

## CHAPTER – 3

# INDIAN MONSOON SEASONS AND THEIR FEATURES

***In this chapter, you learn about the following:***

- *Main features of India's climate*
- *Condition of the climatic seasons of India*
- *Distribution of seasonal Distribution of rainfall*

India has tropical monsoon type of climatic monsoon condition. In this type of climate, winds blows types of opposite directions in different seasons.

India depicts all the typical features of tropical monsoon. During the first half of the year, the winds blow from south-west to north-east, and remaining half, they blow from north-east to south-west. In addition to this, geographically, India is situated both in tropic and temperate zones. Latitude, height from the sea level, distance from the sea, direction of the winds, mountain ranges, ocean currents etc., are influence on the climatic condition of the country.

***You should know this.***

*The word Monsoon is derived from an Arabic word 'Mausim'. It means seasons.*

Indian climate divided into four seasons:

- 1. Summer season:** March to May
- 2. South-west Monsoon season:** June to September
- 3. Retreating monsoon season:** October to November
- 4. Winter season:** December to February

**Summer season:** The summer season begins from the first week of March and it continues till the end of May. During this season. The sun rays are perpendicualar in the Northern hemisphere. Hence temperature will be high. Days are quite long. The North-Indian plains are away from the sea and have very high temperature.

Rajasthan's Ganganagar records a maximum of  $52^{\circ}\text{C}$  in summer, and it is the hottest place in the country. In contrast South India is surrounded by water on three sides, and as such temperature is moderate seen. It will be between  $32^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$ . During this season, the North-Indian mountain regions and the peninsular plateau are cooler. Due to local temperature and winds, rainfall occurs in some places during April and May. These are called 'Kala Baisakhi' in West Bengal, Andhis in Uttar Pradesh 'coffee blossoms in karnataka' and 'mango showers' in Kerala. In summer, the country receives only 10% of annual rainfall.

**South-West Monsoon (Rainy season) :** In India, the South-West Monsoons comprise the rainy season. These are called the South-West Monsoon winds. These are very humid and shower rain most parts of the country. This season spreads from June to September 75% of the rainfall occurs during this season. South West Monsoon separates India into two branches: one is the Arabian Sea branch and the other is the Bay of Bengal branch. Monsoon winds are obstructed by the Western Ghats and as such, maximum rainfall is seen to the west of the Ghats. As these winds proceed to the east, they get depleted of rain. The eastern regions of the Western Ghats are called rain-shadow regions. The Bay of Bengal monsoon winds bring rain to Myanmar, Bangladesh, North-East Indian regions, foothills of the Himalaya and the North-Indian plains. The rain reduces as we move from North east to North west. With the exception of the TamilNadu region, most of the country's regions receive rain during the South-West Monsoon.

**Retreating Monsoons :** By the end of October, because of the Wide-spread South-West Monsoon rains, there is a decrease in the temperature. Besides, during this season, the sun rays fall Vertically on the Southern hemisphere. As a result, there is a drop in the temperature in the Northern hemisphere. Hence this area becomes an area of high pressure and the South-West monsoon winds start receding. Slowly, they stop

