



Government of India  
Ministry of Earth Sciences  
India Meteorological Department



Press Release  
Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Time of Issue: 1630 hours IST

### Special Bulletin for Heat Wave

**Subject: Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions likely to prevail over the plains of northwest India and central India during the week.**

#### **1. Day and night temperature status**

**During the past 24 hours ending at 0830 hours IST of today, the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2026:**

- ❖ **Heat wave conditions prevailed over a few pockets in Vidarbha and isolated places in West Madhya Pradesh.**
- ❖ **Maximum/day temperatures (as on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026)** were in the range of 40-45°C at most parts of Central India & adjoining north Peninsular India, at many parts of Gujarat states, Rajasthan & adjoining Haryana; 32-40°C over the rest parts of the country except parts of Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Northeast India, South Kerala and Tamil Nadu. **The highest maximum temperature of 46.4°C was reported at Banda (Uttar Pradesh).**
- ❖ **Day Temperatures/Maximum Temperature Departures (as on 17-05-2026)** were **markedly above normal (5.1 to 6°C)** at a few places over Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat Region; at isolated places over Bihar, East Uttar Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad and East Rajasthan; **appreciably above normal (3.1°C to 5.0°C)** at few places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Madhya Maharashtra and Vidarbha; at isolated places over Gangetic West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Marathwada; **above normal (1.6°C to 3.0°C)** at many places over West Rajasthan; at a few places over Haryana Chandigarh-Delhi, Punjab, Konkan & Goa and North Interior Karnataka; at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya, Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana and Kerala & Mahe and near **normal(-1.5°C to 1.5°C)** over rest of the Country.
- ❖ **Minimum/night temperatures (as on 18-05-2026)** were in the range of 29-32°C over south Rajasthan and south Vidarbha and in the range of 22-28°C over most parts of the country except over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and northeast parts of the country. **The lowest minimum temperature of 17.0°C** was observed at **Halflong (Assam)** over the plains of India.
- ❖ **Night Temperatures/Minimum temperatures (as on 18-05-2026)** were **markedly above normal (> 5.1°C)** at few places over Rajasthan, **appreciably above normal (3.1°C to 5.0°C)** at isolated places over Rajasthan, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Vidarbha, Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh and Uttar Pradesh; **above normal (1.6°C to 3.0°C)** at isolated places over Odisha, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathawada, Konkan & Goa, Gangetic West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh, Rajasthan, Gujarat Region, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana and **below normal or near normal** over rest parts of the country.

## 2. Forecasts of Temperatures and Heat Wave (refer Annexure I for Weather Warnings)

- ❖ A **gradual rise** in maximum temperatures by 2–3°C is likely over many parts of Northwest India from May 18 to May 24, and by 3–4°C over Chhattisgarh till May 21.
- ❖ No significant change in maximum temperatures is likely over Maharashtra and Gujarat, till May 18, followed by a gradual decrease of maximum temperatures by 2–3°C between May 19<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ No significant change in maximum temperatures is likely over the rest of the country till 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### ✓ **Heat Wave Warnings** (refer Annexure I for Heat Wave Weather Warnings)

#### **Northwest India**

**Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, & Delhi:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets from May 18 to May 24.

**West Rajasthan:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets from May 18 to May 24. **Warm night conditions** in isolated pockets from May 18 to May 21.

**East Rajasthan:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets from May 18 to May 24. **Warm night** conditions in isolated pockets from May 18 to May 20.

**Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets on May 18 & 19.

**West Uttar Pradesh:** Heat wave conditions in a few pockets on May 18, **heat wave to severe heat wave** conditions from May 19 to May 24. **Warm night** conditions in isolated pockets on May 18 & May 19.

**East Uttar Pradesh:** Heat wave conditions on May 18; **heat wave to severe heat wave** conditions from May 19 to May 24.

#### **West India**

**Gujarat Region:** Hot and humid conditions in isolated pockets on May 18.

#### **Central India**

**Madhya Pradesh:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets from May 18 to May 24.

**Chhattisgarh:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets from May 20 to May 24.

**Vidarbha:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets from May 18 to May 23. **Warm night** conditions in isolated pockets on May 18 & May 19.

**Marathwada:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets on May 18 & 19.

**Madhya Maharashtra:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets on May 18.

#### **East India**

**Bihar:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets on May 18 & 19.

**Odisha:** Hot and humid conditions in isolated pockets from May 18 to May 22.

#### **South India**

**Telangana:** Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets from May 19 to May 21.

**Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam:** Hot and humid conditions in isolated pockets on May 19, & **Heat wave** conditions in isolated pockets from May 20 to May 24.

