

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>