

India Meteorological Department (IMD) on January 6, 2020 released report on India's climate in 2019

A consolidated report of 2019 weather is released by India Meteorological Department (IMD) on January 6, 2020 acknowledging a very higher number of casualties due to different extreme weather events. More than 1500 people were killed in India during 2019 due to different extreme weather events of which more than 800 deaths are reported due to being floods across different states of the country. Of these, 306 deaths were reported from Bihar alone, followed by Maharashtra (136), Uttar Pradesh (107), Kerala (88), Rajasthan (80) and Karnataka (43). These states witnessed extremely heavy rains over short intervals during the monsoon season of 2019. However, information on the loss of life and property in northeast India is missing from the IMD report. Northeastern states witness extreme recurring floods every year and 2019 was also not an exception.

Apart from extremely heavy rainfall and flood, the country also witnessed extreme heat, cold waves, snowfall, thunderstorms, dust storms, lightning and cyclones etc. wrecking havoc across the country.

It was for the first time after 1902, that the number of cyclones increased to five on the Arabian Sea on India's west, which usually undergoes only one cyclone in a year. The country has undergone total ten cyclones in 2019. While the country's west sea witnessed five cyclones, on the eastern side at The Bay of Bengal, the number of cyclones decreased in 2019. Bay of Bengal is considered to be the more cyclone prone area of the country, but instead of usual four cyclones per year in this area, the number of cyclones came down to three in 2019.

The IMD report also stated that in 2019 annual mean land surface air temperature of the country was +0.36°C above the 1981-2010 period average, making the year 2019 the seventh warmest year since 1901.

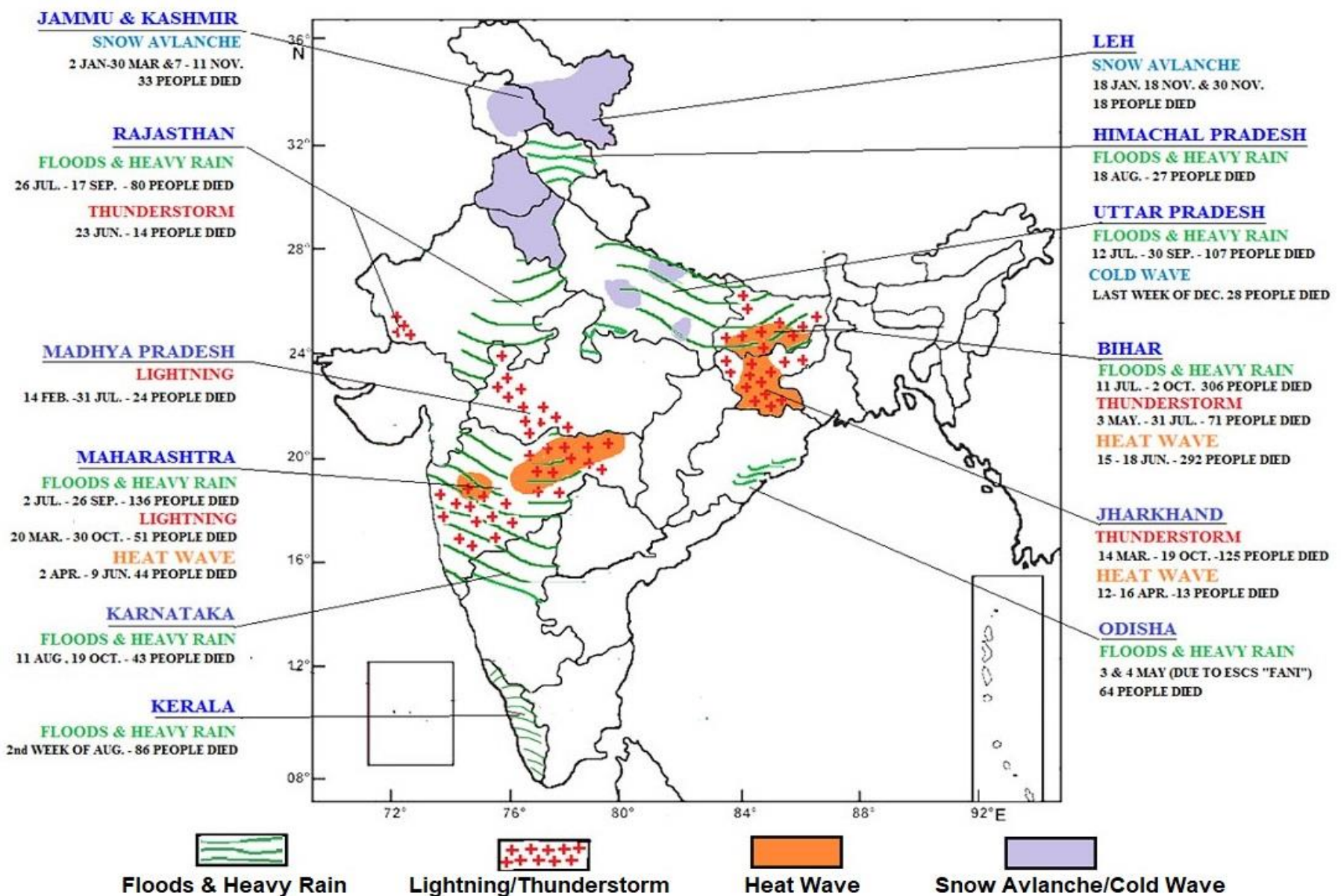


Figure: Major Extreme weather events occurred during 2019 and the associated loss of life.