

Heat Index released by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)

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The **Heat Index** has recently been launched by [Indian Meteorological Department](https://www.imd.gov.in/) (IMD) on an experimental basis.



[Ref- News on air]

About Heat Index:

- **Aim:** to provide guidance for the **regions** within India where the apparent **temperature** is **higher** than **normal** rates.
- Heat index was derived using the **heat index equation** which was **similar** to **National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA**.
- It included the **impact** of **humidity** on the **high temperatures**.
- It tries to provide a feel like **temperature** for **human beings** which can be used as an **indication** for **human discomfort**.
- It is implemented on experimental basis across the **entire country**.
- It provides guidance towards **additional care** to be taken by people to reduce discomfort.
- **Colour codes** used for Experimental Heat Index are:
 - **Green:** Experimental heat Index **less than 35° C**
 - **Yellow:** Experimental heat Index in the range **36-45° C**
 - **Orange:** Experimental heat Index in the range **46-55° C**
 - **Red:** Experimental heat Index **greater than 55° C**
- Heat index for **Bhubaneswar** and **Ahmedabad (Heat Action Plan)** is done under project mode by **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** with agencies like **Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH)**.

New tool for Met department



IMD, in addition to giving out the day's maximum and minimum temperatures, will soon issue a heat index (H.I.) reading

WHEN IS H.I. MOST REQUIRED?

Between June and August, when the high temperature and high humidity level makes stepping out uncomfortable. Prior to June, and after August, H.I. is similar or less than the actual temperature as dry heat is prevalent

COLOUR-CODED WARNINGS

GREEN ALERT

No risk

YELLOW ALERT

Be aware of high heat

ORANGE ALERT

Be prepared to take precautionary action against heat, or avoid exposure

RED ALERT

Be vigilant, step out only if necessary

WHAT IS HEAT INDEX?

An H.I. reading gives an estimation of what the temperature actually feels like. It factors:

- Cloud cover
- Wind speed
- Relative humidity
- Maximum temperature

[Ref- Hindustan Times]

About India Meteorological Department (IMD):

- IMD is the principal agency responsible for **meteorological observations, weather forecasting** and **seismology**.
- IMD was established in **1875**.
- It functions as an agency under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- Its headquarters are in **Delhi**.
- It operates on many **observation stations** across **India** and **Antarctica**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centers** of the [World Meteorological Organisation \(WMO\)](#).
 - It has the responsibility for **forecasting, naming** and distribution of **warnings** for **tropical cyclones** in the **Northern Indian Ocean region**, including the **Malacca Straits, the Bay**

of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.