

Cyclone Arnab Alert 2026: Landfall, IMD Warnings and Disaster Management - UPSC Current Affairs

Cyclone Arnab has intensified over the Bay of Bengal and is forecast to cross the **Andhra Pradesh-Yanam coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam on 28 October 2026**. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of strong winds, heavy to extremely heavy rainfall and possible flooding in coastal Andhra Pradesh and parts of Odisha. Authorities are preparing evacuations and emergency response measures. <Cite refs={["turn277207news8","turn277207search4"]} />

What Is Cyclone Arnab?

- **Location:** Bay of Bengal.
- **Expected landfall:** Andhra Pradesh-Yanam coast, between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam.
- **Expected wind speed:** 115–125 km/h, with gusts up to 140 km/h.
- **Major risks:** Coastal flooding, storm surge, damage to houses and infrastructure, power disruptions and agricultural losses.
- **Name:** Arnab was proposed by Bangladesh under the tropical cyclone naming system for the North Indian Ocean. <Cite refs={["turn277207search1","turn277207search7"]} />

Why Is the Bay of Bengal Vulnerable to Cyclones?

The Bay of Bengal is particularly prone to tropical cyclones because of warm sea-surface temperatures, abundant atmospheric moisture and favourable wind conditions. Its coastal geography and densely populated low-lying areas increase the risk of flooding and storm-surge damage.

Climate change can intensify certain cyclone-related hazards, particularly extreme rainfall and coastal flooding, although the influence on individual storms varies.

Potential Impacts of Cyclone Arnab

1. **Human settlements:** Strong winds and flooding may damage homes and displace coastal communities.

2. **Agriculture:** Heavy rain and inundation can damage standing crops, livestock and stored produce.
3. **Infrastructure:** Electricity, telecommunications, roads, ports and transport services may be disrupted.
4. **Fisheries:** Rough seas pose serious risks to fishing communities and vessels.
5. **Environment:** Coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion and damage to mangroves and other ecosystems may occur.

India's Cyclone Preparedness

The IMD provides forecasts and early warnings, while the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Forces and district administrations coordinate preparedness, evacuation, rescue and relief.

Important measures include:

- Timely evacuation of people from vulnerable coastal areas.
- Moving fishing boats to safe locations and restricting sea activities.
- Activating cyclone shelters and emergency control rooms.
- Protecting essential services and preparing for rapid restoration of electricity and communications.
- Ensuring food, drinking water, medicines and support for vulnerable groups.

Way Forward

India should continue strengthening early-warning systems, resilient housing, cyclone shelters, mangrove protection and community-based disaster preparedness. Coordination between the Centre, states and local bodies is essential to reduce loss of life and economic damage.

UPSC Examination Relevance

Prelims: Bay of Bengal, tropical cyclone formation, IMD, cyclone naming system, NDMA and NDRF.

Mains - GS Paper I: Tropical cyclones and their geographical distribution.

Mains - GS Paper III: Disaster management, climate-related risks, coastal vulnerability and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Possible UPSC Mains Question:

“How do early-warning systems and community preparedness help reduce the impact of tropical cyclones in India? Discuss with reference to Cyclone Arnab.”

Conclusion

Cyclone Arnab highlights the importance of timely warnings, coordinated evacuations and resilient coastal infrastructure. India's experience in cyclone management shows that effective preparedness and community participation are crucial for minimising casualties and protecting livelihoods.

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