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**Interannual variability of SST observed in the Central Arabian Sea**

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The time series observations of sea surface temperature (SST), from a moored buoy location at central Arabian Sea (Lat: 15.5 N; Long: 69.2 E) for a period of four years during 1998-2001 is used for interannual variability study. The climatological pattern of SST exhibits a bimodal distribution with a primary warming during pre-monsoon period (March to May) reaching a maximum just before the onset of southwest monsoon and a secondary warming after the withdrawal of the monsoon (September to November). The annual distribution of SST during 1999, 2000 and 2001 agrees well with the climatology whereas the year 1998 is distinct without the signal of secondary warming which coincides with the El Nino event. The primary warming mode during the year 1998 and 2001 exhibits relatively high SST maximum exceeding 31°C, which favoured the tropical cyclone activity. The cyclone passage during pre-monsoon is followed by an abrupt drop in SST of the order of 3-4°C due to wind induced mixing.