

Storms, tornadoes batter US; toll 43

CHICAGO, DECEMBER 28

Strong and gusty thunderstorms with tornadoes were threatening the US Gulf Coast on Monday, following tornadoes and floods over the Christmas holiday season that killed at least 43 people in the South and Midwest and snarled transportation during a busy travel time.

The strongest storms will be in Alabama, Mississippi and the Florida panhandle, said AccuWeather senior meteorologist Michael Leseney. Tornado warnings were already in effect in Alabama, meaning a tornado had been sighted.

To the north, the Chicago area was being hit by sleet, which was expected to turn to rain, while snow was falling in Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Michigan and parts of western Missouri, Leseney said.

The heaviest snow, over a foot (30 cm), was expected in southwestern Wisconsin across and southeastern Minnesota, Leseney said.

Winter storms that brought ice and high winds to Oklahoma over the weekend led to snapped power lines, with 54,000 customers without power on Monday morning in Oklahoma City and surrounding areas, Oklahoma Gas & Electric said. Local news reports said there were 100,000 without power across the state.



Pedestrians on the campus of Texas Tech University pause for a photo amid snow in Lubbock. Storms hit the US South and Midwest over the Christmas holiday weekend, unleashing floods and tornadoes. AFP

Emergency in Missouri, Mexico

- Flash floods kill 13 in Missouri and Illinois
- Emergency declared in Missouri, New Mexico
- Tornado warning in Texas, Louisiana
- Twister kills eight people in Garland, Texas

Powerlines snapped, flights cancelled

- Ice, winds snap power lines in Oklahoma
- Nearly one lakh without power across the state
- Over 1,000 flights cancelled, 2,439 delayed
- Heavy snow likely in Wisconsin, Minnesota

At least 17,000 customers were without power in Texas on Monday morning, according to major utility companies. Flight delays and cancellations were mounting, with 2,439 delays and 1,017 cancellations as of 8 a.m. CST (1400 GMT), according to the FlightAware website.

A flash flood warning was in

effect in eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois, the National Weather Service said. Flash floods over the weekend killed at least 13 people in Missouri and Illinois.

In Missouri, Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency on Sunday, saying continued rains would make already widespread flooding conditions worse.

Three adults and two children were killed near the village of Patoka, Illinois, when their car was washed away by floodwaters on Saturday night. In Texas, at least 11 people were killed in the Dallas area over the weekend by tornadoes, including one packing winds of up to 200 miles per hour (322 km per hour). — Reuters

Fresh flood warnings issued in British cities

YORK, DECEMBER 28

Even as British Prime Minister David Cameron visited the flood-hit historic city of York on Monday, the Environment Agency had 27 severe flood warnings in place, signalling a "danger to life", chiefly at points along major rivers in Yorkshire.

There were also another 170 flood warning or alerts in place, meaning flooding was either expected or possible. Cities, towns and villages across northern England are battling to get back on their feet following devastating storms. Cameron tweeted a picture of himself meeting soldiers helping with the aftermath of the flooding as he faced increasing pressure to do more.

Around 500 properties were flooded in York, one of Britain's top tourist attractions, yesterday as two rivers burst their banks. Some residential streets became so inundated that cars were covered up to their roofs.

Soldiers helped pile sandbags up to protect properties and businesses while emergency services paddled around the streets in dinghies trying to find



Rescuers walk through a flooded street in York city of England on Monday. REUTERS

stranded residents, who were then evacuated. Flooding has also hit the cities of Leeds and Manchester in recent days, as well as a string of towns and villages nearby. Cameron yesterday sent in 200 more troops to help 300 already on the ground in northern England to tackle the effects of flooding. Another 1,000 are on standby.—PTI

YAMUNA POLLUTION: DJB STARTS WORK

Water supply to be hit in several parts

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 28 December

In a bid to curb excessive pollution in the river Yamuna, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has decided to considerably reduce the pumping from the Wazirabad and Chandrawal Water Treatment Plants.

The Board mentioned in its statement today that the water supply shall be available at low pressure today evening and tomorrow morning in different parts of the city including NDMC area, North Delhi, North West Delhi, Central Delhi and part of West and South Delhi.