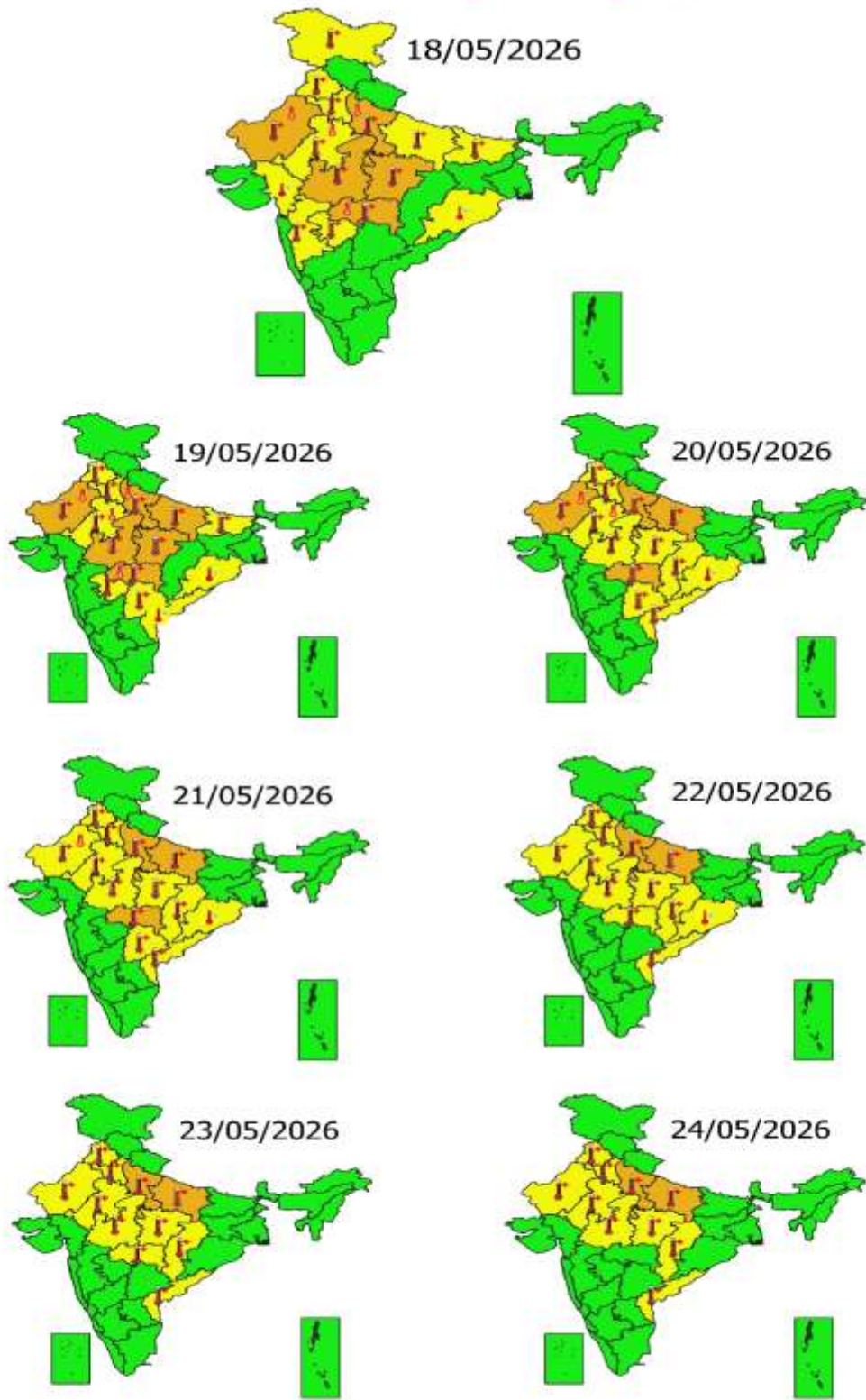
For more details, kindly refer National Weather Bulletin:

[https://mausam.imd.gov.in/responsive/all\\_india\\_forecast\\_bulletin.php](https://mausam.imd.gov.in/responsive/all_india_forecast_bulletin.php)

For District wise warnings refer: <https://mausam.imd.gov.in/responsive/districtWiseWarningGIS.php>

For detailed daily Press Release refer to [https://internal.imd.gov.in/press\\_release/20260307\\_pr\\_4789.pdf](https://internal.imd.gov.in/press_release/20260307_pr_4789.pdf)

Heat Wave, Hot & Humid and Warm Night Warning Map for Next 7 Days



**Warning Symbol:**  
🌡️ Heat Wave  
🔥 Warm Night  
☀️⚡ Hot & Humid

**Legend:**  
🟢 NO WARNING  
🟡 WATCH (BE UPDATED)  
🟠 ALERT (BE PREPARED)  
🔴 WARNING (TAKE ACTION)

- Action may be taken based on **ORANGE AND RED COLOUR** warnings.
- As the lead period increases, forecast accuracy decreases.

