



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Tornadoes

Published On: 28-02-2023

Why is in news? US: Tornadoes swept across Oklahoma and Kansas leave more than a dozen people injured

A **violently rotating column of air touching the ground**, usually attached to the base of a thunderstorm.

Because wind is invisible, it is hard to see a tornado unless it **forms a condensation funnel** made up of water droplets, dust and debris.

Tornadoes are nature's **most violent storms**.

Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighbourhood in seconds.

Winds of a tornado may reach **300 miles per hour**.

Tornadoes come in many shapes and sizes, and they are often visible in the form of a condensation funnel **originating from the base of a cumulonimbus cloud**, with a cloud of rotating debris and dust beneath it.

It is generally accompanied by extreme weather such as heavy downpours, hail storms, and lightning.

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Comparison

Point	Cyclone	Tornado
Definition	It is a large scale air mass that rotates around a strong center of low atmospheric pressure.	It is rotating column of air whirling at destructively high speeds, usually accompanied by a funnel-shaped downward extension of a thundercloud.
Rotation	Clockwise in the southern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere.	Clockwise in the southern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere.
Intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort Scale and • Saffir-Simpson scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fujita (F) • Enhanced Fujita (EF) • TORRO (T) Scale
Location	Southern Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean. Cyclones in the northwest Pacific that reach (exceed) 74 mph are "typhoons".	Tornados have been spotted in all continents except Antarctica.
Most affected area	Pacific ocean.	In areas where a convergence of cold and warm fronts is common. i.e. US Midwest.
Frequency	10-14 per year.	There were 1,285 tornadoes reported in the United States in 2015.