

# Heat Wave

March 2, 2021

**In News:** Many districts in Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh have been posting temperatures over 45 degrees Celsius or five degrees above what is normal.

## What is Heat wave ?

- Heat wave is considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains, 37°C or more for coastal stations and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.

## Following criteria are used to declare heat wave:

### 1. a) Based on Departure from Normal

- Heat Wave: Departure from normal is 4.5°C to 6.4°C
- Severe Heat Wave: Departure from normal is >6.4°C

### 1. b) Based on Actual Maximum Temperature (for plains only)

- Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature  $\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Severe Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature  $\geq 47^{\circ}\text{C}$

To declare a heat wave, the above criteria should be met at least in 2 stations in a Meteorological subdivision for at least two consecutive days and it will be declared on the second day.

## Impact of Heat Wave Warning

Warning	Impact	Suggested Actions
Nil	Comfortable temperatures	No cautionary action required

<p>Heat wave conditions at district level, likely to persist for 2 days</p>	<p>Heat is tolerable for general public but moderate health concern for vulnerable people e.g. infants, elderly, people with chronic diseases.</p>	<p>Avoid heat exposure</p>
<p>i. Severe heat wave conditions likely to persist for 2 days. ii. With varied severity, heat wave is likely to persist for 4 days or more.</p>	<p>Increased likelihood of heat illness symptoms in people who are either exposed to sun for a prolonged period or doing heavy work. High health concern for vulnerable people e.g. infants, elderly, people with chronic diseases.</p>	<p>Avoid heat exposure— keep cool. Avoid dehydration</p>
<p>i. Severe heat wave likely to persist for more than 2 days. ii. Total number of heat/severe heat wave days likely to exceed 6 days.</p>	<p>Very high likelihood of developing heat illness and heat stroke in all ages.</p>	<p>Extreme care needed for vulnerable people.</p>