

Millennium post- 18-January-2021

Cold wave conditions persist in north India

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Parts of north India remained under the grip of an intense cold wave on Sunday with night temperatures dropping below the 5 degrees Celsius-mark at some places and dense fog enveloping several areas. Intense cold wave conditions persisted in Kashmir, even as the minimum temperatures increased marginally across the valley.

The meteorological department said a western disturbance is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir for a few days starting January 22, bringing snowfall and rain to the union territory.

The night temperature in Kashmir improved slightly but remained several notches below the freezing point, a Met

department official said.

Srinagar city –the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir –recorded a low of minus 7.6 degrees Celsius, up from minus 8.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, he said.

Pahalgam, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 8.7 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 9.4 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund was the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir with a minimum temperature of minus 9 degrees Celsius, the official said. The intense cold wave in Kashmir has resulted in the freezing of water supply lines in several areas. A thick layer of ice has covered several roads, making it difficult for motorists to drive.



View of the frozen Dal Lake in Srinagar

Several water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake, have also frozen. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and river police are conducting patrolling around the frozen water bodies to ensure the safety of people.

Parts of Uttar Pradesh witnessed dense fog and cold day

to severe cold day conditions prevailed at isolated places.

Churk in Sonbhadra district was the coldest place in the state with a minimum temperature of 4.6 degrees Celsius, it said. Agra recorded a low of 6.3 degrees Celsius, followed by 6.6 degrees Celsius in Kanpur and 8.7 degrees Celsius in Jhansi.

Cold weather conditions continued to persist at many places in Haryana and Punjab with temperatures hovering below the normal limits.

According to the Met department, Narnaul in Haryana reeled under intense cold, recording a low of 2.5 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal limits. Hisar, too, experienced a cold night at 3.4 degrees Celsius, down four notches, while Sirsa, Bhiwani and Rohtak registered below normal minimums at 4 degrees Celsius, 4.7 degrees, and 5.6 degrees respectively.

In Punjab, Bathinda recorded below normal minimum at 3.4 degrees, while Faridkot and Gurdaspur, too, recorded below normal lows at 5.5 degrees and 7 degrees Celsius respectively.

Telangana Today- 18-January-2021

Officials lift 10.5 TMC water from Godavari River

STATE BUREAU
Jayashankar Bhupalpally

Following directions from Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu, authorities of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) on Sunday decided to pump out 10.5 TMC water from Godavari River.

The officials started two motors (16 and 17) at Laxmi pump house at Kannepalli to fill Sarawathi barrage at Annaram on Sunday. They also switched on the fourth pump at Nandi pump house in Nandi Medaram of Peddapalli district and two motors at Gayatri pump house at Laxmipur in Karimnagar district.

Speaking to *Telangana Today*, KLIS Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) N Venkateshwarlu said they will pump out eight TMC of water into Lower Manair Dam (LMD) and 2.5 TMC water into Yellampalli project to meet the immediate requirements of Yasangi crops. "We will lift the water as per requirement," he added. Meanwhile, a Karimnagar report said



Water being released from Laxmi pump house at Kannepalli to fill Sarawathi barrage on Sunday.

that since all irrigation projects were filled with water, cultivation area was expected to go up this season. To meet the demand and

supply water up to Suryapet, irrigation officials started drawing water from Godavari river by starting motors in Link-I and II of

Kaleshwaram project. About 3,150 cusecs of water is being lifted from Yellampalli project by operating a pump at Nandi pump house and

dumped into Nandi reservoir near Nandimedram, Dharmaram mandal of Peddapalli district as part of package 6 of KLIS.

Water is being taken to Gayatri (Laxmi) pump house near Ramadugu mandal, Karimnagar district, as part of package 7 and then on to Mid Manair reservoir. In the wake of the inflows from Gayatri pump house, Mid Manair (Raja Rajeshwara) reservoir officials released water into Lower Manair Dam in the evening with Superintendent Engineer Srikantha Rao lifting two crest gates.

While the project was getting 3,000 cusecs of water from Gayatri pump house, a similar quantity was being discharged into LMD to maintain water level in the MMR. Speaking to *Telangana Today*, Engineer-in-Chief, Ramagundam wing, N Venkateshwarlu said they had started drawing water from Medigadda by starting all pumps in link-I and II to meet the water need of agriculture sector. An additional two lakh acre ayacut was expected to be increased under SRSP. Crops are expected to be cultivated in 16.5 lakh acres under SRSP as against its capacity of 14.5 lakh acres.

Telangana Today- 18-January-2021

[Touching New Heights]

Annual paddy produce to cross 2 crore tonne mark

With increased irrigation facilities, farmers took up paddy cultivation on a large scale



● **CONSIDERING THE PADDY YIELD OF 2.38 CRORE TONNES IN STATE, THE TOTAL RICE PRODUCTION FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL IS LIKELY TO CROSS 1.59 CRORE TONNES**

— OFFICIAL, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

2.38 cr tonnes

● Estimated paddy production for 2020-21

1.59 cr tonnes

● Estimated rice production (after milling) for 2020-21

1.94 cr tonnes

● Paddy production for 2019-20

1.3 cr tonnes

● Rice production (after milling) for 2019-20

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

Paddy production in Telangana State is expected to surpass a major milestone this year, recording about 2.38 crore tonnes of paddy yield in a single year. While about 1.25 crore tonnes of paddy was produced during Vaanakalam season, another 1.13 crore tonne of paddy production is expected during the ongoing Yasangi season.

Over the past few years, Telangana has emerged as a key rice producing State in the country. Since State for-

mation, the increased irrigation facilities especially Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) and its affiliated irrigation systems, have encouraged farmers to take up paddy cultivation on a large scale. Paddy cultivation increased by leaps and bounds since State formation in 2014.

Within a period of three years, paddy cultivation increased from 18.31 lakh acres in Yasangi (Rabi) 2017-18 to about 39.31 lakh acres in 2019-20. It is expected to be cultivated in about 48 lakh acres in the ongoing Yasangi season.

As a result, the ongoing Yasangi season will be third consecutive season to reach the one crore tonnes mark for paddy production since last 2019-20 Yasangi 2019-20 and 2020-21 Vaanakalam seasons. Consequently, rice production increased significantly by more than 20 per cent on a year-on-year basis in the State. After milling, the rice production was 29.6 lakh tonnes in 2015-16, 51.7 lakh tonnes in 2016-17, and 62.5 lakh tonnes in 2017-18.

"The annual rice production has increased by four times from 29.6 lakh tonnes

in 2015-16 to 1.3 crore tonnes in 2019-20. Considering the paddy yield of 2.38 crore tonnes, the total rice production for the current fiscal is likely to cross 1.59 crore tonnes," according to an official in the Agriculture department.

He added that depending on the paddy variety, the grain weight is reduced considerably after milling and the resultant rice quantity is lesser than the paddy produce. For instance, about 1.94 crore tonnes paddy was produced during 2019-20 resulting in rice production of around 1.3 crore tonnes.