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New List of Names of Tropical Cyclones

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Why in News

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has released a list with the names of 169 **tropical cyclones** that are likely to emerge over the north Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

- The report was adopted by WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) with consensus in April, 2020.
- The current list has a total of 169 names including 13 names each for 13 WMO/ESCAP member countries.

Key Points

- IMD, one of the six **Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMC)** in the world, is mandated to **issue advisories and name tropical cyclones** in the north Indian Ocean region.
- The advisories are issued to **13 member countries under WMO/ESCAP Panel** including Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- **Benefits of naming** : Naming of tropical cyclones helps the scientific community, disaster managers, media and general masses to
 - Identify each individual cyclone.
 - Create awareness of its development.
 - Remove confusion in case of simultaneous occurrence of tropical cyclones over a region.
 - Remember a tropical cyclone easily,
 - Rapidly and effectively disseminate warnings to a much wider audience.

Naming of the Tropical Cyclones

- The **WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC)** at its 27th Session held in 2000 in Muscat, Oman agreed in principle to assign names to the tropical cyclones in the **Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea**.
- The naming of the tropical cyclones over the north Indian Ocean **commenced from September 2004**.
- This list contained names proposed by then **eight member countries** of WMO/ESCAP PTC, viz., Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- The requirement for a fresh list of tropical cyclones **including representation from five new member countries:** Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen (total 13 member countries) was tabled during the **45th session of WMO/ESCAP, held in September 2018**. The session was hosted by **Oman**.

Panel on Tropical Cyclones

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** and the **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)** jointly established the **Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC)** in 1972 as an **intergovernmental body**.
- Its membership comprises countries affected by **tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea**.
- The Panel is one of the five **regional tropical cyclone bodies** established as part of the **WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP)** which aims at promoting and coordinating the planning and implementation of measures to **mitigate tropical cyclone disasters** on a worldwide basis.

For this purpose, there are Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC)- Tropical cyclone and Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWC) for different regions.
- The main objective of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones is to promote measures to **improve tropical cyclone warning systems in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea**.

Tropical Cyclone

- Tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that **originates over warm tropical oceans** and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain.
- A characteristic feature of tropical cyclones is the eye, a **central region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure**.
- Storms of this type are called **hurricanes in the North Atlantic and eastern Pacific and typhoons in SouthEast Asia and China**. They are called **tropical cyclones in the southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean region**.
- **Formation:** Tropical cyclones **form near the equator and gain their energy from the heat** that is released when water vapour condenses into rain.

- In the **southern hemisphere storms rotate clockwise and anti-clockwise in the northern hemisphere.**

Source: PIB