

ग्रीनलैंड बर्फ की परत को पिघला रहे हैं बादल

2-14-1-16

वाशिंगटन @ पत्रिका

patrika.com/world

आकाश में छाए बादलों के कारण ग्रीनलैंड की बर्फ की परत का तापमान दो से तीन डिग्री बढ़ रहा है, जिससे इसका 30 प्रतिशत हिस्सा पिघल रहा है। एक नए अध्ययन में शोधार्थियों ने पाया कि दुनिया की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी बर्फ की चादर को पिघलाने में बादल पहले की तुलना में ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। इस चादर के पिघलने से वैश्विक समुद्रस्तर में लगभग एक तिहाई का इजाफा हो सकता है।

अमरीका में यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ विस्कानसिन-मेडिसिन के ट्रिस्टैन



लेक्व्युअर ने बताया, अगले 80 सालों में हम विश्वभर में समुद्रस्तर में बढ़ोतरी के एक नए चरण से हमें

जुड़ना होगा। यह अध्ययन नेचर कम्युनिकेशन्स नामक जर्नल में प्रकाशित हुआ है।

ऐसे कर रहे हैं प्रभावित

शोधार्थियों ने बताया कि तापमान को लेकर बादल दो तरह से कार्य करते हैं। एक तो वह धरती के ऊपर एक चादर बनाकर सूर्य की गर्मी को धरती तक आने से रोकते हैं वहीं ग्रीनहाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन से पैदा होने वाली ऊर्जा को धरती पर ही बांधे रखते हैं, जिस कारण धरती

पर ग्रीनहाउस गैसों का प्रभाव बना रहता है। ग्रीनलैंड में यही बादल धरती की गर्मी को बाहर जाने से रोकते हैं और इसका प्रभाव यहां दिखाई देता है। शोधार्थियों ने इस अध्ययन के लिए दो उपग्रह क्लाउडसैट और कैलिप्सो से मिले आंकड़ों का प्रयोग किया।

विनाशकारी परिणाम होंगे

बेल्जियम में यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ लेहन के क्रिस्टोफ वान त्रिख्त ने बताया कि जलवायु परिवर्तन की बात पहले से हमारे दिमाग में है और समुद्र स्तर बढ़ने

के विनाशकारी परिणाम देखने होंगे। हमें जरूरत है कि हम इन प्रक्रियाओं को समझें और भविष्य के लिए बेहतर कार्ययोजनाएं बनाएं। जैसा हम सोचते हैं बादल इस प्रक्रिया के लिए उससे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो सकते हैं।

Lower premium for crop insurance from next fiscal

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

The Narendra Modi government today announced a new Rs 8,800-crore crop insurance scheme, called the "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana", under which the farmers will now have to pay a premium of 2 per cent for kharif, 1.5 per cent for rabi and 5 per cent for commercial crops.

Launched on the harvest festivals Lohri, Pongal and Bihu, the scheme will be effective from the next fiscal. It will undoubtedly put a strain on the government's financial resources.

As per conservative estimates, the Centre's share of premium is expected to be Rs 8,000 crore as the coverage rises to 50 per cent over the next three years. Unseasonal rains and hail last year and two consecutive years of drought have hit the agricul-

₹8,800-crore scheme

- Farmers will pay 2% of the premium for kharif and 1.5% for rabi crops
- Remaining sum of premium will be equally borne by the Centre and state
- No cap on the premium rate which had earlier resulted in farmers being paid low claims
- Farmers will get claim against the full sum insured without any reduction
- To assess crop damage for early settlement, modern technology to be adopted
- Disaster to include flooding



hailstorm, post-harvest damage

- Unlike previous schemes, one premium for one season
- Punjab's demand for plot-based insurance hasn't been met

ture sector hard. The perception that the Centre was "anti-farmer" is said to be among the key reasons for the BJP's defeat in Bihar and its poor performance in local body polls in several states.

