



Hurricane Delta

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/hurricane-delta

Why in News

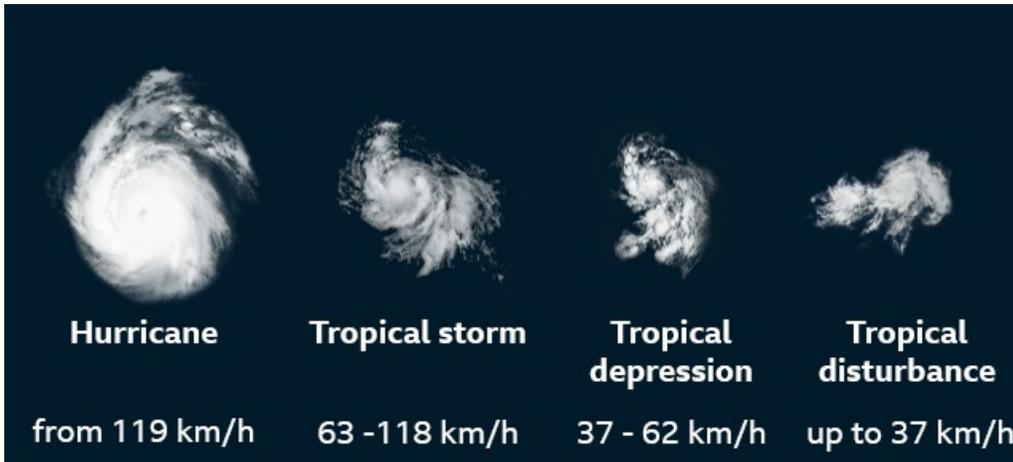
Recently, Hurricane Delta made landfall in the **USA state of Louisiana**, which is still recovering from the damage caused by a **previous hurricane (Laura)** in August 2020.

Key Points

- Hurricane Delta is the **10th named storm** to make USA landfall so far this year, breaking a record that has stood since 1916.
 - As per the scientists, **global warming** is a major cause behind rapidly intensifying Atlantic hurricanes.
- Delta is also the **first Greek alphabet named hurricane** on record to make landfall in continental USA.
 - When a very active hurricane season occurs and the list is exhausted, **the Greek alphabet is used** (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, Eta, Theta, etc).
- It hit Louisiana as a **Category 2 hurricane**, but weakened to a Category 1 as it moved inland.
- **Hurricanes:**
 - Hurricanes are the **biggest and most violent storms** on the planet.
 - **Every year, between June and November** they hit the **Caribbean**, the **Gulf of Mexico** and the **eastern coast of the United States**, sometimes leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.
 - In the **western North Pacific**, they are called "**typhoons**".
 - In the **Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea**, they are called "**cyclones**".
 - In **Australia**, they are called "**Willy-Willy**".

- **Formation:**

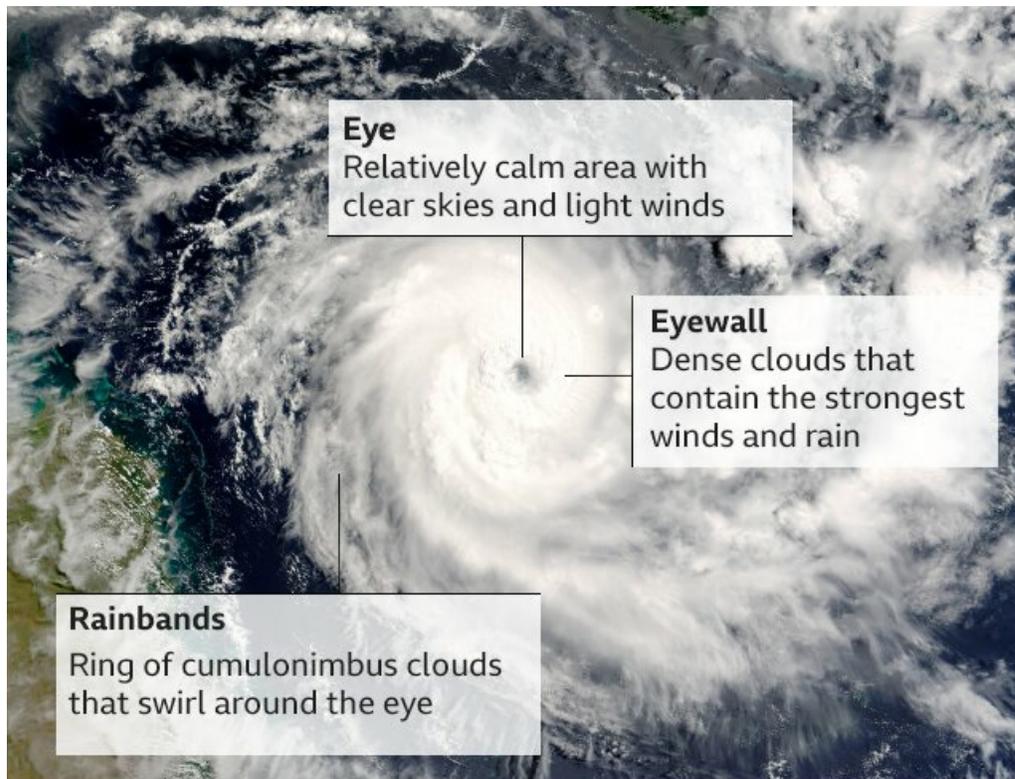
- A hurricane **starts out as a tropical disturbance**. This is an area over warm ocean waters where rain clouds are building.
- A tropical disturbance sometimes **grows into a tropical depression**. This is an area of **rotating thunderstorms** with winds of 62 km/hr or less.
- A **tropical depression becomes a tropical storm** if its winds reach 63 km/hr.
- A tropical storm **becomes a hurricane** if its winds reach 119 km/hr.



- **Category of Hurricanes:**

- Hurricanes can be classified in **five categories** depending on the sustained wind speeds.
- In the Atlantic, the **Saffir-Simpson wind scale** is used to measure their destructive power.

- **Parts of a Hurricane:**



- **Eye:** The eye is the "hole" at the center of the storm. Winds are light in this area. Skies are partly cloudy, and sometimes even clear.
- **Eye Wall:** The eye wall is a ring of thunderstorms. These storms swirl around the eye. The **wall is where winds are strongest and rain is heaviest.**
- **Rain Bands:** Bands of clouds and rain go far out from a hurricane's eye wall. These bands stretch for hundreds of miles. They contain thunderstorms and sometimes tornadoes.

- **Naming:**

Each year, tropical storms are named in **alphabetical order**. The names come from a list of names for that year. There are **six lists of names**. Lists are **reused every six years**.

Source: IE