The areas affected are Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid, Civil Lines, Subhash Park, Mukherjee Nagar,

Shakti Nagar, Adarsh Nagar, Model Town, Jahangir Puri, Wazirpur Industrial area, Punjabi Bagh, Gulabi Bagh, Hindu Rao, Jhandewalan, Motia Khan, Pahar Ganj,

Karol Bagh, Old Rajinder Nagar, Naya Bazar, East & West Patel Nagar, Malka Ganj and their adjoining areas.

"The Haryana Irrigation Department has been asked to release water. The matter is

being vigorously pursued with the Haryana Irrigation Department from the last two days," said Ms Sanjam Chima, Spokesperson, DJB.

She added, "Residents are advised to store sufficient quantity of water as per their requirement. Inconvenience caused to the public is regretted."



Number game: Flood to cost UK £6 billion

THE INDEPENDENT

London, 28 December

The economic cost of the flooding that has hit the UK over the Christmas period could reach nearly £6 bn, according to industry experts.

Large parts of northern England have been devastated by rising water levels as heavy downpours have led to rivers bursting their banks in Cumbria, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester in recent days.

Accountancy firm KPMG has estimated that the total cost to the UK's insurance sector, businesses, individuals, communities and government will be between £5-5.8 bn in the long-term. As much as a fifth of the overall cost could fall on those with insufficient insurance, the accountancy firm warned.

The worrying report into the cost of the floods



Residents use a canoe to paddle to a property through floodwaters from the rivers Foss and Ouse, after they burst their banks in York, northern England, on Monday. AP

came as David Cameron was heckled by flood victims as he visited members of the Scarborough mountain rescue team. The

Prime Minister was shouted at by a woman saying: "No more cuts to public services". But he defended his record on flood defence

spending and pledged to spend "even more" over the next five years. The calculations are based on previous floods, such as the

£3.2 bn cost of the 2007 summer floods that hit during Gordon Brown's first days as Prime Minister.

The estimate is much higher than initial forecasts made by rival accountancy firm PwC, which predicted losses of £1.3 bn on Sunday. Other economists have predicted that the recent flooding will hit Britain's GDP by 0.2 per cent due to businesses being forced to close, loss of agriculture output, and people not being able to go shopping and travel.

IHS Economics estimated that the real economic cost could be even greater. Howard Archer, chief European and UK economist at the forecasting firm, told The Independent: "Damage to personal property does not affect GDP growth, although it is obviously a disaster for the poor people involved."

The Times of India

Title : Season's greetings from weather gods

Author :

Location :

New Delhi

Article Date : 12/29/2015

Party Perfect: Met Dept Predicts Clear Skies On New Year's Eve, Mild Weather For A Week

If you are worried about winter chill and fog spoiling your New Year party plans, rest easy. Delhi, and most of north India, is likely to have party-perfect weather this New Year's Eve--crisp sunshine during the day and a mildly cold but clear night.

With harsh winter conditions abating a couple of days ago, the Met office expects dry, mild weather to continue for the next one week or so.

“Both the maximum and minimum temperatures are much higher than normal right now. Although temperatures may drop by a degree or two, the next few days are likely to see the mild spell continue. We expect only shallow or moderate fog during this period,” said Ravinder Vishen from Delhi's Regional Meteorological Department.

On Monday, the minimum temperature was 12.2 degrees Celsius, a full five degrees above normal, while the maximum was four notches above the normal mark at 24.5 degrees Celsius. Last week, the minimum temperature had fallen to around 5 degrees. Even day temperatures had dipped to around 19 degrees.

By comparison, the same day (December 28) last year was the month's coldest, with temperature dropping to 2.6 degrees Celsius.

What caused the latest turn in the weather is a wind pattern called an anti-cyclonic circulation forming over Rajasthan. This is bringing in warmer and drier winds from the west in addition to the northwesterlies that usually blow around this time of the year.

“High clouds are preventing night temperatures to fall sharply even as moderate winds are blowing away pollutants. That is why conditions are relatively clear and pollution levels lower than what's usually seen at this time of the year,” Vishen said.

The present mild spell is just another feature that has made weather this December a little different from normal. For instance, there has been no rain this month and much less number of foggy days than usual. The reason for this, say meteorologists, is a weak system of western disturbances (WDs), through which cold and wet winds sweep into north India from central Asia and beyond.

“Western disturbances modulate the winter weather in the region. This year, WDs have been coming with the usual regularity, but all of them have been weak with just enough strength to affect J&K and Himachal Pradesh,” said Ranjit Singh from the India Meteorological Department. During winter, cold weather from northern Europe normally travels south due to an air pressure gradient, eventually entering north India. “This year, the pressure gradient is not high, making the WDs weaker than normal,” Singh said.

