

Severe heatwave days double in Uttarakhand, worst in recent history

Prolonged Dry Spell, Record High Temperatures Impact Both Plains & Hills

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Dehradun: Past records of temperature patterns have revealed that Uttarakhand faced its worst heatwave in recent history this year, with temperatures consistently hitting above normal range and a prolonged dry spell recorded in May and June, affecting both plains and hills.

Data from the regional meteorological centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that Dehradun experienced 22 days of heat and severe heatwaves in these months, the highest in the past two decades. Maximum temperatures breached 40°C regularly, averaging at least 6.5°C above normal.

In May, temperatures exceeded 40°C on 10 days, hitting a record high of 43.2°C on the last day of the month. June



NOT A RECORD TO BE PROUD OF: According to Met data, Dehradun experienced 22 days of heatwave and severe heatwaves in May and June (to date), highest in past two decades

has already seen 12 days of extreme heat, with temperatures breaching 43°C once. Last year, the temperature in Dehradun did not exceed 40°C even once during both May and June.

"This summer, Uttarak-

hand has experienced an unprecedented prolonged dry spell, leading to a surge in temperatures and causing heatwave to severe heatwave conditions in various parts of the state. Another factor is that average temperatures are high-

20 heat deaths in Delhi govt hospitals in 48 hours, toll likely to rise sharply

New Delhi: Govt hospitals across the capital have confirmed at least 20 deaths in the last 48 hours due to the intense heatwave sweeping the region, including six casualties reported in central government hospitals, report **Anuja Jaiswal & Kushagra Dixit.**

However, the actual toll is likely to be much higher. As per data available with **TOI**, at least 52 people were declared 'dead on arrival' at various healthcare facilities under Delhi govt in the last two days, with Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital alone receiving 27 such bodies. Most of these deaths are suspected to be related to heat. Meanwhile, the unprecedented heat in the capital continued unabated. The minimum temperature at Safdarjung on Wednesday was recorded at 35.2°C, eight notches above normal, and the highest since 1964. This was the first time in 60 years that the minimum temperature at the station had stayed above 35°C.

er in May compared to June, meaning that heatwave conditions in May would be classified as severe heatwaves in June," Bikram Singh, director of the regional meteorological centre, told **TOI**.

Explaining the reasons be-

hind the unprecedented heatwave, Singh said, "This year, we experienced good showers in Feb, but the pre-monsoon season was nearly dry, causing temperatures to rise. The lack of rain in most parts of May contributed to this situation."

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