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Class-6th, Sub. – Social Science(Geog.)

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India-Climate, Vegetation & Wildlife

Dear students, study the topic carefully

When we talk about wildlife, we also consider vegetation and while considering vegetation, we cannot neglect the climatic conditions. Infact, all these three factors- climate, vegetation and wildlife are closely dependent on one another. Let's study about them in a bit detail to understand their interdependence and importance for us.

CLIMATE

Climate is one of the fundamental elements of our environment. It influences both human and the plant life in a big way. Its role is vital in shaping the lifestyles of the people as well as the economy of the country. The variety of seasons India experiences is amazing and this has resulted in a variety of crops being cultivated in different parts of the country. The climate of India can be called as the **Tropical Monsoon Climate**.

Weather is the state of the atmosphere at a place over a short period of time. It

changes almost daily and even within hours. It includes changes in temperature, rainfall and sunshine etc., and can be referred to as being cold, sunny, chilly, cloudy, windy or rainy weather. **Climate** is the average weather conditions of any place over a long period of time (an average of about 30 years). There are several factors which influence it.

Key Question 1

What is the major difference between weather and climate.

FACTORS AFFECTING CLIMATE

1. Latitude
2. Altitude (or height)
3. Distance from the sea
4. Prevailing winds

Latitude

The Tropic of Cancer which runs from west to east divides India into two zones. The southern part is in the Tropical zone and the northern part is in the Sub-tropical zone. The temperature is generally high all over the country.

Altitude

The temperature of a place depends on its height. The higher the place the lower is the temperature. This is due to the *Lapse Rate* in which the temperature drops by about 6° after an ascent of 1 km. Hence, places located on mountains are cooler than the plains e.g. hill stations like Shimla, Nainital, Ooty, Mahabaleshwar etc., remain cool throughout the year even during the hot summer months.

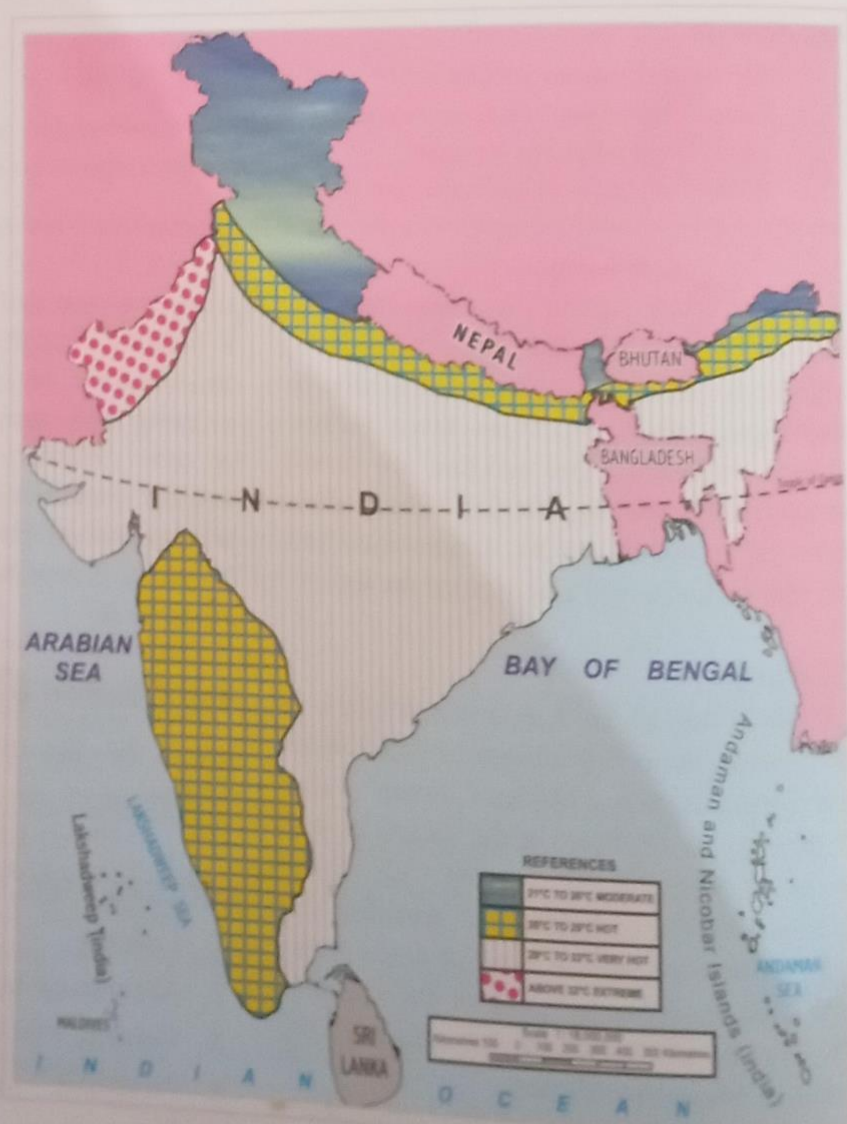
Distance from the Sea

Large water bodies produce a moderating influence on temperature of the nearby areas. The coastal areas of Peninsular India experience an equable type of climate while places in North India experience hot summers and cold winters known as the continental type.

