

Govt panel to monitor high temp impact on wheat crop

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Delhi recorded the season's highest temperature of 33.6 degree Celsius on Monday, even as the Centre indicated that it had set up a committee to monitor the impact of the rise in temperature on the wheat crop.

According to some meteorologists, temperature in Delhi on Monday was among the highest in the last 10 years and could signal the early onset of summer this year. The temperature was recorded at **Delhi on Monday recorded season's hottest day at 33.6 degrees C** at Delhi's base Safdarjung Observatory.

Meanwhile, on the panel, Union Agriculture

Secretary Manoj Ahuja told reporters that the government had set up a committee to monitor the situation arising due to increase in temperature on the wheat crop. "The committee will issue advisories to farmers on adopting micro irrigation," he said.

The committee, to be headed by the agriculture commissioner, will also have members from Karnal-based Wheat Research Institute and representatives from major wheat growing states, he added.

The secretary, however, said the rise in temperature won't impact the early-sown varieties. He said heat resistant varieties too have been sown on large tracts this time.

On the temperature in Delhi, Mahesh Palawat, vice-president of meteorology and climate change at private weather forecasting agency Skymet, said the rise in temperatures in February was unusual.