Broadly, the scheme will replace the two existing

schemes to ensure that farmers pay a lesser premium and get early claims for the full sum insured in the shortest possible time. The definition of disaster has been expanded to include flooding, hailstorm and post-harvest damage.

CONTINUED ON P10

Lower premium crop insurance set in place

"The scheme has the lowest premium, it entails easy usage of technology like mobile phone, quick assessment of damage and disbursement within a time frame," the Prime Minister tweeted.

"It is easy to subscribe to the scheme and easy to benefit. So, do join it," he said. Officials say the scheme will be further discussed with participating state Agriculture Ministers at the National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in Gangtok on January 17 and 18.

Government functionaries believe that the sharing of premium on a 50-50 basis may not be acceptable to many states. Some other issues will also be "ironed out" at the meeting where the Prime Minister may make another "big announcement" for farmers' welfare, the officials say.

Hoping that the scheme will quell the sentiment that the party is "anti-farmer and anti-poor", the BJP is propagating the scheme as a major pro-

"The government has come out with a scheme under which they will be able to draw maximum benefits by paying minimal premium. I think this decision will rank among the biggest decisions taken for the welfare of farmers since Independence."



Amit Shah, BJP PRESIDENT

farmer step after the Independence.

Preparing to use it as a trump card in the upcoming Assembly elections, the BJP instructed its Chief Ministers to hold press meets on the scheme. Here in Delhi, the Centre fielded three Cabinet Ministers to underline the importance of the scheme.

Significantly, Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who heads an informal group of ministers to look into the farmer crisis, was among the key players, along with Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh, to formulate the scheme.

Soil salinity leaves Fatehabad farmers in debt

A scientist says no early solution to soil salinity and waterlogging | Only 800 to 1,000 hectares can be reclaimed in a year

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BADOPAL (FATEHABAD), JAN 13

At a time when land of several farmers in Haryana produces wheat, mustard and cotton, that of Phoola Ram, a small farmer from Badopal village of Fatehabad, produces nothing.

The reason? Excessive soil salinity and waterlogging.

Phoola Ram is one of the several farmers of the district facing the same problem. Such is the acuteness of problem that land has been rendered incapable of producing any crop, leaving several farmers under debt.

"Farmers spend a lot on inputs only to find crops damaged because of excessive soil salinity," said another farmer

Rohtash Jyani, whose 8 acres is affected. He claimed repeated

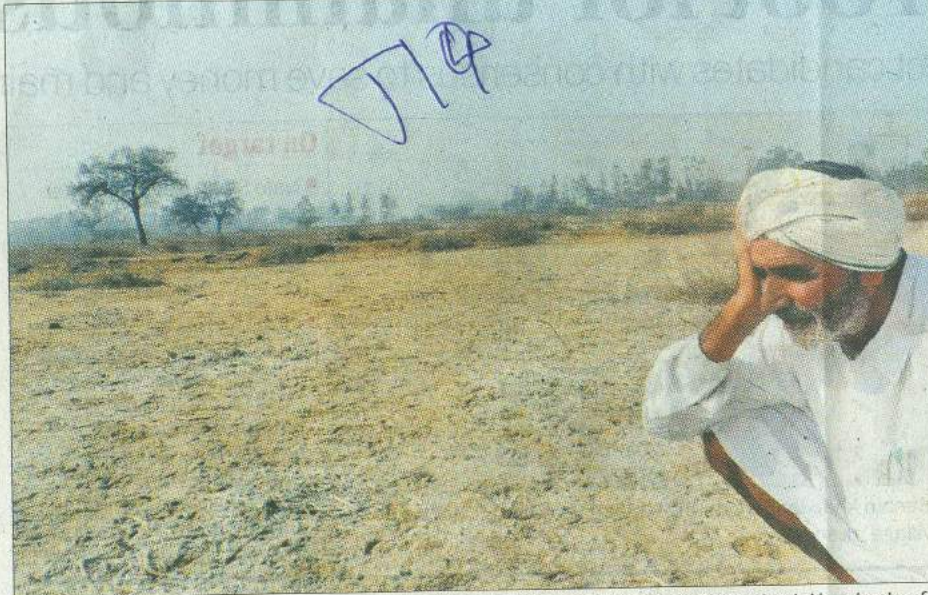
representations to the authorities had not yielded any result.

