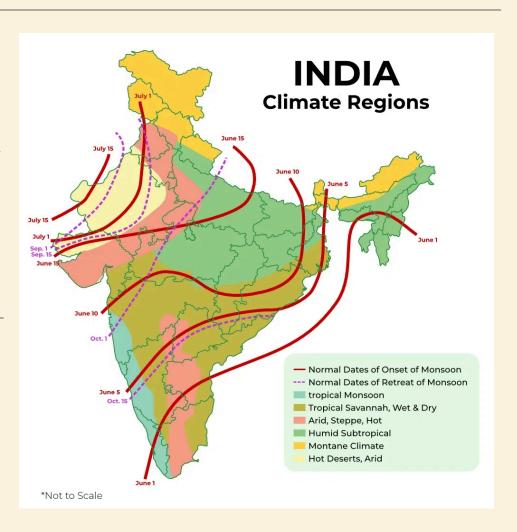
# Part-B Chapter 5: Climate of India

# भारत की जलवायु

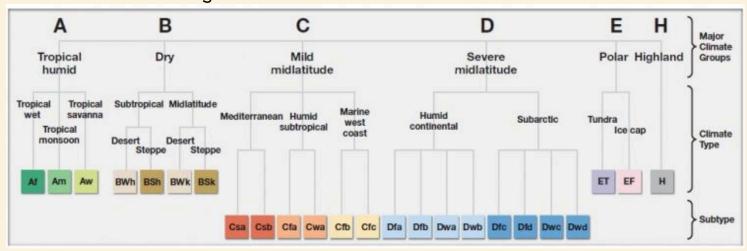
#### Introduction / परिचय

- India's climate is described as "Tropical Monsoon Climate" (according to Köppen classification → Am/Aw type).
- भारत की जलवायु को "उष्णकिटबंधीय मानसूनी जलवायु" कहा जाता है (कोप्पन वर्गीकरण अनुसार – Am/Aw प्रकार)।

# 1. Climatic Regions of India (by Köppen classification) / भारत के जलवायु क्षेत्र



- 1. Tropical Monsoon (Am/Aw): Most of India hot summers, monsoon rains.
  - 🕁 उष्णकटिबंधीय मानसून अधिकांश भारत।
- 2. **Tropical Semi-arid (Steppe, BS):** Rajasthan, Gujarat, rain-shadow Deccan (Telangana, Karnataka).
  - → अर्द्धशुष्क क्षेत्र राजस्थान, गुजरात।
- 3. Hot Desert (BW): Thar Desert (Jaisalmer, Barmer).
  - → मरुस्थलीय क्षेत्र थार।
- 4. Humid Subtropical (Cwa/Cwb): Northern plains, NE states, Himalayan foothills.
  - → आर्द्र उपोष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्र।
- 5. **Mountain/Alpine Climate (H):** Himalayas, Ladakh cold, snowfall.
  - → पर्वतीय/आल्पीय जलवाय् हिमालय।



#### Characteristics / विशेषताएँ:

- 1. Seasonal reversal of winds (Monsoon).
  - → पवनों की मौसमी दिशा परिवर्तन।
- 2. **Uneven distribution of rainfall** Western Ghats & NE India = heavy rainfall, Rajasthan & Ladakh = arid.
  - → वर्षा का असमान वितरण।
- 3. **Influence of Himalayas** protect from cold Central Asian winds; force monsoon winds to give rain.
  - → हिमालय शीत हवाओं को रोकते हैं और मानसून वर्षा कराते हैं।
- 4. Long coastline influences maritime climate in coastal areas.
  - → लंबी तटरेखा से तटीय क्षेत्र सम्द्री प्रभाव से संत्लित रहते हैं।

# 2. Factors Affecting Climate of India / भारत की जलवायु को प्रभावित करने वाले कारक

- Latitude (अक्षांश) India lies in tropical & subtropical zones.
- Altitude (ऊँचाई) Himalayas cold; coastal plains hot & humid.
- Distance from Sea (समुद्र से दूरी) Interior areas = extreme climate; coastal = equable.
- Relief features (स्थलाकृति) Western Ghats receive heavy rain, Deccan plateau is in rain-shadow.
- Monsoon winds (मानसून पवनें) Main factor of rainfall.

