



6th – India: Climate, Vegetation and Wildlife I

Weather is about day to day changes in the atmosphere. It includes changes in temperature, rainfall and sunshine etc. in contrast there are days together, you feel cold without woolen clothes when it is very windy and chilly, you would like to have something hot to eat, considered to be as seasons:

Broadly, the major seasons recognized in India are.

- Cold Weather Season (Winter) December to February.
- Hot Weather Season (Summer) March to May
- Southwest Monsoon Season (Rainy) June to September
- Season of Retreating Monsoon (Autumn) October and November.

Two major types of climate- equable and extreme climate. Regions which are neither too hot nor too cold are said to have equable climate. Such places are generally located close to the sea, such as Chennai and Mumbai. On the other hand, regions which are too hot and too cold, where extremes of temperature prevail, are said to have extreme climate. Places experiencing extreme climate are land-locked, such as Delhi and Haryana.

Cold Weather Season or Winter:

During the winter season, the sun rays do not fall directly in the region. As a result the temperatures are quite low in northern India.

In India, winter falls between the months of December and February. December and January are the coldest months. Winter is more severe in North India than it is in South India. The mean temperature in the Northern Plain is very low (10-15°C). In the Thar Desert, the night temperature falls below 0°C in winter. The coastal areas of India, however, hardly experience winter. Here temperatures range between 20 and 25°C. Winter in India is predominantly dry. But parts of North India and Tamil Nadu experience rainfall during the winter month.

Hot Weather Season or summer:

In the hot weather season sun rays more or less directly fall in this region. Temperature becomes very high. Hot and dry winds called loo, blow during the day.

The hot weather season, or summer, extends from March to May in India. In the hot weather season, the sun's rays or insolation income solar radiation falls vertically in this region, causing a sharp increase in atmospheric temperature. During summer the temperature increases from the south to the north. The average temperature recorded in the northern Plains is about 41-43°C. Summer is also the season for fruits like mangoes and jackfruits

South West Monsoon Season or Rainy Season:

This season is marked by the onset and advance of monsoon. The winds blow from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal towards the land. They carry moisture with them. When these winds strike the mountain barriers, rainfall occurs. The south-west monsoon season, the advancing monsoon season, lasts from June to September.

Onset of The Monsoon in India

As it hits the Indian landmass, the south-west monsoon breaks up into distinct streams- one, the Arabian Sea Branch, enters India from the Arabian Sea and other, Bay of Bengal branch, enters India from the Bay of Bengal. The onset of south-west monsoon occurs each year around the first week of June. The monsoon advances to the north and, by 15 July, the entire country comes under the spell of

6th – India: Climate, Vegetation and Wildlife I



the monsoon. The Arabian Sea branch hits the Western Ghats and gives heavy rainfall to the coastal area of Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The Bay of Bengal branch travels north till it hits the Himalayas. It causes heavy rainfall in the eastern and north-eastern states of India, like Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, west Bengal and Odisha. In the northern parts of India the amount of rainfall decreases from east to west. Mawsynram, in the state of Meghalaya, gets the highest rainfall in the world.

Season of Retreating Monsoon:

Winds move back from the mainland to the Bay of Bengal. This is the season of the retreating monsoons. The southern parts of India, particularly Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh receive rainfall in this season.

Climate:

However, the climate is about the average weather conditions, which have been measured over many years. The climate of India has broadly been described as monsoon type. Monsoon is taken from the Arabic word 'mausim', which means seasons. Due to India's location in the tropical region, most of the rain is brought by monsoon winds.

The climate of a place is affected by its location, altitude, distance from the sea, and relief. Therefore, we experience regional differences in the climate of India. Jaisalmer and Bikaner in the desert of Rajasthan are very hot, while Drass and Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir are freezing cold.

