# India crippled by extreme weather

1) High temperatures and a crippling shortage of rainfall in India is forcing schools to close and communities to ration drinking water. "While some rains would have been a blessing in disguise, the rain has ditched Chennai," writes a reporter for Skymet, which provides weather forecasts in India.

2) It would have been hard to imagine such a situation four-and-a-half months ago. Following the heaviest rainfall in more than a century at the end of last November, the Adyar river – which runs through the centre of Chennai – surged, causing muddy water to pour over the walls of nearby apartment blocks and into the streets. Thousands were forced to flee their homes, and hundreds died. Businesses were also affected. Factories were closed, Chennai International airport suspended operations, power supplies were down and roads across the region became waterlogged, limiting the movement of goods and employees.

3) The research identifies flooding as one of the biggest risks to communities and businesses in South Asia, and suggests that in India alone 113 million people – 9% of the population – are acutely exposed to flood hazard. The reasons why India is so exposed are diverse. "India's most vulnerable areas are characterised by high rates of poverty and poor access to public services, leaving people with a lack of resources to prepare for and recover from natural hazard events,". In addition, the country's dependence on agriculture leaves it highly sensitive to extreme weather events.

4) The Indian government has begun to address these vulnerabilities, introducing a $1.3bn crop insurance scheme at the start of this year to help farmers cope with falling market prices and crop failure due to natural disasters. Ultimately, tackling unsustainable business practices requires more than insurance. The Delhi-based Energy and Resources Institute proposed to work with companies to study the impact of climate change on the oil and gas sector. So far, however, only two have signed up to take part. Everyone's knowledge is based on hindsight," says a researcher from the institute who wished to remain anonymous.

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# Reading comprehension

Read the text and answer the following questions.

1. What environmental conditions in India are leading to schools closing and water rationing?
   A) High temperatures and a shortage of rainfall
   B) Low temperatures and heavy rainfall
   C) Moderate temperatures and occasional rainfall
   D) Humid temperatures and snowfall

2. How did the Adyar river contribute to the flooding in Chennai?
   A) It overflowed due to melting snow
   B) It was contaminated with chemicals
   C) Heavy rainfall caused it to surge
   D) It was blocked by construction debris

3. Why were thousands of people forced to evacuate their homes in Chennai?
   A) Forest fires
   B) Earthquakes
   C) Flooding
   D) Tornadoes

4. According to the research mentioned, what percentage of India's population is acutely exposed to flood hazards?
   A) 1%
   B) 5%
   C) 9%
   D) 15%

5. What characteristics make India's most vulnerable areas highly exposed to natural hazards?
   A) High income levels and good healthcare
   B) Low poverty rates and excellent public services
   C) Lack of resources and poor access to public services
   D) Strong infrastructure and disaster preparedness

6. What new scheme was introduced by the Indian government to assist farmers cope with market prices and crop failure?
   A) Crop cutting scheme
   B) Agriculture subsidy scheme
   C) $1.3bn crop insurance scheme

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7. Why is India's dependence on agriculture highlighted as a vulnerability to extreme weather events?
   A) Agriculture is not impacted by extreme weather
   B) Modern technologies have eliminated risks
   C) Weather patterns are predictable
   D) Agriculture is highly sensitive to weather variations

8. What additional action, besides insurance, does the article suggest is necessary to address unsustainable business practices?
   A) Creating more regulations
   B) Imposing higher taxes
   C) Providing better healthcare
   D) Working with companies to study climate change impacts

9. How many companies have signed up to work with the Energy and Resources Institute on studying climate change impacts on the oil and gas sector?
   A) None
   B) One
   C) Two
   D) Three

10. According to the researcher from the Energy and Resources Institute, what is everyone's knowledge based on?
   A) Foresight
   B) Hindsight
   C) Intuition
   D) Incident

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