



Climate call

Communities are embracing measures to adapt to extreme weather events. As the world commemorates the International Day of Climate Action on October 24, we highlight some important practices for each of the five agro-climatic zones in India

Desert region

Potential adaptation practices

- » Enhance preparedness for drought and deploy early warning and drought monitoring systems
- » Enhance soil and water conservation measures—rainwater harvesting and creation of micro-water harvesting structures
- » Create state-wide drinking water grids
- » Promote drought-resistant and heat-tolerant crops and re-deploy existing crop varieties that can cope with varying climatic conditions
- » Introduce crop insurance policies so that farmers are secure in the event of a natural calamity

Coast and islands

Potential adaptation measures

- » Introduce measures to integrate drainage and irrigation systems that will mitigate floods and help in groundwater recharge
- » Strengthen rivers' banks and seacoasts with groynes and dykes
- » Develop bio-shields in coastal villages by growing mangroves that would protect coastal communities from cyclones and provide nutrients for marine species
- » Control the volume of groundwater abstraction by enforcing groundwater regulation acts to prevent seawater intrusion

Indian Himalayan region

Potential adaptation practices

- » Introduce programmes for mid-Himalaya watershed development, grassland management and fodder production
- » Introduce weather-based crop insurance, weather forecasting stations and real-time crop monitoring

- » Conserve indigenous floral species in the wetlands and alpine meadows and moraines and promote mixed species planting
- » Soil and water conservation measures and soil testing and issuance of Soil Health Cards
- » Promote horticulture, agro-horticulture and organic farming

Indo-Gangetic plain

Potential adaptation practices

- » Revive ponds, lakes, traditional water storage bodies and wetlands
- » Use early warning systems and weather advisories, especially those related to timing of seed sowing, harvesting and pest control
- » Diversify into value-addition activities to avoid wastage of agricultural produce. Increase storage capacity of foodgrains to ensure farmer's income in a changing climate scenario
- » Ensure management of new and emerging pests, diseases and weeds. Promote organic ways for combating weeds, insects and pests
- » Introduce new cultivars of various crops, and encourage indigenous cultivars

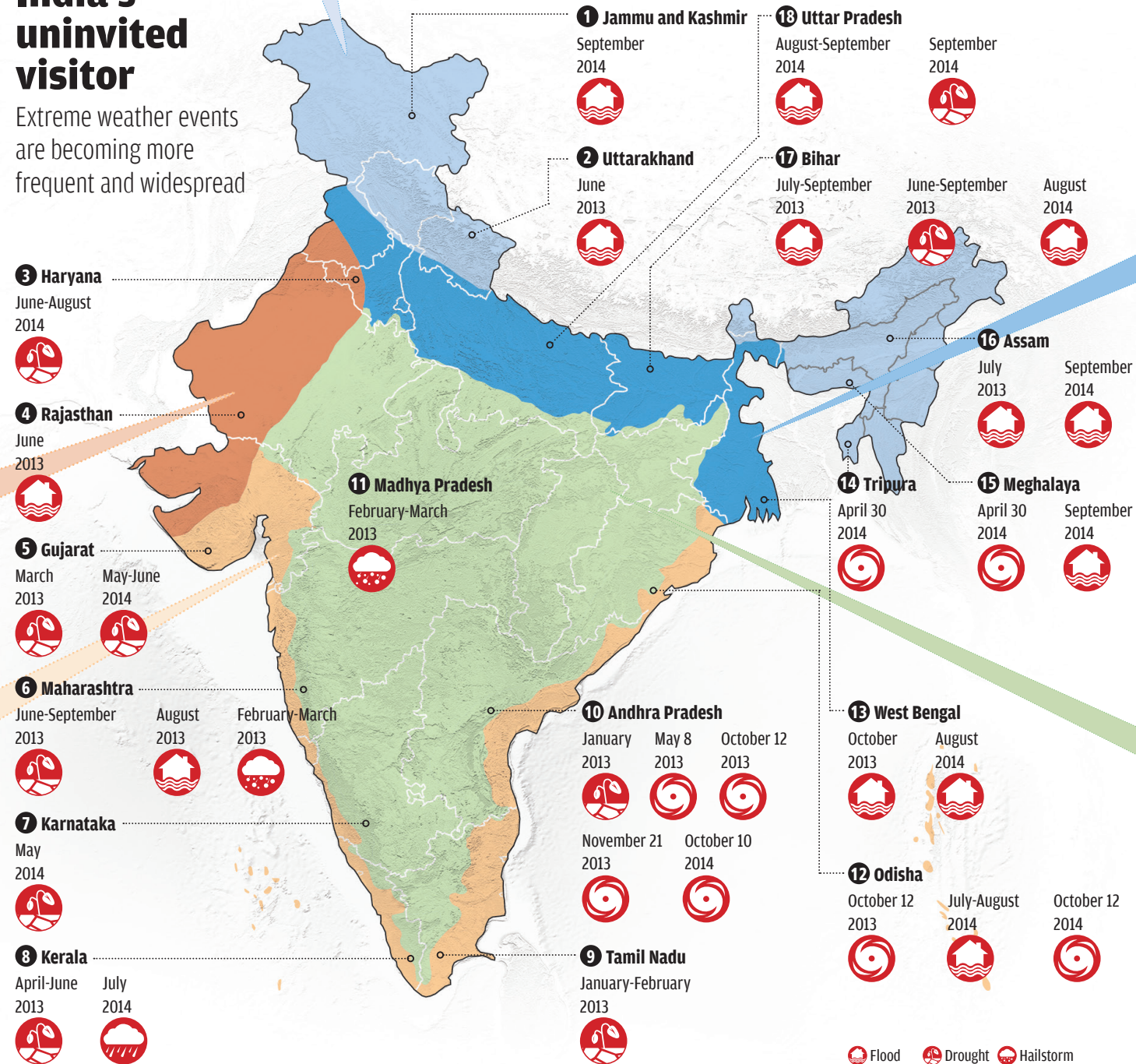
Central and peninsular India

Potential adaptation practices

- » Develop and plant climate-hardy indigenous cultivars tolerant to drought and thermal extremes
- » Establish a seed storage network for climate-hardy cultivars, and for conservation and promotion of traditional knowledge in plant breeding
- » Expand Automatic Weather Station (AWS) networks to the panchayat level and link them to existing insurance mechanisms
- » Develop insurance products for poor, lower middle-class households to protect their assets
- » Promote agro-forestry; explore convergence of ongoing agro-forestry projects with MGNREGA

India's uninvited visitor

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and widespread



Flood Drought Hailstorm
Monsoon rain Cyclone

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