

News item/letter/article/editorial published on January 11.1.2017 in the

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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

AROUND THE WORLD



Flash floods in southern Thailand washes out a bridge on Tuesday. Toll from days of unseasonable rain has risen to 25, media reported. Over a million people have been affected by floods

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Coldest day: City shivers at 5.2°C

The national capital witnessed chilly and breezy conditions on Tuesday, taking the temperature to 5.2 degrees Celsius, making it the coldest day of the season. The minimum temperature on Wednesday may drop to 4 degrees Celsius. **P4**

Delhi shivers on season's coldest day

New Delhi: It was chilly Tuesday morning as a cold wave gripped the national capital. The minimum temperature recorded at 5.2 degrees Celsius, two notches below the season's average was also the lowest this season.

The mercury dropped by 2.8 degrees in the last 24 hours and is expected to drop further.

Piyal Bhattacharjee



The mercury dropped by 2.8 degrees Celsius in the last 24 hours and is likely to drop further

According to the Met department, the minimum temperature is expected to be 4 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, while the maximum on Tuesday was likely to hover around 17 degrees. "The sky will remain clear with mist and shallow fog in some isolated places in the morning," an Met official said. The IMD forecast no rain and said that the cold wave was likely to mellow down from January 13 onwards. The minimum temperature on Tuesday was 13 degrees, while it was 7 degrees in 2015 and five degrees in 2014, respectively. **IAN5**

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TN declared drought-hit, CM announces relief for farmers

KV Lakshmana

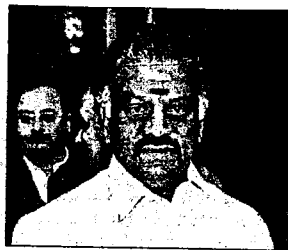
• klakshmana@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu chief minister O Panneerselvam declared the entire state drought-hit on Tuesday and announced measures worth ₹160 crore and ₹350 crore to alleviate water crisis in urban and rural local bodies respectively.

Panneerselvam also ordered rescheduling of farm loans, cancellation of land tax and compensation for lost crop to the drought affected farmers.

The worst drought in 140 years, triggered by a severely deficient monsoon, has forced over 65 farmers to commit suicide in the last two months, although the government claims 17 farmers have taken their lives.

Farmers associations have been demanding compensation at the rate of ₹25,000 per acre for crop loss, a demand that has



• O Panneerselvam

been endorsed by all the opposition parties. DMK leader MK Stalin had even taken the issue up with the CM the day he took over as the working president of his party.

Panneerselvam also announced a compensation of ₹3 lakh each to the next of kin of the 17 farmers who committed suicide due to drought, but that number has only drawn fire from the farmers.

BR Pandian, Tamil Nadu farmers' association leader, said not only was the number

higher but the government was trying to mislead and cheat the farmers. "We had demanded ₹25,000 per acre compensation but what the government is promising is ₹5400 per acre compensation," Pandian said.

However, CM said government was allocating more funds to tackle the immediate problems faced by the farmers.

The chief minister said that steps to provide employment to the rural population would be taken up at an outlay of ₹3400 crore. The people would be engaged in de-silting of canals and tanks.

The government would also spend ₹78 crore to provide fodder for cattle.

An official team that surveyed the extent of drought had submitted its report on Monday, chief minister Panneerselvam said. Employment under MNREGA would be increased by 50 days to 150 days, he added.

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Politics & water intersect in Punjab

BHURE DA DHABA For many farmers in the state, SYL canal row brought to the fore their own share of troubles

Sandip Bardhan and
Sukhdeep Kaur
• letters@hindustantimes.com

FATEHGARH SAHIB (PUNJAB): The 'pakodas' on the table at Bhure Da Dhaba are piping hot, but the discussion in a corner of the roadside eatery on the controversial Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal is far more heated.

Makhan Singh, 45, is agitated like many other farmers in poll-bound Punjab. The SYL canal—a long-pending project to carry Punjab river water to Haryana—is back in the headlines following a Supreme Court intervention and has infused further bitterness into already testy ties between the two neighbouring states.

For farmers like Makhan, it has brought to the fore their own woes. "We don't want Haryana to get Punjab's water because we don't have enough for ourselves," the tall farmer says. "Leaders should set politics aside and solve problems," he adds.

THIRST FOR WATER

Elections to the state assembly are just weeks away and the contentious issue of SYL has shone a light on the plight of Punjab's farming community. SYL is nowhere near taking off, but has forced parties to stress their pro-farmer credentials. Successive governments successfully stalled the canal—projecting themselves as the flag-bearers of farmers' interests.

The ruling Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP dispensation has taken a defiant stand against the Supreme Court, which held as unconstitutional a 2004 law that annulled water-sharing agreements with neighbouring states. Punjab's approach—cutting across the government and the Opposition—stems from the argument that "there's not a drop to spare".

