

Heatwaves: Findings of the CPR Report

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Why in News?

- According to a new report titled "How is India Adapting to Heatwaves?" by the think-tank Centre for Policy Research, the country is ill-prepared to face the heat.
- The report **analysed all the 37 heat action plans (HAPs)** across 18 States, to evaluate how policy action is keeping up with the warming weather in India.

What is the phenomenon of Heatwaves?

- Qualitatively, a heat wave is a **condition of air temperature** which becomes fatal to the human body when exposed.
- Quantitatively, it is defined based on the **temperature thresholds** over a region in terms of actual temperature or its departure from normal.
- Heat wave is considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least **40 degree Celsius** or more for Plains and at least **30 degree Celsius** or more for Hilly regions (37 degree Celsius or more for coastal stations).
 - **Based on Departure from Normal:**
 - **Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is 4.5 – 6.4 degree Celsius.
 - **Severe Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is > 6.4 degree Celsius.
 - **Based on Actual Maximum Temperature:**
 - **Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature $\geq$ 45 degree Celsius.
 - **Severe Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature $\geq$ 47 degree Celsius.

Heat-wave vulnerability

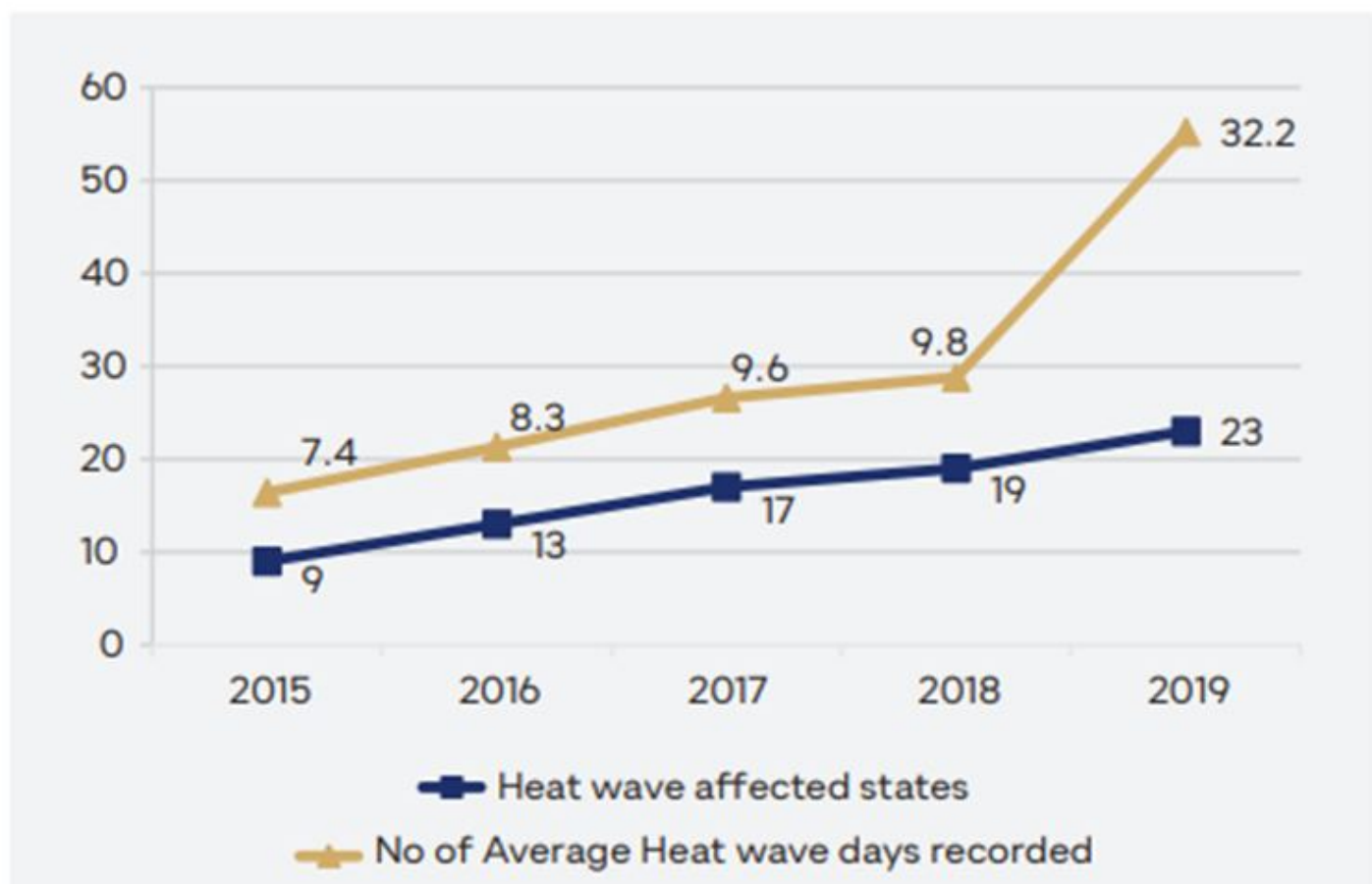


Image Caption: Heat-wave vulnerability in India

What are HAPs?

- **Landmark heatwaves** (1998, 2002, 2010, 2015, 2022) have each led to large death tolls and extensive economic damage by reducing labour productivity and affecting water availability, agriculture, and energy systems.
- Governments across India at the State, district, and municipal levels have responded by creating **heat action plans (HAPs)**.
- **HAPs prescribe a variety of preparatory activities** and post-heatwave response measures across government departments to decrease the impact of heatwaves.

What are the Findings of the CPR Report?

- HAPs are not built for local contexts and **nearly all HAPs fail to identify and target vulnerable groups** and are **underfunded** with **weak legal foundations** and are **insufficiently transparent**.
- **Only two HAPs carry out and present vulnerability assessments** (systematic studies to locate where the people most likely to be affected are in a city, district, or State).
- Only three of 37 HAPs **identify funding sources** and eight HAPs ask implementing departments to self-allocate resources, indicating a **serious funding constraint**.
