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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q16

What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · GS I · 15 marks · World's Physical Geography

Salient features of world's physical geography.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Tornado / twister

A violently rotating column of air in contact with both the parent cloud and the surface; twister is the colloquial name.

Supercell and mesocyclone

A long-lived rotating thunderstorm whose mesocyclone is the usual parent of strong tornadoes.

Maritime tropical air

Warm, humid air originating over the Gulf of Mexico is the classic low-level fuel for **US Great Plains** and Southern tornado outbreaks.

Tornado Alley / Dixie Alley

Popular names for interior plains and Gulf-South belts of high tornado frequency in the United States.

Enhanced Fujita scale

The US damage-based rating used to classify tornado intensity after the fact.

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