"The previous Congress regime had sent scientists to reclaim land when Badopal farmers wrote to the President, seeking permission for euthanasia. Nothing has been done after that," Jyani said.

Scientists of the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) say that out of 2.49 lakh hectares in the district, 17,500 hectares is prone to waterlogging and salinity.

In Haryana, 3.8 lakh hectares is saline with 50,000 hectares facing acute problem. In Badopal alone, hundreds of acres are affected by salinity and waterlogging.

Sushil Kamra, a principal scientist in the CSSRI, who led officials of the Haryana Operational Pilot Project (HOPP) to prepare



A farmer stares at his salinity-hit agricultural field at Badopal village of Fatehabad. Hundreds of acres are affected by salinity and waterlogging in the area. PHOTO: SANJEEV SHARMA

a project for the reclamation of waterlogged land in Fatehabad two years ago, said there was no early solution to soil salinity and

waterlogging. "With the available resources, only 800 to 1,000 hectares can be reclaimed in a year."

"The reclamation work

includes removing subsoil water through perforated horizontal pipes laid 5-foot beneath the surface by digging trenches. With

this method, land is freed from salinity and waterlogging, making it fit for agriculture, though the water table still remains

Farmers speak

"Farmers spend a lot on inputs only to find crops damaged because of excessive soil salinity. Repeated representations to the authorities have not yielded any result"

Rohtash Jyani, BADOPAL RESIDENT

CM tweets

"Directed officers to constitute district & subdivision level contingency teams to immediately deal with problem of water logging"

Manohar Lal
Khattar, CM



higher," he said.

Since land remained waterlogged for most part of the year, the machines could enter the fields only for three months in a year between April and before the start of monsoon, Kamra said, adding "the technique demands a drain nearby where water so removed from the subsoil could be put in".

The absence of a drain near Badopal is a bottleneck, as the Irrigation Department, according to Kamra, did not normally allow subsoil water to be put in their canals for the fear of contamination.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had recently expressed concern at waterlogged land. In a tweet, he said: "Directed officers to constitute district & subdivision level contingency teams to immediately deal with problem of water logging."

High-power body to lead 'Namami Gange'

Special Purpose Vehicle will be on the lines of DMRC

NISTULA HEBBAR

NEW DELHI: The Central government will be setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for its ambitious programme 'Namami Gange' or Clean Ganga initiative.

According to official sources in the Ministry of Water Resources, after deliberations with various stakeholders, it was found that an SPV on the lines of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) would be best suited for the project.

"A dedicated SPV with a bureaucrat of the calibre of E. Sreedharan who headed DMRC is the way forward. The Chief Secretaries of all States through which the Ganga passes will be made members of the board of this SPV, as would select municipal commissioners of big cities on the Ganga route," said a top official in the Ministry.

As of now, the Clean Ganga project involves the Ministries of Water Resources, Ur-



Sewage being directly discharged into the Ganga in Patna. By bringing on board Chief Secretaries of all States through which the Ganga passes, the government expects better results from the Clean Ganga initiative. — FILE PHOTO: RANJEET KUMAR

ban Development, Environment and Forests, Roads and Highways and Rural Development and Sanitation. "It is hoped that an SPV will help coalesce all these different strands into one coherent plan," said the source.

Hydel power projects on the river, especially in Uttarakhand, and the effect it has

on the flow of the river and how to balance this with requirements of power in various States will also be studied.

"Datarest, a Dutch company, will be looking at issues related to distribution and flow in the Ganga and any decision on hydel projects will be taken after that," said the source.

