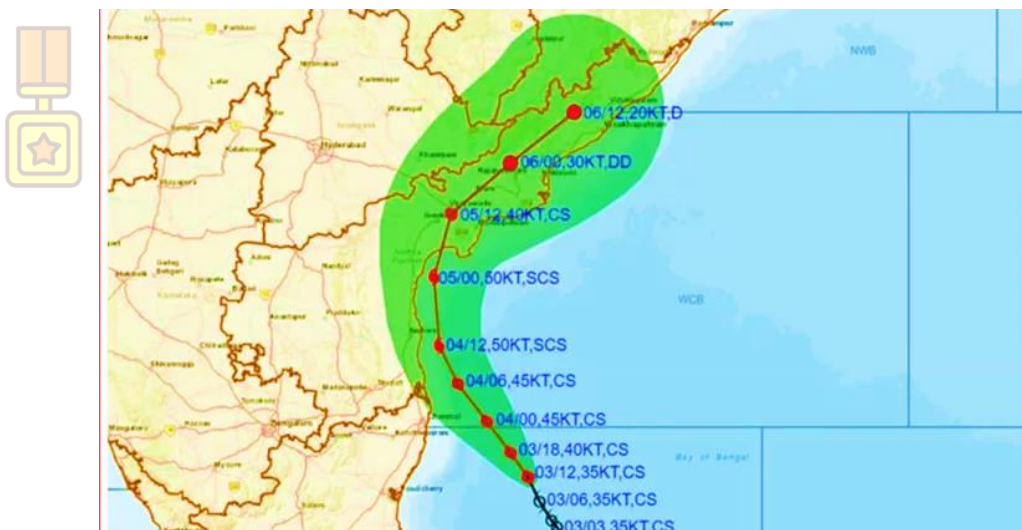


Cyclone Michaung Revives Fears Of 2015 Flood

Why In News

- The cyclonic storm '**Michaung**' which formed over the **Bay of Bengal** intensified into a severe cyclonic storm.
- The term '**Michaung**,' proposed by Myanmar, symbolises strength and resilience.
- Cyclone Michaung is set to become the fourth cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the sixth cyclone to manifest in the Indian Ocean in 2023.
- The weather system has caused **heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh** and authorities have started moving people from low-lying areas.



Current Scenario

- **Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu** are on high alert with severe storm Cyclone Michaung is expected to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam.
- The storm has brought heavy rainfall across Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh, and southern Odisha.
- However, **high-intensity cyclones** such as Michaung are not common at this time of the year.



- At least five people were killed as heavy rain battered Chennai, submerging parts of the city.
- It is expected to cause widespread crop damage. The IMD has warned of very heavy to extremely heavy rain (115 mm to 200 mm and above) over the Godavari, Krishna, Bapatla, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Kurnool, and YSR districts of Andhra Pradesh.



- **Paddy, pineapple**, and other standing crops that are nearing harvest, could be hit due to the **extremely heavy rainfall** (over 200 mm in 24 hours) during the next two days.
- A severe **cyclonic storm** has the potential to cause uprooting of small and medium trees, large-scale damage to hutments and mud houses, and partial damage to telephone and electric poles.



Rescue Operations

- Amid rains triggered by Michaung, the **Indian army managed** to rescue around 300 civilians from areas like Mugalivakkam and Manapakkam that were reeling under floods.



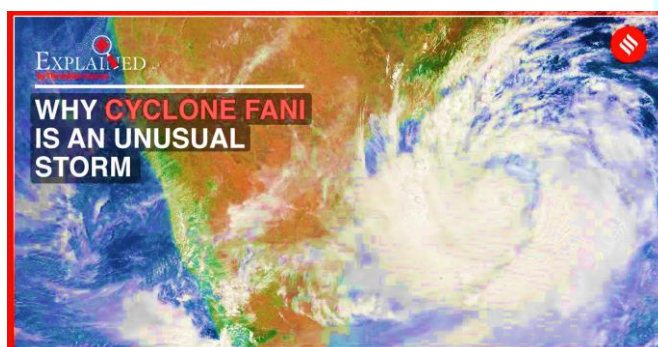
- Altogether, **135 personnel equipped** with resources like boats and flood relief supplies participated in the rescue operations.
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin** inspected the areas affected by Cyclone Michaung in the state. Specifically, the Chief Minister visited the rain relief camp established in Kannapar Thital, Chennai.



- Additionally, **20 kitchens are functioning to provide meals** for the occupants of these relief centers. In light of the situation, the state government has inquired with authorities regarding the **availability and quality of ready-made items** such as rice, dal, and vegetables to ensure the provision of food for those seeking shelter in the relief camps.

An Unusual Cyclone

- Due to **unfavourable ocean conditions**, storms that develop over the North Indian Ocean in December don't usually attain destructive intensities.
- High-intensity cyclones — packing high speeds and bringing heavy and widespread rain — such as Michaung are not common at this time of the year.



- The IMD had initially predicted that **Michaung would remain a 'tropical cyclone'** (wind speeds of 62 kph to 87 kph) until it crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast. On Sunday, however, the IMD upgraded it to the intensity of a **'severe' storm** (wind speeds of 88 kph to 166 kph).
- The above-normal value of the **heat index off the southern Andhra Pradesh coast** led to the strengthening of Michaung, IMD officials said.