Strong WDs also bring rain and moisture to the region, which create cold day conditions and lead to fog. “We have had no cold day conditions yet this season, when day temperatures dip below 15 degrees C,” said Singh.



FOG NO BAR: Rehearsals are on in full swing for the Republic Day parade

**What caused the latest
turn in the weather is
a wind pattern called
an anti-cyclonic
circulation forming
over Rajasthan**

UK brought to its knees



Members of the Mountain Rescue team stand in knee-deep water after floods in York, United Kingdom, on Monday. Weeks of heavy rains and swollen rivers in northern England have caused large-scale devastation. AP/PTI

Report P15

The Times of India

Title : El Nino, climate change drive extreme weather

Author :

Location :

Paris:

Article Date : 12/29/2015

Tornadoes, Storms Leave 43 Dead In US

Deadly extreme weather on at least five continents is driven in large part by a record-breaking El Nino, but climate change is a likely booster too, experts said on Monday . The 2015-16 El Nino, they added, is the strongest ever measured. “It is probably the most powerful in the last 100 years,” said Jerome Lecou, a climate expert at the French weather service Meteo France.

Flooding and mudslides unleashed by torrential rains have killed at least 10 people and driven more than 150,000 from their homes in Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay in recent days. In central and southwestern US -where temperatures in Texas are forecast to drop from a balmy 28 degrees Celsius on Saturday to zero on Monday -clashing weather fronts have given rise to snow-packed blizzards, freezing rain and a spate of tornadoes that have claimed at least 43 lives.

Across the Pacific, meanwhile, wildfires in Australia fanned by high temperatures and super-dry conditions have engulfed more than 100 homes outside Melbourne, with hundreds more threatened.

Across south and southeast Asia, monsoon rains essential for life-sustaining crops have been limited, while drought in eastern Africa means millions will require food aid, especially in Ethiopia, according to Oxfam.

“The role of El Nino on much of what we are seeing around the planet is obvious,” said Herve Le Treut, a climate scientist and director of the Pierre-Simon Laplace Institute, which is a federation of French research centres.

El Ninos, which emerge every four to seven years on average and run from October through January , are triggered by a shift in trade winds across the Pacific around the equator. Warmer surface water that accumulates in the eastern Pacific moves to the west, leading to heavier rainfall along the west coast of the Americas and drier-thanusual conditions in Australasia and southeast Asia.

Rains, flooding kill 10 in S America

Mudslides killed at least four people in Brazil, one of the several South American countries where torrential rains and flooding now have claimed at least 10 lives, officials have said. The epic rainfall has also driven 160,000 people from their homes in Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, the officials said on Sunday. Paraguay's weather service director Julian Baez said his nation has been deluged by the precipitation. AFP

PM visits flood-hit British city of York

British PM David Cameron visited the flood-hit historic city of York on Monday as cities, towns and villages across northern England battled to get back on their feet following devastating storms. Around 500 properties were flooded in York, one of Britain's top tourist attractions, on Sunday as two rivers burst their banks. Flooding has also hit the cities of Leeds and Manchester in recent days, as well as a string of towns and villages nearby. AFP



FREAK STORMS: Tornadoes in Texas claimed lives of 11 people

[CITIES » DELHI](#)

Published: December 29, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: December 29, 2015 05:33 IST NEW DELHI, December 29, 2015

Pollutants in raw water supply

- [Damini Nath](#)

DRY TAPS

● **Chandrawal and Wazirabad water treatment plants working at 50% capacity**

● **Ammonia level in raw water reached 1.3 mg/litre, while permissible limit is 0.2mg/l**

● **Supply to get back to normal on Tuesday as Haryana releasing water through pipeline**

Water shortage across Delhi; ammonia levels six times permissible limit

: Large parts of the Capital faced water shortage on Monday as the raw water supply was too polluted to be treated, as Delhi and Haryana once again blamed each other.

Levels of ammonia in the water released by Haryana were more than six times the permissible limit over the weekend and remained high on Monday too.

The Delhi Jal Board's Wazirabad treatment plant functioned at half its capacity as the water was simply too polluted to treat. Supply from Chandrawal treatment plant was also limited as pumping was curtailed to maintain water quality.

