Cyclone Akvan: Landfall Between Nellore and Tuni by November 20, IMD Says



Original symbolic graphic: pcsmantra.com

Why in News

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** says the system brewing over the Bay of Bengal will make **landfall around noon on 20 November between Nellore and Tuni** on the Andhra coast, as a very severe cyclonic storm with winds of **120-130 kmph, gusting to 145 kmph**. The deep depression, centred over the southeast Bay at **8:30 a.m. on 16 November** near **latitude 11.2°N / longitude 86.4°E**, is expected to become a **cyclonic storm by the evening of 16 November** and a **severe cyclonic storm by the evening of 17 November**. A **pre-cyclone watch** has been issued for the Andhra coast and adjoining south Odisha; fishermen have been called ashore until 20 November.

Key Facts

- **Intensification timeline (IMD):** deep depression at 8:30 a.m. on 16 November; cyclonic storm by that evening; severe cyclonic storm by the evening of 17 November; very severe cyclonic storm before landfall at noon on 20 November.
- **Landfall:** between Nellore and Tuni, around 20 November noon; sustained winds 120-130 kmph, gusting to 145 kmph.
- **Alerts:** pre-cyclone watch for the Andhra coast and adjoining south Odisha; fishermen ashore until 20 November.
- **Preparedness:** Odisha has stepped up evacuation planning in vulnerable districts; control rooms, relief teams and monitoring of river basins are in place.
- **Previous system (Arnab):** fisheries losses alone were estimated at about **Rs 307 lakh** in Visakhapatnam district.

Understanding a Cyclone's Stages

The IMD classifies North Indian Ocean systems by maximum sustained wind speed: low pressure (below 17 knots), **depression** (17-27 kt), **deep depression** (28-33 kt), **cyclonic storm** (34-47 kt), **severe cyclonic storm** (48-63 kt), **very severe cyclonic storm** (64-89 kt), and **extremely severe / super cyclonic storm** above that. Akvan's forecast track - deep depression on 16 November to very severe status by landfall on 20 November - shows the Bay of Bengal's high sea-surface temperatures and low wind shear driving rapid strengthening.

Why It Matters

- **Geography (GS-1):** the Bay of Bengal's funnel shape, warm waters and low-lying deltas (Godavari, Krishna) amplify storm surge - why the Andhra-Odisha belt is India's most cyclone-prone coast.
- **Disaster management (GS-3):** pre-cyclone watch, fishermen advisories, evacuation and control-room mechanisms test the early-warning chain from the IMD to the district administration.
- **Climate context:** a rising frequency and intensity of cyclones is linked to ocean warming - a recurring UPSC theme.

Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. According to the IMD, Cyclone Akvan is expected to make landfall:

(a) Between Nellore and Tuni on 20 November

(b) Between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur on 18 November

(c) Near Puducherry on 22 November

(d) Near Machilipatnam on 19 November

Answer and Explanation

Answer: (a) The IMD projects landfall between Nellore and Tuni around noon on 20 November as a very severe cyclonic storm (120-130 kmph, gusting to 145 kmph).

Q2. In the IMD classification, a 'severe cyclonic storm' has maximum sustained winds of:

(a) 17-27 knots

(b) 28-33 knots

(c) 34-47 knots

(d) 48-63 knots

Answer and Explanation

Answer: (d) 17-27 kt = depression, 28-33 kt = deep depression, 34-47 kt = cyclonic storm, 48-63 kt = severe cyclonic storm.

Mains Practice Question

Q: "Early warning and prepared administration can substantially reduce cyclone mortality." Discuss in the context of Cyclone Akvan's forecast, highlighting the roles of the IMD, state governments and local communities. (250 words)

Outline: Introduction - Akvan forecast and pre-cyclone watch; dimensions - IMD forecasting and classification; NDMA/SDMA framework; evacuation, fishermen advisories, control rooms; community awareness and shelters; conclusion - climate change demands capacity and resilient coastal infrastructure.

FAQ

Short answer: The IMD expects Cyclone Akvan to make landfall between Nellore and Tuni around noon on 20 November with winds of 120-130 kmph, gusting to 145 kmph. The system was a deep depression on the morning of 16 November; a pre-cyclone watch covers the Andhra coast and adjoining south Odisha, and fishermen stay ashore until 20 November.

Q: Where and when will Cyclone Akvan make landfall?

According to the IMD, between Nellore and Tuni on the Andhra coast around noon on 20 November, as a very severe cyclonic storm with sustained winds of 120-130 kmph gusting to 145 kmph.

Q: What is the system's current status?

A deep depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal at 8:30 a.m. on 16 November (11.2°N/86.4°E); expected to become a cyclonic storm by that evening and a severe cyclonic storm by the evening of 17 November.

Q: What preparedness measures are under way?

A pre-cyclone watch for the Andhra coast and adjoining south Odisha; fishermen ashore until 20 November; evacuation planning in Odisha; control rooms and relief teams activated; lessons from cyclone Arnab (about Rs 307 lakh of fisheries damage in Visakhapatnam) informing the response.

Sources

- The Hindu (16 November 2026): Akvan to cross the Andhra coast between Nellore and Tuni by 20 November noon - IMD
- PTI (16 November 2026): Odisha orders early evacuation of vulnerable areas
- The Week (16 November 2026): district-wise rainfall warnings for Odisha
- Note: IMD figures cited as reported in the sources above; for real-time updates see the IMD cyclone page (mausam.imd.gov.in)