

Chapter – 8

Winds Storms and Cyclones

- **Air:** The invisible gaseous substance surrounding the earth, a mixture mainly of oxygen and nitrogen.
- **Properties of Air:**
 - (i) Air around us exerts pressure.
 - (ii) Air expands on heating and contracts on cooling.
 - (iii) Warm air rises up, whereas comparatively cooler air tends to sink towards the earth's surface.
 - (iv) As warm air rises, air pressure at that place is reduced and the cooler air moves to that place.
- **Wind:** The moving air is called wind. Air moves from region of high air pressure to region of low air pressure.
- **Types of Wind:**
 - (i) **Wind Currents:** Wind currents are generated due to uneven heating on earth. Uneven heating on the earth is the main cause of wind movements.
 - (ii) **Thunderstorms:** Storm with thunder and lightning along with rain.
- Winds carrying water vapour bring rain.
- High-speed winds and air pressure difference can cause cyclones.
- It has become easier to monitor cyclones with the help of advance technology like satellites and radars.
- Self-help is the best help. Therefore it is better to plan in advance and be ready with defence against any approaching cyclone.
- The following flow chart will help you to understand the phenomena that lead to the formation of clouds and falling of rain and creation of storms and cyclones.