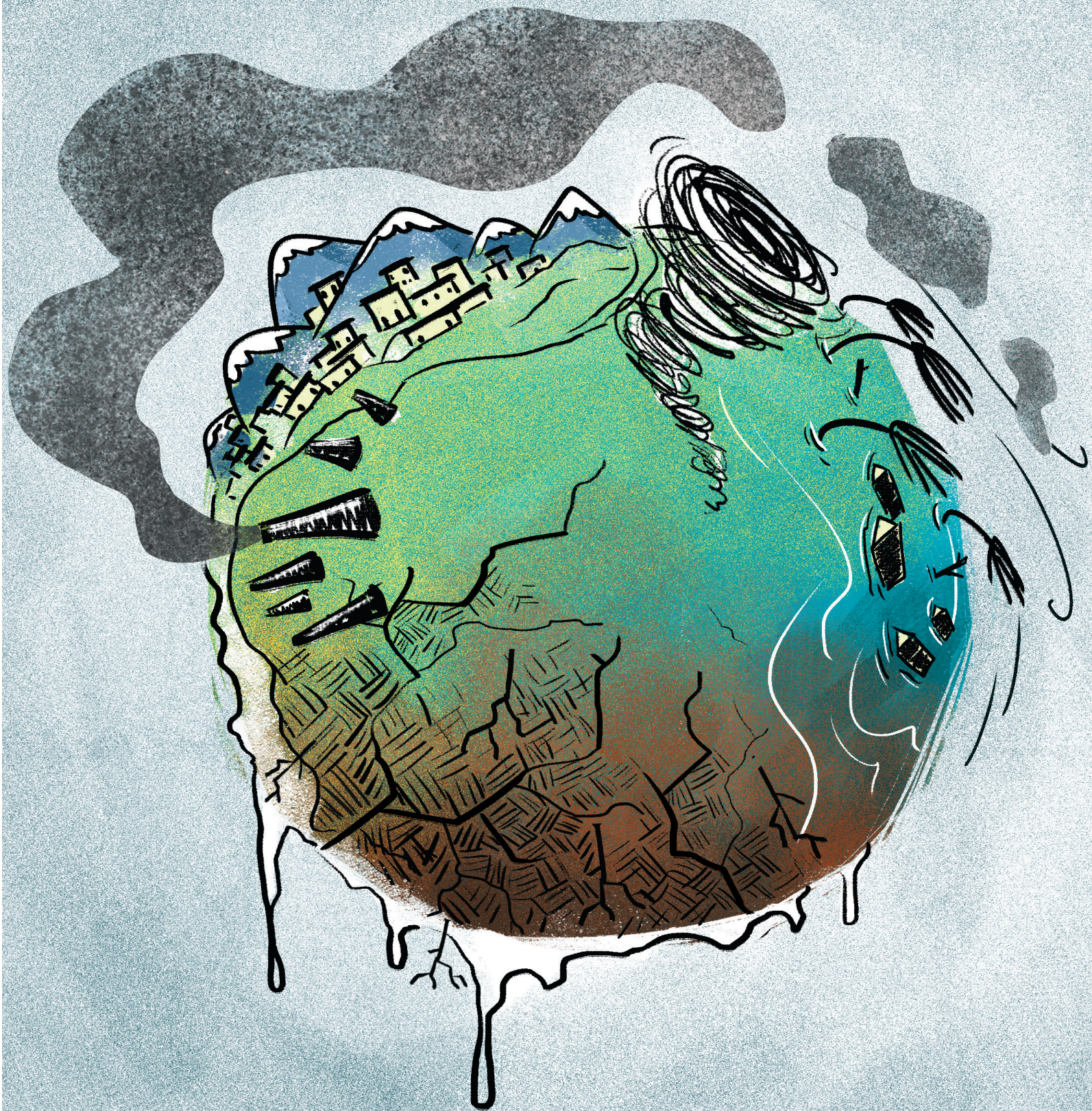




# THE WORLD IS CHANGING

Tsering Angdui is a farmer living in Komik, the world's highest village, in Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. He belongs to one of the 15-odd families living in this cold village, nestled in the Himalayas. Tsering and the rest of the village depend on Barley, their only crop, for survival. This they have been growing for generations with moisture from the heavy snowfall, often two-three metres deep. For the past 15 years, snowfall has drastically reduced. Today, they get less than a metre each year. A glacier spring running through their village disappeared in the 1990s. Earlier there was lack of space to store the abundant harvest. Today, there is plenty of space but lack of harvest...





*Hurricane Harvey in 2017 produced the second largest rainfall event in US history, with 1316 mm of rainfall on southeast Texas alone, more than 150 per cent of the state's annual average rainfall.*

Our world is changing. This change was slow earlier but not any more. Today, you can practically see the change with your eyes.

Dussehra in North India used to signal the onset of winters. Quilts and blankets were brought out from the cupboards and set out in the sun. Not any more. The chilly winters are almost a thing of the past now with cold weather actually setting in by mid-December.

Think back of winter of a few years ago. By when did you start wearing sweaters? Is it the same this year? What about the rains? Is the pattern same? Are fruit trees flowering at same time? Talk with your friends and your family. Better still, have a chat with your grandparents.

For most of us, the effects of this

change are not life threatening. As yet.

But for many, even among your friends, this change can be fatal. For Tsering, the farmer from Komik, this may mean no food. For Ramu Daimary, a nine-year-old from Dimakuchi, Assam, this may mean greater chances of being bitten by a malaria carrying mosquito. For Xavier Saldivar, an eight-year-old victim of Hurricane Harvey, this meant death.

Between 2001-2016, we have gone through 16 of the 17 warmest years since 1880.

According to Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service, 2016 was warmer than 2015 by almost 0.2°C. If you think this is a very small number, just remember that the 'small' increase from 0°C to 1°C can mean the difference between ice and water.



*The first animal that became extinct because of climate change was the golden toad in 1989.*