

Situation Report (1)

Heatwave in India

Date: 19th April 2023

Time: 10:00 AM



Source: Media (BBC)

Background

Qualitatively, Heatwave is a condition of air temperature which becomes fatal to human body when exposed. Quantitatively, it is defined based on the temperature thresholds over a region in terms of actual temperature or its departure from normal. These silent killers increase the evaporation rate of water resources, thereby depleting resources and trapping radiation in dry soils. Severe heat waves can cause wildfires and cause massive damage to urban spaces, leading to the urban heat island phenomenon as hot air gets trapped between heat-absorbing surfaces, architectural spaces and poor vegetation. This year things may get worse as there are predictions of EL Nino effect affecting Indian monsoon and agriculture.

SITUATION UPDATE AND RESPONSE

- An extreme summer is on the cards for India as **36 weather stations in cities across the country recorded temperatures above 42 degrees Celsius** on Monday.
- Above-normal temperatures along with heatwave conditions are expected in most parts of India till May 31, threatening to lower crop production and hurting the efforts to control food costs.
- Heatwave-like conditions have been predicted **over parts of eastern India over the next four days and over the northwest region of the country over the next two days.**
- Baripada in Odisha recorded 43.5 degrees Celsius, the highest temperature recorded this month,” said Umashankar Das, senior scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- The death toll from sunstroke at the Maharashtra Bushon Awards in Navi Mumbai has **risen to 13, with eight undergoing treatment. More than 600 people suffered from heatstroke in that incident.**
- North Andhra Pradesh and its southern coastal areas, particularly Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, Krishna, NTR, Bapatia, Gunduru and Painad districts are forecast to experience a three-day heat wave from Monday.

SITUATION UPDATES

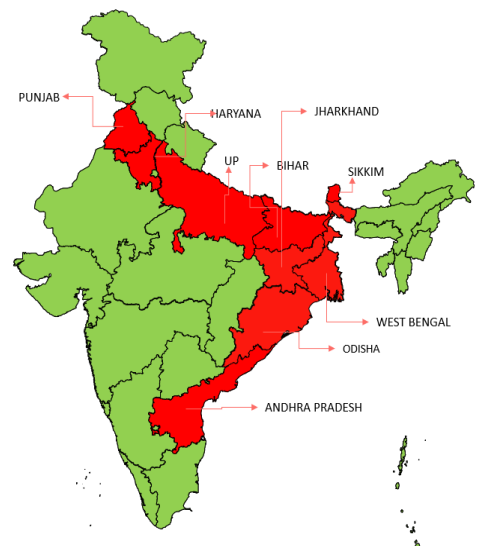
(in NO.)



Human Lives Lost -
13



Hospitalized persons –
20+



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Government Preparedness and Response



Preparedness

- IMD has predicted Heatwave conditions very likely over Gangetic West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar during the next 19th and 20th April; over East Uttar Pradesh on the 19th of April; and Heatwave conditions in isolated pockets thereafter during the subsequent 2 days and abate thereafter.
- IMD has also predicted a rise in Maximum Temperatures over Maharashtra by 2-3°C during the next 3 days and no significant change thereafter.

Response

- Government of India has issued an advisory to states to reschedule the working hours for workers and labourers across sectors to mitigate the impact of ensuing heatwave conditions across northern India.
- West Bengal CM has ordered the closure of all educational institutions in the state till Saturday. Tripura also announced that all government and state-aided schools will remain closed from April 18 to 23 in view of the heat wave-like situation. Earlier, Odisha had also issued a similar directive.
- Andhra Pradesh SDMA has asked people to take the necessary precaution in view of the forecast of the heatwave.
- The Maharashtra government has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the families of the deceased and bear expenses for treating those admitted to the hospital



NGO Preparedness and Response

- Sphere India and MahaPECONet are organizing a webinar for tackling the heatwave and sharing the best practices and strategies on 21st April 2023.
- As a precaution against disaster, Sphere India is developing IEC materials for creating general awareness of the heatwave.
- Several state IAGs are conducting coordinating meetings with its members to analyse the state's situation and develop state level action plans.

Source of Information

IMD, Times of India, Indian Express, NDTV, The Wire, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, IANS, BBC

Key Contacts

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Beat the Heat

✓ Do's	✗ Don'ts
 Wear lightweight, light coloured, loose, porous cotton clothes	 Going outdoor from 12.00 noon to 3.00pm
 Carry water while travelling	 Strenuous outdoor activities from 12.00 pm to 3.00pm
 Use hat, umbrella while working outside	 Alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated drinks
 If you feel faint or ill consult doctor immediately	 Leaving pets & children in parked vehicles
 Use ORS, lassi, torani(ricewater), lemon water, buttermilk, etc .	 Eating high protein food
 Keep animals in shade & give them plenty of water to drink	
 Keep home cool, use curtains, shutters and open windows at night	
 Use fans, damp clothing & take bath in cold water frequently	