



Daily Mains Answer Discussion (Punjab PCS) (Day - 13)

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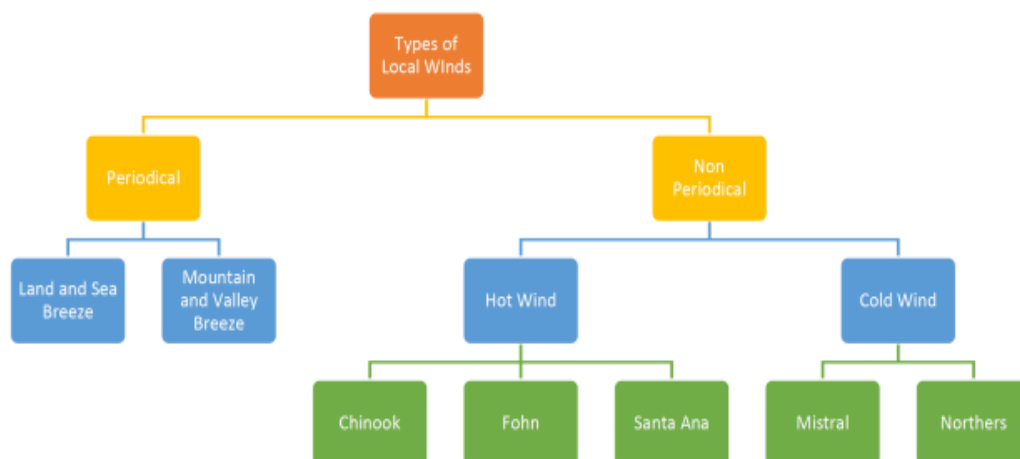
Q 1. Local winds hold the special importance in impacting the climatic weather of a region to a large extent. Elaborate the role of local winds along with its various types and how they affect the livelihood of people of that region? (250 words)

Structure

- Introduction - Brief about Local winds and its characteristics.
- Body - Its various types along with how they affect the livelihood of people of that region. (Diagram is must)
- Conclusion - Not Required as you would not be left with any words remaining.

Answer

- Local winds are the winds that blow over a limited area, their horizontal dimensions generally lie between tens to a few hundreds of kilometres. Local winds blow between areas having small low- and high-pressure systems. They tend to be short lived lasting typically several hours to a day. They are influenced by local geography and Nearness to an ocean, lake, or mountain range can affect local winds. Local winds can affect by and in turn affect the weather and climate of a region to a large extent, they can be categorised on the basis of periodicity (periodic and non-periodic winds).



