



## TAMILNADU'S HEATWAVE DECLARATION: GEOGRAPHY

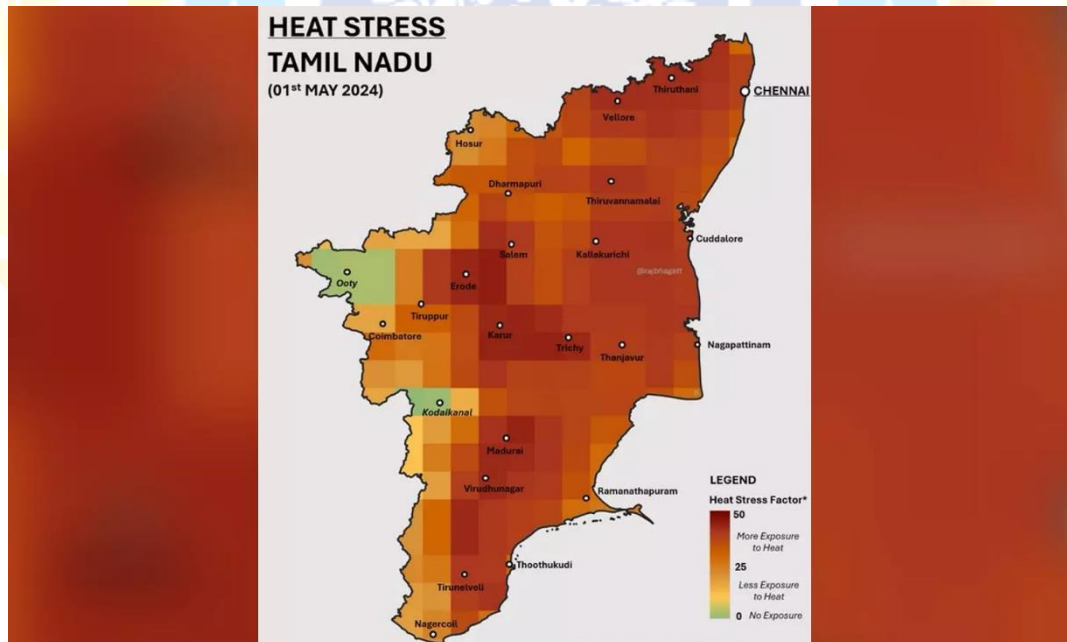
**NEWS:** TN notifies heatwaves as 'state disaster', facilitates Rs 4 lakh ex gratia for death due to heat-related causes

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The order stated that heat waves, intensified by geographical and environmental factors such as barren rocky terrains and coastal humidity, have emerged as a serious threat in Tamil Nadu.

### Tamil Nadu's Heatwave Declaration

- **Recognition of Heatwaves as Disaster:** Tamil Nadu is among the first states in India to officially classify heatwaves as a disaster, allowing rapid response measures.
- **Use of SDRF:** The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is allocated to support relief efforts for populations affected by extreme heat.
- **Compensation for Fatalities:** Families of individuals who die due to heat-related causes, including those involved in relief operations, receive ₹4 lakh as ex-gratia compensation.
- **Definition of Heat Waves:** A prolonged period of excessively high temperatures above regional averages, often affecting North-Western India from March to June, extending into July.
- **IMD Criteria for Heatwaves:**



### Temperature Thresholds:

- Plains: 40°C or higher
- Hilly regions: 30°C or higher



## Departure from Normal:

- Normal max  $\leq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ : 5-6 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  rise (Heatwave), 7 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  or more (Severe Heatwave)
- Normal max  $> 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ : 4-5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  rise (Heatwave), 6 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  or more (Severe Heatwave)
- **Extreme Heat Condition:** 45 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  or more

**Rising Intensity and Frequency:** Climate change has increased the intensity, duration, and frequency of heatwaves, posing health risks and stressing healthcare systems.

## Causes:

- **Urban Heat Island Effect:** Cities retain more heat due to human activity, concrete, and limited vegetation.
- **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures globally.
- **Atmospheric Patterns:** High-pressure systems trap warm air.

## Coping Measures:

- IMD heatwave alerts, public awareness
- Cooling centers and shelters for relief
- Hydration, limiting outdoor activity
- Heat action plans and medical aid

**Source :** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Oct/29/tn-notifies-heatwaves-as-state-disaster-facilitates-rs-4-lakh-ex-gratia-for-death-due-to-heat-related-causes>