



Tornado

[Source: DTE](#)

Recently, a deadly tornado struck Mainaguri in [Jalpaiguri district](#), West Bengal, killing five and injuring over a hundred, highlighting the **increasing frequency** of tornadoes in India.

- **Tornado:**
 - A tornado is a **rotating column** of air that forms from a **thunderstorm** and touches the ground, while over the sea it is known as a **waterspout**.
 - Any collision of warm, moist air with dry, cool air in the presence of a **low-pressure system** like a trough **causes** thunderstorms and tornadoes.
 - **Tornadoes** can feature wind speeds ranging from **105 to 322 km/h**, with the system potentially being **stationary or moving** at approximately 97 km/h.
- Tornadoes generally occur in **middle latitudes**.
 - They are **most common** in the **United States, Argentina, and Bangladesh**.
- Extreme storms, **rare in India**, mostly occur in the **eastern states** of **West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand** during the pre-monsoon period, with some evidence of them also forming in northwest India.
- In India, there is **no official monitoring** of tornadoes though the [India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) recorded the recent West Bengal tornado.

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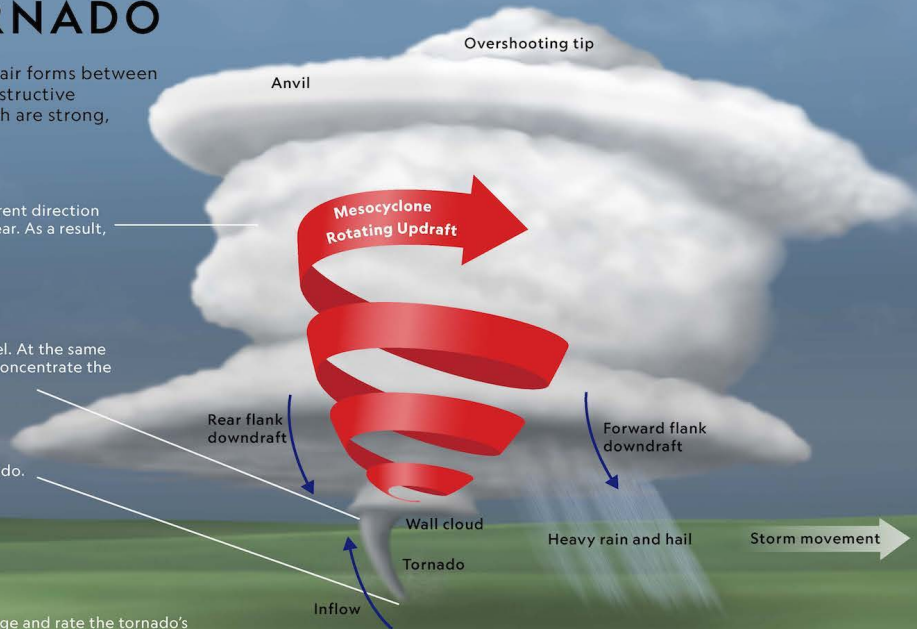
INSIDE A TORNADO

A tornado occurs when a rotating column of air forms between thunderclouds and the ground. The most destructive tornadoes usually arise from supercells, which are strong, rotating thunderstorms.

Winds at higher altitudes move faster and in a different direction than winds at lower altitudes. This is called wind shear. As a result, the storm will begin to tilt and rotate.

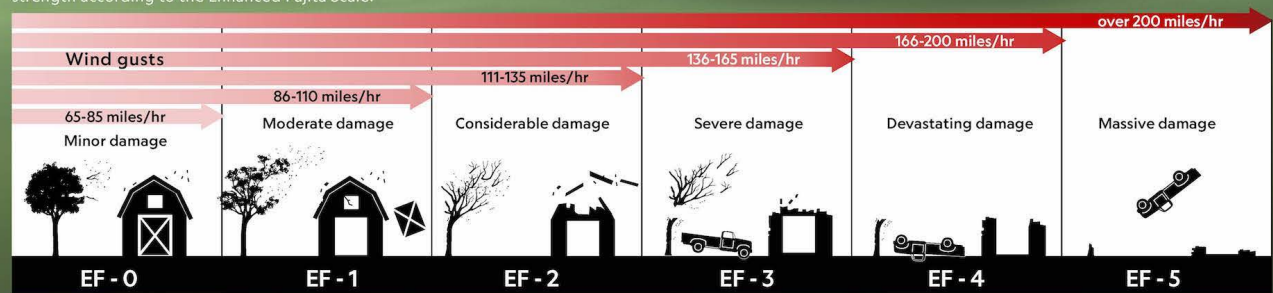
Warm, wet air gets pulled upward and forms a funnel. At the same time, cooler air falls toward the ground. This helps concentrate the funnel's rotation and brings it closer to the ground.

If the funnel reaches the ground, it becomes a tornado. Scientists don't know why some funnels reach the ground and others don't.



Tornado Categories

After a tornado has hit, experts assess the damage and rate the tornado's strength according to the Enhanced Fujita Scale.



Read more: [Cyclone](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/tornado>