'Akvan': name lined up for the next Bay of Bengal cyclone

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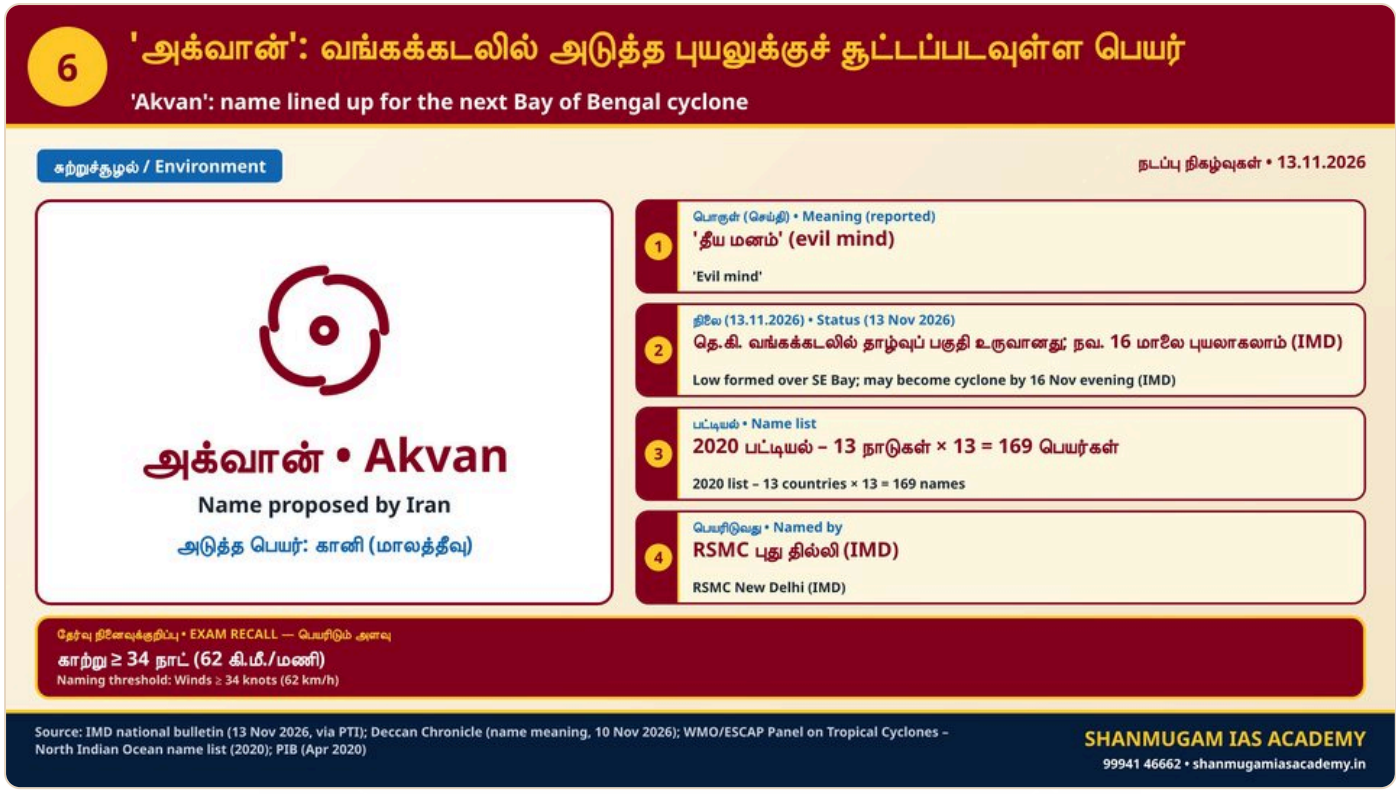

News

After 'Arnab' (late October) and 'Murasu' (early November) crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast, a possible third cyclone in the Bay of Bengal is being watched. IMD said a low-pressure area formed over the south-east Bay of Bengal at 5:30 am on Friday, 13 November 2026, under the influence of an upper-air cyclonic circulation over the central Andaman Sea. IMD expects it to move north-westwards, become a well-marked low around 14 November, a depression by 15 November and gradually a cyclonic storm over the central Bay of Bengal by the evening of 16 November. If it becomes a cyclonic storm it will be named 'Akvan'. The name was given by Iran and, according to Deccan Chronicle, means 'evil mind'. No landfall point has been forecast yet and model tracks differ, with Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Bangladesh all mentioned. IMD has warned of squally winds of about 50 km/h, gusting to 60 km/h, over the south-east Bay (Andaman Sea: 13–14 Nov) on 13–16 November, and 55 km/h gusting to 65 km/h over the south-west Bay (central Bay: 16–17 Nov) on 15–17 November.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Name	Akvan – proposed by Iran
Meaning (reported)	'Evil mind'
Status (13 Nov 2026)	Low formed over SE Bay; may become cyclone by 16 Nov evening (IMD)

