

## Situation Report 1

# **Cold Wave in India**

## Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Time: 09:00 AM (IST)



### SITUATION UPDATE

The cold wave sweeping across India has brought significant disruptions and challenges to multiple states, each experiencing unique impacts based on their geographical and climatic conditions.

#### Rajasthan

- Cold wave has pushed temperatures to extreme lows, with Fatehpur in Sikar district recording the lowest temperature at 3°C. Other areas, such as Sikar, Karauli, and Sangaria, have experienced temperatures around 4°C, while Mount Abu recorded 5°C. Jaipur saw a minimum temperature of 7.4°C, with most cities in the state dipping below 10°C.
- The cold weather has adversely affected daily life, particularly in rural areas where access to heating and other resources is limited. Farmers are reporting concerns about frost damage to their crops, and vulnerable populations, including the elderly and children, are at heightened risk of health issues. Authorities have urged people to limit exposure to the cold and take precautionary measures.

#### **Uttar Pradesh**

- Cold wave condition are expected to persist for several days, with temperatures remaining significantly below normal. Dense to very dense fog has been reported, with visibility dropping below 50 meters during the night and early morning hours, severely affecting road and rail traffic. The freezing temperatures and poor visibility have disrupted daily life, particularly for commuters and farmers.
- The state government has directed schools to alter timings and has distributed blankets and other essentials to the vulnerable population.

#### Punjab

- Punjab is experiencing similar conditions, with dense fog and cold wave conditions
  persisting across the state. Agricultural activities have been affected as frost poses a threat
  to standing crops, including wheat and mustard. Visibility issues have resulted in a spate of
  accidents on highways, prompting authorities to issue advisories for safe travel.
- Residents, particularly in rural areas, are grappling with limited access to heating facilities, while local governments have stepped up distribution of warm clothing and essentials.

#### Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi

- In Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi, the cold wave has been accompanied by dense to very dense fog, reducing visibility during the night and morning hours. This has led to numerous delays and cancellations of trains and flights.
- Delhi's air quality has also worsened significantly, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) dropping to 357, pushing it into the "very poor" category. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has invoked Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), implementing measures such as a ban on private construction and demolition activities and restrictions on certain vehicle categories. The cold wave and poor air quality have compounded health risks, especially for those with respiratory conditions, and disrupted daily activities across the region.

#### Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand has witnessed freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall, especially in higher altitudes such as Kedarnath, Badrinath, and Auli. The extreme weather has blocked key roads and disrupted supply chains to remote villages. Tourism, particularly in hill stations, has seen a rise, but travelers are facing risks due to avalanches and slippery roads. The state government has issued advisories and deployed snow-clearing teams to restore connectivity in affected areas

	Sphere India
STAY WARM	I AND SAFE
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Wear warm layers and keep emergency supplies ready.	Don't let children or elderly people stay outside for long.
Insulate windows and store water to prevent freezing.	Do not ignoring shivering-it signals heat loss.
Check weather updates and follow advisories.	Don't drink alcohol-it reduces body temperature.
Avoid outdoor activities & stay indoors during cold waves.	Don't wear tight or cotton
Carry blankets and essentials while traveling.	Avoid driving without fog lights and winter supplies.
Drink hot beverages and eat seasonal, healthy foods.	Don't rub frostbitten skin-it causes more damage.
Use molisturizers to prevent dry skin and cover extremities.	Don't use open flames or kerosene heaters without ventilation.
Keep the elderly, children, and vulnerable groups warm	Avoid direct heat sources on frostbitten areas.
Drive carefully in fog and use fog lights.	Avoid leaving pets outside for extended periods.
Stay active and soak in sunlight for warmth.	Don't leave heating devices unattended overnight.
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#### **Himachal Pradesh**

- Himachal Pradesh is enduring freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall, especially in districts such as Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur, Shimla, and Manali. Many roads have been blocked due to snow and landslides, cutting off remote villages.
- Power outages are widespread as snow has damaged electrical infrastructure. While tourist destinations are drawing visitors eager to experience snowfall, the extreme weather poses risks, with authorities urging caution.
- The agricultural sector, especially horticulture, faces challenges due to the risk of frost damage to apple orchards. Emergency
  services and snow clearance operations are in full swing to restore normalcy.

#### Jammu & Kashmir

- In Jammu & Kashmir, the cold wave has intensified, with temperatures plummeting well below freezing across the region. Srinagar's Dal Lake has partially frozen, and sub-zero temperatures have become the norm. Heavy snowfall has disrupted transportation, leaving the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway closed for days due to landslides and snow accumulation.
- Essential supplies have been delayed, and power outages are common in rural areas. Farmers and orchard owners are facing potential losses due to frost damage. Authorities have issued advisories and are providing relief materials to mitigate the impact on residents.

#### Bihar

- Bihar has been gripped by severe cold wave conditions, with minimum temperatures dropping to record lows in several districts. Dense fog has further exacerbated the situation, disrupting transportation and reducing visibility to dangerous levels.
- Schools have been directed to remain closed or operate on revised schedules, while health facilities are on alert to address
  cases of hypothermia and respiratory illnesses. The agricultural sector is also facing challenges, with frost potentially affecting
  rabi crops.

#### Madhya Pradesh

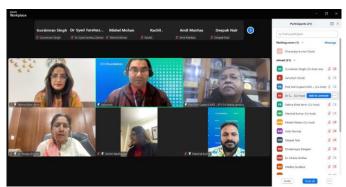
- In Madhya Pradesh, temperatures have plummeted, with many districts reporting below-normal minimum temperatures. The cold wave has disrupted daily life, especially in rural areas where access to heating is limited. Farmers are reporting concerns about frost damage to crops, including wheat and vegetables.
- Local authorities have started distributing warm clothing and essentials to vulnerable communities, while schools in some areas are operating on revised timings.

#### West Bengal

• In West Bengal, the cold wave has impacted both urban and rural areas, with Kolkata experiencing its coldest days in several years. In rural areas, farmers are concerned about the potential impact of the cold on crops like potatoes and rice. Dense fog in parts of the state has affected visibility, disrupting transportation and causing delays in train schedules.



Cold wave Preparedness Session on October 07th 2024



Session on Strategies for managing cold wave impact\_ 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024



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#### Source of Information

Media, Social Media, Sphere India WhatsApp Group

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