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## **1. Large parts of Maharashtra are reeling under drought: When, and how, does a state govt declare drought?**

- What is drought? What are its types?
- On what basis does the state government declare drought?

### **GS paper 3 (Disaster management)**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Express News service. ( 2018, November , 25). Drought: When, and how, does a state govt declare one?. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/drought-when-and-how-does-a-state-govt-declare-one-5460455/>

### **What is the context about?**

- Large parts of Maharashtra are reeling under drought.
- According to an observation report by "World Bank" the Marathawada, Gujarat, and north Karnataka region have been worst affected districts in India.
- While the word ‘drought’ usually brings to mind a period of unusually dry weather, crop damage and water supply shortages, there are guidelines in place for a state government for declaring a drought in a state or area.

### **What is drought? What are its types?**



Drought is a condition of extreme prolonged duration of dryness , lack of precipitation , reduction of soil moisture below the adequate level for plants, animals and humans to survive.

## **TYPES OF DROUGHTS**

- ❑ **Meteorological Drought :** It describes a situation where there is a reduction in rainfall for a specific period (days ,months, seasons or year )below a specific amount (long term average for a specific amount).
- ❑ **Hydrological Drought:** Hydrological drought is associated with reduction of water. A meteorological drought often leads to hydrological drought. There are two types of hydrological droughts viz.1.) surface water drought and (ii) ground water drought.
- ❑ **Agricultural drought:** Inadequate soil moisture resulting in acute crop stress and fall in agricultural productivity

- ❑ **Soil Moisture Drought:** This is a situation of inadequate soil moisture particularly in rain fed areas which may not support crop growth.
- ❑ **Socio-Economic Drought:** It reflects the reduction of availability of food and income loss on account of crop failures endangering food and social security of the people in the affected areas.

### **On what basis does the state government declare drought?**

A manual published by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2016 suggests a three-step approach.

- ❑ **The first step** is to look at two mandatory indicators — rainfall deviation and dry spell. Depending on the extent of deviation, and whether or not there is a dry spell, the manual specifies various situations that may or may not be considered a drought trigger.
- ❑ **The next step** is to look at four impact indicators — agriculture, vegetation indices based on remote sensing, soil moisture, and hydrology. Each impact can be assessed on the basis of various indices.
- ❑ **The third step** comes in after both previous triggers have been set off. In that event, “States will conduct sample survey for ground truthing... in order to make a final determination of drought. The finding of field verification exercise will be the final basis for judging the intensity of drought as ‘severe’ or ‘moderate’.”

