Monsoon in India: UPSC Geography Revision

UPSC · geography

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

A Key terms: match each term to its meaning

Write the letter of the correct meaning in the box next to each term.

1	**ITCZ**	☐	**A** Oppressive hot and humid weather under clear skies as the monsoon retreats.
2	**Monsoon trough**	☐	**B** A dry spell of one or more weeks during the rainy season.
3	**Burst of the monsoon**	☐	**C** IMD's all-India average June–September rainfall: 87 cm for 1971–2020.
4	**Break in the monsoon**	☐	**D** The ITCZ's position over the Gangetic plain (about 20°N–25°N) in July.
5	**October heat**	☐	**E** The difference in sea surface temperature between the western and eastern tropical Indian Ocean.
6	**El Niño**	☐	**F** The sudden onset of heavy, thundery monsoon rain after the dry hot season.
7	**Indian Ocean Dipole**	☐	**G** Inter Tropical Convergence Zone: a low-pressure belt where trade winds converge; it shifts north in summer.
8	**Long Period Average**	☐	**H** Warm water appearing off Peru in the eastern Pacific, recurring about every three to seven years.

B Quick quiz

Circle the best answer, write its letter, then explain your choice in a few words.

1 According to NCERT, which jet stream is held responsible for the burst of the monsoon in India?

a) Subtropical westerly jet
b) Tropical easterly jet
c) Polar front jet
d) Somali low-level jet

Answer: _____ Why? _____

2 Under IMD's normal dates revised in 2020, by when does the monsoon cover the entire country?

a) 1 June
b) 27 June
c) 8 July
d) 17 September

Answer: _____ Why? _____

3 Why does the Tamil Nadu coast get little rain from the southwest monsoon?

a) It lies parallel to the Bay of Bengal branch
b) It faces the Western Ghats directly
c) The westerly jet blocks rain there
d) It is too far from the sea

Answer: _____ Why? _____

4 What causes the 'October heat' in parts of India?

a) Dust storms from the Thar desert
b) High temperature and humidity under clear skies
c) The overhead sun at the summer solstice
d) Cold winds from Central Asia

Answer: _____ Why? _____

5 What does a positive Indian Ocean Dipole mean?

a) The eastern Indian Ocean is warmer than the western
b) Pressure at Tahiti is higher than at Darwin
c) The western tropical Indian Ocean is warmer than the eastern
d) A warm current appears off Peru

Answer: _____ Why? _____

Answers on page 2

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Answer key for teachers · UPSC · geography

A Key terms

1	**ITCZ**	G	Inter Tropical Convergence Zone: a low-pressure belt where trade winds converge; it shifts north in summer.
2	**Monsoon trough**	D	The ITCZ's position over the Gangetic plain (about 20°N–25°N) in July.
3	**Burst of the monsoon**	F	The sudden onset of heavy, thundery monsoon rain after the dry hot season.
4	**Break in the monsoon**	B	A dry spell of one or more weeks during the rainy season.
5	**October heat**	A	Oppressive hot and humid weather under clear skies as the monsoon retreats.
6	**El Niño**	H	Warm water appearing off Peru in the eastern Pacific, recurring about every three to seven years.
7	**Indian Ocean Dipole**	E	The difference in sea surface temperature between the western and eastern tropical Indian Ocean.
8	**Long Period Average**	C	IMD's all-India average June–September rainfall: 87 cm for 1971–2020.

B Quick quiz

1 b) Tropical easterly jet

The easterly jet stream sets in along about 15°N after the westerly jet withdraws from the north Indian plain, and NCERT holds it responsible for the burst of the monsoon.

2 c) 8 July

The new normal date for full coverage is 8 July, one week earlier than the old normal of 15 July. 1 June is Kerala onset, 27 June is Delhi and 17 September is when withdrawal begins.

3 a) It lies parallel to the Bay of Bengal branch

The coast runs parallel to the Bay of Bengal branch and lies in the rain shadow of the Arabian Sea branch, so most of its rain comes in October and November.

4 b) High temperature and humidity under clear skies

As the monsoon retreats, skies clear and temperatures rise while the land is still moist. The combination of heat and humidity makes the weather oppressive.

5 c) The western tropical Indian Ocean is warmer than the eastern

The IOD index is the western minus the eastern tropical Indian Ocean sea surface temperature anomaly. A positive IOD has a warmer west and tends to favour Indian monsoon rainfall.