

PASSAGE SET - 1

On May 2, 2018, severe dust storms and thunderstorms hit parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and other adjoining regions. Explaining the reasons behind such severe weather system, M. Mohapatra, senior scientist with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that dust storms and thunderstorms are a result of nearly similar weather conditions, like intense heat. Areas that have moisture in the air experience thunderstorms while those which don't have moisture experience dust storms. "All such conditions were being fulfilled on that day. The region had moist easterly winds coming from the Bay of Bengal and there was western disturbance system too.

All this together triggered the events on May 2," he added. In simple terms, dust storm can be explained as a phenomenon when strong winds carry dust over an extensive area. As far as the timing of their occurrence is concerned, Mohapatra stated that there is no deviation in time of occurrence of a dust storm and thunderstorm activity as they usually peak in the pre-monsoon period. These events happen between March and May only. In the pre-monsoon period temperatures are very high, around 44-45 degree Celsius and lead to such activities. Even as dust storms and thunderstorms are a common feature every year there has been no focused work on studying the trends related to it.

"In the coming years there could be more instances of intense thunderstorms and sand storms but they have to be studied in detail looking at the data of over 30-40 years to notice a trend. Work has been more or less confined to cyclones and monsoon systems but not much on dust storms or thunderstorms. It needs study," admitted Mohapatra. The extent of damage caused by thunderstorm activity in India can be gauged from the data of India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). As per the NCRB data, compared to other natural disasters like cyclone, floods or heat waves, lightning kills more people in India.

For instance, at least 25 percent of the 10,510 accidental deaths attributable to forces of nature in 2015 were due to lightning. The number of deaths due to lightning has constantly remained over 2,000 every year since 2005.

Q.1. The passage is mainly about:

- (a) a dust storm in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- (b) dust storms and thunderstorms
- (c) a thunderstorm in Rajasthan
- (d) the damage caused by thunderstorm

Q.2. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?

- (a) The western disturbances cause dust storms in Rajasthan and nearby regions.
- (b) Both, dust storms and thunderstorms occur due to similar weather conditions like intense heat.
- (c) Thunderstorms occur where the air is dry.
- (d) Cyclones and monsoon systems have been studied more than dust storms and thunderstorms.

Q.3. Among the natural disasters, which is the highest killer in India?

- (a) Heat waves
- (b) Lightning
- (c) Cyclones
- (d) Floods

Q.4. When do dust storms and thunderstorms generally occur?

- (a) In the pre-monsoon period
- (b) After the rains
- (c) During monsoon
- (d) During winters

Q.5. A dust storm mainly occurs due to:

- (a) moisture in the air
- (b) easterly winds
- (c) intense heat
- (d) extreme cold

Q.1- (b)

Q.2- (c)

Q.3- (b)

Q.4- (a)

Q.5- (c)

PASSAGE SET - 2

A new and extreme tourist attraction has just exploded on to the scene in Iceland: Volcano Walking. It would appear, according to Trip Advisor, that this is one trip that cannot be missed, despite the extortionate cost. The idea of making Thrihnukagigur volcano accessible was the brainchild of Ami B. Stefansson, a doctor in Reykjavik and a lifelong cave enthusiast. He has been studying caves in Iceland since 1954 and some would argue that there is no-one who has more experience. Thrihnukagigur has always been special to Stefansson ever since he was the first to descend down to the crater base in 1974.

Like most people who experience it, he was utterly spellbound by its uniqueness and beauty and made it his mission to protect and preserve this stunning natural phenomenon. Unlike others who may have only seen the profit that could be made from walking into the mouth of a volcano, Stefansson believed that the primary focus was to treat such a grand natural wonder with the utmost respect, to protect and defend it. The first 'volcano tourists' entered the volcano in 2005 and it has since been labelled as one of the most unique tourist attractions in the world. Volcano walkers are taken to the mouth of the crater from where they are lowered in a basket into the depths of the earth.

People once thought that volcanoes were portals to Hell and associated with death and destruction and yet the entrance to the crater is awe-inspiring and almost ethereal. The vastness of it can feel overwhelming: it is the size of a cathedral and the Statue of Liberty could easily fit into the shaft. After 6 minutes and 120 metres, visitors arrive at the crater base. The ground space is the size of three full-sized basketball courts placed next to each. At the bottom there is a reverent hush. People whisper in respect to the sleeping giant who has lain dormant for 4,000 years. The subterranean walls are scorched with colours from a divine palette: magenta red, vibrant purple, burnt orange, vivid green and honey yellow.

The colour intensifies in certain places where 4000 years ago the magma was pushed out with brutal force. This is Mother Nature's secret place, her private art studio where visitors feel like trespassers. The protruding rock faces show a tapestry of patterns and formations that have been molded by heat, pressure and time. Floodlights illuminate the walls and draw attention to the beauty humans were never intended to see. A light rain weeps from the porous rock above and covers the crater sides with a shine that makes it sparkle. The scorch marks can be seen close up at one point in time these rock faces were glowing red with fiery heat.