# 3. Seasons of India / भारत की ऋतुएँ

According to Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), India has 4 main seasons:



## (a) Winter Season (शीत ऋतु) – December to February

- North India → Cold (temperature <5°C in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan).</li>
- South India → Mild (temperature ~20–25°C).
- Western Disturbances bring winter rainfall in NW India (Punjab, Haryana, UP, Delhi).
- Cold waves from Himalayas affect North plains.
- 🔁 उत्तरी भारत ठंडा मौसम, पश्चिमी विक्षोभ से पंजाब-हरियाणा में वर्षा; दक्षिण भारत हल्की सर्दी।

#### (b) Summer Season (ग्रीष्म ऋत्) – March to May

- Temperature rises → NW India hottest (Rajasthan ~50°C, Madhya Pradesh, UP).
- Hot winds (Loo) blow in Northern plains (Apr-Jun).
- Dust storms (Aandhi) common in May.
- Pre-monsoon showers:
  - Norwesters or Kalbaisakhi → violent thunderstorms in West Bengal, Assam. (Beneficial for Jute and Rice in West Bengal and Tea in Assam)
  - Mango/Blossom showers → Karnataka, Kerala, help in ripening of mangoes and flowering of coffee
- 🔁 लू (गर्म हवाएँ), कालबैसाखी (पश्चिम बंगाल), आम्रवृष्टि (दक्षिण भारत)।

## (c) South-West Monsoon Season (वर्षा ऋतु) – June to September

- Onset: **Kerala coast ~1st June**; retreat: September.
- Contributes ~75% of annual rainfall.
- Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal branches.
- Heavy rainfall on Western Ghats & NE states; rain-shadow in Deccan Plateau, Rajasthan, Ladakh.
  - जून से सितंबर तक 75% वार्षिक वर्षा, पश्चिमी घाट व पूर्वीतर भारत में अधिक, दक्कन पठार व राजस्थान में कम।

#### (d) Retreating Monsoon / Post-Monsoon (शरद ऋतु) – October to November

- Monsoon withdraws from NW India → moves SE.
- Clear skies, humid conditions.
- NE Monsoon winds → rainfall in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh.
- Cyclones in Bay of Bengal frequent.
- 🔁 अक्टूबर—नवंबर, मानसून की वापसी, तमिलनाडु-आंध्र में वर्षा, बंगाल की खाड़ी में चक्रवात।

#### **Traditional Indian Seasons (Ritus):**

- 1. Vasant (Spring): February March
- 2. Grishma (Summer): April May
- 3. Varsha (Monsoon): June September
- 4. Sharad (Autumn): October November
- 5. Hemanta (Pre-winter): December
- 6. Shishir (Winter): January February

# 4. Indian Monsoon / भारतीय मानसून

#### (a) Definition / परिभाषा

- Monsoon = Seasonal reversal of winds due to differential heating of land & sea.
- Derived from the Arabic word 'Mausim,' meaning 'season'.
- मानसून = भूमि व सम्द्र के असमान ताप से पवनों की मौसमी दिशा परिवर्तन।

#### (b) Onset of S.W. Monsoon / मानसून का आगमन

- Normal onset: 1st June Kerala coast.
- Advances northwards → covers whole India by mid-July.
- 🔁 सामान्यत: मानसून 1 जून को केरल तट से प्रवेश करता है और जुलाई मध्य तक पूरे भारत में फैल जाता है।

#### Why monsoon happens (mechanism) / मानसून क्यों व कैसे

- Land—sea differential heating  $\rightarrow$  seasonal pressure reversal. भूमि-समुद्र असमान ऊष्मन  $\rightarrow$  मौसमी दाब उलटफेर।
- ITCZ shifts north (Jun-Jul) pulling cross-equatorial SW winds. आईटीसीज़ गर्मियों में उत्तर खिसकती है, दक्षिणी गोलार्ध से नमीदार पवनें खिंचती हैं।

