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(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

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Jaipur Monuments and World Tourism Day 2024

Why in News?

In celebration of **World Tourism Day (September 27, 2024)**, the **Rajasthan government** has announced **free entry to several of Jaipur's most iconic monuments**, including **Jantar Mantar** and **Hawa Mahal**.

Key Points

- This initiative aims to **promote tourism** and provide an opportunity for both **locals** and **tourists** to explore the **rich cultural heritage** of the region without any cost.
- **Free Entry to Major Attractions:**
 - Tourists can enjoy free access to **Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal, Amer Fort, Nahargarh Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Sisodia Rani Garden, Vidhyadhar Garden, and Albert Hall Museum.**
- **Theme for 2024:**
 - The theme for this year's World Tourism Day is **"Tourism and Peace,"** emphasizing the role of tourism in **fostering peace** and understanding among different cultures.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - **Jantar Mantar:** Known for its **architectural and astronomical significance**, Jantar Mantar houses the **world's largest stone sundial** and is a **UNESCO World Heritage site.**
 - **Hawa Mahal:** Also known as the **"Palace of Winds,"** this five-story structure is renowned for its unique architecture and historical importance.

Monsoon Withdraws from Parts of Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, the **Southwest monsoon** has started withdrawing from parts of Rajasthan, marking a delayed retreat this year.

Key Points

- **Delayed Monsoon Withdrawal:** The Southwest monsoon began withdrawing from West Rajasthan

and **Kachchh**, a week later than scheduled, with further withdrawal expected from Punjab, Haryana, and Gujarat in the next 24 hours (as per **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**).

- Overall, monsoon rainfall has been **5% higher than normal, despite a 3% deficit in September.**
- August received **15% more rainfall than normal, compared to the 6%** projected by the IMD, due to multiple depressions from the **Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.**
- **La Niña's Impact:** Contrary to **IMD's forecast of a 9% increase** in September rainfall due to La Niña, the month saw a 3% shortfall.
- **Full Withdrawal Timeline:** The complete withdrawal of the **Southwest monsoon is expected by mid-October**, making way for the northeastern monsoon in southern states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh.

Monsoon in India

The Indian monsoon is a **seasonal wind system** that plays a critical role in determining the climate and agricultural patterns of the country. It is marked by a distinct wet and dry period, with the **Southwest Monsoon bringing significant rainfall between June and September.**

Key Characteristics of the Indian Monsoon:

- **Seasonal Wind Reversal:**
 - Monsoon winds are characterized by a reversal of wind direction. **During summer (June to September), moist winds blow from the Indian Ocean towards the land (Southwest Monsoon), while in winter (October to December), dry winds blow from land towards the sea (Northeast Monsoon).**
- **Southwest Monsoon:**
 - Dominates during the summer months (June to September) and is divided into two branches: the **Arabian Sea Branch** and the **Bay of Bengal Branch.**
 - These winds bring heavy rainfall, particularly to the western coast, northeastern regions, and the Indo-Gangetic plains.
 - The **Southwest Monsoon supports India's agriculture**, accounting for most of the Kharif crop season's irrigation.

Note:



- **Northeast Monsoon:**
 - Occurs during the winter months (October to December) and primarily affects southern India, especially Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.
 - It brings lesser rainfall compared to the **Southwest Monsoon and contributes to the rabi crops.**
- **Retreating Monsoon:**
 - As the monsoon withdraws, the dry winds from the north bring cooler temperatures, marking the transition to winter, particularly in northern India.

Earthquake

Tremors in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently the residents of Barmer, Rajasthan, experienced **mild earthquake tremors.**

- The tremors led to a brief period of panic, with people vacating buildings and gathering in open spaces.

Key Points

- **Location:** Barmer, Rajasthan
- **Magnitude:** 3.5 on the **Richter scale**
- **Structural Damage:** No major structural damage has been reported. Some minor cracks in buildings were observed.
- **Emergency Response:** Local authorities quickly responded, ensuring that emergency protocols were followed. They have advised residents to stay alert and follow safety guidelines in case of aftershocks.
- **Seismic Waves:** Seismic waves are the vibrations from earthquakes that travel through the Earth and are recorded on instruments called **seismographs.**
 - Seismographs record a **zigzag trace** that shows the **varying amplitude** of ground oscillations beneath the instrument.
- **Richter Scale and Mercalli Scale:** The earthquake events are **scaled** either according to the **magnitude** or **intensity** of the shock.

