

# 2003's capricious weather

*A glimpse into extreme weather events in the third warmest year ever to be recorded*

## ► USA & Canada

- Over Rs 18,000 crore in economic losses in the US Midwest due to **tornados** in May
- **Hurricane** over the US east coast destroys 360,000 homes; loss Rs 22,700 crore
- The **costliest wildfires** on record in the US in October-November in California, and in British Columbia in Canada
- The **worst flooding** in a century in coastal British Columbia in November
- Hurricane Juan was the **worst hurricane** to hit Halifax, Nova Scotia in modern times

## ► Europe

- Unprecedented **heatwave** in June, July and August. Economic loss of Rs 59,000 crore
- In winter, large areas in central and Eastern Europe saw **very cold** temperatures
- The Mediterranean region saw the largest increase in land and **sea surface temperature** on record compared to normal average value for June and July

## ► Asia

- **Floods** in China between July and September damaged 650,000 homes, cost Rs 36,000 crore
- Particularly **harsh summer** in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh
- Severe **floods** between June and September in the three countries
- A drop of 4-5°C **below normal** in maximum temperature in January in northern India
- The **worst flooding** in 50 years in Sri Lanka in May. At least 250 people killed

## ► South America

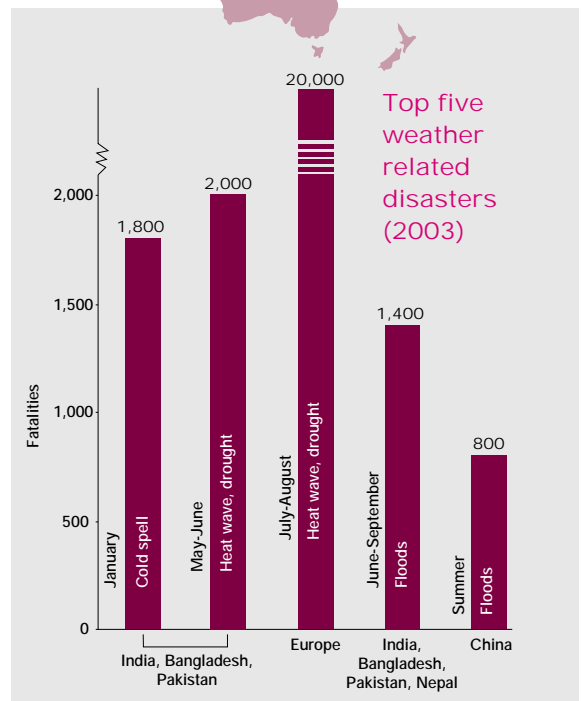
- **Cold wave** in Peruvian highlands killed over 200
- **Flooding** in late April/early May in Santa Fe, Argentina; consequent drop in crop production

## ► Africa

- **Above-normal rainfall**, often accompanied with flooding in northern Mozambique, eastern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and eastern Zambia
- Heavy seasonal rains in April cause flooding in Kenya and southern parts of Ethiopia and Somalia. The **wettest** conditions in 70 years in western Eritrea and northeast Sudan in July

## ► Australia

- Wildfires due to **drier** than normal conditions devastated parts of southeast Australia



Source: [http://www.wmo.ch/web/Press/Press702\\_en.doc](http://www.wmo.ch/web/Press/Press702_en.doc), as seen on January 16, 2003, World Meteorological Organisation ; [http://www.munichre.com/pdf/pm\\_2003\\_12\\_29\\_e.pdf](http://www.munichre.com/pdf/pm_2003_12_29_e.pdf), as seen on January 16, 2003, Munich Re Group