- None of the HAPs indicate the **legal sources of their authority** – reducing bureaucratic incentives to prioritise and comply with HAPs instructions.
- There is **no national repository of HAPs** and very few HAPs are listed online.

What are the CPR's Report Recommendations?

- **The HAPs must identify sources of financing** either from new funds or by combining actions with existing national and State policies.
- **The HAPs must set up rigorous independent evaluations** as a basis for constant improvement.
- **Implementation-oriented HAPs** so that India's poorest will no longer continue to suffer from extreme heat, paying with both their health and incomes.

What are the Indian Government's Initiatives to Deal with Impact of Heatwaves?

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** issues colour coded impact based heat wave warning for public benefit through mass media.

- **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** seeks to promote sustainable lifestyles and practices that conserve the environment and have climate co-benefits.
 - **Environment Education Programme (EEP)** sensitises children/youth on issues related to the environment and to motivate them to adopt sustainable lifestyles.
 - **Water Technology Initiative (WTI)** aims to develop research based solutions to deal with challenges in the areas of water quality, quantity, water reuse and recycling.
 - **The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and IMD are working with 23 States prone to high temperatures leading to heat-wave conditions for supporting HAPs.
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Q1) Why is India's population highly vulnerable to heatwaves?

In India, heatwaves caused 22,562 deaths between 1992 and 2015. A large proportion of India's population is highly vulnerable to heat waves due to the possession of fewer household amenities as well as lower rates of literacy and access to water and sanitation.

Q2) What is the Water Technology Initiative (WTI)?

Water Technology Initiative, initiated in August 2007 aims to promote R&D activities aimed at providing safe drinking water at affordable cost and in adequate quantity using appropriate Science and Technology interventions evolved through indigenous efforts.

Source: [Without action plans, India's poorest will continue to bear brunt of heatwaves](#) | [PIB](#) | [NDMA.gov.in](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/heatwaves-findings-of-the-cpr-report/>

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