Detailed district-wise Multi-Hazard weather warning for next five days available at <https://mausam.imd.gov.in/responsive/districtWiseWarningGIS.php>

### Impact expected and action suggested due to heat wave/severe heat wave conditions

#### Orange alert Areas

- ❖ High temperature & increased likelihood of heat illness symptoms in people who are either exposed to the sun for a prolonged period or doing heavy work.
- ❖ High health concern for vulnerable people, e.g. infants, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases.
- ❖ Avoid heat exposure– keep cool. Avoid dehydration.
- ❖ Drink sufficient water- even if not thirsty.
- ❖ Use ORS, homemade drinks like lassi, torani (rice water), lemon water, buttermilk, etc. to keep yourself hydrated.

#### Yellow alert Areas

- ❖ Moderate temperature & heat is tolerable for the general public, but moderate health concerns are likely for vulnerable people, e.g. infants, elderly, people with chronic diseases.
- ❖ Avoid heat exposure.
- ❖ Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose cotton clothes.
- ❖ Cover your head, use a cloth, a hat or an umbrella.

### Agromet advisories for likely impact of Above normal Temperatures/Heat Waves

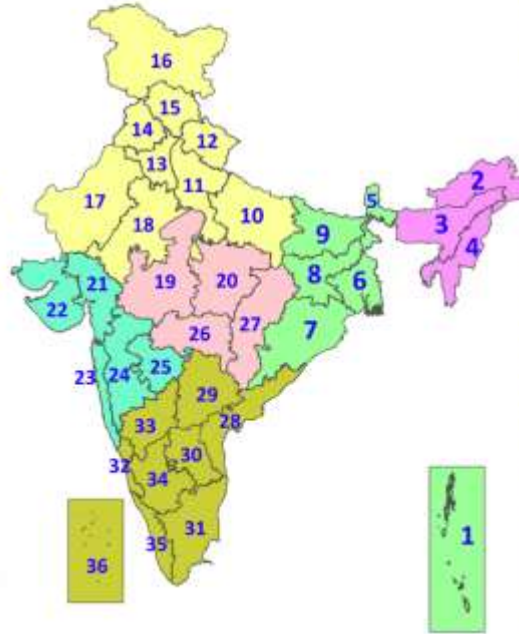
- In **Punjab**, apply light and frequent irrigation to vegetable, moong fruit plants orchards and onion nurseries.
- In **Haryana**, maintain adequate irrigation in standing sugarcane, cotton and summer fodder crops. Complete paddy nursery preparation with assured irrigation facilities and adopt mulching/moisture conservation practices to reduce water stress in newly sown crops
- In **Rajasthan**, apply need-based irrigation to green gram and summer cucurbit crops such as bottle gourd, pumpkin, ridge gourd, cucumber, bitter gourd, and summer ladyfinger, as well as to young fruit plants such as mango, amla, pomegranate, wood apple, and plum. Undertake soil mulching/mulching with straw/polythene to reduce water loss by evaporation.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, apply light irrigation to maize, moong, urd, groundnut, and vegetable crops as required.
- In **Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha**, provide light and frequent irrigation to vegetables and orchards during morning or evening hours, with increased frequency during critical growth stages. Irrigate sugarcane, summer groundnut, vegetables, and orchards as required; use organic or straw mulch in vegetables and orchards; cover banana bunches with leaves; and use shade nets in newly planted banana plantations.
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, provide frequent irrigation and mulching for standing crops such as maize, green gram, black gram, sugarcane, sunflower, vegetables, and fruit plants such as mango, banana, and papaya.
- **Bihar** - Apply light and frequent irrigation to the standing crops. Carry out mulching with crop residue, straw or polythene to minimize the loss of soil moisture. Use temporary shade nets to protect the fruit plants from high temperatures.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** - apply light and frequent irrigation to the standing crops, use temporary shade nets to protect the fruit plants from high temperatures.
- Apply mulching to conserve soil moisture in the standing crops.

#### Livestock / Poultry

- Provide clean, hygienic and plenty of drinking water to animals.
- To reduce the effect of heat wave/high temperature, cover the roof of poultry sheds with grass.

