

Regent Education and Research Foundation Group of Institutions

Daily Current Affairs Synopsis

Date: 7th NOV 2023

(Useful for UPSC/WBPSC/SSC Exams.)

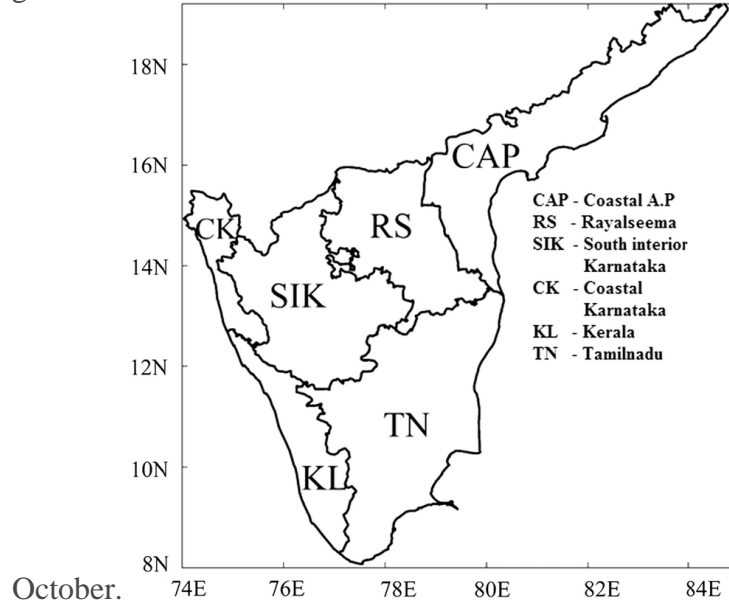
Rainfall Deficiency in Southern Peninsular India

Why in News?

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** recent analysis regarding the rainfall patterns in Southern peninsular India, spanning 123 years of records, **exposed that the region encountered its sixth driest October in its meteorological history.**

- **About:**
 - The Southern Peninsular region encompassing **Kerala, Mahe, South Interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Karaikal, Puducherry, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema** received only 74.9mm of rain in October, **which was over 60% below normal.**
- **Factors Influencing Rainfall Deficiency:**
 - **Confluence of Northeast Monsoon and Cyclone Hamoon:** The commencement of the **northeast monsoon** coincided with the genesis of **Cyclone Hamoon**, causing a **diversion of moisture away from southern peninsular India.**
 - This altered wind flow patterns and weakened the onset of the northeast monsoon.
 - **El Nino and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):** 2023 is an **El Nino** year combined with a **positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).**
 - In such conditions, there is **less rainfall over northern Tamil Nadu** and adjoining areas.

- Whereas, the southernmost areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala receive good rainfall in



▪ Cyclone Hamoon:

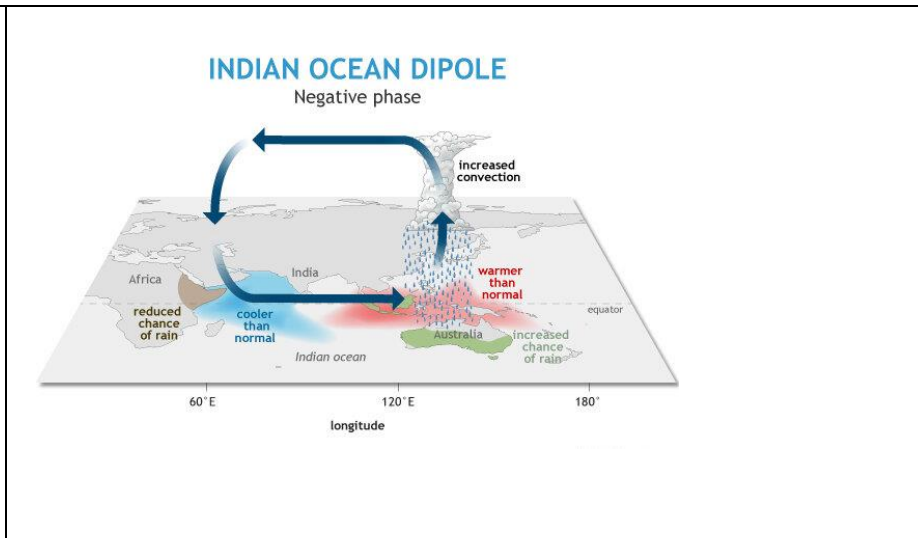
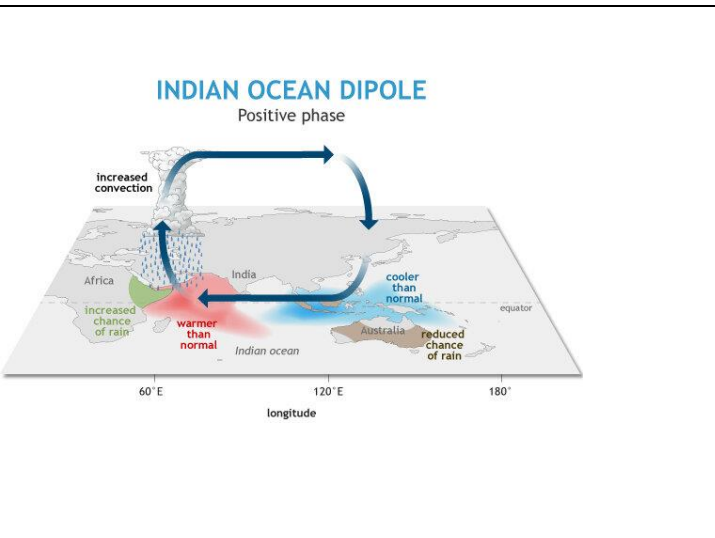
- It was a very severe tropical cyclone that made landfall in Bangladesh on 25th October, 2023.
 - The cyclone formed from a **low-pressure area over the west-central Bay of Bengal.**
- It was **named by Iran**, and the word "**Hamoon**" is a Persian word that refers to **inland desert lakes or marshlands.**