नमामि गंगे : धारा अविरल कैसे बहेगी

पंजाब
14-1-16

करोड़ों रुपया बहा देने के बाद भी गंगा का एक कतरा भी साफ नहीं हो सका। करीब दो दशक से जारी अभियानों के बाद भी किन कारणों से गंगा साफ नहीं हो सकी? ऐसे तमाम सवाल का जवाब ढूँढ़ने की बार-बार कोशिश की गई? हर बार गंगा के मैली होने के पीछे सामाजिक धारणाएं तो बड़े कारण के रूप में सामने आईं, साथ ही सरकारी प्रयासों की खामियां भी इसके लिए उतनी ही जिम्मेदार हैं जितनी सामाजिक उदासीनता।

1986 में गंगा एक्शन प्लान बना था जिसके तहत गंगा जल में प्रदूषण की मात्रा को कम करना और गंगा जल की गुणवत्ता को सुधारना था। इसमें उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और पश्चिम बंगाल के 25 छोटे-बड़े शहरों के लिए 261 छोटी-बड़ी स्कीमें बनाई गई थीं। तब से आज तक धन ही बहा, परिणाम कुछ सामने नहीं आया। नरेन्द्र मोदी ने गंगा को साफ करने के लिए नमामि गंगे परियोजना की शुरुआत इसी माह की। उम्मीद तो की जानी चाहिए कि वर्ष 2016 में कल-कल करती हुई निर्मल गंगा भारत के तन-मन को भक्ति के सागर में डूब जाने का एक नया आनंद देगी। केन्द्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्रालय ने हरिद्वार, गढ़मुकेश्वर, कानपुर, इलाहाबाद, वाराणसी, पटना, साहिबगंज, कोलकाता, नवद्वीप और गंगासागर में गंगा की सफाई का लक्ष्य रखा हुआ है। काश! गंगा की सफाई का अभियान हकीकत में बदल जाए लेकिन इस परियोजना को लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड के अधिकारियों के उदासीन रवैये के कारण बाधाएं पैदा हो रही हैं। राष्ट्रीय

हरित पंचाट यानी एनजीटी ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के ड्रीम प्रोजेक्ट को करारा झटका दिया है। एनजीटी ने उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड के अधिकारियों के रवैये पर कड़ी नाराजगी जताते हुए केन्द्र सरकार को उसकी अनुमति के बिना गौमुख से कानपुर तक गंगा की सफाई के लिए कोई बजट जारी नहीं करने का निर्देश दिया है। एनजीटी ने यह निर्देश उन तथ्यों के सामने आने के बाद दिया कि गंगा सफाई से जुड़े विभागों के पास ऐसे कोई आंकड़े ही नहीं हैं कि गंगा में किस जगह कितना प्रदूषण है और कौन-कौन सी इंडस्ट्री से कितना कचरा गंगा में डाला जा रहा है। दोनों राज्यों के अधिकारियों ने कोई आंकड़ा पेश ही नहीं किया। गंगा में प्रदूषण के विभिन्न बिन्दुओं पर दोनों राज्यों के अधिकारी

लेकिन इस परियोजना को लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड के अधिकारियों के उदासीन रवैये के कारण बाधाएं पैदा हो रही हैं। राष्ट्रीय हरित पंचाट यानी एनजीटी ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के ड्रीम प्रोजेक्ट को करारा झटका दिया है। एनजीटी ने उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड के अधिकारियों के रवैये पर कड़ी नाराजगी जताते हुए केन्द्र सरकार को उसकी अनुमति के बिना गौमुख से कानपुर तक गंगा की सफाई के लिए कोई बजट जारी नहीं करने का निर्देश दिया है।

