How did a tornado form in Bengal? Science behind the stormy air column that’s uncommon in India

A tornado ripped through 24-Parganas and Hooghly districts Tuesday. ThePrint explains the weather phenomenon that has been documented in Bengal since 1838.

26 May, 2021 02:35 pm IST

A screenshot of a video posted on social media of the tornado in Bengal on 25 May 2021 | Dipayan Sain | Twitter

Bengaluru: A tornado hit West Bengal’s Hooghly district ahead of Cyclone Yaas Tuesday. Visuals captured by onlookers shows the clear swirling

column of air carrying dust and debris.

The weather phenomenon occurred in the North 24-Parganas and parts of Hooghly district, lasting for a minute and half. According to reports, it destroyed about 40 houses.

Tornadoes are rotating columns of air that have contact with the Earth on one end and storm clouds on the other. While tornadoes are not common in the Indian subcontinent, they are not unheard of, and the Bengal region is especially prone to it.

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