



Heavy Rain Forecasts

Why in News?

Recently, The [India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) has issued an **orange alert** for **Chandigarh, Haryana, and Punjab** and forecast heavy to very heavy rain in isolated areas.

Key Points

- [Colour- Coded Weather Warning](#) is issued by the IMD whose objective is to alert people ahead of severe or hazardous weather which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption or danger to life.
- Warnings are updated daily.
- The IMD uses 4 colour codes are:
 - **Green (All is well): No advisory** is issued.
 - **Yellow (Be Aware):** Yellow indicates **severely bad weather** spanning across several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities.
 - **Orange/Amber (Be prepared):** The orange alert is issued as a warning of **extremely bad weather** with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.
 - **Red (Take Action):** When the extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to **disrupt travel and power** and have significant risk to life, the red alert is issued.
- These alerts are **universal in nature** and are also issued during floods, depending on the amount of water rising above land/in a river as a result of [torrential rainfall](#).
 - For instance, when the water in a river is 'above normal' level, or between the 'warning' and 'danger' levels, a yellow alert is issued.

India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- **IMD** was established in **1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
 - It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the [World Meteorological Organization](#).