



Madhya Pradesh Classifies Heatwaves as Disasters

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government has classified [heatwaves](#) as [natural disasters](#), enabling compensation for victims.

Key Points

- **Financial Assistance:**
 - Individuals who suffer fatalities due to [heatwaves](#) will receive **compensation** similar to that provided for other natural calamities like floods and earthquakes.
- **Legal Framework:**
 - Heatwaves have been officially notified as a local disaster under the [Madhya Pradesh Disaster Management Act of 2005](#), following directives from the **central Ministry of Home Affairs**.
 - This regulation will take effect in **summer 2025**.
- **Casualties and Health Impact:**
 - Recent heatwaves in northern India resulted in **114 fatalities** and over 40,000 **suspected heatstroke cases** reported from March 1 to June 19, 2024.
 - The highest number of heatstroke deaths were recorded in **Uttar Pradesh (37), Bihar (17), Rajasthan (16), and Odisha (13)**.
- **Nature of Heatwaves:**
 - Heatwaves are characterized by excessively high temperatures and high humidity, typically occurring from **April to June**.
 - They pose serious health risks, including [heatstroke](#) and **dehydration**, and can severely impact agriculture, water supply, and public health.

Heat Waves

- **About:**
 - Heatwaves are prolonged periods of excessively hot weather that can cause adverse impacts on human health, the environment, and the economy.
 - India, being a tropical country, is particularly vulnerable to heatwaves, which have become more frequent and intense in recent years.
- **Criteria for Declaring Heat Wave in India:**
 - **Plains and Hilly Regions:**
 - Heat wave is considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at **least 40°C or more for Plains and at least 30°C or more for Hilly** regions.
 - **Based on Departure from Normal Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is 4.50°C to 6.40°C.
 - **Severe Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is **>6.40°C**.
 - **Based on Actual Maximum Temperature Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature $\geq 45^\circ\text{C}$.
 - **Severe Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature $\geq 47^\circ\text{C}$.
 - If the above criteria are met in at least 2 stations in a Meteorological subdivision for at least two consecutive days, it is declared so on the second day.
 - **Coastal Areas:**

- When maximum temperature departure is **4.50°C or more from normal**, a heat wave may be described provided the actual maximum temperature is **37°C or more**.

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