एनजीटी को संतुष्ट करने में नाकाम रहे। दोनों ही राज्य एक-दूसरे पर दोषारोपण कर रहे हैं। गंगा का उद्गम उत्तराखंड के गौमुख से होता है, यदि उस राज्य के अधिकारी ही परियोजना में सहयोग नहीं दे रहे तो गंगा अविरल कैसे बहेगी। पिछले माह उत्तराखंड तथा उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य सचिवों, वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों और अन्य सम्बन्धित संस्थाओं की बैठक बुलाई थी। इस दौरान एनजीटी ने सफाई के लिए गंगा को अलग-अलग हिस्सों गौमुख से हरिद्वार, हरिद्वार से कानपुर, कानपुर से उत्तर प्रदेश की सीमा, फिर वहां से झारखंड की सीमा और फिर वहां से बंगाल की खाड़ी तक बांटा था। अफसरशाही चाहे तो सब कुछ हो सकता है लेकिन वह कुछ करना ही नहीं चाहती। केवल प्लास्टिक पर बैंन लगाने से कुछ नहीं बनेगा।

एनजीटी ने दोनों राज्यों का फंड रोकने का निर्देश देकर सही फैसला किया। जिन परियोजनाओं पर सार्वजनिक धन लगाया जा रहा है, उस पर निगरानी तो चाहिए ही। सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह है कि अब पहले की तरह धन नहीं लुटाया जाए। नमामि गंगे परियोजना नई ढांचागत और वित्तीय व्यवस्था के तहत शुरू की गई है। परियोजना का सम्पूर्ण खर्च अब केन्द्र सरकार वहन करेगी। पहले केन्द्र और राज्य के बीच खर्च का बंटवारा 75:25 के अनुपात में होने की बात कही गई थी। गंगा नदी के किनारे स्थित करीब 118 शहरों से प्रतिदिन निकलने वाले 336.6 करोड़ लीटर अवशिष्ट और 764 उद्योगों के हानिकारक प्रदूषकों के कारण नदी की धारा को निर्मल बनाना साध्वी उमा भारती के लिए बड़ी चुनौती है। परियोजना के लिए विभिन्न धर्मादा संस्थाएं करोड़ों का धन दे रही हैं। लोग भी चाहते हैं कि गंगा निर्मल हो लेकिन ब्यूरोक्रेसी आड़े आ रही है। राज्य सरकारों को खुद इस परियोजना की सफलता के लिए महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभानी होगी, अन्यथा गंगा सफाई योजना भी हवा-हवाई ही रह जाएगी। जल संसाधन मंत्रालय को सतत निगरानी रखनी होगी। गंगा की व्यथा जयकृष्ण तुषार के शब्दों में—

“वर्षों का इतिहास समेटे, कथा कह रही
आंसू पीते, मलबा ढोते मगर बह रही
टुकड़ों में बंट जाती यह हर कटान पर
वन में बहती गंगा बहती चट्टानों में
देवों में भी पूजित, पूजित इंसानों में
मगर आज संकट है इसकी आन-बान पर।”

गंगा नदी पर पनबिजली परियोजना

पंजाब का शरद ने किया विरोध

13-1-16

नई दिल्ली, (वार्ता): जनता दल (यू) के अध्यक्ष शरद यादव ने गंगा नदी पर पनबिजली परियोजना को मंजूरी देने के निर्णय का कड़ा विरोध किया है और प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी से इस मामले में तुरंत हस्तक्षेप करने का अनुरोध किया है। श्री यादव ने श्री मोदी को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि गंगा नदी पर पनबिजली परियोजनाओं के निर्माण से संबंधित उच्चतम न्यायालय में चल रहे मामले में वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय की ओर से हाल में एक हलफनामा दाखिल किया गया है जिसमें गंगा और इसकी सहायक नदियों पर पनबिजली परियोजना के निर्माण की मंजूरी देने की बात कही गई है।

