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## 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 lighting 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.
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