Geography

“Explain the mechanism of the Southwest and Northeast Monsoons in India. Discuss their significance for agriculture, water resources and disaster management.”

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/10/2026	—	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Southwest Monsoon, Northeast Monsoon, Seasonal Reversal of Winds, Differential Heating of Land and Sea, Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), Retreating Monsoon, Bay of Bengal, Tamil Nadu Rainfall, Kharif Agriculture, Water Resources, Drought, Flood Management, Monsoon Forecasting, Climate Resilience

Model Answer

Introduction:

The Indian monsoon system is characterised by seasonal reversal of winds. The Southwest Monsoon brings most of India’s annual rainfall, while the Northeast Monsoon is particularly important for southeastern India.

Main Body:

1. Southwest Monsoon:

It generally occurs from June to September. Differential heating of land and sea, seasonal pressure changes and the movement of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) influence its circulation. It supplies most of the rainfall required for kharif agriculture and replenishes reservoirs and groundwater.

2. Northeast Monsoon:

It mainly occurs from October to December. During this period, winds generally blow from the northeast towards the southern peninsula. After crossing the Bay of Bengal, they pick up moisture and bring rainfall, particularly to Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining regions.

3. Significance and challenges:

Both monsoons support agriculture, drinking-water supplies and hydropower. However, deficient rainfall can cause drought and crop losses, while intense rainfall can trigger floods, urban waterlogging and landslides.

Conclusion:

Improved monsoon forecasting, rainwater harvesting, resilient agricultural practices and effective disaster preparedness are essential for reducing climate-related risks and ensuring water security.

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