This giant, although sleeping, is still dangerous: an 80-metre drop into the void is disguised by a collection of rocks close to where visitors stand. It is a soul-enriching experience and visitors often report feeling deeply moved by the beauty and tranquillity of something that was once so destructive and angry. Confronted with this result of the unrestrained forces of nature, it is hard not to feel small and powerless in comparison. Sadly, the magical spell is broken when the basket appears, indicating that it is time for visitors to return to reality. On the return hike, visitors walk across the lava fields as though they are astronauts on the moon.

They pass enormous open wounds where the landscape is literally tearing itself apart as tectonic plates slowly shift. It serves as one final reminder that this giant is merely dormant, not dead.

Q.1. Select the correct synonym of the word

EXTORTIONATE

- (a) exorbitant
- (b) exotic
- (c) exorcist
- (d) exonerate

Q.2. How do tourists reach the base of the crater?

- (a) They go through the tectonic plates
- (b) They go across lava fields
- (c) They walk down
- (d) They descend in a basket

Q.3. The given passage is a passage.

- (a) didactic
- (b) narrative
- (c) descriptive
- (d) literary

Q.4. Why is the bottom of the volcano called 'nature's art studio'?

- (a) the walls are covered with patterns in bright hues
- (b) the rocks sparkle with a divine light
- (c) the entrance is vast and ethereal
- (d) it looks like a cathedral

Q.5. Select the correct antonym of the word.

TRANQUILLITY

- (a) wilderness
- (b) repose
- (c) agitation
- (d) composure

Q.6. Who came up with the idea of making the volcano accessible to tourists?

- (a) Trip Advisor
- (b) Ami B. Stefansson
- (c) Reykjavik
- (d) Thrihnukagigur

Q.7. What is the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (a) Harnessing of Destructive Forces
- (b) The Mysteries of the Subterranean
- (c) Adventures of a Cave Enthusiast
- (d) Volcano Walking- A Unique Experience

Q.8. The tone of the passage is:

- (a) laudatory
- (b) formal
- (c) satirical
- (d) apathetic

Q.9. The volcano is referred to as the 'sleeping giant' in the passage because

- (a) it is very deep
- (b) it is very destructive
- (c) it is a dormant volcano
- (d) it is an active volcano

Q.10. What feelings do visitors have when they visit the volcano?

- (a) fear
- (b) reverence
- (c) anger
- (d) indifference

Q.1- (a)

Q.2- (d)

Q.3- (c)

Q.4- (a)

Q.5- (c)

Q.6- (b)

Q.7- (d)

Q.8- (a)

Q.9- (c)

Q.10- (b)

PASSAGE SET - 3

At the end of 2020, there were 82.4 million forcibly displaced people in the world, of which more than a quarter are refugees. "By the end of 2020, the number of people forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order, had grown to 82.4 million, the highest number on record according to available data, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Out of these 82.4 million forcibly displaced people in the world, more than a quarter are refugees. Just five countries produce 68% of all refugees displaced abroad: the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar.

The top five host countries, where these displaced people are currently located are: Turkey, Colombia, Germany, Pakistan, and Uganda. With 3.7 million displaced people now within its borders, Turkey hosts twice as many refugees as Colombia, the next highest host country, with 1.7 million people. The situation in Turkey illustrates the effects of proximity, as 92% of its refugees have come from neighbouring Syria, where war and armed conflict have now been raging for more than 10 years. It demonstrates that huge numbers of displaced people stay close to their point of origin. There are more than 48 million internally displaced people people who have had to flee their homes in search of safety elsewhere within their home nation.

The highest increases in the number of internally displaced people happened in Africa and were provoked by a combination of armed conflict and humanitarian disasters. Civil war in Ethiopia, Africa's second most-populated country, has sparked a wave of displacement in a region that was already facing what the UNHCR calls "a full-scale humanitarian crisis." All in all, more than a million Ethiopian people had to leave their homes behind last year, the UNHCR says.

Q.1. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

- (a) More than a million Ethiopian people were displaced last year due to civil war.
- (b) There are 82.4 million displaced persons in the world.
- (c) Turkey is presently hosting 3.7 million displaced people within its borders.
- (d) 1.7 million people from Syria have been displaced till now due to war and armed conflict.

Q.2. Why do Syrian refugees prefer to take shelter in Turkey? Select the main reason.

- (a) Turkey is a beautiful country.
- (b) Turkey is the nearest hospitable country to Syria.
- (c) Turkey is a hospitable country.
- (d) Turkey provides the refugees with all amenities.

Q.3. 'Humanitarian disasters' refer to all those given below except

- (a) earthquakes and floods
- (b) civil war
- (c) violence and persecution
- (d) armed conflicts

Q.4. The greatest number of people who have been displaced internally in their home country are in -

- (a) Turkey
- (b) Syria
- (c) Afghanistan
- (d) Ethiopia

Q.5. The passage is mainly about –

- (a) internally displaced people
- (b) displaced persons around the world
- (c) refugees in host countries
- (d) people devastated by conflicts and civil war

Q.1- (d)

Q.2- (b)

Q.3- (a)

Q.4- (d)

Q.5- (b)