

# Driest October in 50 years in State

## Karnataka facing 6th year of drought

**BENGALURU:** No end is in sight to Karnataka's drought woes: it has just witnessed the driest October in 50 years.

The month could also go down as the driest ever in recorded history, but weather experts say they need time to confirm it.


This is a double whammy for Karnataka, already reeling under a failed South-west monsoon (June to September).

The state, which had a run-in with Tamil Nadu over the sharing of Cauvery river water last month, is facing its sixth consecutive year of drought.

The North-east monsoon usually arrives in October, and its advent has been far from encouraging. The dry spell has resulted in the state government declaring 110 taluks as 'drought-hit.' Twenty-nine more taluks will be included in the list, taking the number up to 139.

According to data compiled by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the state recorded only 29 mm rainfall, as com-

SHORT BY 78%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Karnataka received only 29 mm rainfall in October, as compared to the average 136 mm. That is a deficiency of 78%.</li> <li>■ Among Karnataka's 30 districts, Ballari and Gadag were the driest in October, with a rainfall deficit of about 95%.</li> </ul>



*(Data compiled by Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre)*

pared to the average 136 mm in October. That is a deficiency of 78%.

"According to our records, it is the driest October in the last 50 years. We are now compiling the data for the last 100 years and it looks like it could to be driest October ever," G S Srinivasa Reddy, director of the centre, told DH.

The previous most driest October was in 1988 which witnessed a rainfall deficiency of 70%.

October 1976 and 1986

IMPACT OF DROUGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In Chitradurga district, 99% of sown area affected</li> <li>■ Ramanagaram and Kolar, with 93% impact, come a close second</li> <li>■ Ragi, maize, paddy, groundnut, green gram and cotton are among the crops with little hope</li> </ul>

CROPS AFFECTED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Maize: 71% of 13.12 lakh hectares</li> <li>■ Ragi: 89% of 6.1 lakh hectares</li> </ul>

*(Source: Department of Revenue - Disaster Management)*

recorded deficiency of 65% and 58% respectively.

The only district to be blessed with above average rainfall in October was Bidar, which received 15% above normal. Reddy pointed out that during the South-west monsoon the state as a whole recorded 688 mm, as against the normal 839 mm. The deficit comes to 18%.

"However, what has been alarming is the drastic deficiency during August, September and October.

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### Rainfall in October



## B'uru may have brief spell of winter

Bosky Khanna

**BENGALURU:** An unusually sultry October has dovetailed into a warm November, pushing away the city's chances of enjoying a normal winter.

Under normal conditions, temperatures dip from November, signalling a change of season, but no sign of winter is in evidence this year.

Mercury levels have gone up by four degrees Celcius over and above the average.

On November 3 (Thursday), the city recorded 32 degrees, a record high for the month in 14 years. The previous high was 31.7 degrees on November 28, 2002.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), this October has recorded the second lowest number of rainy days in the last 50 years.

DH News Service