

Nor'westers (Kalbaisakhi)

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Meteorologists will soon be able to deploy drones, mobile vans and high-end instruments to track the monstrous nor'westers, or Kalbaisakhi.



[Ref: TOI]

About Nor'westers (Kalbaisakhi):

- Nor'westers commonly begin over the **Chhotanagpur Plateau**, gaining strength as they move southeastward across Eastern India, particularly impacting states like **Odisha, West Bengal, and Assam??**.
- These storms predominantly occur during the transition from spring to summer, mostly observed **from mid-April to mid-May**.

Characteristics:

- Accompanied by strong, gale-speed winds often exceeding 100 km/h.
- Features heavy rainfall, thunder, and lightning.
- Hailstorms and occasionally tornadoes are also reported, adding to their intensity.

Impact:

- Can cause significant agricultural damage due to strong winds and hail.
- Often leads to infrastructure damage, including downed power lines and structural damage?.
- The sudden onset and intensity necessitate staying indoors and securing loose objects??.

Atmospheric Conditions:

- Formation is influenced by the collision of hot moist air from the **Bay of Bengal** with dry land air from **northwest India**, underpinned by high **surface temperatures and moisture**.