Heatwave in States, including Jharkhand

Why in News?

Recently, the **India Meteorological Department** forecast **heatwave conditions** in parts of Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal, **Jharkhand,** Andhra Pradesh and Yanam over the next two-three days.

Key Points

- The weather department has forecast a **harsh and arid summer** over a majority of regions of the country **during April-June 2024.**
  - There is a high probability of heatwave episodes lasting in a range of 10 to 20 days during the period.
- During April, the performance of the **pre-monsoon rainfall** shall be **below average**, mainly **over coastal India, eastern and south peninsular India.**
  - The rainfall forecast indicates that the dry weather since February 2024 would continue over these regions.
  - Aridity and shortage of water will aggravate during the summer season of 2024.

Heatwaves

- 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.
- IMD Criteria for Declaring Heat Wave in India:
  - Heat waves **need not be considered till the maximum temperature** of a station **reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions.**
  - If the **normal maximum temperature of a station** is less than or equal to **40°C, then an increase of 5°C to 6°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition.
  - Further, **an increase of 7°C or more from the normal temperature** is considered a severe heat wave condition.
  - If the **normal maximum temperature** of a station is **more than 40°C,** then an **increase of 4°C to 5°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition. Further, **an increase of 6°C or more** is considered a **severe heat wave condition.**
  - Additionally, if the **actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more** irrespective of **normal maximum temperature**, a heat wave is declared.