POLITICS OF A CANAL

Sitting beside Makhan at the dhaba,

SUTLEJ-YAMUNA LINK SAGA



• (From left) Advocate Amardeep Singh, Fatehgarh Sahib legislator Kuljit Nagra of the Congress and ruling Shiromani Akali Dal district president Ranjit Singh Libra at the lawns of Bhure Da Dhaba. ANIL DAYAL/HT

1966: Haryana carved out of Punjab. Bickering begins over Ravi-Beas water.

1968: Centre decides to share Ravi-Beas among Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana.

1976: Stakeholders agree to build SYL canal. Haryana gives Rs 1 cr to Punjab.

June 1980: Haryana completes work.

April 8, 1982: PM Indira Gandhi breaks ground for the canal in Punjab.

August 1982: The Akali Dal leads statewide protests against the canal.

June 1990: Punjab completes more than 114 km of the 121-km-long portion.

1996: Haryana moves SC against Punjab, seeking resumption of construction.

July 12, 2004: Punjab CM Amarinder Singh gets the assembly to pass the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act 2004, annulling the 1981 agreement.

March 2016: Punjab farmers start filling the canal after the cabinet's approval to return 5,376 acres of land. Supreme Court instructs Punjab to stop returning the land, orders status quo.

November 10: SC rules the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act invalid.

28 kilometres west of Chandigarh, his uncle, Amrik Singh, says the parties are only providing lip-service. With or without SYL, farms in the state are not getting canal water and tubewells have to be progressively dug deeper to reach the depleting water table.

The state government has ordered the land for SYL to be restored to farmers. But many in the nearby Chunni village, through which the canal was to pass, are not mollified. "We don't want the land back. We want water," Amrik says.

As a bright afternoon fades into a

chilly dusk, Fatehgarh Sahib legislator Kuljit Nagra of the Congress, SAD district president Ranjit Singh Libra and advocate Amardeep Singh listen in across the table. Gurpreet Bhatti, the 43-year-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate for Amloh constituency in Fatehgarh Sahib, also joins.

"Our agenda is to save Punjab's farmers," assures Libra, sporting a "Proud Akali" badge.

Nagra agrees on the water scarcity, but not before taking a jab at the SAD for lacking "sincerity" and not making "sacrifices" on the SYL issue.

"The party that made sacrifices will be benefited (in the election)," says the 51-year-old leader, referring to the resignations of Congress's Amarinder Singh from the Lok Sabha and 42 party legislators from the assembly after the top court stayed the restoration of the canal land.

The AAP's Bhatti, blames both the SAD and the Congress for "politicising an emotive issue". "Amarinder Singh (as Patiala MP in 1982) sent an invitation to (former prime minister) Indira Gandhi to start the digging of the canal. (Incumbent CM Parkash Singh) Badal acquired land in Punjab and took money from Haryana (for its construction work)," he says.

As the din over the SYL debate grows, lawyer Amardeep raises his voice to be heard amid the noise of the vehicles whizzing past. "Parties are trying to gain mileage out of the issue," he says.

"There is no solution in sight," he adds, pointing out that the court ordered a status quo on the land acquired after the government decided to give it back to farmers.

The fate of Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal would ultimately be known after a protracted legal battle. For the moment, politicians are locking horns over it in the run-up to the elections. Both Akalis and the Congress insist they have done their bit to block the project to safeguard the state's farmers' interests.

Though on the back foot since party chief Arvind Kejriwal hails from Haryana, the AAP—seeking to wrest power in the state—argues it is best suited to help farmers in Punjab.

Five kilometers from Bhure Da Dhaba, the site through which the SYL canal was to pass lie covered in dried leaves. Impending elections have resurrected an almost-abandoned project pending since 1970s and added to the decibel levels.

(With inputs from Atul Nagpal)

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SYL row: Hooda offers to join hands with Abhay

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 10

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda today called upon INLD leader Abhay Chautala to join hands with him for putting pressure on the Centre to construct the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal.

Hooda termed INLD's announcement to start the digging of SYL canal on February 23, a political gimmick. He said it would serve no purpose but lead to an unnecessary clash between farmers of the two states.

Accusing the INLD of being hand in glove with the SAD (Badal), he said had the Chautalas not opposed the Rajiv-Longowal pact, Haryana would have got its share of SYL waters long ago.

"Both the INLD and the SAD (B) are fooling people. The issue is already settled in Haryana's favour because after the SC's verdict on Presidential Reference, the Centre is to construct the canal. No legislative or executive order can alter this position now," said Hooda.

