

NASA sees Cyclone Nilofar looking more like a comet than a tropical cyclone

October 30 2014, by Rob Gutro



NASA's Terra satellite captured this image on Oct. 30 at 06:35 UTC (2:35 a.m. EDT) as Tropical Cyclone Nilofar was approaching the Pakistan/India border. Credit: NASA Goddard MODIS Rapid Response Team

Tropical Cyclone Nilofar was closing in on the border between Pakistan and northwestern India on Oct. 30 when NASA's Terra satellite passed

overhead from space. Wind shear continued to affect the storm making it appear more like a comet with a tail, than a tropical cyclone.

The MODIS or Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer instrument that flies aboard NASA's Terra satellite captured a visible image of Nilofar on Oct. 30 at 06:35 UTC (2:35 a.m. EDT). Nilofar was still being affected by southwesterly wind shear, which was blowing the clouds and showers to the northeast. In the MODIS image, thunderstorms surrounded the center of the storm making it look like the core of a comet. Wind shear was stretching out clouds and showers to the northeast of the center, making it look like a comet's tail. Those clouds over northwestern India were already bringing rain along with gusty winds to the region. Nilofar was already causing rough surf to coastlines from India and Pakistan west to Oman.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center noted that microwave satellite imagery showed a ragged eye, but the low-level center of circulation appears to be "unraveling."

The [wind shear](#) has been weakening Nilofar, and by Thursday, Oct. 30 at 900 UTC (5 a.m. EDT) maximum sustained winds had dropped below hurricane-strength to 50 knots (57.5 mph/92.6 kph) and are expected to weaken the storm to a depression by November 1. Nilofar was located near 20.2 north latitude and 64.3 east longitude, about 294 nautical miles east of Masirah Island. It was moving to the northeast at 5 knots (5.7 mph/9.2 kph).

On Oct. 30, the India Meteorological Department's Regionalized Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) forecast called for Nilofar to move northeastward and weaken into a depression over northeast Arabian Sea off the north Gujarat coast late (local time) on Oct. 31.

The RSMC warned that Nilofar will bring "moderate rainfall at most

places with isolated heavy to very heavy falls over Kutch and coastal districts of Saurashtra during next two days. Light to moderate rainfall at many places with isolated heavy falls would occur over remaining districts of Saurashtra, the north Gujarat region and southwest Rajasthan during the same period." Squally winds reaching 40 to 50 kph (24.8 mph to 31.0 mph) are expected off the Gujarat coast on Oct. 31.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: NASA sees Cyclone Nilofar looking more like a comet than a tropical cyclone (2014, October 30) retrieved 25 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-10-nasa-cyclone-nilofar-comet-tropical.html>

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