Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan

Why in news?

\n\n

\n
- The Ahmedabad’s Heat Action Plan was unveiled in 2013.
\n
- It has brought down heat wave linked deaths by up to 25%.
\n

\n\n

What was the condition in Ahmedabad?

\n\n

\n
- In May 2010, Ahmedabad witnessed heatwaves with record-breaking temperatures that took a toll of 4,462 lives.
\n
- This was 1,344 deaths more than that in May 2009.
\n
- So the Amdavad Municipal Corporation (AMC), public health experts and institutes, civil society groups and other stakeholders joined hands to prepare a **comprehensive Heat Action Plan (HAP) in 2013.**
\n

\n\n

What was the action plan about?

\n\n

\n
- The HAP’s primary goal was to create public awareness about extreme climates and necessary steps to tackle it and save lives.
\n
- It involves -
\n

\n\n

\n

1. Community outreach initiatives,
\n
2. Putting an early warning system to provide a seven-day advance forecast
\n
3. Capacity-building of health-care professionals to treat people with heat-related complications.
\n

\n\n

\n

- A nodal officer coordinates with other agencies and groups to implement the plan in summer when temperatures go up to 48°C.
\n
- Once the HAP is activated, the AMC issues colour-coded alerts or heat warnings based on weather forecasts.
\n
- e.g A Yellow alert is issued when the temperature is expected to range from 41.1°C to 43°C, Orange alert indicates a range of 43.1°C-44.9°C. The red alert signifies extreme heat upwards of 45°C.
\n
- Other actions envisaged in the plan include **stocking ice packs in hospitals** and **health centres**, extra water supplies in the vulnerable areas, opening drinking water centres, **running fountains and water sprinklers at crossroads** and altering school and college timings to ensure that children don't venture out during peak heat.
\n
- The mortality has come down 20-25% with the implementation of the HAP.
\n
- Following this civic bodies in Nagpur and Bhubaneswar have also launched a similar initiative.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering