Geography · GS - I

Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Explain the regional perception of monsoon winds as easterly due to their direction over the Bhojpur region; connect monsoon seasonality with agriculture, livelihoods, migration, folk songs, festivals and emotional-cultural expression; show how climate becomes embedded in regional identity.

Model Answer

Introduction

The South-West Monsoon is generally described as a south-westerly wind system, but its local manifestation and perceived direction vary across India. In the **Bhojpur region of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**, the monsoon is popularly associated with the easterly **'Purvaiya'**, reflecting the local experience of winds arriving from the east and southeast during the monsoon season.

Body

Geographical Basis

As the monsoon advances across the Indian subcontinent, its winds interact with regional pressure patterns and the geography of the Indo-Gangetic plain. In eastern India, the monsoon's local wind direction is experienced differently from its broad Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal branches, giving rise to the cultural expression 'Purvaiya'.

Agricultural Influence

The monsoon determines sowing and agricultural cycles, particularly for rice and other kharif crops. Consequently, rainfall and seasonal winds became closely connected with rural livelihoods.

Cultural Influence

The seasonal rhythm entered Bhojpuri cultural expression through:

Folk songs: Purvaiya appears in songs associated with love, separation, migration and the arrival of rains.

Migration: Seasonal agricultural dependence and economic migration produced emotional themes of separation from family members.

Festivals: Monsoon-linked agricultural cycles influence regional celebrations and community life.

Literature and Folk Culture: Rain-bearing winds became symbols of hope, romance, reunion and renewal.

Conclusion

Thus, the Purvaiya is not merely a meteorological expression but a **cultural symbol shaped by geography, agriculture and seasonal migration**. The monsoon demonstrates how climatic processes can become deeply embedded in the collective identity of a region.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP