

# GSI looks to tap geothermal reserves in state

**VIJAY MOHAN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 1**

Renewable energy could be the alternative to conventional energy for inhabitants of the upper reaches Himachal Pradesh. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is undertaking an assessment of geothermal fields along the Sutlej and Spiti rivers, which may, in the coming years, lead to tap geothermal resources for direct utilisation such as greenhouse farming, space heating and balneological uses by the local populace.

Under a two-year project approved this year, the GSI will monitor the discharge, temperature and geochemistry of thermal springs in this region along with alteration of rocks due to thermal activity and other associated geological and tectonic parameters.

GSI scientists say thermal spring area is spread over 150 km area in Sutlej and Spiti valleys from Tattapani near Shimla to Chuza-Sumda in the northeast part of the state close to the Indo-Tibetan border. There are 12 thermal spring localities and out of which two are in the Spiti valley at Chuza and Sumdo and remaining 10 in the Sutlej valley.

Under the Twelfth Plan, monitoring of geothermal manifestations in the seismically sensitive zones of the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand was taken up on the basis of varied geochemistry of the water samples of the past

## Eye on thermal springs

- As part of the two-year project, the Geological Survey of India will monitor discharge, temperature and geochemistry of thermal springs in Sutlej and Spiti valleys
- The springs are spread over 150 km area in Sutlej and Spiti valleys from Tattapani near Shimla to Chuza-Sumda in the north-east part of Himachal

seasons. Thermal spring localities are mainly confined to the inner Himalayan terrains which are seismically active zones with altitude range of 1,000m-4,000 meters above sea level.

The zone under observation is 10-40 kms wide along the Main Central Thrust, passing across major valleys in these two states. These areas experience frequent seismic activities which are generally tectonically related.

Over the past two years, thermal spring localities in this region were monitored biannually before and after monsoon by GSI scientists, for water and gas chemistry, thermal alteration and other activities. The study of Tapoban, Paiyan, Gulabkoti, Langsi, Birahi and Gari hot springs in Dhuli-Alaknanda valley and Kasol-Manikaran, Bashist, Kalath, Mujuri Bihal and Rampur hot springs in Beas-Parbati valleys will ascertain the quality of thermal water, indication of reservoir characters and possible resource potential.

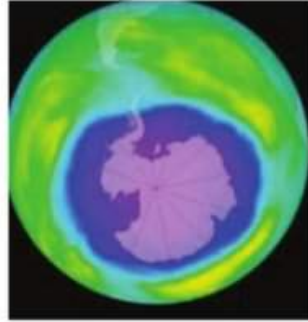
# Antarctic ozone hole expands enormously

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, 30 October

The ozone hole over Antarctica expanded this month to one of the largest sizes on record due to unusually cold temperatures in the stratosphere, which could lead to more harmful ultraviolet rays reaching the Earth, according to NASA.

The 2015 Antarctic ozone hole area was larger and formed later than in recent years, reaching a peak of 28.2 million square kilometres, an area larger than North America, said scientists from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



(NOAA).

The large size of this year's ozone hole will likely result in increases of harmful ultraviolet rays at Earth's surface, par-

ticularly in Antarctica and the Southern Hemisphere in the coming months, researchers said.

The hole reached its peak on October 2 and remained large and set many area daily records throughout. Unusually cold temperature and weak dynamics in the Antarctic stratosphere this year resulted in this larger ozone hole.

In comparison, last year the ozone hole peaked at 24.1 million square kilometres on September 11. Compared to the 1991-2014 period, the 2015 ozone hole average area was the fourth largest.

"While the current ozone

hole is larger than in recent years, the area occupied by this year's hole is consistent with our understanding of ozone depletion chemistry and consistent with colder than average weather conditions in Earth's stratosphere, which help drive ozone depletion," said Paul A Newman, chief scientist for Earth Sciences at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in US.

The Antarctic ozone hole forms and expands during the Southern Hemisphere spring (August and September) because of the high levels of chemically active forms of chlorine and bromine in the stratosphere.



# Preservation of Dal: Officials involved in illegal construction under HC scanner

ISHFAQ TANTRY  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31

Taking a tough line on the preservation and conservation of the Dal Lake, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court today directed the Vigilance Commissioner to constitute a special team to probe the allegations of misuse of office and accumulation of disproportionate assets by the Lakes and Water Ways Development Authority (LAWDA) officials, responsible for the upkeep of the water body.

The court also directed the government authorities concerned to attach and register corruption cases



Tourists enjoy a shikara ride in the Dal Lake.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO: YAWAR KABLI

against the LAWDA officers/officials under whose territorial jurisdiction illegal constructions directed to be sealed had been raised and replace them with honest officials.

The directions were issued by a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice NN Paul Vasanthakumar and Justice Hasnain Masoodi following public interest litigation about the preservation and conservation of the Dal Lake.

"Court Vigilance Commissioner in one of his reports has stated that funds sanctioned from time to time for preservation of the Dal Lake and its adjoining areas had not been used for the intended purpose and instead found way into pockets of officials/officers engaged in implementation of the projects. Some of the officers of the LAWDA are

said to have accumulated wealth at the cost of the Dal Lake and its ecosystem," the court observed in its orders made available today.

"The Commissioner, Vigilance Organisation, shall constitute a special team of at least two to three senior officers of the organisation to conduct a full-fledged inquiry into the allegations of misuse of office/accumulation of assets disproportionate to known sources of income by officers/officials of the LAWDA and submit a report about progress of inquiry by the next date of hearing," the Bench stated in its orders.

दो करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा की संपत्ति के नुकसान का अनुमान

# सरगुजा में बारिश ओलों से तबाही

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एक दिन पहले चले अंधड़, बारिश और ओले गिसे के बाद शुक्रवार को सरगुजा संभाग में जनजीवन पूरी तरह से अस्त-व्यस्त रहा। वहीं, खेतों में धान की फसल बुरी तरह से बरबाद हो गई है। खंभे और तार गिसे से बिजली आपूर्ति भी पिछले दो दिनों से ठप है और शनिवार को भी आपूर्ति प्रभावित रह सकती है। बिजली विभाग और नगर निगम ने दो करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा की संपत्ति के नुकसान का अनुमान लगाया है। गुरुवार की शाम 100 किमी प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से हवा चली। इससे 200 से अधिक पेड़, खंभे और तार गिर धराशायी हो गए। इसके बाद पूरा इलाका ब्लैक आउट हो गया। शुक्रवार शाम तक 30 प्रतिशत क्षेत्रों में ही बिजली व्यवस्था बहाल की जा सकी। इसकी वजह से पेयजल की आपूर्ति भी प्रभावित रही।

**बिजली आपूर्ति सुधारना पहली प्राथमिकता :** विद्युत विभाग के कार्यपालन अभियंता एसी साहू ने बताया, सभी जगहों पर विद्युत आपूर्ति शुरू कराना पहली प्राथमिकता है। बिजली विभाग को लगभग 1 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक का क्षति होने का अनुमान है। वहीं, नगर निगम को लगभग 50 लाख रुपए से अधिक के नुकसान हुआ है। (ब्यूरो)

200 से ज्यादा पेड़, बिजली के खंभे और तार धराशायी



मकान पर गिरे पेड़। बरबाद फसल दिखाता किसान।

**फसलें बरबाद**

15 गांवों के खेतों में लगी फसल ओले और बारिश से चौपट हो गई है। फसल में एक करोड़ रुपए से अधिक के नुकसान का अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है।



**मुआवजे की मांग**

सरगुजा संभाग में आंधी-तूफान व ओला वृष्टि के कारण हुए फसलों के नुकसान को देखते हुए नेता प्रतिपक्ष टीएस सिंह ने मुख्य सचिव विवेक ढांड को पत्र लिखकर किसानों को मुआवजा दिए जाने की मांग की है। उन्होंने पत्र में

लिखा, प्राकृतिक आपदा से पूरा सरगुजा संभाग प्रभावित हुआ है। किसान इसके बाद आर्थिक और मनसिक रूप से परेशान हैं। ज्यादातर किसानों ने कर्ज लेकर खेती की है। अब उन्हें ऋण भुगतान की चिंता सता रही है।

**सीआरपीएफ के 10 जवान घायल**

सीआरपीएफ के परसा केपी स्थित ट्रेनिंग सेंटर में आंधी और ओलावृष्टि के दौरान शेड गिरने से 10 जवान घायल हो गए। 212 बटालियन के एएसआई कुलदीप सिंह को गंभीर हालत में बिलासपुर अस्पताल रेफर किया गया है।

# Fires restricted mostly to Punjab but affect city

The Times of India (New Delhi edition) · 2 Nov 2015 · 4 · US Embassy data calculated as per Indian standards by SA-FAR@MoES-IITM-IMD

According to a NASA website that maps fires, this season's stubble-burning in Punjab started around October 10 and reached its peak around October 30. Data for the last three days shows a sharp rise in the fires. During October and early part of November, farmers ready their fields for the sowing of the winter (rabi) crop.



Curiously, the images show the fires restricted to Punjab, except for parts of northern Haryana that border the state. Although stubble-burning is officially banned in Punjab, farmers continue to set fire to their crop residues twice a year because it's the cheapest way to get rid of the paddy stubbles.

The state government's subsidy for machines such as the happy-seeder and shredder, which collect the stubbles, haven't found many takers. Warnings and threats of prosecution also seem to have failed.

Pollution — from the farm fires and well as other

Delhi

Tomorrow

Pune

Tomorrow

Mumbai

Tomorrow

Chennai

Kolkata

Poor

Poor

Good

Good

Moderate

Moderate regular sources — appears to have combined with weather conditions to cause the rapid fall in air quality over Delhi. Met officials said light easterly winds over the past couple of days have brought moisture into Delhi's air. Pollutants are known to stick to moisture droplets, causing smog.

"The relatively still conditions have allowed the smog to hang in the air. There has also been a steady fall in temperatures in the past few days that have lowered the boundary layer

of the atmosphere,” said B P Yadav, director, India Meteorological Department.

A lower atmosphere boundary does not allow pollutants to disperse into the higher levels of the atmosphere. In such conditions, once pollutants enter an area, they remain trapped close to the ground.

Yadav said the wind direction is likely to change from Monday or Tuesday. “That’s when north-westerly winds will started blowing again,” he said, raising the possibility of more pollutants coming in from Punjab.

There’s little chance of rain in the coming week, Yadav added.

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## Global pledges not enough to fight warming, says UN

Vishwa Mohan, TNN | Oct 31, 2015, 11:27AM IST

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NEW DELHI: A UN report on Friday flagged inadequacy of countries' climate action plans, saying it may lead average global temperatures to rise by around 2.7 degree celsius by 2100 — a scenario which will have disastrous consequences all around the world in the form of sea-level rise and extreme weather events by the end of the century.



Representative image

Though the report - aggregate effect of national climate action plans - noted that the promises made by 146 countries as part of their efforts to fight climate change can "dramatically" slow global emissions into the atmosphere and bring down per capita emissions in next 15 years, it admitted that these commitments are not enough.

Without getting into country-specific targets, the report, released in Berlin by UN climate change secretariat, pointed out the need to scale up emission cut targets.

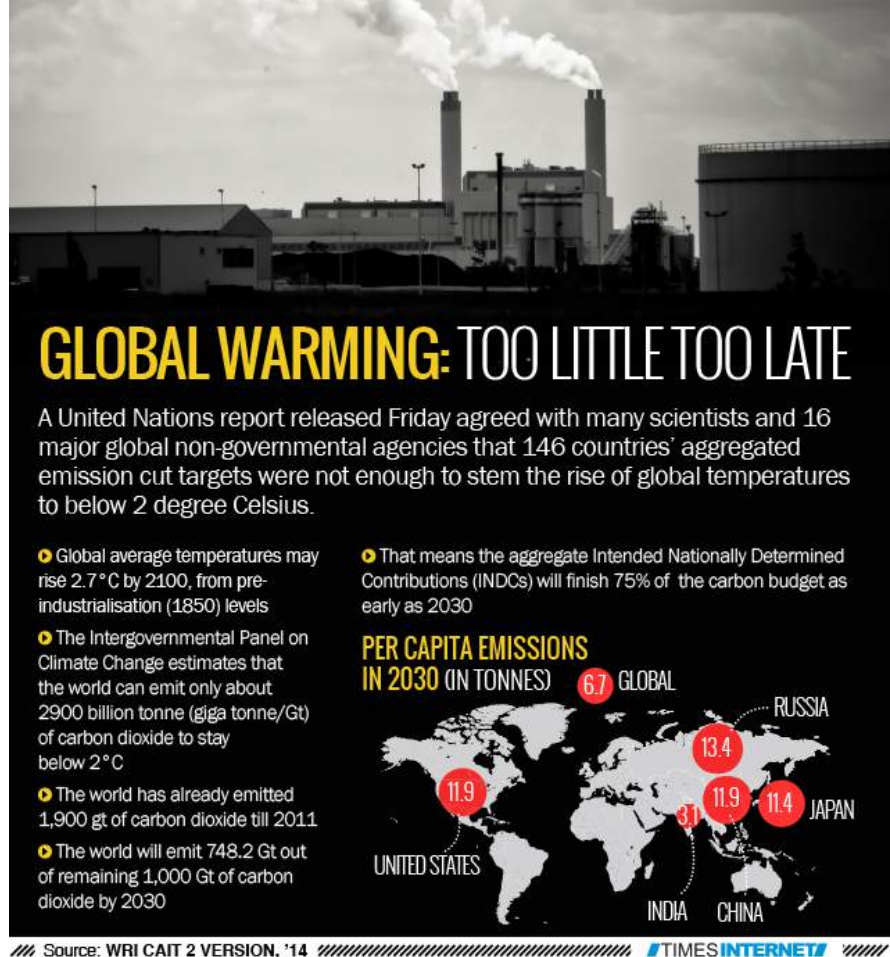
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[India promising more than rich bloc on emission cuts](#)

In fact, it endorsed what different scientists and a group of 16 major global NGOs had said after analyzing the countries' climate action plan - called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) - and noted how these aggregated emission cut targets was not enough to stay below 2 degree celsius of global warming. The TOI had reported their findings on October 25.

"The INDCs have the capability of limiting the forecast temperature rise to around 2.7 degrees celsius by 2100, by no means enough but a lot lower than the estimated four, five, or more degrees of warming projected by many prior to the INDCs," said Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), while making the synthesis report public.

Though Figueres preferred not to press the panic button at this juncture and noted the world can still move to a "long term destination of climate neutrality in the second half of the century by ratcheting up of ambition in a structured, transparent and timely way", the UN report noted how the aggregated INDCs will finish 75% of the world's carbon budget by 2030.



It said that the global cumulative carbon dioxide emission are expected to reach 541.7 giga tonne (Gt) of carbon dioxide in 2025 and 748.2 Gt in 2030. It means the world will just have nearly 250 Gt of carbon space (scope to emit carbon dioxide for development works) beyond 2030. The issue is certain to hit poor\developing countries of Asia and Africa the most as they would not be in a position to peak their emission by 2030.

"The misappropriation of carbon space by developed countries will lead to little carbon space being left for developing countries for basic developmental needs. Consumption levels in developed countries will have to be reigned in if emissions are to come down to sustainable levels", said Sunita Narain, director general of the Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Referring to the commitments made by countries, the UN report also noted that their collective effort would bring down the global average per capita emission by 8% by 2025 and by 9% by 2030 from the 1990 levels. Accordingly, the world average per capita emission would be 6.7 tonne in 2030 - a scenario where per capita emissions of China, US, Japan, Russia and Canada would still be higher than the global average and way ahead of India's per capita emission.

Since the synthesis report on the aggregated INDCs will form one of the key basis of negotiations to arrive at a legally binding global climate deal in Paris summit (November 30 - December 11), the calls for scaling up of emission targets by rich industrialized nations are likely to grow louder in the run up to the climate summit.

"The INDCs are reducing the rate of growth of emissions marginally, but this is not sufficient to keep the world on a safe temperature rise trajectory. Implementation of the INDCs will only lead to higher and higher emissions till 2030. We need more than INDCs at Paris. Else, we might well be looking at a future of run-away global warming and disastrous impacts of extreme weather events on the poor and vulnerable of the world," said the CSE's climate expert Chandra Bhushan.

The UNFCCC will next month come out with an accompanying report for policymakers. It will underline the enormous emission reduction potential and multiple possible economic benefits from best practice ranging from energy to transport and from buildings to forests.

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Published: November 1, 2015 16:00 IST | Updated: October 31, 2015 16:34 IST November 1, 2015

## IISc: cleaning rivers using a nano-composite

- [Mohit M. Rao](#)



Mahanadi river is being polluted by the sewerages of Cuttack city. A view of the polluted Mahanadi river near Bhubaneswar. Photo: Ashoke Chakrabarty

*The composite can speed up the degradation of chemical dyes and E. coli.*

A little bit of sunshine and a compound made out of rare earth elements may hold the answers to purifying polluted rivers criss-crossing the country.

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru have developed a novel 'reusable' nano-composite material, with Cerium being the crucial compound in it, which can degrade microbes and chemical dyes that are among common effluents in rivers.

Published in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research* recently, the scientists looked at ceria (CeO) a cheap rare earth oxide with properties that include a strong absorption of ultraviolet light (this property also sees it being widely used for UV-blocking and radiation shielding agent).

It is this notion, that the compound can speed up the degradation of chemical dyes and the bacterium *Escherichia coli* (which forms a large chunk of organic waste in sewage) led the researchers to develop ceria nanoflakes, which combines ceria with silver salts. In this composite, ceria absorbs light across the spectrum (and not just UV light), while the silver salts (silver phosphate, and silver bromide) form photocatalysis agents, where chemical reactions are accelerated in the presence of light.

"The superior photocatalytic activity of this nano-composite for the degradation chemical dyes is attributed to its extended absorption in visible region and enhanced stability of the catalyst owing to the firm adherence of silver bromide and phosphate to ceria nanoflakes," says Neerugatti Krishna Rao Eswar, a researcher with the Centre for Nanoscience and Engineering, IISc, who is the lead author of the paper.

The compound was to remain stable even after seven cycles of its usage with polluted fluids.

The results show that the composite material ended up generating large amounts of hydrogen peroxide (a strong oxidizing agent) that degrades the dyes and bacteria. Within 60 minutes, nearly all of methylene blue and methyl orange (both common chemical dyes) were degraded by the composite. In comparison, ceria-silver phosphate compound that had been synthesized previously, researchers managed to degrade the chemical dyes by 80 per cent in this time frame.

Similarly, for *E. coli* bacterium, colony forming units (which are responsible for the explosion of bacterial population) per ml had reduced from nearly 200 million units to less than 100 units in 80 minutes when exposed to visible light.

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Printable version | Nov 2, 2015 3:55:51 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/iisc-cleaning-rivers-using-a-nanocomposite/article7826636.ece>

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# पहले धुंध, फिर हो सकती है बारिश

नव-२-११-१५

■ नगर संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली और आसपास के इलाकों में आने वाले दिनों में हल्की धुंध छा सकती है। संडे को दिनभर मौसम सामान्य रहा। अधिकतम तापमान नॉर्मल से एक डिग्री ज्यादा 31.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। न्यूनतम तापमान 16.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा।

लोदी रोड और आया नगर इलाके में न्यूनतम तापमान 16 डिग्री सेल्सियस से कम रहा। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों के मुताबिक, मंगलवार से एक बार फिर मौसम में बदलाव हो सकता

गुरुवार  
को हो  
सकती है  
बारिश

है। वेस्टर्न डिस्टर्बेंस उत्तर भारत में पहुंचेगा। इससे पहाड़ी इलाकों में हल्की बर्फबारी हो सकती है। इसके असर से दिल्ली और आसपास के मैदानी इलाकों में ठंडी हवाएं पहुंच सकती हैं। इससे तापमान में गिरावट हो सकती है।

मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने बताया कि 5 नवंबर को दिल्ली में बादल छा सकते हैं और आंधी चलने की संभावना है। हल्की बारिश भी हो सकती है। मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक, सोमवार को आसमान साफ रहेगा और सुबह हल्की धुंध छा सकती है।

# लुढ़क रहा पारा, लगातार बढ़ रही है ठंड

नव-31-10-15 नगर संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

पहाड़ी इलाकों से दिल्ली की ओर लगातार ठंड बढ़ रही है। इस वजह से मौसम का भी पैटर्न बदल रहा है। इसकी वजह से दोपहर को हल्की उमस महसूस होने की वजह से हवा में नमी की मात्रा बढ़ रही है। दिन में दोपहर बाद से ही ठंडी हवा का असर दिखने लगा है।

ईस्ट और वेस्ट की हवा दिखा रही असर मौसम वैज्ञानिकों के मुताबिक, शुक्रवार को दिल्ली का मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 15.9 डिग्री रहा। आयानगर और कुछ इलाकों में यह 14.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। अगले दो से तीन दिनों तक मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 16 डिग्री के आसपास ही रहने वाला है। मैक्सिमम ह्यूमिडिटी का लेवल 90 पर्सेंट दर्ज किया गया। दो दिनों से नमी का लेवल 85 पर्सेंट तक दर्ज हो रहा था। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से एक

डिग्री कम 29.7 डिग्री दर्ज किया गया। अगले हफ्ते मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 30 डिग्री और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 16 से 17 डिग्री रहने का अनुमान है। ईस्ट और वेस्ट से दिल्ली की तरफ से बढ़ रही नमी वाली हवा का भी असर दिखेगा।

आज आसमान रहेगा साफ मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक शनिवार को आसमान साफ रह सकता है। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 30 डिग्री और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 16 डिग्री रहने का अनुमान है। वहीं उत्तर प्रदेश के आसपास के इलाकों में चक्रवाती हवा एक्टिव हो सकती है। इससे इस राज्य के आसपास ठंड और भी बढ़ने का अनुमान है। इसका असर दिल्ली में भी होने की उम्मीद है।

# Smog envelopes NCR, air quality falls as Punjab farmers burn paddy

Amit Bhattacharya,TNN | Nov 2, 2015, 03:19 AM IST



Motorists drive on a major road as smog covers the capital's skyline in New Delhi. (AFP Photo)

NEW DELHI: Uncontrolled burning of paddy stubbles by Punjab farmers appears to be again putting the health of residents in the National Capital Region at risk, with Delhi's air quality falling sharply in the past two days even as farm fires peak in Punjab.

Since Saturday, Delhi's air quality index has dramatically dropped by 60-80 points and is now inching towards the 'very poor' zone, when children are advised not to spend time outdoors. Weather condition too have played a role in the appearance of smog, Met officials said.

