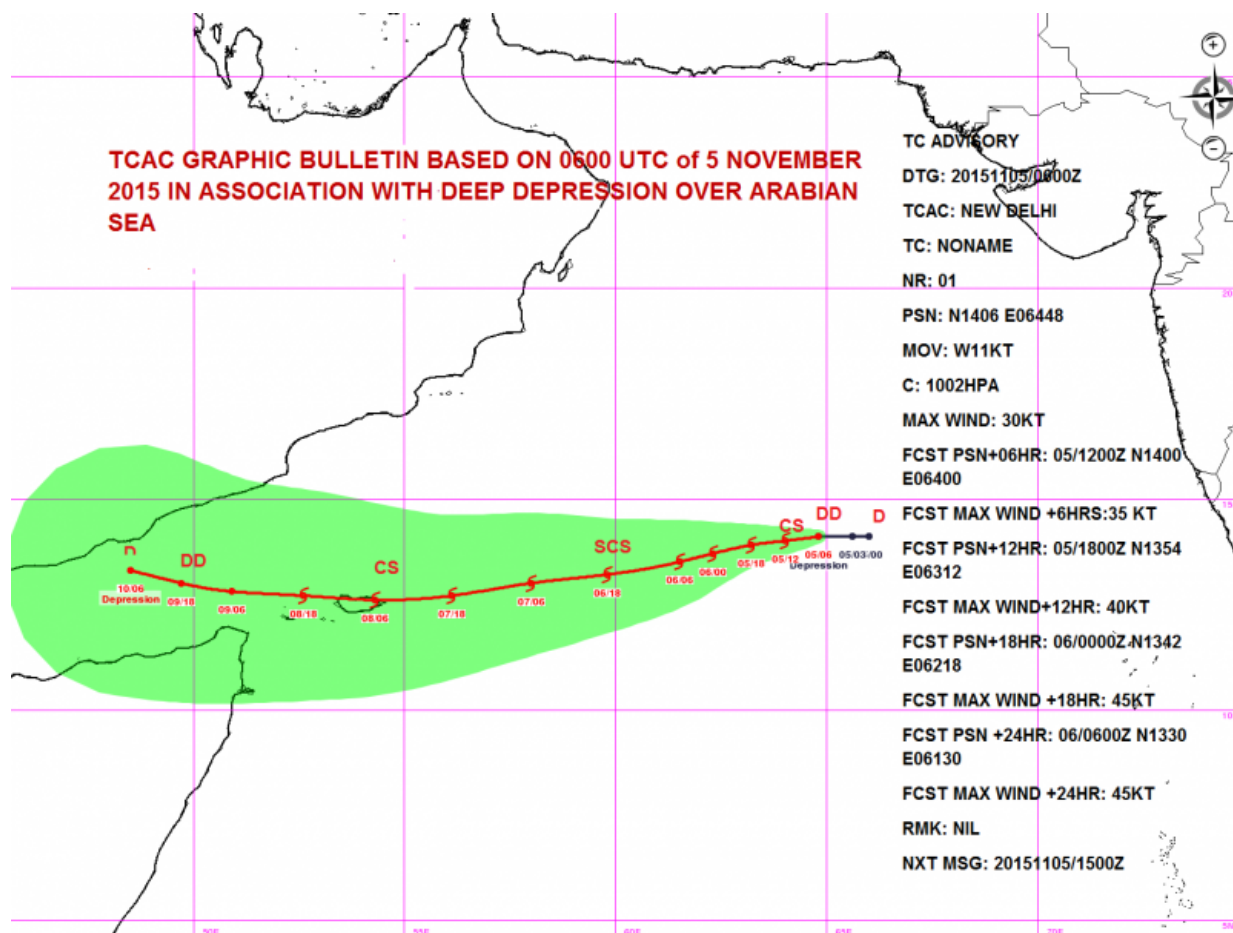


Rapid-fire cyclones over the North Indian Ocean

November 6 2015, by Adam Sobel, Earth Institute, Columbia University



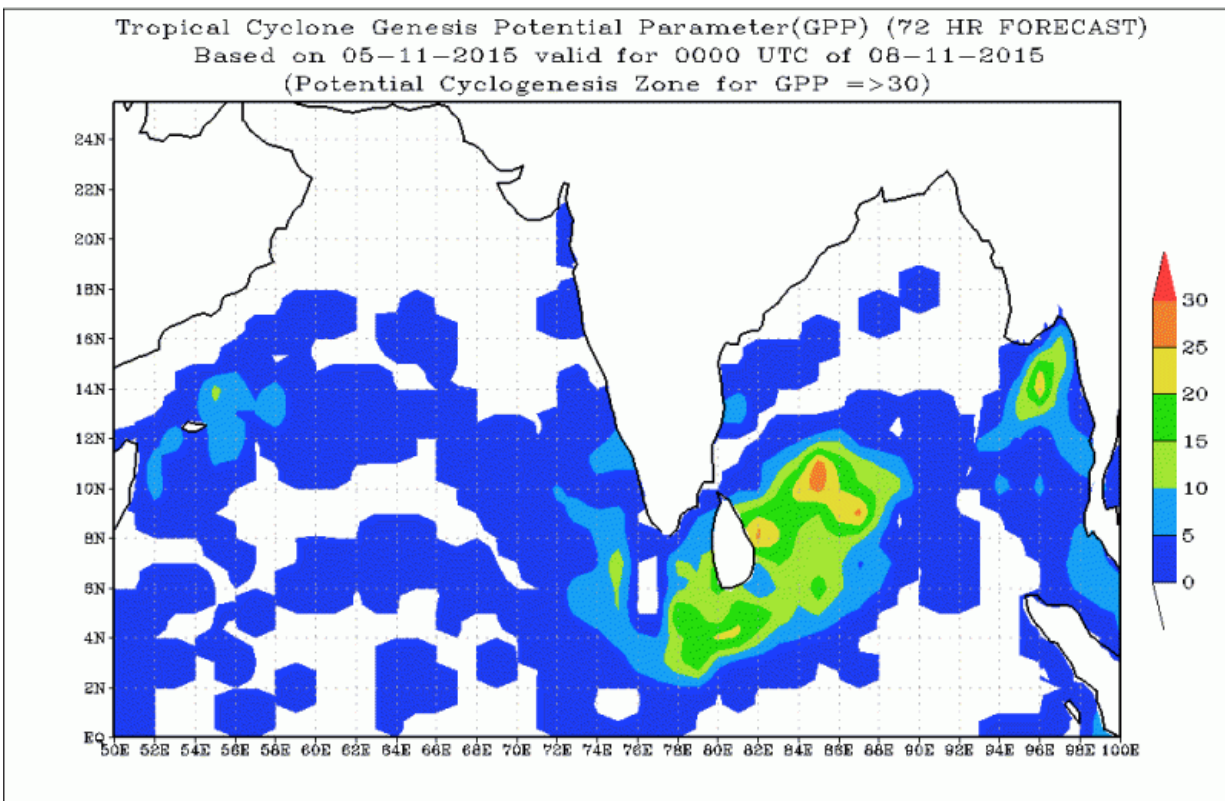
Recent track forecast for cyclone Megh (not named yet at the time of this forecast) by the India Meteorological Department.

With Chapala's destructive landfall in Yemen just a couple of days in the past, a second tropical cyclone, Megh, has just formed in the Arabian Sea. This one is not forecast to become anywhere near as intense as Chapala did—though we know intensity forecasts can be wrong, as they were at early stages for both Chapala and Patricia.

The India Meteorological Department's forecast track has Megh making landfall in Yemen—again—but with the potential for a grazing strike on Somalia first. If the intensity forecasts are right, the winds should not be terribly destructive, but it will still pose a considerable threat; even tropical depressions can produce a lot of rain, and the impact of a severe rainfall event can be even greater in this very arid region than it would be elsewhere.

At the same time, a new disturbance is brewing in the Bay of Bengal.

At least some models are predicting that this one will become a tropical [cyclone](#) as well within a few days. If this were to happen, it would be a very rare event, in that there would be a cyclone forming in both the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in November. While a cyclone in either the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea in November is not terribly uncommon—the most typical months for cyclone formation over both seas are those either right before the July-September monsoon season, or after it—only once since the start of the modern satellite era in 1979 has a cyclone formed on both sides of the peninsula in November, according to a [study published](#) by Amato Evan and Suzana Camargo in 2011.



India Meteorological Department forecast of “Genesis Potential Parameter”—a number proportional to the probability of tropical cyclone formation—for Nov. 8 at 00 Universal Time.

Provided by Earth Institute, Columbia University

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