उन्होंने शपथपत्र पर गहरी नाराजगी व्यक्त करते हुए कहा है कि एक ओर सरकार गंगा नदी के संरक्षण एवं संवर्द्धन का संकल्प व्यक्त करती है और दूसरी ओर उसे नष्ट करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा है कि जून 2013 में उत्तराखंड में बाढ़ की भीषण त्रासदी को सभी लोगों ने देखा है इसके बावजूद गंगा पर पनबिजली परियोजना को मंजूरी देने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है जिससे लगता है कि सरकार इस मुद्दे पर गंभीर नहीं है। श्री यादव ने कहा है कि अनेक विशेषज्ञ समितियों ने गंगा नदी पर पनबिजली परियोजनाओं के निर्माण के विरोध में अपना निष्कर्ष दिया है।

The Times of India

Title : From Lucknow to Leh, it's a warm, warm January

Author : Amit Bhattacharya

Location :

New Delhi:

Article Date : 01/14/2016

SPRING HAS ARRIVED, THOUGH WINTER NEVER CAME

Pear trees have started flowering in Mallika Viridi's farm in Sarmoli village near Munsiyari, deep inside Uttarakhand's Kumaon region. That's highly unusual, noted Viridi, because pears usually flower in March-April.

“The same is happening to lyonia plants and cannabis shrubs used for making fibre. The signal the plants are getting is that it's springtime although we are supposed to be in the peak of winter,” said the mountaineer who has made the 2,500-metre-high Himalayan village her home.

It's not Kumaon alone where the effects of a freakishly warm winter are being felt. Across north India, temperatures have been abnormally high. The nearly three weeks since Christmas -usually the peak of winter -have been particularly warm with the mercury hovering 2 to 7 degrees above normal.

In Delhi, day temperatures in January so far have been the highest in at least two decades. For the first time since 1997, not a single January day has yet seen peak temperatures below 20 degrees Celsius. On January 6, the mercury shot up to 26.5 degrees C, the highest for the month in six years. And it's just 13 days into the month.

The season has also been abnormally dry, with the hills yet to get a single heavy snowfall spell, Met officials said. The missing snow has not only hit the Rs 5,000 crore tourism industry of Himachal, but also put a question mark over hydropower generation in the state in the coming summer.

In Rajasthan's Churu, the coldest spot in the northern plains where mercury normally touches freezing point in early January, the lowest temperature in the first week of the month was 5 degrees C.

Even the cold desert of Ladakh has been experiencing a mild winter. “The chadar trek route over the frozen Zaskar river, which usually opens in the second half of December, began just a few days ago because the ice wasn't firm enough,” said Sonam Wangchuk, an educationist in the region.

What's causing this and will it last? Met officials say it could be related to El Nino and the fact that Europe too is experiencing a warm winter.

With inputs from Shimla and Jaipur

CHILL GOES MISSING



Freezing of Zaskar river in Ladakh (above) delayed by over 2 weeks

➤ In **Delhi**, day temperatures in January so far **highest in at least 20 years**

➤ It's **2-7 degrees warmer** than normal across northern plains

➤ Not a single spell of **heavy snowfall** in northern Himalayan states so far

➤ **Tourist inflow** to hill stations down



WHAT'S CAUSING IT?

➤ **Mild winter in Europe.** That's where cold winds coming into north India originate

➤ These **wind systems are drier** and coming more towards the north than normal, leaving **little impact**

➤ **El Nino**, responsible for making 2015 the **hottest year** ever, could be playing a role

The Times of India

Title : Another blow for farmers, rabi crop under threat

Author :

Location :

New Delhi:

Article Date : 01/14/2016

Higher than normal temperatures across north India is bad news for farmers already hit by adverse weather for three consecutive seasons. If the warm winter conditions continue, a range of rabi (winter) crops as well as fruits such as apples could be impacted, say experts.

The past two kharif (summer) seasons were hit by weak monsoons while heavy unseasonal rains and hailstorms affected the intervening rabi crop over large regions of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan.