## LEGENDS

1. अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह
2. अरुणाचल प्रदेश
3. असम और मेघालय
4. नागालैंड, मणिपुर, मिजोरम और त्रिपुरा
5. उप-हिमालयी पश्चिम बंगाल और सिक्किम
6. गंगीय पश्चिम बंगाल
7. ओडिशा
8. झारखंड
9. बिहार
10. पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश
11. पश्चिम उत्तर प्रदेश
12. उत्तराखंड
13. हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़ और दिल्ली
14. पंजाब
15. हिमाचल प्रदेश
16. जम्मू और कश्मीर और लद्दाख
17. पश्चिम राजस्थान
18. पूर्वी राजस्थान
19. पश्चिम मध्य प्रदेश
20. पूर्वी मध्य प्रदेश
21. गुजरात
22. सौराष्ट्र
23. कोंकण और गोवा
24. मध्य महाराष्ट्र
25. मराठवाड़ा
26. विदर्भ
27. छत्तीसगढ़
28. तटीय आंध्र प्रदेश और यनम
29. तेलंगाना
30. रायलसीमा
31. तमिलनाडु, पुडुचेरी और कराईकल
32. तटीय कर्नाटक
33. आंतरिक उत्तरी कर्नाटक
34. आंतरिक दक्षिणी कर्नाटक
35. केरल और माहे
36. लक्षद्वीप



1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam & Meghalaya
4. Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura
5. Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim
6. Gangetic West Bengal
7. Odisha
8. Jharkhand
9. Bihar
10. East Uttar Pradesh
11. West Uttar Pradesh
12. Uttarakhand
13. Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi
14. Punjab
15. Himachal Pradesh
16. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
17. West Rajasthan
18. East Rajasthan
19. West Madhya Pradesh
20. East Madhya Pradesh
21. Gujarat
22. Saurashtra
23. Konkan & Goa
24. Madhya Maharashtra
25. Marathwada
26. Vidarbha
27. Chhattisgarh
28. Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam
29. Telangana
30. Rayalaseema
31. Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal
32. Coastal Karnataka
33. North Interior Karnataka
34. South Interior Karnataka
35. Kerala & Mahe
36. Lakshadweep

## SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION (% of Stations reporting)

% Stations	Category	% Stations	Category
76-100	Widespread (WS/Most Places)	26-50	Scattered (SCT/A Few Places)
51-75	Fairly Widespread (FWS/Many Places)	1-25	Isolated (ISOL)

- |                      |                      |              |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Fog                  | Heavy Snow           | Cold Wave    |
| Heavy Rain           | Dust Storm           | Cold Day     |
| Very Heavy Rain      | Heat Wave            | Ground Frost |
| Extremely Heavy Rain | Warm Night           |              |
| Thunder & Lightning  | Hot Day              |              |
| Hailstorm            | Hot & Humid          |              |
| Dust Raising Winds   | Strong Surface Winds |              |

### COLOUR CODED WARNING

No Warning (No Action)
Watch (Be Aware)
Alert (Be Prepared To Take Action)
Warning (Take Action)

### Probabilistic Forecast

Terms	Probability of Occurrence (%)
Unlikely	< 25
Likely	25 - 50
Very Likely	50 - 75
Most Likely	> 75

\* Red colour warning does not mean "Red Alert", Red colour warning means "Take Action".  
Forecast and Warning for any day is valid from 0830 hours IST of day till 0830 hours IST of next day.  
For more details, kindly visit <https://mausam.imd.gov.in> or contact: 011-2434-4599  
(Service to the Nation since 1875)

