**GS Paper I**

1. **Geography**

**📰 Article Summary**

This editorial examines the **progress and concerns regarding the southwest monsoon** in India for the current year. Despite an early onset over Kerala, the monsoon has weakened and stagnated due to unusual climatic conditions — including below-normal rainfall, excess heat, and lack of conducive oceanic and atmospheric patterns. It emphasizes the **critical impact on kharif crop sowing, food prices, and policy decision-making**, especially against the backdrop of **geopolitical shocks and climate volatility**.

**🧭 UPSC-Themed Analysis**

**🟠 Context**

* The **southwest monsoon**, crucial for Indian agriculture and economy, began early but has stalled.
* India has witnessed **31% below-normal rainfall** in June so far.
* The editorial raises alarm over the **uncertain progress**, its **impacts on kharif crops**, and **price volatility**.
* It urges policymakers not to take **commodity prices or supply stability for granted**, especially in the current global context.

**🟡 Meaning**

* **Monsoon tracking** involves forecasting and monitoring rainfall patterns, oceanic conditions (like El Niño, Indian Ocean Dipole), and wind systems.
* The **monsoon’s uneven spread** can significantly influence sowing, food inflation, and rural livelihoods.

**🟢 Constitutional Relevance**

(Not explicitly mentioned in the article. **Not applicable here**.)

**🟣 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Relevance**

Yes, indirectly aligned:

* **SDG 2: Zero Hunger**  
  → Dependence on monsoon for food production; kharif crops threatened by delayed or weak rainfall.
* **SDG 13: Climate Action**  
  → Highlights how climate anomalies are disrupting monsoon cycles.
* **SDG 1: No Poverty**  
  → Affected monsoon impacts rural incomes and increases vulnerability, especially among farmers.

**🔵 Application (Implementation and Ground Impact)**

* **Impact on Agriculture**: Weak monsoon delays **kharif sowing**, affecting the yield of rice, pulses, oilseeds.
* **Commodity Prices**: While current inflation is low, future **food inflation risks** loom if monsoon does not revive.
* **Policy Action**: The article hints that **government may need to open imports**, adjust buffer stocks, and act early to stabilize prices.

**🟤 Institution/ Ministry/ Department Involved**

* **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**:  
  → Forecasts and tracks monsoon, oceanic indicators, and rainfall patterns.
* **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**:  
  → Concerned with sowing progress, crop output forecasts.
* **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**:  
  → Manages buffer stocks and price stability.
* **US Department of Agriculture**:  
  → Mentioned for global crop outlook and trade implications.

**🧩 Scheme (if any mentioned)**

No **specific government schemes** are mentioned, but the context relates to:

* **PM-AASHA**, **Price Support Scheme** – could become relevant if kharif output drops.
* **PMFBY (Crop Insurance)** – indirectly implied due to potential crop risk.
* **Essential Commodities Act** – linked to managing prices and imports.

**🔗 Interlinkages with UPSC Topics**

This editorial connects deeply with multiple syllabus areas:

* **GS Paper I (Geography)**:  
  → Southwest monsoon, El Niño, Indian Ocean Dipole.
* **GS Paper III (Economy & Agriculture)**:  
  → Food inflation, supply management, kharif sowing patterns.
* **GS Paper II (Governance)**:  
  → Policy preparedness and food security frameworks.