= Cyclone Nilofar =

Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Nilofar was , at the time , the third @-@ strongest cyclone in the Arabian Sea . In late October 2014 , it reached peak maximum sustained winds estimated between 205 km / h (125 mph) and 215 km / h (130 mph) . The India Meteorological Department (IMD) named it Nilofar ; the name refers to the water lily , and was suggested by Pakistan . The western fringes of the storm caused flash flooding in northeastern Oman , killing four people .

Nilofar originated from a low pressure area between India and the Arabian Peninsula . It developed into a depression on October 25 and moved generally northward through an area of favorable conditions . The system intensified into a cyclonic storm on October 26 . Quickly organizing due to the conditions , Nilofar developed a well @-@ defined eye and structure , attaining its peak intensity on October 28 . At the time , Nilofar was expected to make landfall in western India , prompting evacuations and preparations . However , high wind shear caused the storm to rapidly weaken , and Nilofar degraded into a remnant low pressure area on October 31 off the Indian state of Gujarat .

= = Meteorological history = =

Toward the middle of October 2014 , the monsoon trough was active over the Arabian Sea off the west coast of India . A circulation formed on October 19 near the Lakshadweep archipelago , remaining nearly stationary for several days . It developed a distinct low pressure area on October 21 , and produced an intense area of convection by the next day . Despite moderate wind shear , conditions favored further development , including warm water temperatures and good outflow , amplified by an anticyclone to its east @-@ northeast . The structure became more organized by October 24 , when broken rainbands were rotating around a poorly @-@ defined circulation . That day , the American @-@ based Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) classified it as a tropical depression , although the agency did not issue warnings at the time . At 00 : 00 UTC on October 25 , the India Meteorological Department (IMD) classified the system as a depression about 1270 km (790 mi) southeast of Muscat , Oman .

When the system first formed , it benefited from warm water temperatures of 28 to 30 ° C (82 to 86 ° F) and a favorable phase of the Madden ? Julian oscillation . Moderate wind shear and continued interaction with the monsoon dislocated the bulk of the deepest convection to the western periphery . By 12 : 00 UTC on October 25 , the system organized enough for the JTWC to classify it as Tropical Cyclone 04A , and there were hints of an eye feature within the thunderstorms . By the time of classification , the storm was moving to the northeast , steered by the subtropical ridge to the south , although the motion slowed on October 26 due to competing influence of another subtropical ridge to the northwest . That day , the system strengthened quickly ; the IMD upgraded the depression to a deep depression at 03 : 00 UTC , to Cyclonic Storm Nilofar at 06 : 00 UTC , and further to a severe cyclonic storm at 21 : 00 UTC . At 00 : 00 UTC on October 27 , the JTWC upgraded Nilofar to the equivalent of a minimal hurricane , based on the development of a 54 km (33 mi) eye . Throughout that day , the cyclone turned more to the northwest as a ridge built to the east , while the inner core of convection became more symmetrical and compact . Also by that time , tropical cyclone forecast models anticipated that Nilofar would eventually recurve to the northeast and make landfall in western India .

At 06 : 00 UTC on October 27 , the IMD upgraded Nilofar to a very severe cyclonic storm . The storm was rapidly intensifying at the time , after the wind shear had decreased , and the eye contracted to a diameter of 19 km (12 mi) . At 09 : 00 UTC on October 28 , the IMD upgraded Nilofar further to an extremely severe cyclonic storm . Six hours later , the JTWC estimated peak 1 @-@ minute winds of 215 km / h (130 mph) ; at the time , the agency anticipated further strengthening due to the favorable conditions and good organization . At 18 : 00 UTC on October 28 , the IMD estimated peak 3 @-@ minute winds of 205 km / h (125 mph) . At the time , it was the third @-@ strongest storm on record in the Arabian Sea . On October 29 , Nilofar started weakening due to increased wind shear , and the convection diminished in intensity . At the same time , the storm turned northeastward while rounding the ridge to the east . Increasingly cooler and drier air ,

as well as cooler waters , caused the storm to degrade rapidly . The eye , previously small and well defined , dissipated by 06 : 00 UTC on October 29 . Later that day , the center began decoupling from the convection , a sign of rapid weakening , and by 21 : 00 UTC the IMD downgraded it to a severe cyclonic storm . Early on October 30 , the JTWC downgraded Nilofar to a tropical storm , and subsequently the circulation became exposed from the convection . At 18 : 00 UTC that day , the JTWC posted their final advisory . Nilofar weakened further into a depression on October 31 , and soon after degenerated into a remnant low off coast of the Indian state of Gujarat .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Offshore buoys recorded 3 @.@ 2 m (10 @.@ 5 ft) waves and winds of 41 km / h (25 mph) . The outskirts of the storm caused flash flooding in Al @-@ Rustaq in northeastern Oman , killing four people after a vehicle was swept away in a flooded wadi . Five people were rescued when another car was stranded amid floods west of Al @-@ Rustaq .

In the storm 's developmental stages , the outskirts of Nilofar dropped 410 mm (16 in) of rainfall in Margao , Goa , helping the state record its wettest October in four years . Other nearby areas along India 's west coast received heavy rainfall . The threat of the storm prompted officials to evacuate nearly 30 @,@ 000 people in western India , utilizing 200 storm shelters . Most of the displaced people were living in thatched huts and weak structures . In coastal areas , schools were canceled for two days . Most of the evacuees quickly returned home after the storm weakened . To minimize damage , trees were trimmed down to eliminate damage due to falling debris , and a total suspension of fishing activities was ordered , with about 5 @,@ 000 boats advised to return to port . Officials in Gujarat sent a warning of the storm to all operators of ham radios . A distant warning signal 2 was hoisted in the ports of Kandla and Mundra . National Disaster Response Force deployed rescue and rehabilitation teams at Gandhidham , Dwarka , Porbandar , Veraval , Rajkot and Bhuj while standby teams were stationed at Ahmedabad and Vadodara . After facing problems during deadly floods in September and Cyclone Hudhud in October , mobile companies enacted greater preparations during Nilofar to guarantee operations during the storm , including an emergency hotline , setting up internet in shelters , and mobile cell towers . Despite the threat from the storm , Nilofar only produced light rainfall and gusty winds along the Gujarat coast . Unseasonable rainfall damaged mangoes in Maharashtra , causing prices to rise . Shifting air patterns brought cooler temperatures to western India , signaling the end of the monsoon season , while also bringing haze and smog over Delhi from polluting areas to the south .

In Pakistan , fishermen were also warned to avoid the sea , and people in coastal areas were evacuated . The country 's navy , coast guard , Maritime Security Agency , and fishermen organizations helped rescue fishermen stationed offshore . Along the coast of Sindh province , bathing and swimming were banned for several days . There were minor power outages in Karachi due to heavy rainfall from Nilofar .