

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 278  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2026**

**NATIONAL HEATWAVE HEALTH PREPAREDNESS FRAMEWORK**

**278 SHRI TERASH GOWALLA:**

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government proposes to establish a National Heatwave Health Preparedness Framework for public hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any standard treatment protocol has been issued for heat-related illnesses; and
- (d) the measures proposed to strengthen emergency healthcare facilities in heat-vulnerable districts?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) & (b): The Ministry through the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) implements National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH). Under this programme National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses (NAPHRI) and the guidance document "Strengthening Health Systems Preparedness for Heat Related Illnesses (HRI) in India" have been developed to strengthen preparedness and response of public health facilities for prevention and management of heat-related illnesses across the country. The details may be seen at the link: (<https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/pdf/heat12.pdf>)

The Ministry has been providing detailed guidance for health sector preparedness and response to health impacts of heat as heat-health action plans and advisories to state, district health departments and health facilities. Information on heat-health action plans and preparedness measures is at **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d) The National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses (NAPHRI) includes Management Workflows for suspected heatstroke victims at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level and in emergency departments at tertiary care level. This also includes instructions for first aid for heat exhaustion and heatstroke in children. The ministry has also formulated

guidelines on Emergency Cooling for Severe Heat Related Illnesses. The details may be seen at the link: ([https://www.ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/resource/1769333089\\_Emergency-Cooling-for-Severe-Heat-Related-Illnesses\\_March2024\\_NPCCHH.pdf](https://www.ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/resource/1769333089_Emergency-Cooling-for-Severe-Heat-Related-Illnesses_March2024_NPCCHH.pdf))

This guideline provides standard protocols and guidance for prevention, early recognition, triage, diagnosis, treatment, rapid cooling, referral, emergency transport and follow-up of patients with heat-related illnesses, along with preparedness of health facilities for effective management of cases. The Ministry has also developed guidance for Healthcare Professional and Community Health Workers on Heat and pregnancy (link: <https://www.ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/pdf/heat25.pdf>). The measures being implemented to strengthen emergency healthcare facilities in heat prone states of the country are placed at **Annexure-II**.

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**Heat-Health Action Plans and Preparedness Measures:**

**A. General awareness activities**

- i. Information, education and communication (IEC) material on vulnerable population for prevention of heat-related illnesses is disseminated to States/UTs.
- ii. Heat Action Day (June 2) and World Environment Day (June 5) were observed to engage various community and social media platforms for enhanced heat-health awareness.

**B. Capacity building activities**

- i. Virtual refresher training sessions were conducted for State, District nodal officers under NPCCHH, on health facility preparedness, HRI management and surveillance reporting.
- ii. In-person District Nodal Officers' training were conducted for clinical management, surveillance reporting of HRI and implementation of health sector activities.
- iii. Nation-wide virtual webinars on Clinical Aspects of Heat-Related Illnesses for Physician, Paediatricians, Medical Officers and State and District Public Health Officials were organized.

**C. Strengthening health sector preparedness**

- i. Heatstroke rooms i.e. provision of dedicated beds at secondary care facilities with emergency cooling and supportive care facilities in Public Health facilities has been developed. At primary care facilities and ambulances, rapid diagnosis and cooling measures has been developed.
- ii. National Heat-Related Illness and Death Surveillance was initiated on Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) reporting from States/UT.
- iii. Guidelines have been developed on Emergency Cooling for Severe Heat-Related Illnesses.

**D. Advisories issued**

Like every year an advisory was issued to all States/UTs outlining measures for strengthening health sector preparedness and increase community awareness. The advisory issued to States during 2026 is available at the Link :

([https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/pdf/5.%20Public%20Health%20Advisory\\_Extreme%20HeatHeatwave.pdf](https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/pdf/5.%20Public%20Health%20Advisory_Extreme%20HeatHeatwave.pdf))

## **Annexure-II**

### **The measures implemented to strengthen emergency healthcare facilities in heat prone states of the country:**

- Capacity building sessions for health care professionals, dissemination of heat early warnings in health sector and increasing public awareness through IEC campaigns and observation of Global Heat Action Day.
- Heatstroke management unit in public health facilities, Community Health Centres, and Sub-District and District Hospitals to strengthen the health system to manage the health impacts of frequent and intense heatwaves through Programme Implementation Planning (FY 26-27). Facilities are guided to have 5 dedicated beds for patients with severe heat-related illnesses (HRI) (i.e., heat exhaustion, heat stroke), ensure emergency active cooling, and safeguard general cooling and hydration utilities.
- Ambulances are strengthened to provide on-site rapid, active cooling using a feasible cooling method that can provide the best cooling rates, emphasizing an evidence-based "cool first, transport second" policy in managing severe HRI.