



Hurricane Hanna

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Why in News

Recently, **Hurricane Hanna** has made **landfall** (the point at which a **hurricane** reaches land) in **Texas** with life-threatening storm surge and strong winds.

Tropical cyclones are called hurricanes in the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.

Key Points

- It has **reached wind speeds of up to 90 mph** and is expected to produce heavy rains across portions of **southern Texas and northeastern Mexico**, which will result in flash flooding and isolated minor to moderate river flooding.
- It has been categorised as a **Category 1 storm on the Saffir–Simpson hurricane wind scale (SSHWS)**.
- This year, an **“above-normal” hurricane season is expected in the USA**.

One reason for this is the **warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures** in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, along with **weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds** and an **enhanced west African monsoon**.



Hurricane

- It is a **tropical cyclone** that occurs in the **Atlantic Ocean** and the **northeastern Pacific Ocean**.
- These are formed over the **warm ocean waters near the equator**.
- Hurricanes typically form between **5 to 15 degrees latitude north and south of the equator**.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

It is a **1 to 5 rating based** on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage.

Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	119-153 km/h	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage
2	154-177 km/h	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage
3 (major)	178-208 km/h	Devastating damage will occur
4 (major)	209-251 km/h	Catastrophic damage will occur
5 (major)	252 km/h or higher	Catastrophic damage will occur

Source: IE