**Activity :**

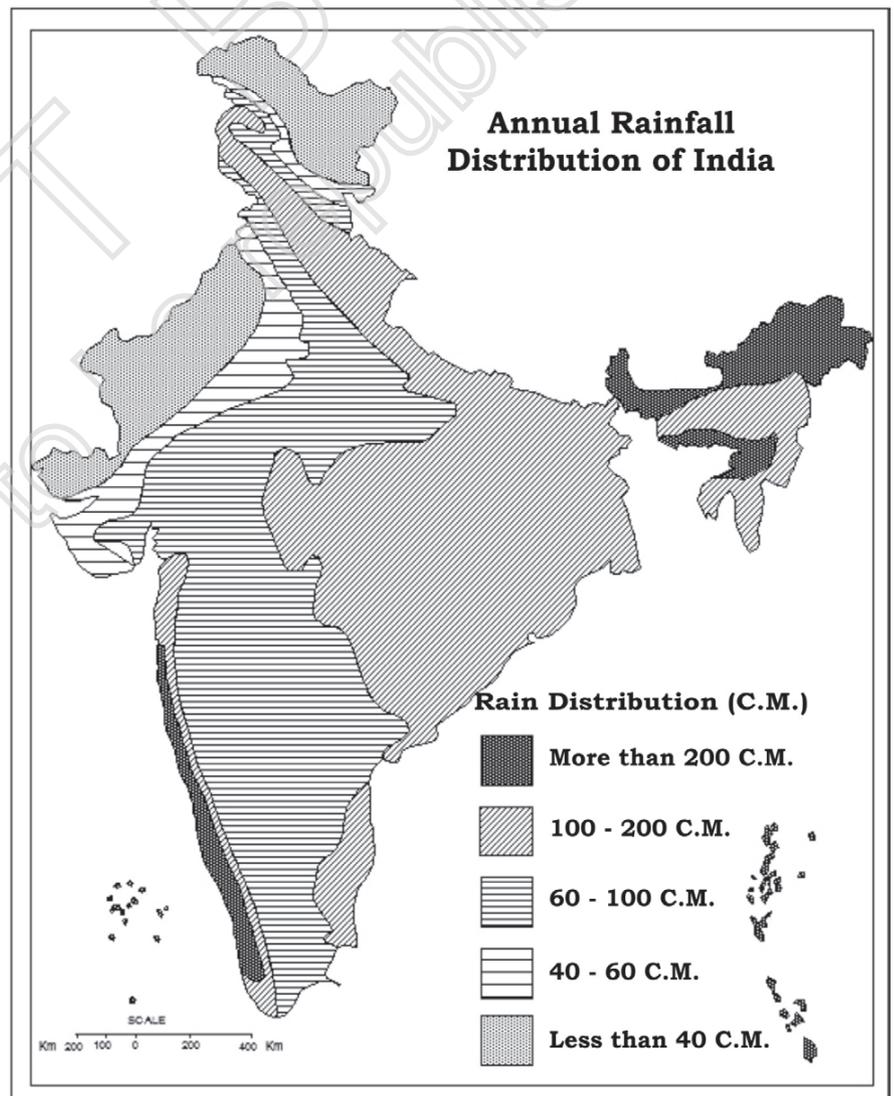
*Collect the information from the newspapers about the temperature in the major cities. Discuss with teacher about variation in temperature.*

blowing by the end of November. This is called the Receding Monsoon Period. During this season, India receives about 13% of the annual rainfall. Tropical cyclones frequently occur in the Bay of Bengal during this season. They can cause widespread damage along their path, particularly along the coast.

**4. Winter season :** In India, the winter season begins from December and ends in February. During this season, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the North Indian plains witness very low temperatures. In some places, the temperature drops to sub-zero levels and heavy snowfall occurs. But in South India, the temperature is normal and the climate is very pleasant. India receives just about 2% of the annual rainfall during this season. Hence, the winter season is the season of least rainfall.

**Distribution of rain:**

Normally, India receives its annual rainfall through the South-West monsoon. There are a lot of variations in the intensity of rainfall. India receives its rainfall during all the seasons. The country's average rainfall is 118 cms. However, different regions receive rainfall during different seasons. Besides, total rainfall differs from one region to another. Based on the total quantum of rainfall, India can be divided into three regions.



**1. Low rainfall region :** Areas getting less than 50 cms of rain are called areas of deficit rainfall. Thar desert of Rajasthan and its adjoining areas like Punjab, Haryana, Kutch regions, Jammu and Kashmir, eastern parts of Maharashtra and interior Karnataka are the areas of deficit rainfall. Ruyli of Jaisalmer district in Rajasthan is the area receiving least annual rainfall of 8.3 cms in the country.

**2. Moderate rainfall region :** Areas getting rain from 50 to 250 cms are called areas of moderate rainfall. All areas other than less and surplus rainfall come under this group.

**3. Heavy rainfall region :** Areas receiving more than 250 cms of rain are called areas of surplus rainfall. Western areas of Western Ghats, Assam and other eastern states and West Bengal come in this category. Mawsynram region of Meghalaya gets highest rainfall in the country.

Climatic condition of a country has a great influence on its economy. The South-West monsoons control the agriculture of India which is the main occupation of Indians. Failure of rainfall leads to drought. When the monsoons are heavy there are floods they also cause to destruction to life and property. Hence it is said that Indian agriculture is a “gamble with the monsoons”.

**Activity :** Get to know about the amount of rainfall received in your taluk this year. Discuss with your friends the climatic conditions in your taluk.

## EXERCISES

### I Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

1. Highest temperature region in the country is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The season of maximum rainfall is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The area receiving the very less rainfall in the country is \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The area receiving the highest rainfall in the country is\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Indian agriculture is said to be a \_\_\_\_\_ with the monsoons.

**II. Answer the following after discussing them in groups:**

1. Which type of climate is experienced by India?
2. What are monsoon winds?
3. Which season is generally called the rainy season?
4. What are the factors influenced on climate of India ?
5. 'Indian agriculture gambling with the monsoon winds.'  
Discuss.

**III Activity :**

Draw a map of India and mark the distribution of rainfall.

**IV Project Work :**

Learn from your teachers about the seasonal characteristics in your area.

