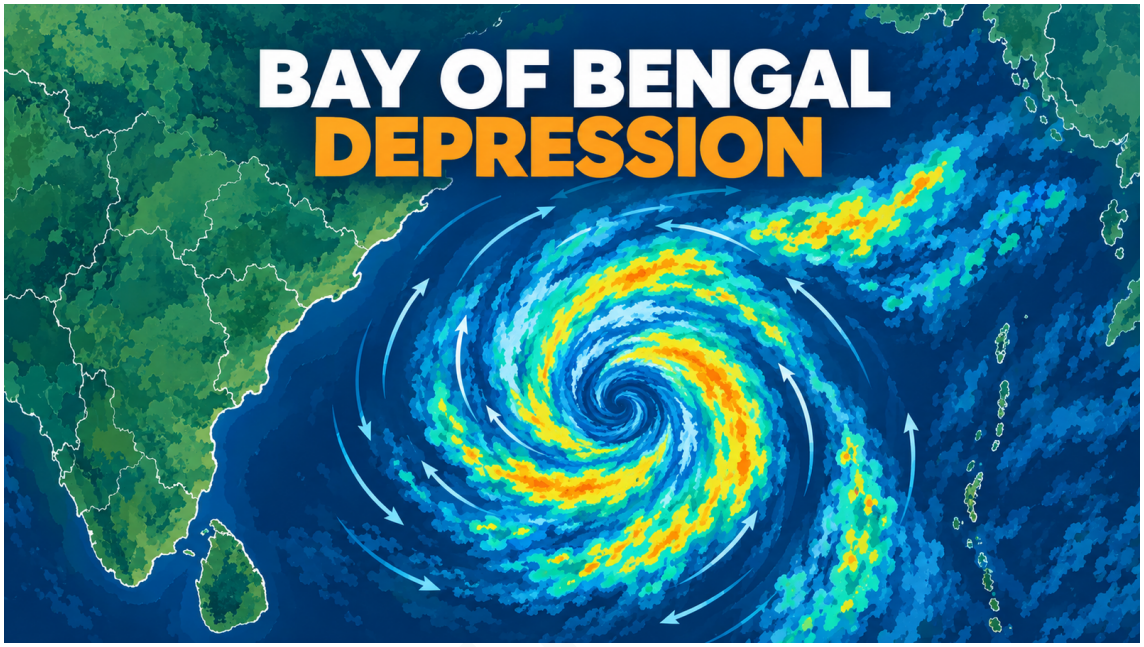
Low Pressure in Bay of Bengal: Depression Likely by 15 November

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13 November 2026: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said a low pressure area has formed over the southeast Bay of Bengal, which is likely to become well-marked on 14 November and intensify into a depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal by 15 November. The system has formed under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over the central Andaman Sea.

Current status

Formation: The low pressure area formed on the morning of 13 November over the southeast Bay of Bengal and persisted there; the associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 5.8 km above mean sea level.

Track: It is likely to move northwestwards, becoming a well-marked low on 14 November and then a depression.

Winds: Between 15-17 November, winds may reach 55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph over the southwest Bay, and over the central Bay on 16-17 November. Heavy rainfall warnings are in place for coastal Tamil Nadu and nearby regions.

How a cyclone forms: the stages

Classification: IMD grades tropical systems by intensity - low pressure, well-marked low, depression (28-33 knots), deep depression (34-47 knots), and then a cyclonic storm (above 48 knots), which is given a name.

Energy source: A warm sea surface (about 26.5 degrees C or more) supplies heat and moisture; low vertical wind shear and the Coriolis force from the Earth's rotation sustain the spin.

Season: October-December (the northeast monsoon season) is the second main cyclone season in the Bay of Bengal, when systems typically head towards the Tamil Nadu-Andhra coast.

Why preparedness matters

Depressions and cyclones bring heavy rain, strong winds and flooding risk to coastal districts; advisories for fishermen, coastal monitoring and disaster-management readiness begin at this stage itself.

IMD's impact-based forecasts and colour-coded warnings are designed for exactly this lead time.

Quiz: Test your knowledge

Q1: What is the correct order of tropical cyclone intensification?

(a) Low pressure - deep depression - depression - cyclonic storm(b) Low pressure - depression - deep depression - cyclonic storm(c) Depression - low pressure - deep depression - cyclonic storm(d) Low pressure - cyclonic storm - depression - deep depression

Answer and explanation: (b) Low pressure - well-marked low - depression (28-33 knots) - deep depression (34-47 knots) - cyclonic storm (above 48 knots).

Q2: Where has the current low pressure area formed, and where is it headed?

(a) Southeast Bay of Bengal; northwestwards towards the Tamil Nadu-Andhra coast(b) Arabian Sea; towards Gujarat(c) Central Bay of Bengal; towards Odisha only(d) Andaman Sea; eastwards towards Myanmar

Answer and explanation: (a) It formed over the southeast Bay of Bengal and is moving northwestwards; it may become a depression over the southwest Bay by 15 November.

Mains Practice Question

Why is October-December prone to cyclones in the Bay of Bengal? Explain, along with the challenges of coastal risk management. (Answer in 250 words - 15 marks)

Answer outline:

Introduction: Reference the current low-pressure system in the southeast Bay of Bengal and the approaching cyclone season.

Main body: Causes - accumulated heat in warm sea surfaces, the wind pattern of the retreating monsoon, favourable Coriolis force. Risks - coastal population density, waterlogging, fishing communities, infrastructure. Management - impact-based forecasting, early warning, evacuation planning, coastal regulation.

Conclusion: In the era of climate change, accurate forecasting and coastal resilience are the keys to reducing risk.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In short: A low pressure area over the southeast Bay of Bengal is set to become well-marked on 14 November and a depression by 15 November, with winds of 55-65 kmph likely.

Question: Where has the low pressure area formed?

Over the southeast Bay of Bengal, under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over the central Andaman Sea.

Question: When could it become a depression?

As per IMD, a well-marked low on 14 November and a depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal by 15 November.

Question: What is the difference between a depression and a cyclonic storm?

Wind speed - 28-33 knots for a depression, above 48 knots for a cyclonic storm, which also gets a name.

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