



## World Meteorological Day

**For Prelims:** World Meteorological Day, Greenhouse Gases, Conference of Parties, Floods, Droughts, Heatwaves, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC.

**For Mains:** Role of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in tackling disaster, Issues related to increasing disaster and steps needs to be taken.

### Why in News?

Every year, World Meteorological Day is celebrated globally on **23<sup>rd</sup> March**.

- Earlier in October, 2021, the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#) released the [State of Climate Services report 2021](#).

### What is the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)?

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an **intergovernmental organization** with a membership of 192 Member States and Territories.
  - India is a member of WMO.
- It **originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO)**, which was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on **23<sup>rd</sup> March 1950**, WMO became the **specialized agency of the United Nations** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.'
- WMO is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**.

### What are the Key Highlights of the World Meteorological Day?

- **About:**
  - The day is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#), which was created in 1950.
  - Being **celebrated since 1961**, the day is also observed to **make people aware of their role in protecting Earth's atmosphere**.
- **Theme for 2022:**
  - Early warning and early action - it emphasises the critical necessity of hydrometeorological and climate information for disaster risk reduction.
- **State of Disasters:**
  - **World:**
    - A disaster related to a **weather, climate or water hazard occurred every day** on average over the past 50 years – killing 115 people and causing USD 202 million in losses daily.

- According to the **WMO Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970 - 2019)**, there were more than **11, 000 reported disasters** attributed to these hazards globally.
- The **number of disasters has increased by a factor of five over the 50-year period**, driven by [climate change](#), more extreme weather and improved reporting.
- The **frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is set to rise** due to more and more [greenhouse gases](#) being added to the atmosphere every year, resulting in warming.
- **India:**
  - The number of **severe cyclones over the Arabian Sea has risen by 1 per decade** and maximum temperature has increased by 0.99 degree C since 1901 in India - small numbers that are big when it comes to weather.
  - There is a significant rise in **heavy rainfall events also over India.**

## What are the Initiatives taken to tackle Disaster on WMO Day?

### ▪ Action Plan on Early Warning Systems:

- WMO will present an action plan on early warning systems at the 27<sup>th</sup> [Conference of Parties \(CoP\)](#) to the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) in November 2022 in Egypt.
  - An early warning system for [floods, droughts, heatwaves or storms](#), is an integrated system which alerts people to hazardous weather. It also informs how **governments, communities and individuals can act to minimise the possible impacts** of the weather event.
  - The aim is to **understand what risks the foreseeable storms** could bring to an area that will be affected — which may differ if it is a city or rural area, polar, coastal or mountainous regions.

### ▪ Need:

- A third of the world's people, mainly in **Least Developed Countries (LDC)** and [Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#), are still not covered by early warning systems.
  - In Africa, it is even worse: **60%of people lack coverage.**

## What is the State of Early Warning System in India?

### ▪ About:

- Early warning systems in India such as the [India Meteorological Department's \(IMD\)](#) regular cyclone alerts, combined with brisk action taken by state and district administrations, have already saved hundreds or even thousands of lives in the past few years.
- But still more needs to be done in this regard, **especially in the field of district and even village-level weather prediction and early warning.**

### ▪ Initiatives for Early Warning:

- In June 2020, the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, in collaboration with the disaster management department, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, launched the **Integrated Flood Warning system for Mumbai, referred to as iFLOWS-MUMBAI.**
- Uttarakhand launched the '[Uttarakhand Earthquake Alert' app](#) to provide early warning of earthquakes in the state.
- The [Indian Tsunami Early Warning System \(ITEWS\)](#) was established in 2007 and is based at & operated by INCOIS, Hyderabad.
- The [Council of Scientific and Industrial Research -National Geophysical Research Institute \(CSIR-NGRI\)](#) has launched an 'Environmental Seismology' group to develop a 'Landslide and Flood Early Warning System' for the [Himalayan region.](#)
- '[Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology \(O-SMART\)' Scheme](#) is a government scheme that aims at promoting ocean research and setting up early warning weather systems.

## Way Forward

- **Greater coordination between national meteorological and hydrological services,** disaster management authorities and development agencies are fundamental to better prevention, preparedness and response.
- There is a need to **increase investment during the coming five years** to improve the quality of the services and related infrastructures, especially in the LDC and SIDS countries.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. “Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now” is an initiative launched by (2018)**

- (a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organisation

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. Which one of the following is not related to the United Nations? (2010)**

- (a) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- (b) International Finance Corporation
- (c) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- (d) Bank for International Settlements

**Ans: (d)**

**[Source: DTE](#)**

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