



Poll Timing in Bihar Over Heatwave

Why in News?

[The Election Commission of India](#) has decided to prolong the voting period by two hours in certain areas of four **parliamentary constituencies in Bihar**.

Key Points

- To increase voters' participation the state's **chief electoral officer** has decided to extend the polling hours due to the ongoing [heatwave](#).
- The decision follows a comparatively lower voter turnout during the initial round of polling on 19th April.

Heatwaves

- These are **prolonged periods of excessively hot weather** that can cause **adverse impacts** on human health, the environment, and the economy.
- India, being a tropical country, is **particularly vulnerable to heatwaves**, which have become more frequent and intense in recent years.
- **India Meteorological Department (IMD) Criteria for Declaring Heat Wave in India:**
 - Heat waves **need not be considered till the maximum temperature** of a station **reaches at least 40°C for Plains** and at **least 30°C for Hilly regions**.
 - If the **normal maximum temperature of a station** is less than or equal to **40°C**, then an increase of **5°C to 6°C** from the normal temperature is considered to be heat wave condition.
 - Further, an **increase of 7°C or more from the normal temperature** is considered a severe heat wave condition.
 - If the **normal maximum temperature** of a station is **more than 40°C**, then an **increase of 4°C to 5°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition. Further, an **increase of 6°C or more** is considered a **severe heat wave condition**.
 - Additionally, if the **actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more** irrespective of **normal maximum temperature**, a heat wave is declared.

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Heat wave Scenario	40°C	30°C
Maximum Temperature	Plains	Hills
Heat wave conditions prevail when...	Severe heat wave conditions prevail when....	
Normal maximum temperature	Normal maximum temperature	Normal maximum temperature
▲ Above	▲ Above	▲ Above
40°C	40°C	40°C
Deviation from normal	Deviation from normal	Deviation from normal
4-5°C or more	6°C or more	6°C or more
▼ At or below	▼ At or below	▼ At or below
40°C	40°C	40°C
5-6°C or more	7°C or more	7°C or more

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