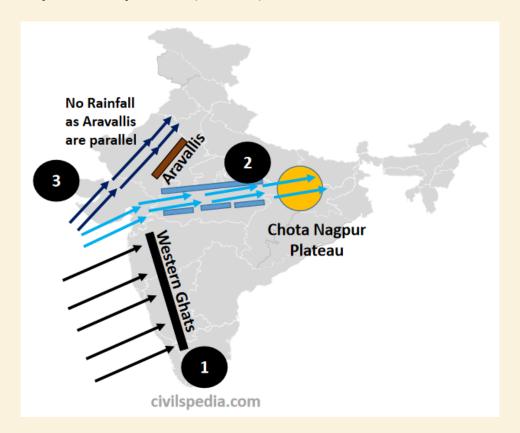
- Mascarene High (S Indian Ocean) & Somali Jet feed strong moist flow.
  मस्कारिन उच्च दाब व सोमाली जेट प्रचुर नमी आपूर्ति करते हैं।
- Tibetan Plateau heat-low + Tropical Easterly Jet (TEJ) strengthen monsoon; Subtropical Westerly Jet (STJ) shifts north in summer, returns south in winter.
  तिब्बती पठार ऊष्ण न्यून दाब + टीईजे मानसून को सशक्त; एसटीडब्ल्यूजे ग्रीष्म में उत्तर हटता, शीत में दक्षिण लौटता है।
- ENSO (El Niño/La Niña) & Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) modulate strength & spatial spread. ईएनएसओ (एल-नीनो/ला-नीना) व आईओडी मानसून की शक्ति/वितरण प्रभावित करते हैं।
  - El Niño: Warmer Pacific, weak Walker circulation → Somali Jet weakens → India's SW monsoon tends to weaken, drought risk ↑.
  - La Niña: Cooler Pacific → monsoon generally stronger, floods risk ↑.
  - Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD): Positive IOD (warmer W. Indian Ocean) can offset EI Niño and support India rains; Negative IOD can dampen rains.

# (c) Branches of Southwest Monsoon / दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून की शाखाएँ

The Somali Jet (Findlater Jet) is a cross-equatorial low-level jet along East Africa, carrying Arabian Sea moisture into India, crucial for SW monsoon rains over Western Ghats. When moisture-laden winds reach the southernmost tip of the Indian Peninsula, it divides into two parts due to its topography. They are:

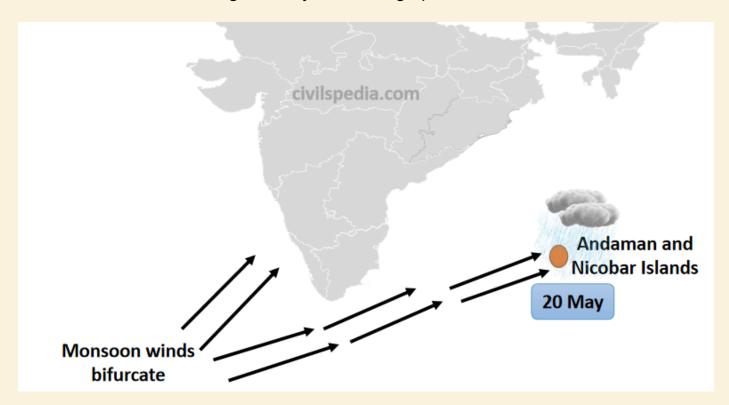
#### 1. Arabian Sea Branch (अरब सागर शाखा)