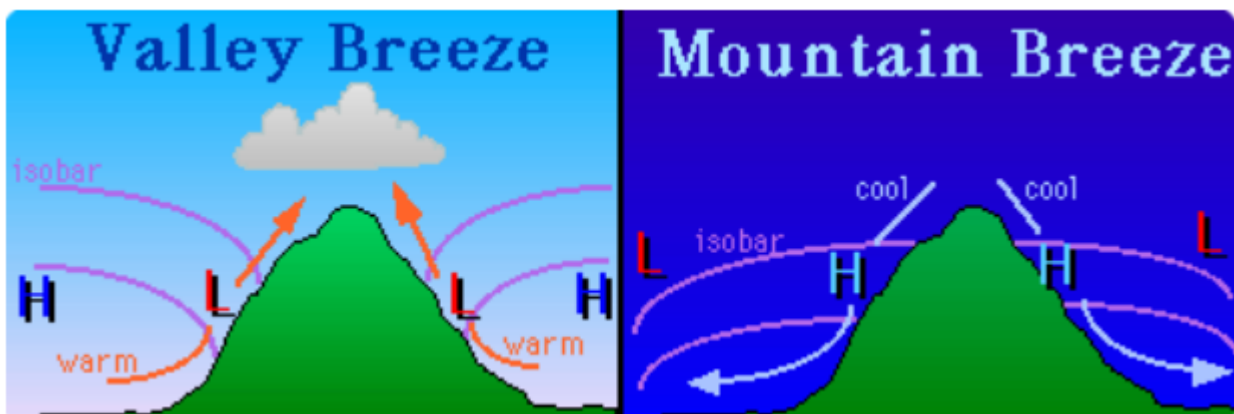
Periodic winds

- Land and Sea Breeze
 - A sea breeze blows from sea to land during the day or in summer. That's when air over the land is warmer than air over the water. The warm air rises. Cool air from over the water flows in to take its place.
 - A land breeze blows from land to sea during the night or in winter. That's when air over the water is warmer than air over the land. The warm air rises. Cool air from the land flows out to take its place.
 - Monsoons are sea and land breeze only but on a large scale.



Mountain and Valley Breeze

- The air on a mountain slope warms more than the air over the nearby valley. The warm air rises and brings cool air up from below. This is a valley breeze. At night the mountain slope cools more than the air over the valley. The air flows downhill creating a mountain breeze. Anabatic and Katabatic winds are some of its types.



Non-Periodic Winds

- These winds are caused due to local differences of temperature and pressure and these are local in extent and confined to lowest levels of troposphere. They are categorised on the basis of cold and hot winds. Various examples and ways in which they affect the livelihood of people are discussed below
 - Fohn - Beneficial hot wind which holds local importance in Alps. It is a strong, gusty, dry and warm wind which develops on the leeward side of a mountain range.
 - The wind helps animal grazing by melting snow and aids the ripening of grapes.
 - Chinook - Beneficial hot, dry wind which blows over the Rockies Mountains.
 - It is beneficial to Ranchers as it keeps the grasslands clear of snow during most of the winters, thus ensuring their livelihood,
 - Mistral - Dry cold wind which blows at a very high speed that blows over France towards Mediterranean Sea.
 - Mistral has reputation of bringing good health, since dry air dries stagnant water and the mud. It blows away the pollution from the skies over large cities and industrial areas.
 - Sirocco - Mediterranean wind that comes from the Sahara and reaches hurricane speeds in North Africa and Southern Europe. The Sirocco causes dusty dry conditions along the northern coast of Africa, storms in the Mediterranean Sea, and cool wet weather in Europe.
 - Sirocco is commonly perceived as causing unease and an irritable mood in people. In addition, many people attribute health problems to the wind, either because of the heat and dust brought from African coastal regions, or because of the cool dampness further north in Europe. The dust within the sirocco winds can cause abrasion in mechanical devices and penetrate buildings.

Q 2. Pollution comes with hidden costs, what we often see is just what is affecting us at large. In the light of the above statement, Discuss the various costs of air pollution other than health costs.

Structure

- Introduction - Briefly write 1-2 line about pollution in general like its short terms and long-term consequences (As the starting line of the question demands)
- Body (Part I) - Starting with Air pollution - a line about what it is and then in brief discussing about its health effects.
- Body (Part II) - Discuss various hidden costs of air pollution cover as many aspects as you can (try to restrict your answer to air pollution only as is being demanded by the question)
- Conclusion - Give some measure and remedies to improve the situation of air pollution (You need to write this in brief whether question demands or not, will fetch you an extra mark)

Answer

- With carbon dioxide concentration crossing 420 ppm mark on keeling curve, the global issue of pollution has become more alarming. Some of the prominent consequences of pollution are breathing issues, toxic air, increased morbidity and mortality changed climate patterns and algal blooms. While at the same time other hidden and long-term consequences are food insecurity, ocean deoxygenation, biodiversity loss and ecological destruction.
- Air pollution refers to increased contamination of air with toxic gases, metals etc. According to WHO, around 9% of global annual deaths are caused by air pollution while the health costs come at the forefront and affect us at large there are many other disastrous consequences which often go unattended like –
- Environmental Issues
 - Climate Change - According to IPCC global temperature has increased by 1.2 degree Celsius in last century, leading to erratic weather pattern.
 - Ocean Acidification - Increased concentration of Carbon Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrous Oxides at air water interface, invariably lowering pH value of water.
 - Biodiversity Loss - Global warming, Ocean acidification, acid rain all combined together threaten the existence of species.
- Economic Cost
 - Industrial Output - In Toxic environment the productivity of workers is adversely affected leading to reduced Industrial Output.
 - Coastal Economy - Rising sea levels hampers development of coastal region, land inundation, disasters and transport disruption thus bringing coastal economy to a standstill.
 - Agriculture - Pollutants deposition, acid rain combined with increased temperature and variable rainfall causes poor productivity and nutritional degradation of Agri products, thus also hampering the food security of the nation.
- Social Costs
 - Air Pollution increases frequency of disasters by altering global climate, these disasters disproportionately impact vulnerable social groups like women, differentially abled etc resulting into huge social costs.

