



Ministry of
**Electronics &
Information Technology**
Government of India



Digital India
Power To Empower



National e-Governance Division

PRESS NOTE

Digital India Ask Our Experts

- **Episode 46 highlights India's National Framework for Heatwave Management**
- **Discussions held on preparedness, early warning systems, local mitigation strategies, and citizen awareness to tackle rising heat risks**

New Delhi: The 46th episode of Digital India Ask Our Experts focused on India's National Framework for Heatwave Management, highlighting the country's evolving preparedness strategy to address the increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves.

The Digital India Ask Our Experts is a live interactive programme streamed on Digital India's YouTube channel. This episode hosted Shri Krishna S Vatsa, Member and HoD, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Watch the episode at https://www.youtube.com/live/PJNtl_47b1E?si=ATq2k-AcVtUYG046



The discussion emphasized that heatwaves are emerging as a major public health and climate challenge, with rising global temperatures and the growing 'Urban Heat Island' effect contributing to prolonged and more intense heat conditions, particularly in cities.

The episode highlighted the efforts of NDMA in developing a structured response mechanism following the severe heatwave events of 2011–2012. Since then, over 300 Heat Action Plans have been prepared across states, districts and cities to strengthen both immediate response and long-term climate resilience.

Shri Vatsa discussed how these plans focus on practical and locally adaptable solutions, including improved cross-ventilation in homes, use of cool roof materials, expansion of tree cover and urban forests, and revival of water bodies to help manage rising temperatures.

The importance of early warning systems was also underscored during the discussion. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues colour-coded heat alerts based on deviations from normal temperatures, enabling district administrations, hospitals and emergency systems to prepare in advance and minimise risks to citizens.

The episode further highlighted the need to balance public safety with economic productivity. Experts stressed that proper planning, such as rescheduling outdoor and construction work away from peak afternoon heat hours, can help reduce both health risks and productivity losses.

The role of technology and data-driven planning in heatwave management was another key focus area. The discussion explored how emerging technologies, including AI, are supporting better monitoring, forecasting and planning, while partnerships with academic institutions and local communities are helping strengthen climate resilience at the grassroots level.

The episode encouraged citizens to take heat advisories seriously and adopt simple preventive measures to protect themselves and vulnerable groups such as children, elderly persons and outdoor workers during extreme heat conditions. The discussion reinforced the importance of preparedness, awareness and coordinated action in building a heat-resilient India. For more information on upcoming episodes and Digital India initiatives, visit www.digitalindia.gov.in and www.negd.gov.in.