Point	Details
Earlier storms	Arnab (near Narsapur–Yanam, 28 Oct); Murasu (near Ongole, 3 Nov)
Name list	2020 list – 13 countries × 13 = 169 names
Next name	Kaani – Maldives
Named by	RSMC New Delhi (IMD)
Naming threshold	Winds ≥ 34 knots (62 km/h)
Name rules	Max 8 letters; never reused

Background

- How cyclones are named: the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) agreed at its 27th session in Muscat, Oman, in 2000 to name North Indian Ocean cyclones. Naming began in September 2004 with a list from 8 countries ('Amphan' was its last name). Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Yemen joined in 2018, making 13 members, and a new 169-name list was adopted in April 2020. Countries are arranged alphabetically and names are used column by column; column 3 runs Arnab (Bangladesh) → Murasu (India) → Akvan (Iran) → Kaani (Maldives).
- Naming rules: a name must be neutral to politics, religion, culture and gender, must not hurt anyone, and must be short, easy to pronounce and at most 8 letters long. A name is never reused. A storm from the South China Sea that crosses Thailand and re-forms as a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal keeps its old name. India's 13 names were picked by an IMD committee from public suggestions – Gati, Tej, Murasu, Aag, Vyom, Jhar, Probaho, Neer, Prabhanjan, Ghurni, Ambud, Jaladhi and Vega.
- RSMC New Delhi: the world has 6 Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMCs) and 5 Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres that issue advisories and name storms. IMD is one of the RSMCs – RSMC New Delhi gives cyclone and storm-surge advisories to the 13 member countries. A name is given only when the maximum sustained surface wind reaches 34 knots (62 km/h) or more.
- Science: in the Northern Hemisphere the Coriolis effect makes winds circulate anticlockwise around a cyclone's centre; in the Southern Hemisphere, clockwise. October–December (the post-monsoon season) is a peak cyclone season in the Bay of Bengal.

Tamil Nadu link: India's name on the same list, 'Murasu', is the Tamil word for a drum; that storm crossed near Ongole, Andhra Pradesh, on 3 November. Tamil Nadu gets the largest share (about 48%) of its annual rain from the October–December north-east monsoon, which Bay of Bengal depressions and cyclones greatly aid. If 'Akvan' forms, its track and any impact on Tamil Nadu are not yet clear; light rain is reported possible at isolated places in north coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on 13–16 November.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

After 'Arnab' (late October) and 'Murasu' (early November) crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast, a possible third cyclone in the Bay of Bengal is being watched.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Name: Akvan – proposed by Iran; Meaning (reported): 'Evil mind'; Status (13 Nov 2026): Low formed over SE Bay; may become cyclone by 16 Nov evening (IMD); Earlier storms: Arnab (near Narsapur–Yanam, 28 Oct); Murasu (near Ongole, 3 Nov).

What is the background to this news?

How cyclones are named: the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) agreed at its 27th session in Muscat, Oman, in 2000 to name North Indian Ocean cyclones.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. 'Akvan', the name for the next cyclone in the Bay of Bengal, was proposed by which country?

A) Iran

B) Oman

C) Pakistan

D) Qatar

Answer: A – Explanation: Iran; reported to mean 'evil mind'. Before it came India's 'Murasu'; next on the list is the Maldives' 'Kaani'.

2. Which centre names tropical cyclones that form over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea?

A) RSMC New Delhi (IMD)

B) RSMC Tokyo

C) INCOIS, Hyderabad

D) NHC, Miami

Answer: A – Explanation: IMD's RSMC New Delhi, which advises 13 member countries. There are six RSMCs worldwide.

3. At a session held in which city did the WMO/ESCAP cyclone panel agree in 2000 to name North Indian Ocean cyclones?

A) Dhaka

B) Muscat

C) Colombo

D) Bangkok

Answer: B – Explanation: Muscat, Oman (27th session). Naming began in Sept 2004 with 8 countries; 5 more joined in 2018.

4. Aided by Bay of Bengal depressions, Tamil Nadu gets the largest share of its annual rainfall in which season?

A) South-west monsoon

B) Pre-monsoon showers

C) North-east monsoon

D) Western disturbances

Answer: C – Explanation: The north-east monsoon (Oct–Dec), about 48% of annual rain. In the south-west monsoon Tamil Nadu lies in the rain shadow.

5. In a Bay of Bengal cyclone, in the Northern Hemisphere, in which direction do winds circulate around the centre?

A) Clockwise

B) Straight inward

C) Straight outward

D) Anticlockwise

Answer: D – Explanation: Anticlockwise, due to the Coriolis effect of Earth's rotation. In the Southern Hemisphere it is clockwise.

Sources: IMD national bulletin (13 Nov 2026, via PTI); Deccan Chronicle (name meaning, 10 Nov 2026); WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones – North Indian Ocean name list (2020); PIB (Apr 2020); IMD RSMC New Delhi. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.