Management Interventions & Mitigation Strategies for Heat Wave in West Bengal

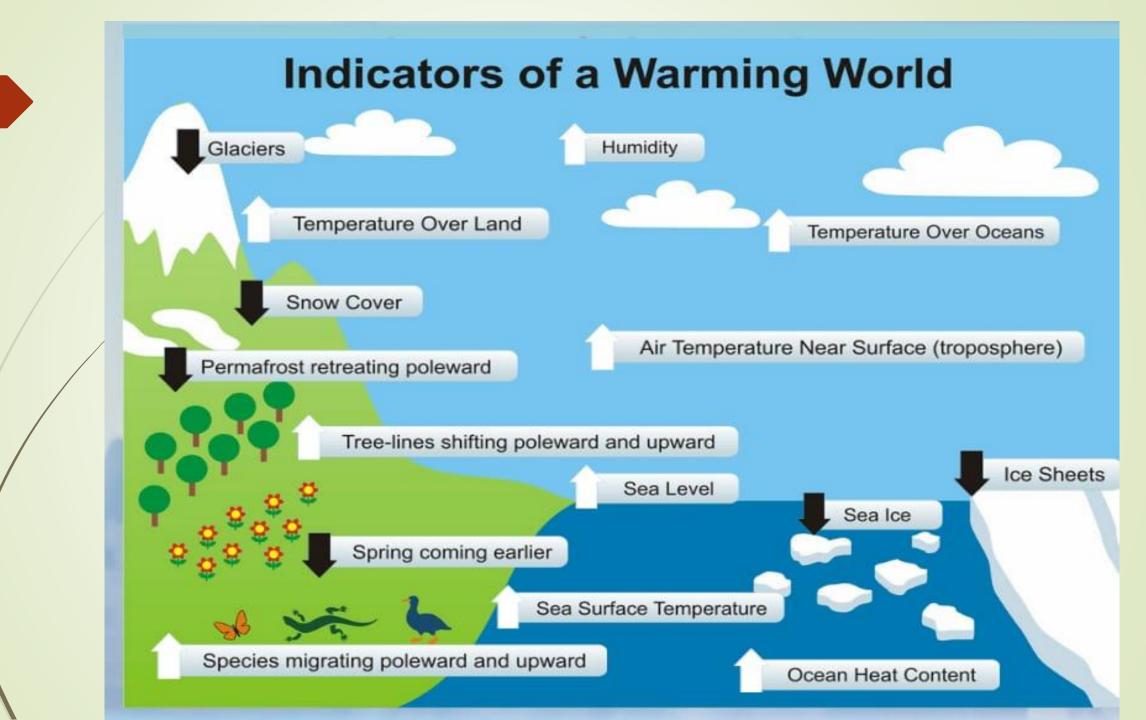
> Kunal Aggarwal, IPS Inspector General of Police Department of Disaster Management & Civil Defence, Govt. of West Bengal

# Weather and Climate of West Bengal

West Bengal is the only state which experiences all type of severe weather--

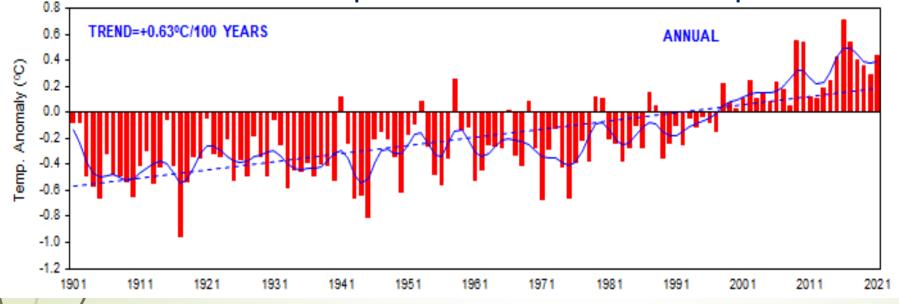
- Darjeeling and Kalimpong Very prone to landslides.
- South 24 Parganas and East Midnapur very prone to severe Tropical Cyclones
- 6 Western districts very prone to heat wave & cold wave
- 6 Northern Districts- very prone Earthquakes
- All districts are very prone to severe floods

