



Hurricane Ida

Why in News

Recently, [Hurricane Ida](#) made landfall in Louisiana, US. It is an extremely dangerous **Category 4 storm** and **one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the US**.

- It will test the hundreds of miles of new levees that were built after the devastation of **Hurricane Katrina (2005)**, which made landfall 16 years ago in the US.

Key Points

- **About:** Hurricanes are the **biggest and most violent storms** on the planet.
 - Tropical cyclones or hurricanes **use warm, moist air as fuel**, and therefore form over warm Equatorial water.
- **Mechanism:**
 - When the warm, moist air rises upward from the surface of the ocean, it creates an **area of low air pressure below**.
 - When this happens, the air from the surrounding areas rushes to fill this place, eventually rising when it becomes **warm and moist too**.
 - An **eye forms in the centre**. It is the **calmest part of the cyclone**. Before the wind reaches the centre it gets warmed up and rises upwards.
 - When the warm air rises and cools off, the **moisture forms clouds**. This system of clouds and winds continues to grow and spin.
 - This **disturbance is fuelled by the ocean's heat and the water** that evaporates from its surface.
 - Such storm systems rotate faster and faster.
 - Storms that form towards the **north of the equator rotate counterclockwise**, while those that form to the **south spin clockwise** because of the rotation of the Earth.
- **Names in Different Regions of the World:**
 - **Typhoons:** Tropical cyclones are known as Typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean.
 - **Hurricanes:** In the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.
 - **Willy-willies:** In north-western Australia and
 - **Tropical Cyclones:** In the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Categorization of Hurricanes:**
 - Hurricanes are categorized on the **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale**, which rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.
 - Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are classified as major hurricanes.



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