

## Typhoon Ragasa

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Geography*

### Why in News?

*Super Typhoon Ragasa strike Hong Kong with fierce winds and pounding rain, and headed into southern China recently.*

- It is the most intense tropical cyclone recorded in 2025. At its peak, Ragasa was moving with the maximum sustained winds of 280 kmph.
- Ragasa has been referred to as a **super typhoon** because it is a **Category 5 tropical cyclone**.
- **Formation** - Ragasa originated from a tropical depression and rapidly intensified into a super typhoon.
- **Causes** - It causes death and widespread damage across the Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and southern China.
- **In Philippines** - The storm first made landfall in the northern Philippines, causing heavy rain, landslides.
- **In Taiwan** - As the typhoon passed, a **barrier lake burst** its banks in Hualien County, releasing a "tsunami from the mountains".

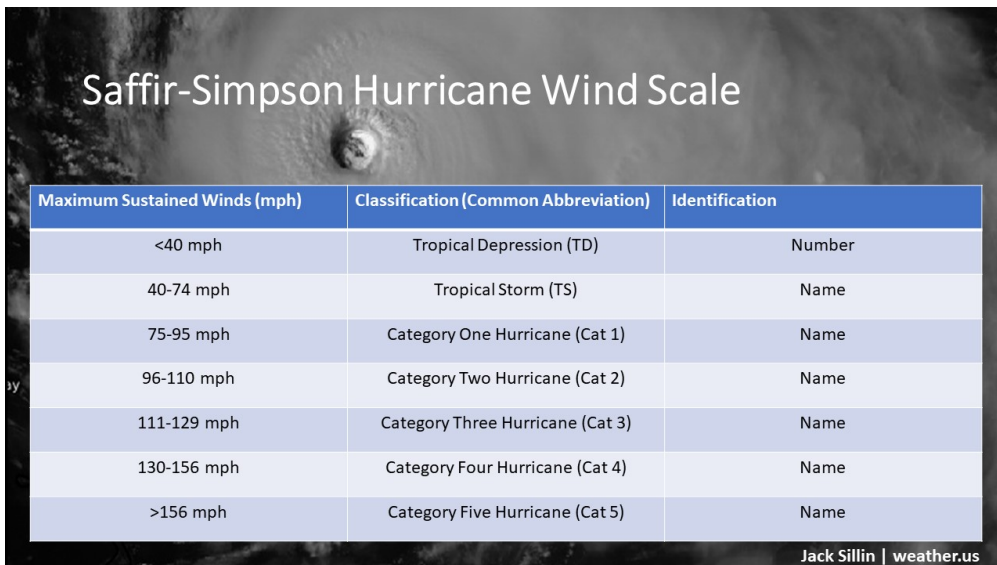
*A barrier lake, or landslide-dammed lake, forms when natural material like rocks, dirt, or debris from landslides block a river or valley.*

- **In Hong Kong** - Ragasa skirted Hong Kong, bringing the city to a standstill with powerful winds, heavy rain, and storm surges.
- **In Southern China** - Ragasa made its final landfall in Yangjiang, Guangdong province.

### Formation of Tropical cyclones

- Tropical cyclones form over **warm ocean waters** near the equator.

- When the warm, moist air from the ocean surface rises upward, a lower air pressure area is formed below.
- Air from surrounding areas with higher air pressure rushes into this low-pressure area, eventually rising, and it becomes warm and moist.
- As warm, moist air rises, it cools down, and the water in the air forms clouds and thunderstorms.
- This whole system of clouds and winds gains strength and momentum using the ocean's heat, and the water that evaporates from its surface.
- **Classification** - The weakest tropical cyclones are called tropical depressions.
- If a depression intensifies such that its maximum sustained winds reach 39 miles per hour [63 kmph], the tropical cyclone becomes a tropical storm.
- Storm systems with wind speeds of 119 kmph and above are classified as hurricanes, typhoons, or tropical cyclones.
- The category of a tropical cyclone is determined by its sustained wind speed, as measured by the **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale**.
- It is classified into 5 categories - Category 1 to Category 5.



Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Maximum Sustained Winds (mph)	Classification (Common Abbreviation)	Identification
<40 mph	Tropical Depression (TD)	Number
40-74 mph	Tropical Storm (TS)	Name
75-95 mph	Category One Hurricane (Cat 1)	Name
96-110 mph	Category Two Hurricane (Cat 2)	Name
111-129 mph	Category Three Hurricane (Cat 3)	Name
130-156 mph	Category Four Hurricane (Cat 4)	Name
>156 mph	Category Five Hurricane (Cat 5)	Name

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## Reference

[The Indian Express | Super Typhoon Ragasa](#)