### DEFINITION/CRITERIA

<b>Rain/ Snow *</b>	<p><b>Heavy:</b> 64.5 to 115.5 mm/cm *</p> <p><b>Very Heavy:</b> 115.6 to 204.4 mm/cm*</p> <p><b>Extremely Heavy:</b> &gt; 204.4 mm/cm *</p>
<b>Heat Wave</b>	<p>When maximum temperature of a station reaches <math>\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}</math> for plains and <math>\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}</math> for hilly regions</p> <p><b>(a) Based on Departure from normal</b></p> <p><b>Heat Wave:</b> Maximum Temperature Departure from normal <math>4.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math> to <math>6.4^{\circ}\text{C}</math>.</p> <p><b>Severe Heat Wave:</b> Maximum Temperature Departure from normal <math>\geq 6.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math></p> <p><b>(b). Based on Actual maximum temperature</b></p> <p><b>Heat Wave:</b> When actual maximum temperature <math>\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}</math>.</p> <p><b>Severe Heat Wave:</b> When actual maximum temperature <math>\geq 47^{\circ}\text{C}</math></p> <p><b>( c). Criteria for heat wave for coastal stations</b></p> <p>When maximum temperature departure is <math>&gt;4.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math> from normal. Heat Wave may be described provided maximum temperature <math>\geq 37^{\circ}\text{C}</math></p>
<b>Warm Night</b>	<p><b>When maximum temperature remains <math>40^{\circ}\text{C}</math></b></p> <p><b>Warm Night:</b> When minimum temperature departure <math>4.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math> to <math>6.4^{\circ}\text{C}</math>.</p> <p><b>Severe Warm Night:</b> When minimum temperature departure <math>&gt;6.4^{\circ}\text{C}</math>.</p>
<b>Cold Wave</b>	<p>When minimum temperature of a station <math>\leq 10^{\circ}\text{C}</math> for plains and <math>\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}</math> for hilly regions.</p> <p><b>(a). Based on departure</b></p> <p><b>Cold Wave:</b> Minimum Temperature Departure from normal <math>-4.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math> to <math>-6.4^{\circ}\text{C}</math>.</p> <p><b>Severe Cold Wave:</b> Minimum Temperature Departure from normal <math>\leq -6.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math></p> <p><b>(b) Based on actual Minimum Temperature (for Plains only)</b></p> <p><b>Cold Wave :</b> When Minimum Temperature is <math>\leq 4.0^{\circ}\text{C}</math></p> <p><b>Severe Cold Wave:</b> When Minimum Temperature is <math>\leq 2.0^{\circ}\text{C}</math></p> <p><b>( c) For Coastal Stations</b></p> <p>When Minimum Temperature departure is <math>\leq -4.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math> &amp; actual Minimum Temperature is <math>\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}</math></p>
<b>Cold Day</b>	<p>When minimum temperature of a station <math>\leq 10^{\circ}\text{C}</math> for plains and <math>\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}</math> for hilly regions</p> <p><b>Based on departure</b></p> <p><b>Cold Day:</b> Maximum Temperature Departure from normal <math>-4.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math> to <math>-6.4^{\circ}\text{C}</math>.</p> <p><b>Severe Cold Day:</b> Maximum Temperature Departure from normal <math>\leq -6.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math></p>
<b>Fog</b>	<p><b>Phenomenon of small droplets suspended in air and the horizontal visibility <math>&lt; 1\text{km}</math></b></p> <p><b>Moderate Fog:</b> When the visibility between 500-200 metres</p> <p><b>Dense Fog:</b> when the visibility between 50- 200 metres</p> <p><b>Very Dense Fog:</b> when the visibility <math>&lt; 50</math> metres</p>
<b>Thunderstorm</b>	<p>Sudden electrical discharges manifested by a flash of light (Lightning) and a sharp rumbling sound (thunder)</p>
<b>Dust/Sand Storm</b>	<p>An ensemble of particles of dust or sand energetically lifted to great heights by a strong and turbulent wind.</p>
<b>Frost</b>	<p><b>Ice deposits on ground</b></p> <p>Air temperature <math>\leq 4^{\circ}\text{C}</math> ( over Plains)</p>
<b>Squall</b>	<p><b>A strong wind that rises suddenly, lasts for atleast 1 minute.</b></p> <p><b>Moderate:</b> Wind speed 52-61 kmph</p> <p><b>Severe:</b> Wind speed 62-67 kmph</p> <p><b>Very Severe:</b> Wind speed <math>&gt;67</math> kmph</p>
<b>Sea State</b>	<p><b>Effect of various waves in the sea over specific area</b></p> <p><b>Rough to very rough:</b> Wind speed 41-62 kmph (22-33 knots) &amp; Wave height 2.5-6 metre</p> <p><b>High to very high:</b> Wind speed 63-117 kmph ( 34-63 knots) &amp; Wave height 6-14 metre</p> <p><b>Phenomenal:</b> Wind speed <math>&gt;117</math> kmph (<math>&gt;63</math> knots) &amp; Wave height <math>&gt;14</math> metre</p>
<b>Cyclone</b>	<p><b>Cyclonic Storm:</b> Wind speed 62-67 kmph (34-47 knots)</p> <p><b>Severe Cyclonic Storm:</b> Wind speed 88-117 kmph (48-63 knots)</p> <p><b>Very Severe Cyclonic Storm:</b> Wind speed 118-165 kmph (64 - 89 knots)</p> <p><b>Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm:</b> Wind speed 166-220 kmph (90 -119 knots)</p> <p><b>Super Cyclone Storm:</b> Wind speed <math>&gt;220</math> kmph (<math>&gt;119</math> knots)</p>

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