



Hurricane Melissa Strikes Caribbean, Scientists Link Storm to Climate Change

Hurricane Melissa tore through the Caribbean last week, leaving a trail of destruction across Jamaica, Cuba and Haiti in what officials call one of the most powerful Atlantic storms on record.

Jamaica’s government reported widespread devastation after the Category 5 hurricane made landfall, with winds reaching 160 mph (260 km/h). Homes were flattened, power lines toppled and roads buried under landslides. In Haiti, at least 30 people were killed in flash floods. Meteorologists said Melissa’s rapid intensification—from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane within 24 hours—was fuelled by record-warm Atlantic waters. Scientists told Reuters that ocean temperatures near 30 °C, up to 3 °C above normal, provided “a vast reservoir of energy” for the storm. Climate researchers warn that such rapid intensification is becoming more common as global heating drives warmer seas, increasing the likelihood of catastrophic hurricanes in the region.



Countries’ New Climate Plans to Start Cutting Global Emissions, U.N. Says

For the first time, the United Nations climate body projects a decline in global greenhouse gas emissions, marking a modest yet meaningful milestone in the effort to combat climate change. A new UNFCCC analysis indicates that if nations fully implement their latest climate pledges, global emissions are likely to peak within this decade and decline by about 10% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels.

This represents a pivotal turning point after decades of steady increases. Yet scientists warn that a 10% reduction is far from sufficient to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. Current commitments still leave the world on course for dangerous temperature rise and escalating extreme weather events.

Released ahead of COP30, the UNFCCC report notes encouraging progress, including stronger pledges from major emitters, but also highlights uncertainty in several national policies. The findings underscore the urgent need for more ambitious, coordinated action to secure a safer and more sustainable future for all.



EV Sales Surge to Record as World Embraces Electric Transport

Electric vehicle adoption has hit a new gear. In September 2025, global sales of EVs (including plug-in hybrids) zoomed to 2.1 million units – the first-time monthly EV sales have ever topped the 2 million mark.

That figure is up 26% from a year earlier, driven by booming demand in China (which accounted for about 1.3 million EVs sold). Europe also hit a record, with EV sales jumping 36%, and North America surged 66% thanks to a last-minute rush before U.S. tax credits expired.

160mph

Jamaica reported winds of 160mph as Hurricane Melissa winds hit landfall

10%

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