



Thunderstorms

Why in News?

According to the [India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#), a fresh [western disturbance](#) is poised to affect Northwest India, whose influence will surge a myriad of different types of weather over the region.

Key Points

- Rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds has been forecast over most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand from 9th to 12th May 2024.
- Western disturbances are **storms that originate in the [Caspian](#) or [Mediterranean Sea](#), and bring [non-monsoonal rainfall](#) to northwest India.**
- 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.
- It brings winter and pre-monsoon rain and is important for the development of the [Rabi crop](#) in the Northern subcontinent.
- It is not always the harbingers of good weather. Sometimes it can cause extreme weather events like floods, [flash floods](#), [landslides](#), dust storms, hail storms and [cold waves](#) killing people, destroying infrastructure and impacting livelihoods.

Rabi Crops

- These crops are **sown around the Retreating Monsoon and Northeast monsoon season**, which begins in October and are called rabi or winter crops.
- The harvest for these crops happens **typically during April and May, during the summer season.**
- These **crops are not much affected by the rainfall.**
- **Major Rabi crops** are wheat, gram, peas, barley etc.
- A **warm climate is required for seed germination** and cold climate for the growth of crops.