

Department of Tourism, Govt. of Odisha

Heatwave Action Plan 2020

Introduction

Odisha's pristine coastal region, which is globally renowned for its diverse cultural and natural heritage, and which accounts for over 90% of the tourism activity in the state, is disaster prone, given the intensity of summer heat, with day temperatures rising to 45°C, and the increasing recurrence of cyclones, most notably 2019's extremely severe Cyclone Fani.

With a view to mitigate the impacts of a possible heatwave, the Department of Tourism (DoT) has formulated the heatwave action plan with interventional directions for key stakeholders and concerns.

Stakeholders:

- Dept. of Disaster Management
- Dept. of Health & Family Welfare
- Dept. of Public Health Engineering
- Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
- Dept. of Forest & Environment
- Dept. of Culture
- Dept. of Water Resources
- District Administrations
- District Tourism Development Committees (DTDCs) and Local Tourism Development Committees (LTDCs)
- Others: ASI, Commissioner of Endowments, etc.
- Tourism related entities: HRAO, IATO (Odisha Chapter), TAAO, OTOA, OTGA, SLTGA, TGA

Infrastructural Preparedness:

DoT has recently carried out an extensive infrastructure gap assessment of 83 key tourist destinations out of 358 in Phase-1 of the exercise, in which it has inter alia identified gaps with regard to:

- Wayside amenities with toilet, snack bars and refreshment parlours, resting rooms, sitting spaces, etc.
- Adequately vented resting sheds
- Road access
- Power supply including back-up power
- Water supply for drinking and other purposes
- Separate toilet facilities for males and females, disabled

- Medical facilities, especially first-aid kits and quick relief inventory including provision of ORS, and responsiveness of ambulatory services
- Ramps, railings and wheelchairs
- Adequate signages, information boards, you are here maps

The Department will work towards expediting the provisioning of preventive and mitigative services and facilities amongst those listed above on priority basis.

Readiness enhancement measures:

DoT plans to implement the following in order to enhance its readiness for the heatwave:

- Mapping of high-risk zones (e.g. Dhenkanal, Angul, Sundergarh, Cuttack, Khordha, Ganjam) under the guidance of Indian Meteorological Dept. (IMD) conducting workshops for the District Tourist Office staff covering the high-risk zones, including the use of SATARK platform for enabling greater responsiveness.
- Advisories on DO's & DON'Ts and special provisions will be compiled for and disseminated to:
 - Tourists – Digitally on Website, Social Media and physically at all Tourist Centres
 - Hotels, other hospitality accommodations, eateries and their employees
 - Managements of Tourist Destinations
 - Tourism service providers such as:
 - Tour Operators
 - Tourist Guides
 - Transport Service providers like Bus Operators, Taxi & Auto Drivers, etc.
 - Boatmen
 - Operators of recreation facilities such as water sports, heritage walks, adventure activities, camps, etc.
- DoT in coordination with Health Department and district administration will review the responsiveness of links between tourist centres and nearest clinical care establishments (hospitals, clinics, etc.)
- DoT & OTDC will encourage employees to exercise adequate precaution and positive habits by provisioning caps and water bottles
- DoT will work with concerned authorities and departments to alter employee shift schedules to reduce heat exposure risks.