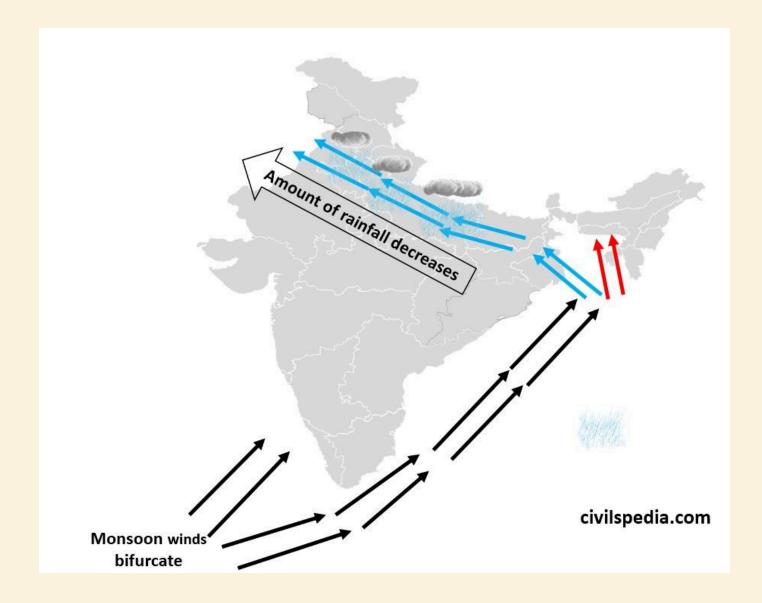
- a. Hits Western Ghats → Heavy rainfall on windward side (Kerala, Karnataka, Konkan, Goa, Mumbai).
- b. Moves through the valleys of Narmada and Tapi and reaches the Chota-Nagpur Plateau, where it joins the Monsoon winds coming from the Bay of Bengal
- c. Crosses to Gujarat & Rajasthan (weaker).



#### 2. Bay of Bengal Branch (बंगाल की खाड़ी शाखा)

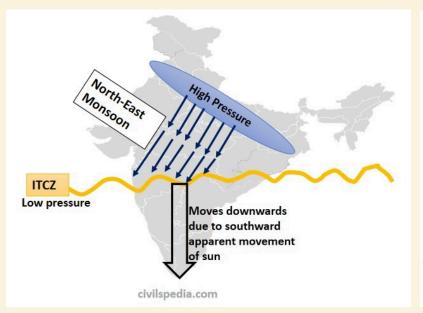
- a. First of all, Monsoon winds hit Andaman and Nicobar Island before Arabian Sea branch hits Western Ghats
- b. Moves towards NE India → Heavy rainfall in Assam, Meghalaya (Mawsynram = highest rainfall).
- c. Deflected westwards along Himalayas → Ganga plains.

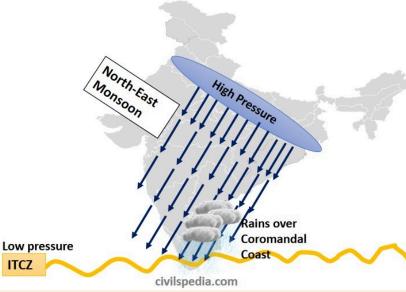




#### (d) Retreat of Monsoon / NE Monsoon / मानसून की वापसी

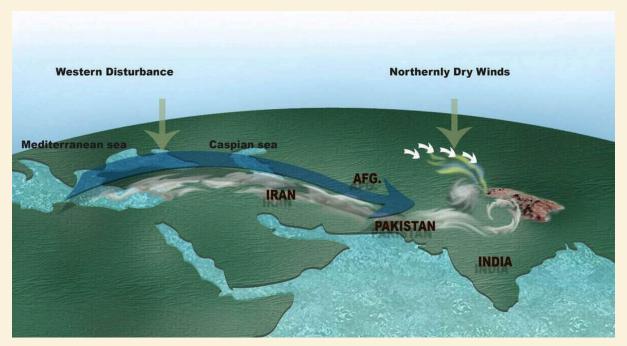
- Starts: September NW India; Ends: December Tamil Nadu coast.
- Retreating monsoon causes:
  - o Clear skies, humid days.
  - o Rainfall in TN, AP, Kerala (NE Monsoon).
  - Frequent cyclones in Bay of Bengal.
- 🔁 मानसून की वापसी सितंबर से शुरू होकर दिसंबर में तमिलनाडु तट तक समाप्त होती है।





#### (e) Western Disturbances (WDs) / पश्चिमी विक्षोभ

- WD are Extratropical cyclones originating in the Mediterranean region (West Asia).
- Carried eastwards by **westerlies** at the surface and guided by **STJ** (**Sub-Tropical Westerly Jet**) in the upper atmosphere.
- Enter India via Afghanistan–Pakistan → bring winter rain & snow to NW India & Himalayas.



