



Core Cold Wave Zone | Rajasthan | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

The [National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health \(NPCCHH\)](#), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has a public advisory on [cold wave conditions](#) for **Rajasthan and 16 other states and Union Territories**.

Key Points

- **Cold Wave Season and Core Cold Wave Zone:**
 - A cold wave is a rapid fall in temperature **within 24 hours to a level requiring substantially increased protection to agriculture**, industry, commerce, and social activities.
 - The **cold wave season spans from November to March**, with **December and January** experiencing the most **extreme cold events**.
- **Affected Regions:**
 - Telangana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha.
- **Vulnerable Groups:**
 - The advisory identifies the following **populations as particularly at risk:**
 - Homeless individuals
 - Elderly people
 - Economically disadvantaged individuals
 - Pregnant and lactating women
 - Children
 - Outdoor workers and farmers
 - Managers of night shelters
- **Definition of a Cold Wave:**
 - According to [Indian Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) Standards:
 - For **plains**, a cold wave occurs when the minimum temperature is $\leq 10^{\circ}\text{C}$.
 - For **hilly regions**, it is defined as a minimum temperature of $\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- **Potential Health Issues:**
 - **Hypothermia** is caused by prolonged exposure to very low temperatures.
 - **Frostbite** is damage to skin and tissues due to freezing temperatures.
 - **Non-freezing Cold Injuries** are conditions like **Immersion Foot**, resulting from prolonged exposure to cold and wet conditions.
 - In severe cases, cold exposure can lead to fatalities if precautions are not taken.

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**.
 - It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India**.
 - It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.
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