

Situation Report 3 Heatwave in India

Date: 20th May 2024 Time: 11:00 AM (IST)

SITUATION UPDATE

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for heatwaves in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and most parts of Western Rajasthan for May 19. The agency also stated that heatwaves and severe heatwave conditions are likely to prevail in these regions for five days starting Sunday.
- On May 19, Najafgarh district in Delhi recorded a temperature of 47.8°C, the highest in the country this season.
- Heatwave conditions have been predicted in parts of Gujarat, including Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, over the next five days, according to the IMD forecast.
 - After a brief lull, heatwave conditions are likely to return to Odisha this week. The IMD has forecasted heatwaves in parts of the state for three days starting Tuesday.



STATISTICAL OVERVIEW



Human Lives Lost: 04



Heatwave forecasted states – Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi (20th May 2024)

- Heatwave conditions began affecting parts of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) on Friday. Eleven weather stations in the NCR crossed the 45°C threshold, with three even exceeding 47°C. Gurugram recorded a maximum of 45.1°C, Faridabad 46.3°C, Noida 45.9°C, and Ghaziabad 44.4°C, according to IMD data.
- Heatwave conditions have claimed the lives of two people in Bihar. Hundreds of people have fallen ill, with dozens
 receiving treatment for heat-related illnesses at home or in both public and private hospitals across the state since April
 21, 2024.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

- The Union Health Ministry has issued standardized guidelines for confirming heatstroke and heat-related deaths in the country. Prepared by the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), these guidelines aim to help hospitals accurately identify and label heat-related deaths, thereby promoting evidence-based medical decision-making.
- The Education Department in Chandigarh has instructed principals of all government and private schools to wind up classes by 12 pm from Monday. Schools are permitted to start classes earlier, but not before 7 am.
- In response to heatwave conditions, the Ghaziabad district administration announced that schools will remain closed for students in nursery to Class 8 from May 20 to May 25, 2024.
- Under directives from the Director General of the PDMA, the burning of crop residues has been strictly prohibited. Additionally, the administration is tasked with ensuring access to clean water in public spaces.
- The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department has directed health facilities across the province to implement specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) in anticipation of the forecasted temperature rise.

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