

Tornado

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Tornado Latest News

Recently, a large tornado touched down in Kay County, Oklahoma, USA.

About Tornado

- It is a **vertical, land-based column** of violently rotating air that forms from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground.
- It is **characterised by a rapid cyclonic** circulation and is often seen as a cloud-filled condensation funnel extending from the sky to the ground.
- When such a rotating column of air forms over a water body, it is **known as a waterspout**.

Formation of Tornado

- Tornado formation is closely linked to **interactions between contrasting air masses**.
- A collision of **warm, moist air** (usually from tropical regions) **with cool, dry air** (typically from polar or upper regions), especially in the presence of a low-pressure system or trough, leads to the formation of

thunderstorms and may trigger tornadoes.

- **Wind Speeds and Movement:** It typically exhibits wind speeds ranging from 105 to 322 km/h, but some extreme events can exceed this range.
- They can be stationary or move at high speeds, often advancing at around 97 km/h across the landscape.
- **Geographical distribution:** Tornadoes occur most commonly **in mid-latitude regions (between 20° and 60° latitude in both hemispheres)** where cold polar air meets warm tropical air, producing frequent thunderstorm activity.
- The United States experiences the highest frequency of tornadoes globally, particularly in the region known as **“Tornado Alley”**.

Source: HT

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