- Cultural Costs - Historical Monuments are being burnt because of increased pollution levels. Example Taj Mahal discolouration.

Air pollution is an alarming issue, resolving it requires active participation of all stakeholders –

- Individual/Societal Level - Behavioural changes like using public transport, energy saving commitments, energy saving architecture, waste management all these can go a long way in managing pollution and air pollution at large.
- National Level - Use of smog towers, desulphurisation units etc. can reduce toxics from flue gases.
 - Innovative solutions like painting roads with TiO₂ to decrease pollutants.
 - Effective Implementation of India Cooling Action plan.
- International Level - Co-operation and effective implementation of Paris Climate deal.

Q 3. WTO today is facing the heat of unilateralism and facing the worst crisis in its History, discuss various hurdles that WTO is facing today in its efficient functioning and the Impact of the Defunct Appellate Body on India.

Structure

- Introduction - Brief about the WTO as the multilateral Organisation
- Body - Discuss various challenges that WTO is facing today and the Impact of defunct Appellate Body on India
- Conclusion - Steps that need to be taken by India in order to improve the situation

Answer

- WTO is the world's largest trade body which was established on 1st January, 1995. It was the biggest reform in International trade since the end of World War and it has helped transform International economic relations by facilitating dramatic growth in cross-border business activity, by establishing various agreements on trade facilitation etc.

However today, there is growing discomfort and WTO is facing the worst crisis in its History in the form of –

- Rising sectarianism - Today WTO is facing the heat of unilateralism because of major powers like USA, China carving out zones of influence and thus defeating its purpose of promoting multilateralism.
- Flouting of Rules and Regulations - Today major powers like USA and China impose unilateral tariffs in the form of cess, anti-subsidies and sub-charges outside the established procedure of WTO, thus inflaming trade tensions globally and moreover nations are using national security as a veil as WTO law permits that its members can take any action they consider necessary to defend "essential security interests" and thus using it's as a loophole.
- Market Economy Dispute - Anti dumping investigations are getting complicated due to the issues related to the market economy tag. Example - the recent dispute between USA and China
- Failed Negotiations - It took two decades for the WTO to complete its first significant trade accord and prospects for new deals among its 164 members are slim.
- Paralyzing the key bodies - USA has blocked nominees to the WTO's Appellate body since 2017. At present, two of the three remaining members of the sevenjudge appellate body have retired with no replacements, thus making it defunct and thus impacting India by –
 - India was fighting six critical trade disputes which have come to a halt amid the paralysed Appellate Body which includes counter claim against the abolished India's export-promotion schemes.
 - Absence of an active Appellate Body gives an upper hand to Economies such as China, who have repeatedly circumvented trade norms to push non-tariff barriers and thus affecting India negatively to large extent.

Today the need of the hour is to have a more proactive approach such as-

- India can form a coalition with other WTO members to preserve the current twostage dispute settlement process and to temporarily abandon consensus decisions.
- Another way to overcome the impasse would be for member states to draw on Article 25 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) which allows WTO members to resort to arbitration as an alternative means of dispute settlement, as EU, Canada and Norway have pledged to accept Article 25 arbitration as binding, same step can be taken by India.
- Lastly if nothing works, India can aim for dispute settlement outside the WTO by drawing on its bilateral and regional free trade agreements.

