

Poll Timing in Bihar Over Heatwave

Why in News?

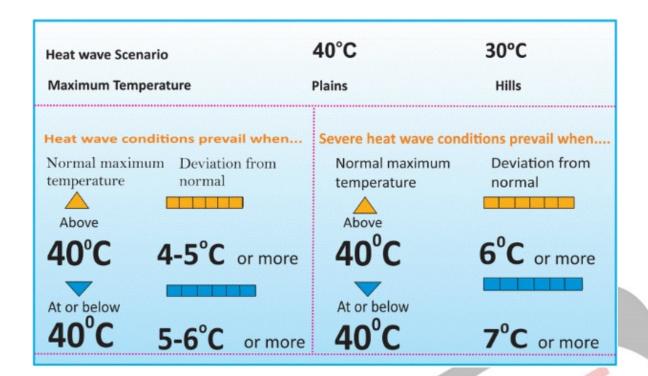
<u>The Election Commission of India</u> has decided to prolong the voting period by two hours in certain areas of four **parliamentary constituencies in Bihar.**

Key Points

- To increase voters' participation the state's chief electoral officer has decided to extend the polling hours due to the ongoing <u>heatwave</u>.
- 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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