

UPSC Civil Services Examination

UPSC Notes [GS-I]

Topic: Koeppen's Climate Classification - Group B Climates [Geography Notes for UPSC]

Koeppen's Group-B Climates

- The Group-B Climates of Koppen's Climate Classification are Dry Climates
- These arid and semiarid climates cover about a quarter of the land surface of the Earth.
- This region lies between 50° North and 50° South.
- But these regions are predominantly seen in the 15–30° latitude belts in northern and southern hemispheres.
- These regions have intense solar radiation and clear skies.
- These regions experience
 - Low precipitation
 - Great variability in precipitation from year to year
 - Low relative humidity
 - High evaporation rates
- Dry climates are divided into:
 - Steppe or semi-arid climate (BS)
 - Subtropical steppe (BSh)- Latitudes from 15° – 35°
 - Mid-latitude steppe (BSk)
 - Desert climate (BW)
 - Subtropical desert (BWh) – Latitudes between 35°- 60°
 - Mid-latitude desert (BWk)

Subtropical Steppe (BSh) and Subtropical Desert (BWh) Climates

- Subtropical steppe (BSh) and subtropical desert (BWh) have common temperature and precipitation characteristics.
- The maximum temperature in this region in summer is very high.
- The annual and diurnal ranges of temperature are also high.
- The highest temperature of 58°C was recorded at Libya in 1922 at Al Aziziyah.
- This region is positioned in the transition zone between dry climates and humid.
- Subtropical steppe region receives slightly more rainfall than the subtropical desert which is sufficient enough for the growth of meager grasslands.

- The rainfall in both the climates is highly variable.
- Rain occurs in short intense thundershowers in deserts and is futile in building soil moisture.
- The inconsistency in the rainfall distresses the life in the steppe much more than in the desert, more frequently causing famine.
- Fog is common in coastal deserts neighboring cold currents.