- The **magnitude scale** is known as the **Richter scale.** The magnitude relates to the energy released during the earthquake which is expressed in absolute numbers, **0-10.**
- The **intensity scale or Mercalli scale** takes into account the visible damage caused by the event. The range of intensity scale is from **1-12.**

Seismic Zones in India

- There are **four seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V)** in India based on scientific inputs relating to seismicity, earthquakes that occurred in the past and tectonic setup of the region.
 - Previously, earthquake zones were divided into five zones with respect to the severity of the earthquakes but the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** grouped the country into **four seismic zones** by unifying the first two zones.
 - **BIS** is the **official agency** for publishing the seismic hazard maps and codes.
 - **Seismic Zone II:**
 - Area with minor damage earthquakes corresponding to intensities **V to VI of MM scale (MM-Modified Mercalli Intensity scale).**
 - **Seismic Zone III:**
 - Moderate damage corresponding to intensity **VII of MM scale.**
 - **Seismic Zone IV:**
 - Major damage corresponding to intensity **VII and higher of MM scale.**
 - **Seismic Zone V:**
 - The area around **major fault systems** is where seismic activity is concentrated, making it the most **earthquake-prone region.**
 - **Earthquake zone V** is the most vulnerable to **earthquakes**, where historically some of the country's most powerful shocks have occurred.
 - Earthquakes with magnitudes in excess of **7.0** have occurred in these areas, and have had intensities higher than 9.

Note:

EARTHQUAKE



ABOUT

- Shaking of the earth; caused due to release of energy, generating **seismic waves in all directions**

HYPOCENTER

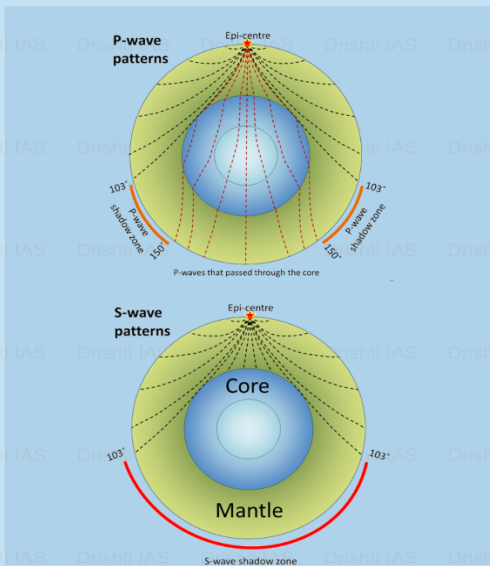
- Location where the earthquake starts (below earth's surface)

EPICENTER

- Location right above the Hypocenter (on the earth's surface)

EARTHQUAKE WAVES

- Body Waves:** Move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth
 - P Waves:** Move faster, First to arrive at surface, Similar to sound waves, Travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials
 - S Waves:** Arrive at surface with some time lag, Travel only through solid materials
- Surface Waves:** Last to report on seismographs, More destructive, Cause displacement of rocks
 - Love Waves:** Same motion as S-waves (horizontal) without vertical displacement, Sideways motion perpendicular to the direction of propagation, Faster than Rayleigh waves
 - Rayleigh Waves:** Cause the ground to shake in an elliptical pattern, Spread out the most of all seismic waves, Move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane



CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

- Release of energy along a **Fault/Fault Zones** (break in the crustal rocks)
- Movement of **tectonic plates (most common)**
- Volcanic eruption** (stress changes in rock-injection/withdrawal of magma)
- Human activities** (mining, explosion of chemical/nuclear devices etc.)

EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

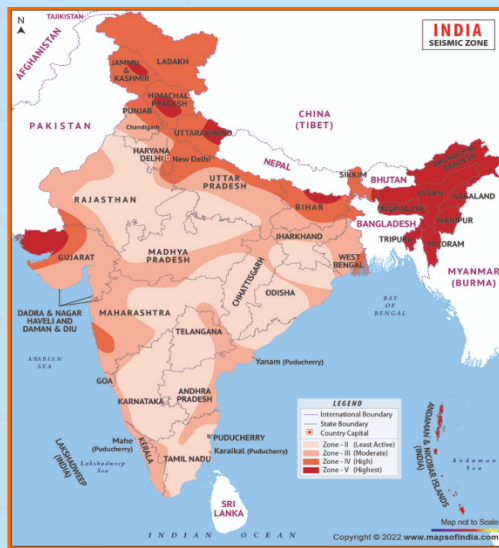
- India is **one of the highly earthquake affected countries** due to the presence of technically active mountains - the Himalayas.
- India has been divided into **4 seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V)**

MEASURING EARTHQUAKE

- Seismometers** - Measures seismic waves
- Richter Scale** - Measures magnitude (energy released); range: 0-10)
- Mercalli** - Measures intensity (visible damage); range: 1-12)

DISTRIBUTION

- Circum-Pacific Belt** - 81% of earthquakes
- Alpide Earthquake Belt** - 17% of the largest earthquakes
- Mid-Atlantic Ridge** - Mostly submerged underwater



Rain Alert in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, the **India Meteorological Department** has issued a **yellow alert** for rainfall in several districts of eastern Rajasthan, including **Jaipur, Ajmer, Alwar, and Udaipur**.