Experts said high winter temperatures could impact tillering (side growth) of wheat and could lower yields if the temperatures continue to remain above normal. High temperatures in March could affect grain formation in wheat, which would then be in the milking stage. Wheat has been grown this year in over 35 lakh hectares in Punjab and about 24 lakh hectares in Haryana. The states are the country's biggest contributors of wheat.

High temperatures and missing snowfall is also posing a threat to Himachal's Rs 3,500crore apple sector. Experts said rain and snow at this time of the year is crucial as it provides the chilling hours required for good production of apples in the coming season.

In UP , the weather is causing concern not only for wheat but also the gram crop. “If it remains warm and dry in the second half of January , it will hit flowering and ripening of wheat and gram,” said Sudhir Panwar, president Kisan Jagriti Manch and member of UP state planning commission.

The lack of winter rain has also worsened the groundwater situation in UP, where 52 districts, or twothirds the state's area, faced a drought last year. Irrigation has also suffered because of the decline in the water table.

In Rajasthan, farmers have been hoping in vain for minimum temperatures to drop below 5 degrees C and ground frost to form, as these conditions are good for wheat, barley , peas, grams and mustard. “With clear skies and high temperatures, moisture levels have decreased. There's now a chance of these crops getting damaged. For mustard in particular, you need shivering cold conditions,” said Amrik Singh, a farmer in Sriganganagar, the main farming district of Rajasthan.



The past two kharif seasons have already been hit by weak monsoons while heavy unseasonal rains hit the intervening rabi crop over large parts of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan

The Times of India**Title : Capital likely to see dense fog episodes this week****Author :****Location :****New Delhi:****Article Date : 01/14/2016**

The city is expected to see dense fog during late nights and early mornings for the remaining part of this week, accompanied by a rise in smog levels due to an increase in humidity levels.

Wednesday saw light rain in the morning hours and a build-up of fog from the afternoon. "Trace rain was recorded in a few areas before 8.30am. The day remained cloudy and then it started becoming foggy around the afternoon. Because of little sunlight during the day, the maximum temperature remained comparatively low at 23.2 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal. The minimum was 12 degrees Celsius, five degrees above normal," said a Met official.

Dr R K Jenamani, director in-charge IGI Met, has forecast that this spell of fog will most probably persist for another 2-3 days. "Winds are expected to remain westerly to northeasterly. This spell will most likely stay for 2-3 days with CAT-IIIAB conditions likely to set in by late night or early morning at the airport. Smog may also increase during the day and persist till Friday," he said.

Around 3.30pm on Wednesday, fog suddenly developed over the airport when the clouds that had persisted all morning transformed into surface fog. Visibility fell sharply from 1200m to 700m within 30 minutes. Thereafter it intensified into moderate fog by 6pm. Light rain in the around 6.50am also added to the humidity and helped in formation of fog.

A western disturbance is present over Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining north Pakistan. "There will be no significant change in minimum temperature over the plains of northwest India during the next 2-3 days. Shallow to moderate fog is very likely to occur at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and north Rajasthan during next two days," said a Met official.

WEATHER


Max 23.2°C (+3)/
Min 12° C (+5)
Moonrise: Friday -
 10:52am **Moonset:** Thursday - 10:19pm
Sunset: Thursday - 5:45pm
Sunrise: Friday - 7:15am
 Partly cloudy sky. Moderate to dense fog likely in the morning. The Maximum & minimum temperatures on Thursday will be around 23C & 10°C

The Times of India

Title : N India's hottest winter in decades may hit rabi crop

Author :

Location :

