

Europe is the fastest-warming continent: Report

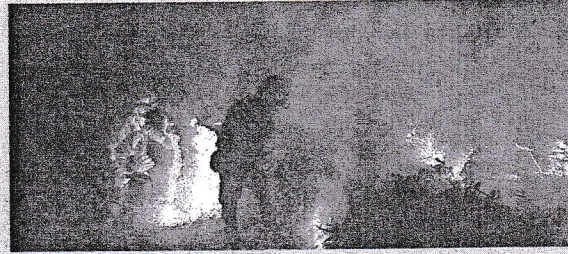
Its temperatures are rising at roughly twice the global average

Press Trust of India
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Europe is the fastest-warming continent and its temperatures are rising at roughly twice the global average, two top climate monitoring organisations reported on Monday, warning of the consequences for human health, glacier melt and economic activity.

The UN's World Meteorological Organisation and the European Union's climate agency, Copernicus, said in a joint report that the continent has the opportunity to develop targeted strategies to speed up the transition to renewable resources like wind, solar and hydroelectric power in response to the effects of climate change.

The continent generated 43 per cent of its electricity from renewable resources last year, up from 36 per cent the year before, the agencies



RED ALERT. Europe saw yet another year of intensifying climate extremes — including heat stress, wildfires, glacier ice loss and lack of snowfall REUTERS

say in their European State of the Climate report for last year. More energy in Europe was generated from renewables than from fossil fuels for the second year running.

The latest five-year averages show that temperatures in Europe are now running 2.3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, compared with 1.3 degrees Celsius higher globally, the report says — just shy of the targets under the 2015 Paris

Climate Accord to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

YEAR OF HEAT STRESS

“Europe saw yet another year of increasing temperatures and intensifying climate extremes — including heat stress with record temperatures, wildfires, heat waves, glacier ice loss and lack of snowfall,” said Elisabeth Hamdouch, the deputy head of unit for Copernicus at the

EU's executive commission. The report serves up a continental complement for WMO's flagship state of the global climate report, which has been published annually for three decades, and this year came with a “red alert” warning that the world isn't doing enough to fight the consequences of global warming.

Copernicus has reported that March marked the 10th straight month of record monthly temperatures. The average sea-surface temperature for the ocean across Europe hit its highest annual level in 2023, the Europe report said. The European report focuses this year on the impact of high temperatures on human health, noting that deaths related to heat have risen across the continent. It said more than 150 lives were lost directly last year in connection with storms, floods and wildfires.

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