Winds

Seasonal winds also affect the climate of any place or region. India's climate is also greatly influenced by seasonal winds. The monsoon winds which are seasonal in nature blow between July to September bringing rain to most parts of the country. These are known as the South West Summer Monsoon.

In winters, cold winds from the North East cause cold wave conditions throughout the country. These are known as the North East Winter Monsoon.



Average Temperature Conditions

SEASONS OF INDIA

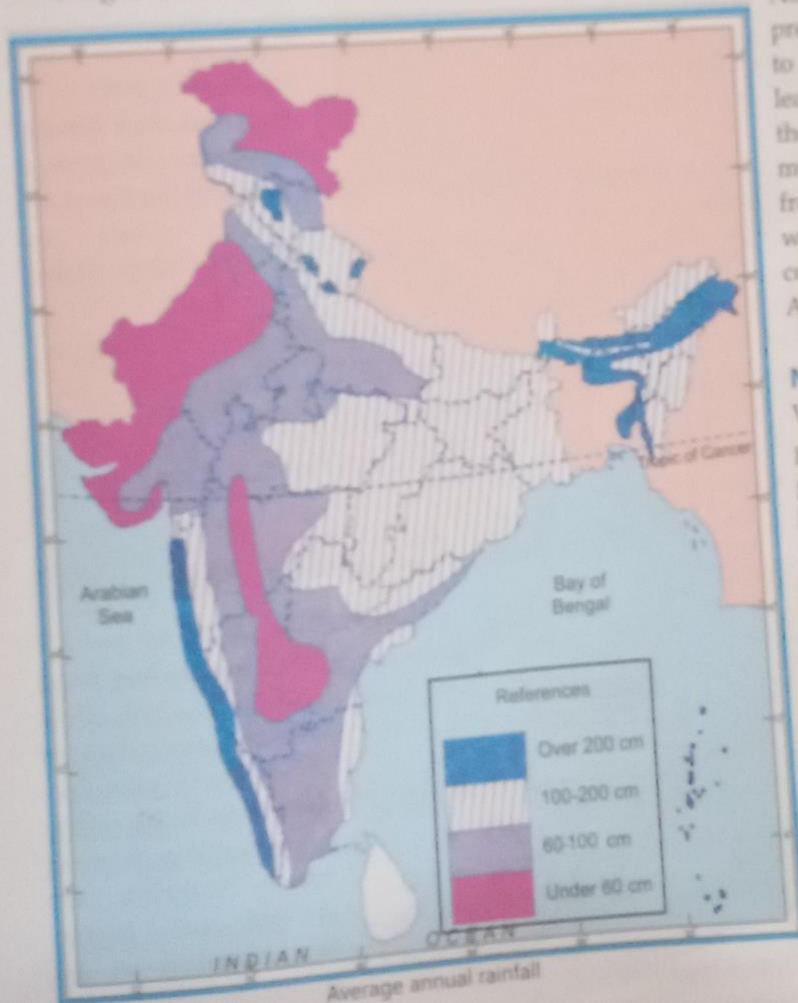
Broadly, there are four major seasons in India.

1. **Winter or Cold Weather Season:** This season begins in December and lasts till February. Very low temperatures are recorded in north India during this period. Temperate cyclones occur in winter in the North-Western Region.
2. **Summers or Hot Weather Season:** This season extends from March to May. Temperatures are high, throughout the country and hot dry winds called 'loo' blow in northern India. Kalbaisakhi (West Bengal, Assam) and Mango showers

South India are the other local winds which blow during this period.

3. **Rainy Season or South West Monsoon Season:** This season begins in June and lasts till September. In June, temperatures in North India are very high resulting in low pressure. This attracts moisture laden winds from the south-west. These are called the Rainy or the South West Monsoon and bring rainfall to most parts of India. This is the most important season in India.
4. **Season of Retreating Monsoon:** The season occurs during October and

November. The change in pressure conditions due to change in temperature leads to the reversal of the monsoon winds. These monsoon winds blow from north-east to south-west and bring rainfall to coastal Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.



NATURAL VEGETATION

Very often we observe that grasses, shrubs and trees grow without any human help. These are termed as natural vegetation. Different types of natural vegetation are dependent on different temperature and rainfall conditions. Due to the varied climatic conditions in India we have a wide range of natural vegetation. Broadly, it can be classified into five major types : Tropical Rain Forests or Evergreen

Answer the questions (Based on previous pdf)

- 1. Who was the first ruler Vardhana dynasty?**
- 2. Name the kingdoms which arose after the decline of the Gupta empire.**
- 3. Name the new religion which arose in Arabia.**
- 4. Where did the Chalukyas establish their capital?**
- 5. Write about the literary sources which give information about Harsha's reign?**
- 6. Write a brief note on the Nalanda University.**
- 7. Briefly write about the social life of the people during Harsha's time.**
- 8. Name the countries with whom the Chalukyas developed trade relation.**
- 9. Write about Pallava's contribution to the art & architecture of South India.**

Long Answer type questions

- 1. Write about Harsha's military achievements.**
- 2. How do we know that Harshavardhan was a very tolerant & charitable ruler?**
- 3. What were the political achievements of Pulkeshin-II?**
- 4. Give an account of religious life under Chalukyas.**
- 5. Write about the Harsha's administration?**

