

## Cyclone Sitrang



### How did Cyclone get its name?

- As per the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), it is necessary to name tropical cyclones because there can be more than one such system operating in a particular zone
- The names are kept according to the rules at the regional level. In the case of the Indian Ocean and South Pacific regions, the tropical cyclone names are allotted in alphabetical order.
- Sitrang is the Thai name for it (pronounced as Si-trang). According to sources, it is a Thai surname. The name is one of 169 storms identified by IMD for 2020.

### Storm names

- Within this basin, a tropical cyclone is assigned a name when it is judged to have reached Cyclonic Storm intensity with winds of 65 km/h (40 mph).
- The names were selected by a new list from the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center in New Delhi by mid-year of 2020.
- There is no retirement of tropical cyclone names in this basin as the list of names is

only scheduled to be used once before a new list of names is drawn up.

- Should a named tropical cyclone move into the basin from the Western Pacific, it will retain its original name?
- The next eight available names from the List of North Indian Ocean storm names are below.
- Asani
- Sitrang (active)
- Mandous (unused)
- Mocha (unused)
- Bina (unused)
- Tej (unused)
- Hamoon (unused)
- Midhili (unused)

The criteria below have been formulated by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), which classifies the low pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea on the basis of capacity to damage, which is adopted by the WMO.

Type of Disturbances	Wind Speed in Km/h	Wind Speed in Knots
Low Pressure	Less than 31	Less than 17
Depression	31-49	17-27
Deep Depression	49-61	27-33
Cyclonic Storm	61-88	33-47
Severe Cyclonic Storm	88-117	47-63
Super Cyclone	More than 221	More than 120

## THE HINDU

### Report-The Lancet countdown on health and climate change

- An estimated over 3,30,000 people died in India due to exposure to particulate matter from fossil fuel combustion in 2020, says the 2022 report of The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: health at the mercy of fossil fuels.
- The report adds that from 2000-2004 to 2017-2021, heat-related deaths increased by 55% in India.

- The report states that in 2021, Indians lost 16,720 crore potential labour hours due to heat exposure with income losses equivalent to about 5.4% of the national GDP.
- Stating that climate change is amplifying the health impacts of multiple crises, the report further found that from 2012 to 2021, infants aged under one experienced a higher number of heatwave days.
- Additionally, it added that the duration of the growth season for maize has decreased by 2%, compared with a 1981-2010 baseline, while rice and winter wheat have each decreased by 1%.
- Warning that governments are not focusing on the issue as much as required, it said that in 2019, India had a net negative carbon price, indicating that the government was effectively subsidising fossil fuels.
- “India allocated a net 34 billion USD [around ₹2, 80,000 crore] to this in 2019 alone, equivalent to 37.5% of the country’s national health spending that year.
- Biomass accounted for 61% of household energy in 2019, while fossil fuels accounted for another 20%.
- With this high reliance on these fuels, average household concentrations of particulate matter exceeded the WHO recommendation by 27-fold nationally and 35-fold in rural homes,”

### **THE HINDU**

## **Tension in Ethiopia**



- The breakdown in the already strained relations between the federal government in Addis Ababa and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF)’s leaders in Tigray has resulted in the national crisis.
- In 2018, anti-government protests by the marginalised Oromo population forced the TPLF to step down, resulting in the election of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his subsequent crackdown on Tigrayan politicians for corruption and human rights abuses.
- Internal conflict in Ethiopia has resulted in the death of 52,000 people and the displacement of over 2 million, over 60,000 of whom have taken refuge in Sudan’s eastern border.
- This has triggered an influx of Sudanese and Eritrean military personnel near Ethiopia’s northern frontier
- The complex process of developing a post-conflict reconstruction framework requires a comprehensive analysis, one that compels immediate coordination between the federal, regional and local governments, independent and partial adjudicators, and civil society and victims’ and community groups.
- The first formal African Union-led peace talks between an Ethiopian government team and Tigray forces (since the war of

2020 with Tigray), in South Africa have started from October 24.

- The history of conflict in Ethiopia starts from the modern period from around the 1850s to the present.
- During this time, there was a mix of warfare and nation-building under the reigns of the emperors, notably Menelik and later Haile Selassie, to the regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam, and later the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE) under soldier-politician Meles Zenawi beginning 1991.
- While with the term of Abiy Ahmed, the long-drawn conflict over nearly 20 years may have ended, ethnic politics and economic hurdles have not stopped.
- In 2020, a year after Mr. Ahmed was awarded the Nobel Prize, Tigray in the north erupted in conflict against government forces, triggering charges of Ethiopia's gruesome human rights violations against Tigrayans.

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### **Agriculture and renewable energy**

- The beginnings of a renewable energy revolution rooted in agriculture are taking shape in India with the first bio-energy plant of a private company in Sangrur district of Punjab having commenced commercial operations on October 18.
- It will produce Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) from paddy straw, thus converting agricultural waste into wealth.
- The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) had developed a framework and action plan for

the effective prevention and control of stubble burning.

- The framework/action plan includes in-situ management, i.e., incorporation of paddy straw and stubble in the soil using heavily subsidised machinery (supported by crop residue management (CRM) Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare).
- Ex-situ CRM efforts include the use of paddy straw for biomass power projects and co-firing in thermal power plants, and as feedstock for 2G ethanol plants, feed stock in CBG plants, fuel in industrial boilers, waste-to-energy (WTE) plants, and in packaging materials, etc.
- Additionally, measures are in place to ban stubble burning, to monitor and enforce this, and initiating awareness generation.
- Despite these efforts, farm fires continued unabated.
- A techno-economic assessment of energy technologies suggested that rice straw can be cost-effective for producing CBG and pellets.
- Pellets can be used in thermal power plants as a substitute of coal and CBG as a transport fuel.
- With 30% of the rice straw produced in Punjab, a 5% CBG production target set by the Government of India scheme, "Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)" can be met.
- It could also increase local entrepreneurship, increase farmers' income and reduce open burning of rice straw.

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