

## **Press Note**

# **Heat Wave 2024: Two-Day Workshop on Management Interventions and Mitigation Strategies for Heat Wave begins at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is conducting a two-day national workshop on Management Interventions and Mitigation Strategies for Heat Wave on 13-14 February 2024 in New Delhi. Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Union Minister of Earth Sciences graced the occasion as Chief Guest in the inaugural session.

In his inaugural address, The Minister of Earth Sciences Shri Kiren Rijiju said “Over the past several years, India has experienced increasing instances of Heat Waves affecting the health and livelihood of vulnerable communities across a number of States. The intensity and frequency of Heat Waves have increased in recent times with climate change driving temperatures even higher. The number of States affected by Heat Waves has been increasing.”

He appreciated the idea of NDMA led national workshop, conducted in the month of February, well in time for reviewing Heat Wave preparedness for Summer 2024.

Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences said “Today’s workshop addresses many important aspects pertaining to mitigation and management of Heat Wave like early warning, health impacts of Heat Wave, impact of Heat Wave on infrastructure, and urban heat islands. He further stated that experience sharing among states present at the workshop will help in preparing for Heat Wave in 2024”.

Shri Kamal Kishore, Member & HoD, NDMA in his address said that “NDMA had issued guidelines for preparation of Heat Action Plans in 2019. It is important that Heat Action Plans developed by States, Districts and Cities are continuously improved in light of lessons learned from previous seasons”. He further stated that “We must go beyond saving lives to also saving livelihoods from the impact of Heat Waves. This would require working across many different sectors. In this regard, the design of the NDMA- led workshop is intended to expand the conversation to include many stakeholders besides health, disaster management and meteorology.



Besides reviewing preparedness for 2024 Heat Wave season, one of the objectives of the National Workshop is to collect good practices and ideas for long term mitigation of Heat Wave impacts.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to hear the perspective of representatives from the most vulnerable groups such as street vendors, slum dwellers, traffic policemen and construction workers. Their lived experience will help design heat mitigation solutions that address their concerns. In addition, district collectors from selected districts will share their experiences of implementing Heat Action Plans.

The two-day workshop has six thematic sessions as follows:

- I. Early Warning and Climate Services
- II. Health Impacts of Heatwave
- III. Impact of Heatwaves on Infrastructure & Productive Sectors and Mitigation Strategies
- IV. Experience Sharing of Heat wave Management: Voices from the Field
- V. Urban Heat Island (UHI) and Impact on Vulnerable Communities
- VI. Heat Action Plans (HAPs) - Preparedness and Mitigation Strategies