January-February: Cold Wave, Dense Fog, Unseasonal Rainfall
March-May: Cyclone, Thunderstorm, Norwester, Lightning, Hailstorm, Heat Wave
June-September: Lightning, Heavy Rainfall, Flood/ Flash Flood/ Inundation
October-December: Cyclone, Unseasonal Rainfall, Dense Fog



### irends in Surface Air Temperature over India

Annual mean land surface air temperature anomalies over India for the period 1901-2021



Annual mean air temperature for the country was +0.44 °C above normal (5<sup>th</sup> warmest year on record since 1901)

> 2016 (+0.710 °C), 2009 (+0.550 °C), 2017 (+0.541 °C), 2010 (+0.539 °C)

### Seasonal mean temperature

Winter (Jan to Feb)	= +0.78 °C
Pre-monsoon (Mar to May)	= +0.35 °C
Monsoon (Jun to Sep)	= +0.34 °C
Post monsoon (Oct to Dec)	= +0.42 °C

### Annual mean temperature trend during 1901-2021

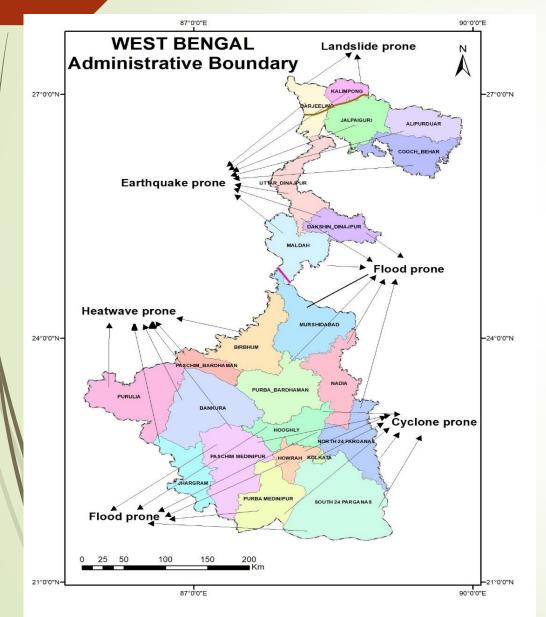
Mean temperature	= 0.63 °C/100 years
Maximum temperature	= 0.99 °C/100 years
Minimum temperature	= 0.26 °C/100 years



Heat wave is defined as the condition where maximum temperature at a grid point is 3°C or more than the normal temperature, consecutively for 3 days or more.

World Meteorological Organization defines a heat wave as spanning 5 or more consecutive days during which the daily maximum temperature exceeds the average maximum temperature by five degrees Celsius.

# Heat Wave Scenario in West Bengal



- West Bengal has 6 districts (Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram & Paschim Bardhaman) which are prone to heat wave like conditions.
- These districts are situated in western parts of West Bengal and are geographically adjacent with the Chotanagpur plateau area.
   Chotanagpur plateau region is located away from coastal areas. This makes the region very dry and prone to high temperature during the summer months

### Highest temperature recorded during 2021-2023.

2021		2022		2023		
Place	Highest temperature(°C)	Departure from	Highest temperature(°C)	Departure from	Highest temperature(°C)	Departure from Normal
		Normal		Normal		
Bankura	41.1(02.04.2021)	+4.5	43.9(25.04.2022)	+5.5	44.1(15.06.2023)	+8.7
Purulia	41.3(28.04.2021)	+4.5	44.3(28.04.2022)	+6.1	43.7(15.06.2023)	+9.5
Midnapore	43.1(31.03.2021)	+7.7	41.5(25.04.2022)	+4.5	40.8(16.06.2023)	+6.6
Asansol	-	-	43.5(27.04.2022)	+8.2	43.9(15.06.2023)	+8.0

### Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation Measures

- Preparation of Heat Wave Action Plan- SDMA/ DDMA/ Municipal Corporation and Local Bodies have the responsibility to prepare and Implement a Heat Wave Action Plan
- Early Warning- Department of Disaster Management & Civil Defence and District Administration has to disseminate the information received from IMD to the public at large
- Mitigating Heat Wave- Public Health and Engineering department has the responsibility to construct shelters/ sheds, bus stands and provides drinking water points in cities & worksites. Department of Health & Family Welfare has a stockpiling of ORS & creates Medical posts at places of mass gatherings.

Contd...

# Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation Measures

- Monitoring and Response Mechanism- Department of Health & Family Welfare has the responsibility to deploy Rapid Response Teams & take specific care for vulnerable groups
- Media campaign and IEC activities- Department of Information and Cultural Affairs and Department of Health & Family Welfare have the responsibility towards Extensive IEC campaigns to create awareness through print, electronic and social media
  - Long Term Measures- Forest Department a targets of improving the forest coverage and green areas
  - **Documentation-** Department of Disaster Management & Civil Defence, Department of Health & Family Welfare and District Administration have the responsibility to Collect Data and Information

### **Key strategies**

Collaboration between India Meteorological Department and State health department to issue health advisory during severe heat conditions

Establish Early Warning System and Inter-Agency Coordination to alert residents on predicted high and extreme temperatures.

Capacity building / training programme for health care professionals at local level to recognize and respond to heat-related illnesses, particularly during extreme heat events.

>Public Awareness and community outreach Disseminating public awareness messages on how to protect against the extreme heat-wave through print, electronic and social media and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as pamphlets, posters and advertisements and Television Commercials (TVCs)

### **Mode of Warning Dissemination Mechanism**

- Telephone, Tele-fax
- Whatsapp
- Internet (e-mail)
- Websites (mausam.imd.gov.in/kolkata)
- Radio/TV, News Paper network (FM,Comminity Radio, Private TV): Prasar Bharati and private broadcasters
- Briefing by Senior Officers (Director/DDGM) to Chief Secretary and other Disaster Manager
- Briefing to electronic media and print media daily at 15:30
- During severe weather any time by mobile phone
- Common Alert Protocol(CAP) implemented

### **Interventions**

# HEATWAVE SAFETY

School sessions shifted as per Heat wave. **Outdoor activities** restricted Drinking water and shade arrangements at public events



# West Bengal directs closure of schools, colleges for a week due to 'severe' heatwave

The West Bengal government had earlier announced preponing the summer vacation in State-run and aided schools by three weeks to May 2, except in the hill areas, due to the sweltering heat

April 16, 2023 03:00 pm | Updated 07:23 pm IST - Kolkata



SHIV SAHAY SINGH

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Image used for representational purpose only. | Photo Credit: Biswaranjan Rout

The West Bengal government on April 16 issued a notification asking schools, colleges, educational institutes and universities, including private institutes, to remain closed next week due to severe heat wave conditions.

# Do's and Dont's

- Listen to Radio, watch TV, read News paper for local weather forecast to know if a heat wave is on the way.
- Drink sufficient water and as often as possible, even if not thirsty.
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose, and porous cotton clothes. Use protective goggles, umbrella/hat, shoes or chappals while going out in the sun.
- While travelling, carry water with you.

<u>DO's</u>

- If you work outside, use a hat or an umbrella and also use a damp cloth on your head, neck, face and limbs.
- Use ORS, homemade drinks like lassi, torani (rice water), lemon water, buttermilk, etc. which help to re-hydrate the body.

Contd...

## DO's..... Contd....

- Recognize the signs of heat stroke, heat rash or heat cramps such as weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, sweating and seizures. If you feel faint or ill, see a doctor immediately.
- Keep animals in shade and give them plenty of water to drink.
- Keep your home cool, use curtains, shutters or sunshade and open windows at night.
- Use fans, damp clothing and take bath in cold water frequently.
- Provide cool drinking water near work place.
- Caution workers to avoid direct sunlight. Schedule strenuous jobs to cooler times of the day.
- ncreasing the frequency and length of rest breaks for outdoor activities.
- Pregnant workers and workers with a medical condition should be given additional attention.



# Do's and Dont's

### DONT's

- Do not leave children or pets in parked vehicles.
- Avoid going out in the sun, especially between 12.00 noon and 3.00 p.m.
- Avoid wearing dark, heavy or tight clothing.
- Avoid strenuous activities when the outside temperature is high. Avoid working outside between 12 noon and 3 p.m.
- Avoid cooking during peak hours. Open doors and windows to ventilate cooking area adequately.
- Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks, which dehydrates the body.
- Avoid high-protein food and do not eat stale food.

### **IEC Materials for Awareness Generation**

### BEWARE! HEAT WAVES CAN BE DANGEROUS!

Prevent before it takes a toll.

