GEOGRAPHY 14 October 2026

India Faces Water and Heat Stress as Super El Nino Peaks in December

The World Meteorological Organization forecast a record-breaking super El Nino with sea-surface temperature anomalies peaking around December 2026.

El Nino is a climate pattern marked by the periodic warming of sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, significantly impacting global weather and monsoons.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) forecast the Nino-3.4 sea-surface temperature anomaly at about +3.7°C for October to December 2026.
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center stated an 83 per cent chance of a historic super El Nino event stronger than any since 1950.
- India's southwest monsoon ended 12.6 per cent short ahead of the building super El Nino in the Pacific Ocean.
- A University of Chicago Climate Impact Lab report projected 15,800 additional heat-related deaths in India over the six months to February 2027.
- The super El Nino threatens lower soil moisture, reduced water availability for rabi crops, and a surge in electricity demand for cooling.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

El Niño means 'the little boy' in Spanish, originally named by Peruvian fishermen referring to the Christ child.

India's monsoon rainfall is heavily influenced by large-scale climate phenomena like El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

The previous record El Nino sea-surface temperature anomaly was +2.6°C recorded during the 2015-16 season.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Rabi crops in India are sown in October-December and harvested in April-June, depending heavily on residual soil moisture and winter rains.

NOAA stands for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a scientific agency of the United States government.

REVISION FLASHCARD

WMO forecasted a record +3.7°C sea-surface temperature anomaly for the 2026 super El Nino peak.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for understanding Indian monsoon mechanisms, climate change impacts, and agricultural geography.

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