

Cyclone Chido

December 18, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About Cyclone Chido:

- **Cyclone Chido** recently struck **Mayotte**, a **French Indian Ocean territory** located in the **Mozambique Channel**.
- Wind speeds reached **200 km/h**, making it the **strongest cyclone to hit Mayotte in over 90 years**.

About Mayotte

- **Geographical location:** Mayotte is part of the **Comoros archipelago**, situated in the **Mozambique Channel** of the **Indian Ocean**. It consists of two main islands: **Grande Terre** (main island) and **Petite Terre** (Pamandzi, smaller island).

What is a Cyclone?

A **cyclone** is a large-scale air system that rotates around the centre of a **low-pressure area**, typically bringing violent storms and extreme weather conditions.

- In the **Northern Hemisphere**, cyclones rotate **anticlockwise**.
- In the **Southern Hemisphere**, cyclones rotate **clockwise** due to the **Coriolis effect**.

Characteristics of Tropical Cyclones:

- **Calm Center:** The centre (eye) of the cyclone remains calm with **low air pressure**.
- **High Wind Speed:** Cyclones generally have an average speed of around **120 km/h**.
- **Closed Isobars:** Isobars (lines of equal atmospheric pressure) are tightly packed, leading to **high wind velocity**.
- **Formation Over Oceans:** Cyclones develop **only over warm oceans and seas**.
- **East-to-West Movement:** Cyclones are influenced by **trade winds**, moving from **east to west**.
- **Seasonal Nature:** They occur during specific seasons, depending on regional climatic conditions.

Classification of Cyclones:

The **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** classifies cyclones based on **wind speeds**:

- **Depression:** 31-49 km/h
 - **Deep Depression:** 50-61 km/h
 - **Cyclonic Storm:** 62-88 km/h
 - **Severe Cyclonic Storm:** 89-117 km/h
 - **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm:** 118-166 km/h
 - **Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm:** 166-221 km/h
 - **Super Cyclonic Storm:** Above 222 km/h
-

Q1. What is an Anticyclone?

An anticyclone is a large-scale wind system that rotates around a center of high atmospheric pressure. In the Northern Hemisphere, it rotates clockwise, while in the Southern Hemisphere, it rotates counterclockwise. Its wind flow direction is the opposite of that of a cyclone.

News: [PM Modi condoles Cyclone Chido devastation in Mayotte, offers relief assistance | Latest News India - Hindustan Times](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/cyclone-chido/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.