CONTENTS

Acknowledgement viii
Acknowledgements: Data And Software Support xi
Legend of Figures xii
Legend of Tables xxii
List of publications xxiii
Papers presented in conference/workshops xxiv
Legend of Acronyms xxv
Legend of symbols xxviii
Abstract xxix

1 Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION
  1.1 Components of Indian summer monsoon 3
    1.1.1 Heat Low 3
    1.1.2 Monsoon trough 4
    1.1.3 Low Level Jet 5
    1.1.4 Mascarene High 5
    1.1.5 Tibetan High 5
    1.1.6 Tropical Easterly Jet (TEJ) 5
    1.1.7 Low level inversion over Arabian Sea 6
    1.1.8 Quasi-bi-weekly Oscillation 6
    1.1.9 Break cycle and the low Frequency oscillation 6
    1.1.10 Monsoon Depression (MD) 6
    1.1.11 Mid-Tropospheric Cyclones (MTC) 7
    1.1.12 Monsoon lows 7
    1.1.13 Trough off west coast and off-shore vortices 7
  1.2 Onset of southwest monsoon 8
    1.2.1 Dates of onset of monsoon 8
    1.2.2 Variability of the onset of monsoon 9
  1.3 Role of Arabian Sea in the onset of monsoon 10
  1.4 Arabian Sea Warm Pool 12
  1.5 Observational and model studies relating to
Arabian Sea warm pool evolution
1.6
Monsoon onset vortex
1.6.1
Characteristic features of monsoon onset vortex
1.6.2
Synoptic and modeling studies in relation with onset vortex
1.7
Objectives of the thesis
2 Chapter II DATA AND METHODOLOGY
2.1
Introduction
2.2
Data sets used for the study
2.2.1
Reynolds Optimum Interpolated Version 2 (OIV2) SST data
2.2.2
TMI (Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) Microwave Imager) SST
2.2.3
National Centre for Environmental Prediction-National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCEP-NCAR) reanalysis products
2.2.4
European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF) Re-analysis products
2.2.5
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Out going Long wave Radiation (NOAA OLR)
2.2.6
Wood’s Hole Oceanographic Institute’s Objectively Analyzed Air-Sea Fluxes (WHOI OA Flux_V3)
2.2.7
Southampton Oceanographic Centre (SOC) Heat Fluxes
2.2.8
Ocean Assimilation Products Used
2.2.9
Mixed Layer Depth (MLD) and Barrier Layer Thickness (BLT) climatology
2.2.10
World Ocean Atlas 1994 and Levitus Climatology
2.2.11
Computation of surface fluxes
2.2.12
Monsoon Energetics
2.2.13
Growth Rate
3 Chapter III EVOLUTION OF ARABIAN SEA WARM POOL – CLIMATOLOGICAL VIEW POINT

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Data and Model used

3.3 Evolution of SST in the Arabian Sea

3.4 Evolution of near surface heat content and net surface heat flux

3.5 Surface currents in the Indian Ocean

3.6 Evolution of near surface salinity

3.7 Evolution of near surface mixed layer and barrier layer

3.8 Temperature inversions in the Arabian Sea

3.9 Evolution and collapse of Arabian Sea warm pool during two contrasting years 2002 and 2003

3.10 Summary

4 Chapter IV INTERANNUAL VARIABILITY OF ARABIAN SEA WARM POOL AND EVOLUTION OF MONSOON ONSET VORTEX

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Data

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Interannual variability of Arabian Sea Warm Pool

4.3.2 SST distribution one week before onset during 1982-2006

4.3.3 SST evolution during 2000 and 2004 – A comparative study

4.4 The monsoon onset vortex

4.5 Onset vortex formation and its features

4.5.1 Synoptic situation during 2001

4.5.2 Wind field at 850 hPa

4.5.3 Response of SEAS to OV during 2001

v
4.5.4 Comparison of air-sea interface processes between OV and non-OV years 98

4.5 Evolution of OV during early, normal and late onset years 101

4.6 Vertical motion associated with a jet streak 113

4.7 Summary 113

5 Chapter V DYNAMICS AND THERMODYNAMICS OF MONSOON ONSET VORTEX

5.1 Introduction 115

5.2 Data 117

5.3 Results 117

5.3.1 Evolution of onset vortex 117

5.4 Evolution of zonal kinetic energy (ZKE = u^2/2) 121

5.5 Horizontal and vertical shear of zonal wind 123

5.6 Barotropic instability mechanism associated with onset vortex 124

5.7 Barotropic energy exchange 128

5.8 Baroclinic instability 134

5.9 Baroclinic energy exchange 135

5.10 Energy cycle for the onset vortex 2001 135

5.11 Static stability 142

5.12 A comparative study on the onset mechanism during 1997 and 1998 from the thermal and dynamical features 143

5.12.1 Evolution and life cycle of the mini warm pool (MWP) in the year 1997 and 1998 144

5.12.2 Outgoing Long wave Radiation (OLR) 149

5.12.3 Surface meteorological parameters during 1997 and 1998 151

5.12.4 Circulation pattern at 850 hPa 152

5.12.5 Potential vorticity 153

5.12.6 Surface heat fluxes 154

5.13 Summary 155
Chapter VI A MODEL STUDY ON THE SENSITIVITY OF ONSET VORTEX TO ARABIAN SEA MINI WARM POOL

6.1 Introduction 157
6.2 Data and Model 158
6.3 Brief description of the system 156
6.4 Results 160
6.4.1 Wind vector and isotachs from model simulations 160
6.4.2 Effect of vertical wind shear on onset vortex formation 164
6.4.3 Effect of horizontal shear on onset vortex formation 165
6.4.4 Role of thermodynamics in onset vortex initiation 166
6.5 Comparison of air-sea interface processes over the East Central Arabian Sea at onset phase of monsoons MONEX-79 and ARMEX-2003 175
6.5.1 Surface meteorological parameters during MONEX-79 and ARMEX-2003 178
6.5.2 Surface fluxes during MONEX-79 and ARMEX-2003 180
6.6 Summary 182

Chapter VII SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Major findings 184
7.2 Scope for future studies 186

Bibliography 188