



# North Indian Ocean's Storm Cycle Trends

Published On: 28-12-2025

**Context:** Recent analysis shows a "drastic" shift in the behavior of cyclonic disturbances over the North Indian Ocean (NIO) over the last century.

- **The Four Major Trends:**

1. **Inverted U-Shape:** Frequency of storms peaked in the mid-20th century, declined, and is now rebounding—but with higher intensity.
2. **Westward Shift:** While the **Bay of Bengal (BoB)** historically had 4x more storms than the **Arabian Sea**, the BoB is seeing a decline while the Arabian Sea is seeing an increase in frequency and severity.
3. **Intensity:** Fewer disturbances are forming, but a higher percentage are intensifying into **Severe or Super Cyclonic Storms** due to rapid ocean warming (climate change).
4. **Seasonality:** Storms are shifting from the monsoon (July–Sept) to the **post-monsoon (Oct–Dec)** window.

- **Impact:** This requires a massive shift in disaster preparedness for India's West Coast (Mumbai, Gujarat), which historically faced fewer cyclones than the East Coast.
- **Subject Reference:**
  - **GS Paper I:** Geography (Important Geophysical phenomena - Cyclones).
  - **GS Paper III:** Disaster Management and Climate Change.