

# India records second warmest winter

March 3, 2021

**In news :** India Meteorological Department (IMD) released monthly climate summary for winter recently

## Key highlights of the report

- According to IMD, India recorded its second warmest winter this year since 1901
- January and February are considered the winter months in India.
- Both the minimum and mean temperatures in February for northwest India were warmest since 1901
- It said that the minimum temperature recorded in the past two months was 15.39 degrees Celsius against a normal of 14.59 degrees Celsius, which was 0.79 degrees (rounded off) above normal for the season (See box).
- The maximum temperature in the same period was 27.47 degrees Celsius, 0.47 degrees above normal.
- It further mentioned that the 2016 winter holds the record for the warmest ever winter in India with minimum temperature departure from normal recorded at 0.94 degrees Celsius.
- Other years in which winters were especially warm between 1901 and 2021 were 2009 (0.71 degrees above normal), 1926 (0.70 degrees above normal) and 1912 (0.69 degrees above normal).
- In terms of mean temperature, the 2021 winter stood third warmest after the 2016 and 2009 winters.
- The mean temperature this year was 21.43 degrees Celsius versus a normal of 20.65 degrees Celsius.
- According to IMD, the minimum temperature recorded in the country during the month was the warmest for the month in 62 years.

## **What are the reasons for warmer winters?**

Following are the stipulated reasons for warmer winters:

Northern part

- The easterly winds remained dominant through the winter season, which persistently kept the minimum temperatures above normal
- Most western disturbances crossed over along the extreme northern regions like Jammu and Kashmir, failing to bring cold weather over the northern plains.
- Some cold winds that developed later got obstructed by the moisture-laden easterlies, all of which contributed to such a warm season over the country
- This season, less than five coldwave events developed over north India, which instead experienced prolonged fog conditions.

## **Wet winters in South peninsular**

- January 2021 began on an unusually wet note over North India. Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puduchery also experienced an extremely wet January.
- The rainfall departure for the southern peninsula in the winter season is 246 per cent over what is recorded normally, adding to the overall country's mean temperature figures.
- The latest report of IMD also states that South Peninsular India recorded its fourth wettest winter season with collective rainfall recorded measuring 56.1 mm in January and February.
- Generally, these months are dry over the south. Previous wet winter seasons over the south peninsula were in 1901 (61 mm), 1986 (59.9 mm) and 1984 (59.2 mm).