



SITUATION

- Tropical Cyclone VARDHA-16 crossed the south-eastern coast of India, close to Chennai, in the morning of 12 December (UTC). Three hours before the landfall it had max. sustained winds of 139 km/h (equivalent to a Category 1 on the Saffir-Simpson scale).
- As of 12 December, national authorities reported that over 2 000 people have been evacuated in Havelock and Neil islands (Andaman and Nicobar Islands). Local media also reported, as of the same date, train services and flights have been cancelled and that schools will remain closed in the districts of Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur (Tamil Nadu state).
- Over the next 24 h, it is forecast to continue moving west, over southern Andhra Pradesh, northern Tamil Nadu and Karnataka states, weakening. Heavy rain, storm surge and strong winds may affect the areas along its path. A Red Warning for heavy to very heavy rain is in effect for the states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and an Orange Warning for heavy to very heavy rain is in effect for the division of Rayalaseema.

Sources: GDACS, JTWC, IMD, Governmental & Local Media

