New studies say urban pollution and irrigation canals are to be blamed for the increasing fog in north India

**EVERY** time you drive through a blanket of dense fog or wait for your flight to take off at the Indira Gandhi International airport, this question must be crossing your mind: what is the cause of this phenomenon which is occurring with greater vigour every year?

Scientists investigating the yearly climate phenomena have come across similar climatic conditions in the recent years. The rapid increase in the number of days of fog is an indicator of the increasing level of air pollution. What's new is the finding that pollution is not only reducing visibility but also increasing fog in Delhi and north India. This has been confirmed by the IMD which has pointed out that fog in north India is largely due to pollution.

**The study by R.K. Jenamani of IMD concludes that “maximum temperature above the surface – has shown variation in both day and night temperatures. The study by Dinesh C. Sharma points out that fog in rural areas or areas where pollution is based on pollution trends – the green revolution.**

After 1995, fog duration during the spell has increased. This means fall of 3 degrees in maximum temperature in both day and night temperatures in Delhi in December. The average temperature in December 1965 was 13 degrees. After 1995, it increased to 16 degrees. Farmers in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are along the indus basin. It has helped to reduce water scarcity.

**Fog harvesting can reduce water scarcity**

Fog harvesting is similar to rain harvesting. In some experimental projects in Chile, Yemen, Guatemala and Nepal, fog harvesting is being used. Scientists say it can be used for agricultural or other purposes. It is not only reducing visibility but also creating a bluish or haze. Haze increases with increasing temperature, the smoke mainly comes from vehicular traffic, movement of trains, construction activities, industrial pollution and so on. In winters, when temperature is lower in the air, pollutants get trapped just above the ground in Delhi. “Pollution is based on pollution trends. The pollution of fog with pollutants – the green revolution. This could help us understanding the changing climate and the impact of different sources of fog formation in Kashmir and other regions in the Himalayan region.**

**Fog harvesting can be an additional source of water in hilly areas which do not have any other source of water.** Fog harvesting experiments carried out in Kashmir and the state of Himachal Pradesh have yielded good results, but the technique is yet to become popular.

**The fog-tapping technique works best in hilly areas**

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**What blinds your vision**

**FOG**

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