"Haryana releases industrial effluents into the Panipat and Sonapat drains, which makes the quality of our supply poor. This has become a pattern as it happens every five or six months," said a senior DJB official.

In December last year, the DJB had been forced to shut down the Wazirabad and Chandrawal plants as ammonia levels were over 2 mg per litre, whereas the permissible limit is 0.2 mg per litre. Over the weekend, the ammonia and chloride levels were 1.3 mg per litre and 216 mg per litre respectively, forcing the DJB to write to the Secretary of the Central Pollution Control Board and the engineer-in-chief of the Haryana Irrigation Department.

According to Haryana's Irrigation Department, the problem was of the DJB's own making. The two States have had a long-standing dispute over sharing Yamuna waters. While hearing a matter about the dispute, the Supreme Court had ordered Delhi in December 2014 to start taking water from a carrier-lined channel, as opposed to a *kacha* channel.

The CLC runs from the Haiderpur to the Wazirabad treatment plants. Not only does it prevent pollutants from entering the supply, but it reduces losses, said a senior Haryana Irrigation Department official.

"The DJB had started using the twin pipeline, but then stopped due to some perceived shortages. We have been writing to them to stop using the Yamuna to lift water, and to use the pipeline," said the official.

The official added that Delhi's water supply will improve by Tuesday evening as the DJB had agreed to transfer water using the pipeline.

Meanwhile, large parts of the city continued to face water shortage for the second day on Monday. Supply was at low pressure in the New Delhi Municipal Council area, and large parts of South, West and North Delhi.

FROM AROUND THE WEB

[Post Comment](#)

MORE FROM THE HINDU

सि.च. - २५-१२-१५

गंगा सफाई में मदद करेंगे आईआईटी

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका. गंगा की सफाई में देश के प्रतिष्ठित आईआईटी मदद करेंगे। हर आईआईटी को गंगा के किनारे बसे पांच गांवों को सौंपा जाएगा। आईआईटी के विशेषज्ञ गंगा में गंदा पानी जाने के पहले उसे प्रदूषण मुक्त करेंगे। मानव संसाधन मंत्री स्मृति ने इसके लिए कार्ययोजना भी तैयार की है।

दस साल में पानी को तरसेगा बेंगलुरु

न्यू टीएनएन, बेंगलुरु
जे १-२९-१२-१५

कर्नाटक में धरती के अंदर पानी का स्तर लगातार गिर रहा है। यह इतना गिर रहा है कि कई जगहों पर तो बोरेवेल खोदने के लिए 1050 फुट की गहराई तक खुदाई करनी पड़ रही है। एक स्टडी में चेताया गया है कि अगर ऐसे ही जलस्तर गिरता रहा तो 2025 तक एक बड़ा संकट आएगा।

प्राइवेट सप्लायर्स पर निर्भरता : हाल ही में बेल्लदूर जंक्शन के पास एक आवासीय परिसर में एक बोरेवेल खोदने पर 1,050 फुट की गहराई पर पानी मिल सका। 60 अपार्टमेंट वाले इस परिसर के एक निवासी अजीत कवेरप्पा ने बताया कि यह छठा बोरेवेल है जो हमने खोदा है। बेंगलुरु के अधिकतर अपार्टमेंट कॉम्प्लेक्स खासकर सरजापुर रोड, बेल्लदूर, बंनेर्घट्टा रोड, क्राइटफील्ड, येलाहंका और मराठाहल्ली के कॉम्प्लेक्स बोरेवेल पर निर्भर हैं लेकिन अधिक खपत के कारण इन कुओं में पानी खत्म हो जाता है। **पैदावार पर असर :** यहां से लगभग 450 किमी दूर कर्नाटक के पिछड़े जिले रायचूर के गदर गांव के हालात भी कुछ ऐसे ही हैं।



कानून से क्या होगा

कर्नाटक सरकार ने इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए कई बार कदम उठाए लेकिन कानूनों का विभिन्न कारणों की वजह से पालन नहीं किया जाता। बोरेवेल्स की वजह से गिरते जलस्तर का अहसास होने के बाद सरकार ने सिर्फ डिप्टी कमिश्नर को बोरेवेल्स खोदने की अनुमति देने का अधिकार दिया है लेकिन वॉटर एक्सपर्ट्स का मानना है कि इस मामले में जागरूकता की ज्यादा जरूरत है।