"But such a sharp drop in air quality can only be explained by an incursion from outside," said an official.

A satellite image from NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) website on Saturday showed 'fire spots', which denote blazes on the ground, all across Punjab and

parts of northern Haryana. Haze can be seen enveloping a large region of northern India, including NCR.

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The NASA images are clear proof that measures taken by the Punjab government in discouraging the practice of stubble-burning have failed. Biomass burning is a major cause of air pollution in north India during this season.

According to another NASA website that maps fires, this season's stubble-burning in Punjab started around October 10 and reached its peak around October 30. Data for the last three days shows a sharp rise in the fires. During October and early part of November, farmers ready their fields for the sowing of the winter (rabi) crop.

Curiously, the images show the fires restricted to Punjab, except for parts of northern Haryana that border the state. Although stubble-burning is officially banned in Punjab, farmers continue to set fire to their crop residues twice a year because it's the cheapest way to get rid of the paddy stubbles.

The state government's subsidy for machines such as the happy-seeder and shredder, which collect the stubbles, haven't found many takers. Warnings and threats of prosecution also seem to have failed.

Pollution - from the farm fires and well as other regular sources - appears to have combined with weather conditions to cause the rapid fall in air quality over Delhi. Met officials said light easterly winds over the past couple of days have brought moisture into Delhi's air. Pollutants are known to stick to moisture droplets, causing smog.



"The relatively still conditions have allowed the smog to hang in the air. There has also been a steady fall in temperatures in the past few days that have lowered the boundary layer of the atmosphere," said B P Yadav, director, India Meteorological Department.

A lower atmosphere boundary does not allow pollutants to disperse into the higher levels of the atmosphere. In such conditions, once pollutants enter an area, they remain trapped close to the ground.

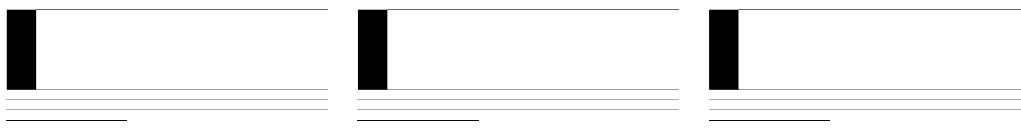
Yadav said the wind direction is likely to change from Monday or Tuesday. "That's when north-westerly winds will started blowing again," he said, raising the possibility of more pollutants coming in from Punjab.

There's little chance of rain in the coming week, Yadav added.

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# Software yet to include green tax

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The Times of India (New Delhi edition) · 2 Nov 2015 · 4 ·

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Our team visited major entry points to assess the impact of traffic flow and possible resistance from truck drivers but we found that the private contractor is reluctant to collect the tax,” said S K Singh, a senior IFTRT official. “The workers claimed due to staff shortage and lack of security, they are not in a position to collect environment tax despite the court’s orders.”

Singh said the software used at the toll booths was yet to incorporate the new tax. “The exercise should have started long ago but neither the contractor nor the corporation is interested in collecting tax,” he said.

“Till 6pm, the green charge – Rs 700 on small and medium trucks and Rs 1,300 on multi-axle large trucks — was not implemented at Delhi’s key entry points. This blatant disregard for the apex court’s order has baffled us,” said Singh.

The South Corporation, which is the nodal head for toll tax collection, blamed the contractors and said the Supreme Court should issue directives to them. “We have asked the private contractor to implement the court’s order but they are not listening to us. We are going to hold a meeting tomorrow with the contractors and we will find a viable solution,” said Subhash Arya, mayor of South Corporation.

Kishor Pravesh Kumar Agarwal, a partner in the consortium collecting toll tax on behalf of the municipal corporations, said the staff were reluctant as they feared getting into fights with truck drivers.

“They have threatened to resign if we force them any further. We are helpless,” said Agarwal.