



Uttarakhand Receive Fresh Snowfall

Why in News?

Recently, **Uttarakhand received its first snowfall of the season** along with Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh.

Key Points

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** had earlier predicted heavy rain and snowfall in the mountainous regions of the three states in the coming days due to a **western disturbance**.

India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- It was **established in 1875**. It is the National Meteorological Service of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
 - It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India**.
- **It is headquartered in New Delhi.**
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organization**.

Western Disturbances

- Western disturbances are storms that **originate in the Caspian or Mediterranean Sea**, and bring non-monsoonal rainfall to northwest India, according to the IMD.
- They are labelled as an **extra-tropical storm** originating in the Mediterranean, is an area of low pressure that brings **sudden showers, snow and fog in northwest India**.
- The meaning of WD lies in its name.
 - The **disturbance travels from the “western” to the eastern direction**.
 - These travel eastwards on **high-altitude westerly jet streams - massive ribbons** of fast winds traversing the earth from west to east.
- Disturbance means an **area of “disturbed” or reduced air pressure**.
 - Equilibrium exists in nature due to which the air in a region tries to normalise its pressure.
- In the term **“extra-tropical storm”**, storm refers to low pressure. **“Extra-tropical” means outside the tropics**. As the WD originates outside the tropical region, the word “extra-tropical” has been associated with them.