He played down the 'Prayasi Haryana Divas' being celebrated in Gurugram from today, adding it was for the first time the state government had to give air fare to the NRIs attending the event besides making arrangements for their stay. "If they cannot even pay their air fare, how can we expect them to make investments in Haryana?" he asked. — TNS

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दिल्ली में मंगलवार की सुबह सबसे ठंडी रही

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

राजधानी दिल्ली में मंगलवार को मौसम की सबसे ठंडी सुबह रही। पहाड़ों से आने वाली ठंडी उत्तर पश्चिमी हवाओं के चलते न्यूनतम तापमान 5.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा। यह सामान्य से दो डिग्री कम है। इससे पहले 19 दिसंबर को न्यूनतम तापमान 6.6 डिग्री रहा था।

पारे में कमी : दिल्ली में अधिकतम तापमान 17.8 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा। यह भी सामान्य से दो डिग्री कम है। सोमवार को तुलना में मंगलवार को न्यूनतम तापमान में तीन डिग्री की कमी हुई है।

पाले का अनुमान : मौसम वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार अगले दो दिनों में मैदानी इलाकों में पाला पड़ने की संभावना है। ठंडी हवाओं के चलते लोगों को अधिक ठंडी महसूस होगी। मौसम वैज्ञानिक

फलोदी सबसे ठंडा

उत्तर भारत में सबसे ठंडा क्षेत्र राजस्थान का फलोदी रहा। न्यूनतम पारा -0.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा।

राजधानी में आज

04° 16°

न्यूनतम पारा अधिकतम पारा
रह सकता है रह सकता है

● बुधवार सुबह हल्का कोहरा छाया रह सकता है।

समरजीत चौधरी के अनुसार पहाड़ों में काफी बर्फ गिरी है। वहां से आने वाली ठंडी हवाओं के चलते तापमान में गिरावट देखी जा रही है। एक पश्चिमी विक्षोभ सक्रिय हो रहा है। इससे 14 जनवरी के करीब ठंड में कुछ कमी आएगी।

➤ मसूरी में बर्फबारी पेज 12



हिमाचल प्रदेश के शिमला में मंगलवार को हो रही हल्की बर्फबारी का लुत्फ उठाते पर्यटक। • दीपक

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मथुरा

शिमला में पिछले कई दिनों से बर्फबारी जारी है। मंगलवार को गाड़ियों पर जमी बर्फ को हटाता एक युवक। • प्रेस

मसूरी में बदला मौसम बारिश के साथ बर्फबारी

मसूरी | हमारे संवाददाता

मसूरी में मंगलवार शाम चार बजे बारिश के साथ ओलावृष्टि शुरू हो गई। इससे पाय एकदम से लुढ़क गया। वहीं बर्फ की हल्की फुहारें गिरने से पर्यटकों के चेहरे खिल गए। लोगों ने मौसम का जमकर लुत्फ लिया।

मसूरी के लालटिब्बा में तीन दिन पहले बर्फबारी हुई थी, मगर उस वक्त शहर में बर्फ नहीं गिरी। लेकिन मंगलवार को शाम चार बजे शहर में ओलावृष्टि के साथ बर्फ की हल्की फुहारें गिरने लगीं। जिसे देख पर्यटकों के चेहरे खिल गए। मालरोड पर थोड़ी ही देर ओले जमे रहे। मंगलवार को मसूरी का मौसम सुबह से ही बदलता रहा। सुबह धूप खिली और दोपहर बाद आसमान में बादल छा गए। शाम के वक्त ओले गिरने लगे। बर्फ की हल्की फुहारें गिरने से थोड़ी देर के लिए पूरा शहर सफेद नजर आने लगा।

धनोली-चंबा मार्ग खुला

बर्फबारी के कारण तीन दिनों से बंद धनोली-चंबा मार्ग मंगलवार को खुल गया। इससे स्थानीय लोगों के साथ पर्यटकों ने भी राहत की सांस ली। इस मार्ग पर वाहनों की आवाजाही शुरू हो गई है।

सीजन का सबसे ठंडा दिन

देहरादून में मंगलवार इस सीजन में सबसे ठंडा दिन रहा। न्यूनतम तापमान 5.3 तक गिर गया। दोपहर में धूप खिली होने के बावजूद लोगों को शीतलहर का सामना करना पड़ा।

मुनस्यारी में मौसम बदला

मुनस्यारी की ऊंचाई वाली चोटियों पर मंगलवार देर शाम हिमपात हुआ। घाटी वाले क्षेत्रों में बारिश भी हुई है। जिससे क्षेत्र में कड़ाके की ठंड पड़ रही है।

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‘चिल्लई कलां’ की चपेट में कश्मीर, लेह में पारा -13.9°C



जम्मू में सबसे सर्द सुबह

-12.4° | -12.0°

करगिल

गुलमर्ग

श्रीनगर. कश्मीर इस वक्त चिल्लई कलां की चपेट में है जिसे सर्दी का सबसे भीषण समय माना जाता है। लेह -13.9 डिग्री के साथ सबसे ठंडा स्थान रहा। घाटी में मंगलवार को भी कई जगह भारी बर्फबारी हुई।

कहां कितना पारा

पहलगाम -6.2 बनिहाल -2.4

श्रीनगर -2.8 जम्मू 3.7

प्रतिका-11-1-17

@ पटनीटॉप