Key Points

- **Color Coded Alerts:**
 - **Green Alert:** Signifies “No warning,” with light to moderate rainfall forecasted, ranging from **15.6 mm to 64.4 mm**.
 - **Yellow Alert:** Signifies “Watch,” with heavy rainfall expected, ranging from **64.5 mm to 115.5 mm**.
 - **Orange Alert:** Stands for “Alert,” indicating very heavy rainfall, ranging from **115.6 mm to 204.4 mm**.
 - **Red Alert:** Signifies “Warning,” with extremely heavy rainfall forecasted, **exceeding 204.5 mm**.
- **Upgrade in Forecasting:** India’s weather department is set for a significant upgrade to improve localized and extreme-weather predictions with greater accuracy.
 - **New Mission:** A new weather forecasting mission with a budget of at least Rs 10,000 crore is **expected to launch soon**, significantly larger than the **Monsoon Mission, 2012**.
 - It will emphasize developing accurate computer simulation models for India and addressing climate change scenarios.
 - The mission will enhance the use of sophisticated instruments like **Doppler radars** and **integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML)** in weather forecasting.
 - India has three meteorological satellites (**INSAT-3D, INSAT-3DR and INSAT-3DS**), with the next-generation **INSAT-4 series** under development to provide high-resolution data for improved forecasts.

India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- **IMD** was established in **1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
 - It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.

- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the **World Meteorological Organization**.

➤ Roles and Responsibilities:

- To take meteorological observations and to provide current and forecast meteorological information for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc.
- To warn against severe weather phenomena like **tropical cyclones**, norwesters, **dust storms**, heavy rains and snow, cold and **heat waves**, etc., which cause destruction of life and property.
- To provide meteorological statistics required for agriculture, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
- To conduct and promote research in meteorology and allied disciplines.

Ceiling Limit Expiry: A Major Concern for Ration Card Holders

Why in News?

Recently, in a significant development, the **ceiling limit** for **ration card holders** in **Chittorgarh** has expired, causing concern among beneficiaries who rely on **subsidised food grains** and other essentials.

Key Points

- **Impact on Entitlements:** The expiration of the ceiling limit means that the amount of ration or the type of commodities ration card holders are entitled to may change. This could lead to a reduction in the quantity of **subsidized goods** available to families.
- **Renewal and Updates:** Ration card holders may now be required to renew their cards or update their information to continue receiving benefits. This process could involve submitting new documentation or verifying existing details.
- **Policy Changes:** The government may introduce new policies or guidelines affecting how ration cards are

Note:

managed and distributed. These changes could aim to streamline the process or address issues of misuse and fraud.

Rajasthan Ration Card, 2024

- A **ration card** is a government document that allows cardholders to obtain food items such as wheat, **rice, sugar, and kerosene** at very low prices from government ration shops each month.
 - The government issues ration cards to provide affordable ration to poor families in the state. Any middle or lower-income family in the state can apply for a ration card.
- **Types of Ration Cards in Rajasthan:** Based on the income and economic condition of poor families, the government issues three types of ration cards.
 - **BPL Ration Card:** The **BPL (Below Poverty Line) ration card** is issued to families living below the poverty line with an annual income of less than ₹10,000. With this card, poor families receive 25 kilograms of subsidised ration each month.
 - **APL Ration Card:** The **APL (Above Poverty Line) ration card** is provided to families living above the poverty line with an annual income of more than ₹10,000. These families receive 15 kilograms of grain each month.
 - **AAY Ration Card:** The **AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) ration card** is issued to the extremely poor families with no income sources. Families with this card can obtain up to 35 kilograms of grain each month from government ration shops.

33% Quota for Women in Police Force

Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan government approved **33% reservation for women** in the police force, along with an additional 5% allowance for pensioners.

Key Points

- The Cabinet approved an amendment to the **Rajasthan Police Subordinate Services Rules, 1989**.
- Approval was also given to amend **Rules 67 and 87 of the Rajasthan Civil Services Pension Rules, 1996**, under central government pension rules.

- A 5% additional allowance was approved for pensioners aged 70 to 75
- **Specially-abled children, dependent parents, and specially-abled siblings** can now be permanently added to the **Pension Payment Order (PPO)** if there is no other eligible member.
- The **gratuity and death gratuity** for state employees were increased from **Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh**.

Note: The **Union government** approved a **33% reservation** for women in direct recruitment for non-gazetted posts (constable to sub-inspector) in Delhi in **March 2015**.

Review Meeting on 17 New Districts of Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, a **review meeting was held to evaluate the status of the 17 new districts** created during the earlier government's tenure in Rajasthan.

Key Points

- **New Districts and Divisions:** The **new districts** in Rajasthan include Anupgarh, Gangapur City, Kotputli, Balotra, Jaipur City, Khairthal, Beawar, Jaipur Rural, Neemkathana, Deeg, Jodhpur City, Phalodi, Didwana, Jodhpur Rural, Salumber, Dudu, Kekri, Sanchore, and Shahpura.
 - Additionally, **three new divisions**—Banswara, Pali, and Sikar—have been created.
- **Cost and Administration:** Creating a district costs approximately **Rs.2,000 crore** (as per the review committee report).
 - The district of Pratapgarh, **established in 2008**, is still incomplete and administrative tasks remain pending.
- **Future Considerations:** Retired IAS officer Lalit K. Pawar has been reappointed to **oversee the 17 new districts** and gather public feedback.
 - He is responsible for preparing a factual and analytical report for further committee consideration.



Note:



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