu-Nambulipulikunta-
	Andhra Pradesh &	24, YSR-Sambalpur, Royachoti and Vemapalle-18
	south interior	each, Pulivendla-17, Lakkireddipalle-16; Tamilnadu,
	Karnataka.	Puducherry & Karaikal: Puducherry-Puducherry-
19.11.2021/	Heavy to very	19, Dharmapuri: Dharmapuri-18, Harur and
0300 UTC	heavy rainfall at	Palacode-12, Kanchipuram -Uthiramerur-14,
0300 010	isolated places	Cuddalore-Cuddalore-14, Krishnagiri-Uthangiri-14,
	very likely over	
	Rayalaseema and	Cheyyur-10, Ranipet-Wallajah-12, Tirupattur-
	south interior	Alangayam-13; Coastal Andhra Pradesh &
	Karnataka and	Yanam: Prakasham-Kandukur-11, Nellore-
	heavy rainfall at	Venkatagiri-10, Sullupreta-8, Udaigiri, Vinjamur,
	isolated places	Rapur and Atmakun-7 each; East Godavari-
	over north interior	Amlapuram-9, Krishna-Avanigada-7; Gujarat
	Tamil Nadu south,	Region: Mehsana-Dharoi colony-8, Narmada-
	coastal Andhra	Tilakwada-7, Sabarkanyha-Idar and Vadali-7 each.
	Pradesh,	South Interior Karnataka: Bengaluru: Hoskte-10,
	Telangana,	Electronic City-12; Chikaballapura: Chintamani-12;
	Coastal and north	Kolar: Bangapet-18, Malur-17, Kolar PWD-15;
	interior Karnataka	Tumkuru: Gubbi-15.
	and Kerala.	
		Daga 12 of 15

Table 2: Verification of Heavy Rainfall Warning

Table 3: Verification of squally wind warning

Date/Base	Squally wind warning based on at 0300 UTC of	Realised 24-hour
Time of	date	Squally wind
observation		
18.11.2021 /0300UTC	Squally wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph likely to prevail over southwest & adjoining west- central Bay of Bengal and along & off Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and India Meteorological Department (Ministry of Earth Sciences) adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts during next 24 hours and decrease gradually thereafter.	Realised estimated maximum sustained surface wind was 40- 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph over north Tamil Nadu, southwest BoB.
19.11.2021/ 0300 UTC	Squally wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph likely to prevail over southwest & adjoining west- central Bay of Bengal, Gulf of Mannar, Comorin Area and along & off Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts during next 06 hours and decrease gradually thereafter	

9. Warning Services

Bulletins issued by Cyclone Warning Division, New Delhi

- Track & intensity forecast: IMD continuously monitored, predicted and issued bulletins containing track & intensity forecast for +12, +24 and +36 lead period till the system weakened into a low pressure area. The above forecasts were issued from the stage of depression onwards along with the cone of uncertainty in the track forecast every six hourly during the Depression period.
- Adverse weather warning bulletins: The forecasts alongwith expected adverse weather like heavy rain and squally wind was issued with every six hourly update to central, state and district level disaster management agencies including MHA NDRF, NDMA, Coast Guard, all concerned states along the east coast of India including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Rayalseema, Kerala, Karnataka and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and to press and electronic media. The bulletins also contained the suggested action for disaster managers and general public in particular for fishermen. These bulletins were also issued to Ministry of Defence including Indian Navy & Indian Air Force and CDS.
- Warning graphics: The graphical display of the observed and forecast track with cone of uncertainty were disseminated by email and uploaded in the RSMC, New Delhi website (http://rsmcnewdelhi.imd.gov.in/) regularly. The adverse weather warnings related to heavy rain and squally wind were also presented in graphics alongwith colour codes in the website.
- Warning and advisory through social media: Daily updates (every six hourly or whenever there was any significant change in intensity/track) were uploaded on face book and tweeter regularly during the life period of the system.
- Warning and advisory for marine community: The six hourly Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS) bulletins were issued by the Marine Weather Services division at New Delhi and bulletins for maritime interest were issued by Area cyclone warning centres of IMD at Chennai, Kolkata and Cyclone warning

centres at Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar and Thiruvananthapuram to ports, fishermen, coastal and high sea shipping community.

- **Fishermen Warning:** Regular warnings for fishermen were issued since 13th Nov.
- **Diagnostic and prognostic features of Depression:** The prognostics and diagnostics of the systems were described in the RSMC bulletins.

S.N	Bulletin	No. of	Issued to	
	type	Bulletins		
1	Special Message on formation of LPA	4	1. IMD's website, RSMC New Delhi website 2. FAX and e-mail to Control Room Ministry of Home Affairs & National Disaster Management Authority, Cabinet Secretariat, Minister of Science & Technology, Headquarter Integrated Defence Staff, Director General Doordarshan, All India Radio, National Disaster Response Force, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Rayalseema, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, IAF, Indian Navy, coast guard, press and electronic media.	
2	National Bulletin	8	-Do-	
3	RSMC Bulletin	7	 IMD's website WMO/ESCAP member countries through GTS and E-mail. 	
4	GMDSS Bulletins	8	 IMD website, RSMC New Delhi website Transmitted through WMO Information System (WIS) to Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Ocean and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) 	
5	Warnings through SMS	Frequently	SMS to disaster managers at national level and concerned states (every time when there was change in track, intensity, landfall characteristics and associated adverse weather) through IMD's network, to farmers through Kisaan Portal and to fishermen through INCOIS.	
6	Warnings through Social Media	Daily	Uploaded on Social networking sites (Face book and Tweeter) since inception to weakening of system (every six hourly).	
7	Press Release	2	Disaster Managers, Media persons by email and uploaded on website	

Table 4: Bulletins issued by RSMC New Delhi

10. Acknowledgement:

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