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Notified Natural Calamities Update

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Security*

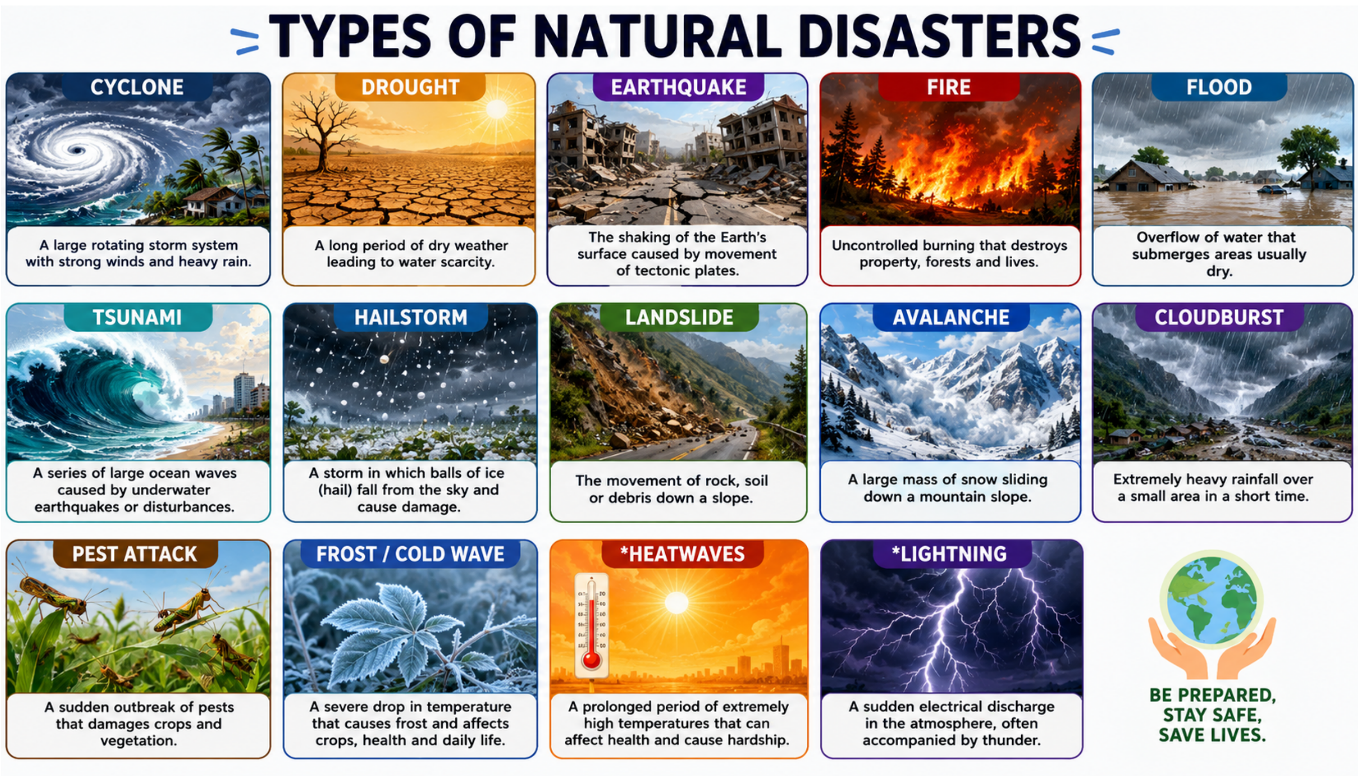
Why in News?

India has added heatwaves and lightning to its list of notified natural disasters.

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs issued operational guidelines for the administration of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for 2026-31.
- Thus, India officially recognises **14 national disasters** as notified.
- It is making states eligible for financial assistance under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- The decision follows recommendations by the 16th Finance Commission and comes amid rising concern over extreme weather linked to climate change.
- States can now draw on the State Disaster Response Fund and mitigation funds for heatwave and lightning-related relief, with the National Disaster Response Fund available when state funds are inadequate.
- Until now, heatwaves were excluded from the Disaster Management Act's notified disaster list.
- That covered only 12 categories: cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, and frost/cold wave.
- Earlier, states had to notify heatwaves at the state level and could spend only up to 10 per cent of their annual SDRF allocation for heatwave relief.
- Now, with the new notification, states can draw on the full state disaster response and mitigation funds, and the national fund also becomes available when state funds are inadequate.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is implementing heat-health interventions through the National Programme on Climate Change & Human Health (NPCCHH) in accordance with the National Action Plan on Heat-Related Illness (NAPHRI).
- Additionally, the National Heat-Related Illness and Death Surveillance

(NHRIDS) has been activated for over 51,000 reporting units across the country, which include all Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and higher-level hospitals.

- **SDRF -** States use the State Disaster Response Fund for fast, local help.
- **NDRF -** The central government gives extra money from the National Disaster Response Fund if local funds are not enough.
- Both are established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, replacing the old National Calamity Contingency Fund in 2010.
- It is financed entirely by the central government, primarily through specific cesses and duties.
- It is kept in the Public Account of India under non-interest-bearing reserve funds, allowing quick access without extra parliamentary approval.
- The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to notified disasters.
- The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir).
- SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims
- It does not act as property or crop loss compensation.
- The National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) supplements SDRF of a state in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in SDRF.



Reference

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