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Colour-Coded Warnings by the IMD

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Why in News

Recently, the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** has issued a **yellow weather warning** for **heavy rain and snowfall** in Himachal Pradesh.

Yellow weather warning indicates **severely bad** weather spanning across several days.

Key Points

- **Colour- Coded Weather Warning**

- It is issued by the **IMD** whose objective is to alert people ahead of severe or hazardous weather which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption or danger to life.
- Warnings are updated daily.
- The IMD uses 4 colour codes are:
 - **Green (All is well):** No advisory is issued.
 - **Yellow (Be Aware):** Yellow indicates **severely bad** weather spanning across several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities.
 - **Orange/Amber (Be prepared):** The orange alert is issued as a warning of **extremely bad weather** with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.
 - **Red (Take Action):** When the extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to **disrupt** travel and power and have significant risk to life, the red alert is issued.

- These alerts are **universal** in nature and are also issued during **floods**, depending on the amount of water rising above land/in a river as a result of torrential rainfall.
For instance, when the water in a river is 'above normal' level, or between the 'warning' and 'danger' levels, a yellow alert is issued.

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was established in 1875.
- It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology

Source: TH