### Do's

- Always carry your umbrella while exposing yourself to sunlight. Or else, cover your head and shoulders with wet wipes/towels/ cloth/caps
- Wear fine, loose-fitting cotton garments of light colour
- Always carry water with you. Even if you are not feeling thirsty, drink plenty of water frequently
- Consume homemade juices, lime water and fruits like Watermelon, Cucumber etc.
- If you feel sick, reach out to your nearby health centre/ health worker

### Don'ts

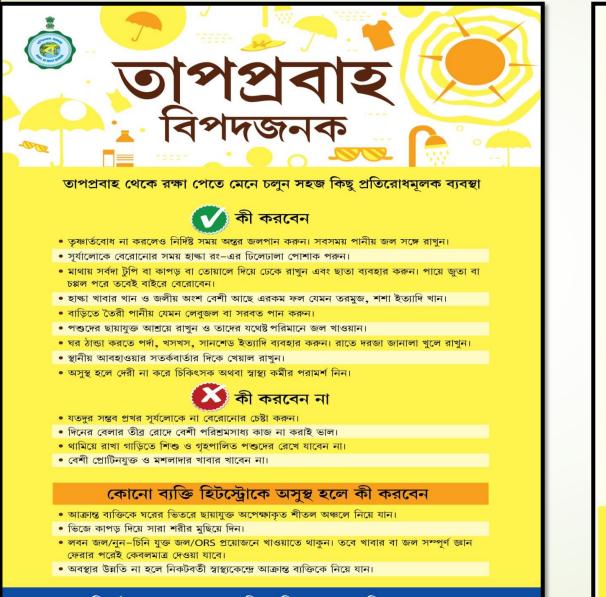
- Avoid going out in scorching sunlight. In case you need to go out, do not stand still in a place for long
- It is better to avoid laborious tasks in direct sunlight
- Abstain from drinking excessive tea, coffee, cold drinks and alcoholic beverages

### **First Aid**

 If someone falls sick, immediately take that person to a cool shaded place
 Dissolve ORS in water and feed the person. Pour water on head and body. Fan rapidly on the wet person

 In case the patient loses sense, rush to the nearby health centre/hospital keeping the patient's body lying on his/her side

### IEC on Heat Wave in Regional Language for Easy understanding



বিপর্যয় ব্যবস্থাপন এবং অসামরিক প্রতিরক্ষা দপ্তর, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

তাপপ্রবাহ বপদজনক সাবধান হোন! অসস্থতা প্রতিরোধ করুন! কী করবেন করবেন না চডা রোদে বাইরে না বেরোনোর চেষ্টা রোদে বেরোতে হলে ছাতা ব্যবহার করুন। করুন। যদি বেরোতেই হয় তাহলে অথবা মাথা ও কাঁধে ভিজে গামছা/ তোয়ালে/ কাপড়/ টুপি দিয়ে ঢেকে রাখুন। বেশিক্ষণ একটানা দাঁডিয়ে থাকবেন না। পাতলা, টিলে, সুতির হালকা রঙের দিনের বেলা চড়া রোদে বেশি পরিশ্রমের জামাকাপড পরুন। কাজ না করাই ভাল। এই সময় অতিরিক্ত চা, কফি, বোতলের সর্বদা জল সঙ্গে রাখন। তথ্যা না পেলেও মাঝে ঠান্ডা পানীয় বা মদ্য পান করবেন না। মাঝে জল পান করুন। বাড়িতে তৈরি শরবত, লেবুজল, ফল– যেমন তরমজ, শসা ইত্যাদি খান। অসুস্থ হলে তাড়াতাড়ি নিকটবর্তী স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রে/ স্বাস্থ্যকর্মীর সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করুন। প্রাথমিক চিকিৎসা • অসন্থ হলে তাড়াতাড়ি তাঁকে শীতল ছায়া জায়গায় নিয়ে যান। • জল/ ওআরএস জলে গুলে দিন। সারা দেহে এবং মাথায় জল ঢালুন। ভেজা শরীরে জোরে

জোরে বাতাস দিন। • যদি রোগী অচেতন থাকে তাহলে তাঁকে পাশ ফেরানো অবস্থায় তাডাতাডি নিকটবর্তী স্বাস্থাকেন্দ্রে/

হাসপাতালে নিয়ে যাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

# THANK YOU