▪ El Nino:

- It is a natural phenomenon that involves a **periodic warming of the surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.**
 - The word "**El Niño**" means "**Little Boy**" in Spanish.
 - It is one of the two phases of a climate pattern called **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**
- Over India, **it has the effect of suppressing the monsoon rainfall.**

▪ Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):

- The **IOD** is an **atmosphere-ocean phenomenon** that occurs in the Indian Ocean.
- It's characterized by a **disparity in sea surface temperatures** between the eastern and western Indian Oceans.



Worker Productivity and Economic Growth

Why in News?

Recently, one of the Industry Leaders, has sparked a debate over **Worker Productivity and Economic Growth** by urging young Indians to work 70 hours work.

- He cited Japan and Germany as examples of countries that grew because their citizens worked harder and for longer hours to rebuild their nations in the aftermath of the **Second World War**.
- **About:**
 - The only conceptual difference between the Worker Productivity and Labor Productivity is that the ‘work’ in worker productivity describes **mental activities while the ‘work’ in labour productivity is mostly associated with manual activities**.
 - Productivity of an activity is usually measured as the quantum of **output value per unit of labour (time) cost at a micro level**.
 - At a **macro level**, it is measured in terms of the labor-output ratio or change in Net Domestic Product (NDP) per worker in each sector (where working hours are assumed to be 8 hours per day).
- **Measuring Intellectual Worker Productivity:**
 - In certain sectors, particularly those involving intellectual labor, evaluating the value of output can be inherently challenging.

As a result, **worker productivity is often approximated** based on worker income, which can create **complications when attempting to correlate increased working hours with higher productivity**, particularly if workers don't receive fair compensation for their additional efforts.

- **Role of Skill in Productivity:**
 - Productivity is not just about time, **it's about skill**. By investing in education, **training, health**, and other aspects of Human Capital, workers can become more efficient and create more value in the same amount of time.
 - So, working fewer hours **doesn't necessarily reduce output**; it can actually **improve workers' quality of life**.
 - The economy can still grow, even if **nominal wages remain the same**, as long as workers become more skilled and productive.

Is There a Link Between Worker Productivity and Economic Growth?

- While an increase in productivity made through any sector is likely to affect the value added and the accumulation or growth in the economy, the **relationship between the two is quite complex**.
- During the period 1980 to 2015, India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** expanded significantly, indicating **robust economic growth**. However, this economic growth did not uniformly benefit all segments of society.
 - In 1980, India's GDP was about USD 200 billion, which by 2015 exceeded USD 2,000 billion.
 - However, when looking at income distribution, the **middle-income group's share in the national income decreased from 48% to 29%**, and the low-income group's share dropped from 23% to 14%, during 1980-2015.
 - In contrast, the **top 10% income group saw their share increase from 30% to 58%**, indicating a growing Income Gap in the country during this period.
- This income inequality and skewed **distribution of prosperity among different income groups** is not explained by productivity but by poor labor laws, hereditary transfer of wealth, and exorbitant pay packages.