

The Climate in Our Country / Our Climate

Climatically, the year is divided into following four seasons in India;

- The Hot Weather season—March to May in South India and up to June in the North India
- The advancing South-West monsoon Season—June to September
- The retreating South-West monsoon Season—October and November
- The Cold Weather—December to February

Before you understand the basis of the climate in India you must understand that there are many factors which influence the climate of a region. These are:

(i) Location and Latitudinal Extent: India lies between 6° N to 37° N latitudes. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the middle of the country. The southern parts of the country are closer to the Equator. The northern parts are in the warm temperate zone.

(ii) Distance from the sea Southern or peninsular India is surrounded by the Arabian Sea, the Indian ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

(iii) The Northern Mountain Ranges The Himalayan and other mountain ranges which extend from Kashmir in the north west to Arunachal Pradesh in the north-east, separate India from the rest of Asia. These ranges protect India in many ways. One of them is that these protect us from the bitterly cold and dry winds of Central Asia during the winter season. They also do not allow the monsoon to cross over to central Asia.

(iv) Physiography The physical features of the region influence the season effectively and bring about variations in the local seasons.



Winter Season



Summer Season

Overall discussion on Indian climate is very interesting and needs study of many other subjects. You would love to study it in detail later. There is India Meteorological Department of the Government of India to handle it. All the forecast about the weather are made by it which appear on the 'Television' and in the 'Newspapers' on daily basis. These are very important for agriculture, navy, aviation and many other human activities.

Let us discuss various seasons briefly.

(i) The Hot Weather Season The sun moves from equator towards the Tropic of Cancer. In the hottest month, the temperature may cross 45°C in some parts of the

country. Most of the Northern Plains face hot dry winds, generally known as “loo” during May and June. Premonsoon showers take place in West Bengal, Assam and Kerala. These are called “Mango Showers” in Kerala. In West Bengal and Assam these are called “Kal Baishakhi.”

(ii) The advancing South-West monsoon Season-June to September It is the rainy season for most parts of India. It strikes the coast of Kerala normally in the first week of June and cover most of India by mid July. This weather continues till September. The day temperature comes down by about 5° C to 10° C.

(iii) The retreating South-West monsoon Season-October and November The sun shifts towards the equator. As a result fair weather prevails over the region. Tamil Nadu coast receives maximum rainfall during October and November—the period of retreating monsoons.

(iv) The Cold Weather-December to February The sun crosses over towards the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere. It shines directly over it in the month of January that is why January is the coldest month. Temperature, on the average, comes down to 20° C and gradually increases as one moves from north to south. There is some rain in the Coromandel Coast.



Rainy season

Effect of Climate on Human Activity

There has been distinct effect of climate on human activity. Daily living, clothes, food habits, culture activities and festivals, economic activities all are influenced by the climate of the region. However, globalization is influencing human activity in many ways as well.

Things To Remember

- There are four seasons
- There are many factors which affect the climate of a region. Some of them are
 - (i) Location and Latitudinal Extent
 - (ii) Distance from the sea
 - (iii) The Northern Mountain Ranges
 - (iv) Physiography