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M.P.Chronicle Aaj (Hindi) Indian Nation Nai Duniya (Hindi) The Times of India (A)

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Less snowfall in Valley leaves experts, tourists worried

Ashiq Hussain

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: Over the past three years, the month of December has twice been dry in the picturesque Kashmir Valley, a phenomenon that has worried environmentalists and disappointed tourists.

This year, it is for the sixth time since 1993 when Kashmir saw a dry, or almost dry, month of December.

Apart from a brief spell of snow or light rains on December 11 and 12 this year, local residents and tourists have been looking ahead to snow in the mountains and plains. In Kashmir, the harshest period of winter starts from December 21 and ends by the end of January.

Yashpal Sharma, weather officer at the Met office, said that anything above 100mm of rain or snow in the month of December in Srinagar station would be considered heavy precipitation.



■ Prof Shakil A Romshoo, head of Kashmir University's department of earth sciences, attributed the decrease in the percentage of snowfall to the changing climate across the globe. - HT FILE/WASEEM ANDRABI

Quoting records, he said there was record snowfall and rains of 209mm in December in 1985, followed by 185mm in 1986, 244mm in 1990, and

154mm in 1994. But the years 1993, 1998, 1999, 2005, 2014 and 2016 have seen dry Decembers.

Sharma said there was moder-

ate to good snowfall or rains in Decembers in only four years over the last 17 years.

"We had 43mm of rain or snow in 2010, 59mm in 2008,

72.2mm in 2006, and 59.4mm in 2003. For the rest of the years, it has been very low or negligible," Sharma said.

Prof Shakil A Romshoo, head of Kashmir University's department of earth sciences, told HT that the percentage of snowfall in Kashmir Valley was decreasing over the years.

"If we see the long term trends of precipitation in the past 130 years in Kashmir, there is no change in overall precipitation. But we are witnessing a decrease in overall snowfall and an increase in rains, particularly during winters," he said.

Romshoo attributed it to the changing climate across the globe. "We are now getting extreme temperatures. The data indicates that minimum temperatures have increased and this increase is not allowing rain to fall as snow. In fact some researchers suggest that we may get 30%-70% less snowfall by the end of this century," he said.

INTERVIEW CARE

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घने कोहरे के साथ नए साल का स्वागत होगा

पर्वातमान

नई दिल्ली | मुख्य संवाददाता

नए साल का आगमन और बीते साल का अंत घने कोहरे के साथ होगा। मौसम विभाग की मानें तो 31 दिसंबर और 1 जनवरी को घना कोहरा पड़ेगा।

मौसम वैज्ञानिकों के मुताबिक दिल्ली में चक्रवाती हवाओं का दबाव बनने की उम्मीद है। ऐसे में पूर्व की ओर से चलने वाली हवाओं का रुख दक्षिण पूर्व की तरफ से हो सकता है। इससे तापमान में बहुत अधिक गिरावट होने की उम्मीद नहीं है। न्यूनतम तापमान में मामूली बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है पर 31 दिसंबर की रात और 1 जनवरी को घना कोहरा रहने का अनुमान है। न्यूनतम तापमान में वृद्धि तो होगी लेकिन कोहरे की वजह से दिनभर का तापमान भी सर्द रहेगा।

बर्फबारी भी ठंड बढ़ा सकती है: पश्चिमी विक्षोभ से हिमालय में अगर बर्फबारी होती है तो वह हवाएं दिल्ली के तापमान को ठंडा कर सकती है। 31 दिसंबर को ऐसी संभावना बन रही है।

49 ट्रेनों पर असर: कोहरे की वजह से 49 ट्रेनें देरी से चल रही हैं। 13 ट्रेनों के वक्त में तब्दीली की गई है। वहीं, उड़ानों का संचालन सामान्य रहा। News item/letter/article/editorial published on

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आज छाए रह सकते हैं बादल

भाषा, नई दिल्ली: मौसम विभाग ने शुक्रवार को पूरे दिन आसमान में हल्के बादल छाए रहने का अनुमान जताया है। एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि आज अधिकतम तापमान 24 डिग्री के आसपास रह सकता है। दिल्लीवालों की गुरुवार की सुबह ठिडुरन के बीच सुरू हुई और न्यूनतम तापमान मौसम के औसत तापमान से एक डिग्री ज्यादा रहते हुए 7.8 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ। कोहरे के कारण रेल यातायात बाधित हुआ और 49 ट्रेन देरी से चलीं। जबिक 13 ट्रेनों के वक्त में तब्दीली की गई।