Impacts: Snow in Himalaya; cyclonic rain in NW plains (Punjab–Haryana–Rajasthan–UP) → vital for Rabi (wheat, mustard); sometimes hail & cold waves.

प्रभाव: हिमालय में हिमपात; उ.-प. मैदानों में वर्षा → रबी फसलों हेतु महत्त्वपूर्ण; कभी-कभी ओले/शीत लहर।

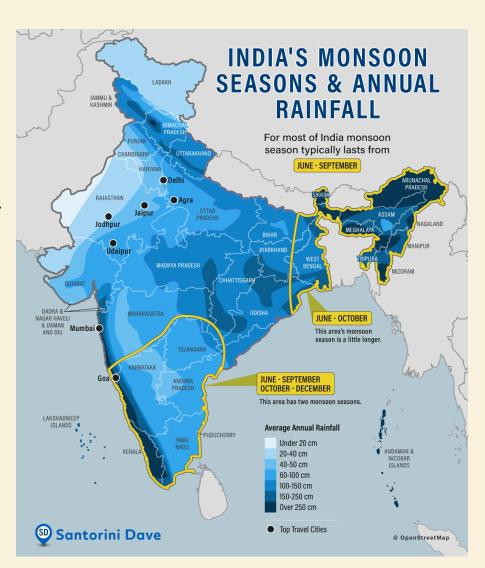
• Summer WDs can trigger pre-monsoon dust-storms/thunderstorms. ग्रीष्मकालीन विक्षोभ पूर्व-मानसून आंधी/तूफ़ान ला सकते हैं।

# (e) Factors Affecting Monsoon / मानसून को प्रभावित करने वाले कारक

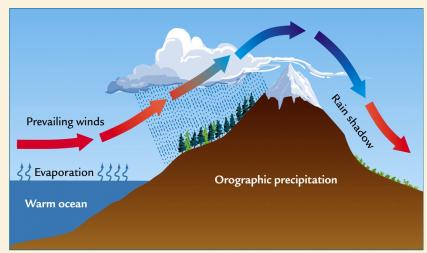
- **Differential heating** of land & sea.
- Tibetan Plateau heating in summer.
- El Niño & La Niña events.
- Jet streams influence onset & withdrawal.
- Cyclones & local disturbances.

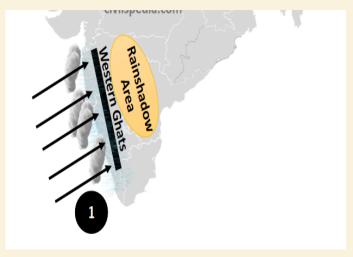
# 5. Rainfall Patterns & Distribution / वर्षा का वितरण

- Heavy rainfall areas (>200 cm): Western Ghats (Konkan, Malabar), NE India (Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal, etc.), Andaman & Nicobar.
  - → अत्यधिक वर्षा क्षेत्र।



- Moderate rainfall areas (100–200 cm): Indo-Gangetic plains, Odisha, parts of WB.
  - → मध्यम वर्षा क्षेत्र।
- Low rainfall areas (50–100 cm): Deccan Plateau interior (Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra).
  - → अल्प वर्षा क्षेत्र।





- Arid regions (<50 cm): Rajasthan (Thar Desert), Ladakh, Gujarat (Kachchh).
  - → शुष्क क्षेत्र।

## 6. Cyclones over North Indian Ocean / उत्तर हिन्द महासागर चक्रवात

- Basins: Bay of Bengal > Arabian Sea (more frequent & intense in Bay). क्षेत्र: बंगाल की खाड़ी में चक्रवात अधिक, अरब सागर में कम।
- Seasons: Apr-May (pre-monsoon) & Oct-Nov (post-monsoon peaks). ऋतु: अप्रै-मई व अक्टू-नवं चरम।
- High-risk coasts: Odisha-Andhra-TN, also Ganga-Brahmaputra delta (storm surge).
  अधिक जोखिम: ओडिशा-आंध्र-तिमलनाडु, गंगा-ब्रहमपुत्र डेल्टा।