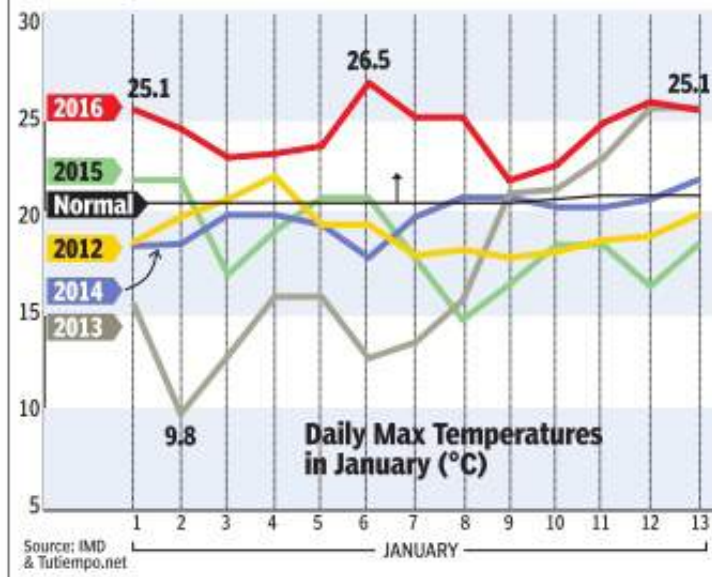
Article Date : 01/14/2016

Peak winter across north India has been so freak ishly warm and dry this year that, if the trend continues, many cities could be setting high temperature records by the time the season is over. In Delhi, for instance, January daytime temperatures so far have been the highest in at least 20 years.

Met officials say mild winter in Europe and El Nino could be the reasons why winds flowing into north India from the west are drier and more northerly than normal, and hence unable to impact the weather. The hills have so far not had a single heavy snowfall spell this season, which has hit tourism. The freak weather poses danger to the rabi crop, leaving farmers jittery .

SPRING IN JANUARY

For the first time since 1997, peak temperatures in January so far have not fallen below 20°C in Delhi



Maharashtra saw 3,228 farmer suicides in 2015



• [Alok Deshpande](#)



The BJP-led government claims to have undertaken several measures to tackle the agrarian crisis, which has emerged after three consecutive years of drought

With 610 deaths in just two months, State records highest ever suicides by farmers.

Suicides by farmers touched a grim high in 2015. The year that had recorded 2,590 suicides until October -- the higher ever since 2001 -- went on to register 610 more deaths in just the last two months. The death toll on December 31, 2015 stood at 3,228, indicating that the slew of measures the government undertook through the year failed to arrest the disturbing trend.

Maharashtra has recorded 20,504 farmer suicides since 2001. Data obtained from the government shows Vidarbha, the region Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis hails from, was the worst hit last year, with around 1,541 farmers from Amaravati and Nagpur division committing suicides. As many as 1,130 farmers ended their lives in the Aurangabad division of Marathwada. Nashik in North Maharashtra witnessed 459 cases of farmer suicides.

Figures indicate that that Pune division, which covers the state's prosperous Western region, too recorded 96 suicides of which 27 were registered in the last two months of the year.

Of the 3,228 suicides, the state has found only 1,841 eligible for government aid, while 903 were found ineligible. While 484 cases are pending for inquiries, ex-gratia aid has been extended to 1,818.

"Packages will no longer work for farmers and the government seems to be missing this point completely. There is a need of farmer oriented policy and not packages," said Chandrakant Wankhede, an activist from Vidarbha working on issues of farmers' suicides. He said when loan waivers were announced in 2008, there was a drop in suicides. But since 2011, no such steps have been forthcoming. "The number may only increase in the coming years." Maharashtra had recorded a 75% deficit in rainfall between June and September last year. While the CM had announced a Rs 10,512 crore package of farmers in December 2015, he had refrained from announcing any loan waivers. On Wednesday, Mr Fadnavis thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching the PM Crop Insurance Scheme, which assures covering over 50% of the farmers under the insurance scheme in the coming three years. Under this scheme, 90% premium money will be paid by the Centre and not just the fully grown crop but even the stem will be insured.

In the last three to four years, Maharashtra witnessed extreme weather conditions that have either destroyed crops or left them damaged.

Printable version | Jan 14, 2016 4:02:38 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/maharashtra-saw-3228-farmer-suicides-in-2015/article8103696.ece>

© The Hindu