



Heatwave in States, including Jharkhand | Jharkhand | 05 Apr 2024

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.

Centre Aims 7-fold Jump in Wheat Procurement | Bihar | 05 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Centre has announced plans to significantly increase **wheat purchase from non-traditional states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar** and set a target of seven-fold jump in procurement to 50 lakh tonnes in 2024-25.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar contributed only 6.7 lakh tonnes to the central reserve during 2023-24.
 - The Union Food Ministry has decided to procure 16% of the total wheat procurement target of 310 lakh tonnes set for 2024-25.
- Wheat procurement at **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** is normally undertaken by the Centre's nodal agency **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** and state agencies.
- **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED)** and **National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF)** have also been included in the procurement target of 5 lakh each in 2024.
 - Wheat MSP has been fixed at Rs 2,275 per quintal for 2024.
- According to the sources, wheat procurement from non-traditional states will help restore allocation of wheat under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** and other welfare schemes.
- **Steps taken to strengthen wheat procurement** in non-traditional states:
 - The procurement window has been **extended to April instead of March**, and set up a dedicated **farmer helpline** to address procurement-related queries.
 - The government has decided to ensure **transfer of MSP to bank accounts of farmers within 48 hours**, streamlined procurement incidental burden for farmers, smoothed banking-related issues such as **Aadhaar integration with bank accounts**.
 - The government has also opened more procurement centres targeting production hotspots, set up mobile procurement centres, and decided to leverage **Self Help Groups, Panchayats, Farmer Producer Organisations**.
 - A **central control room** has been set up in the **FCI headquarters in Delhi** for real-time monitoring.
- According to the food ministry, six lakh tonnes of wheat have already been procured so far this year from **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar**.
- The **government has banned wheat exports since May 2022** to boost domestic availability and check prices.
 - The wheat production is estimated to be a record 112 million tonnes during 2023-24, compared to 2022's 110 million tonnes, as per the agriculture ministry.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)

- It is an **apex organization of marketing cooperatives** for **agricultural produce** in India.
- It was founded on **2nd October 1958** and is registered under the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002**.
- NAFED is now one of the largest procurement as well as marketing agencies for agricultural products in India.

Rajasthan Government Urged to Boost Destination Wedding Industry | Rajasthan | 05 Apr 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, the [tourism industry in Rajasthan](#) is looking to intensify efforts to **grow the destination wedding market**.

- Executives from the tourism industry said although Rajasthan hosts several royal weddings every year, the involvement of the tourism department seems to be lacking.

Key Points

- According to the **Rajasthan Tourism Department**, the state witnessed a remarkable increase in domestic tourism, with over **17.90 crore tourists** visiting the desert state in 2023.
 - In 2023, Rajasthan welcomed nearly **18 crore domestic and 17 lakh foreign tourists**, a significant increase from the figures **in 2020**, which were **1.51 crore domestic and 4.46 lakh foreign tourists**.
 - The numbers also saw a rise from **2.19 crore domestic and 34,806 foreign tourists in 2021 to 10.83 crore domestic and 39,684 foreign tourists in 2022**.
- Rajasthan has been a pioneer in evolving unique tourism products, be it the launch of the **Palace on Wheels luxury train in 1982** or creation of the festival experience like **Pushkar Fair or adaptive reuse of heritage properties as tourist destinations**.
- The **State granted the tourism sector the status of industry in 1989** and has since extended many fiscal incentives for the sector, beginning with the capital investment subsidy in 1993.

Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2020

- **Vision**
 - To reposition Rajasthan as a preferred **tourism destination for both domestic and international tourists** by offering tourists a high quality experience.
 - **Through responsible and sustainable policies** ensuring conservation of **natural, historical and cultural heritage of the State** while simultaneously accelerating socio-economic development by improving livelihood opportunities for the local population.
 - **Objectives**
 - Promote Rajasthan as a **leading tourism brand** in national and international markets.
 - Strengthen and diversify existing tourism products.
 - Provide **innovative tourism products and services** with focus on lesser known destinations especially in rural areas.
 - Improve the **connectivity of tourist destinations** through road, rail and air.
 - Expand tourist **accommodation infrastructure**.
 - Broad based **promotion and marketing of tourism** products.
 - Facilitate tourism specific skill development to create gainful self-employment.
 - Create suitable mechanisms to promote **effective interdepartmental coordination**.
 - Take steps to **encourage private sector investment** in the State.
 - To provide a safe and secure environment for tourists and in particular women travellers and also **improve tourist grievance redressal systems**.
 - To empower the department with suitable administrative structure for extending approvals for establishment of tourism units.
 - Market research and developing statistics grid development framework for better policy making and forecasting.
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Solar Energy Project in Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 05 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **UltraTech Cement Ltd** announced the completion of a **100-megawatt (MW)** [solar energy](#) project under the **Group Captive Scheme** in Rajasthan.

- This is the company's first project to source power for its captive consumption from the inter-state transmission network.

Key Points

- Power from this project will be available to the company's units in **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha among others.**
 - The company now has a capacity of 612 MW of renewable power and 278 MW of **Waste Heat Recovery System (WHRS)**.
 - WHRSs are revolutionary **energy-saving power generation systems** that **recover and reuse energy** from the main engine's exhaust gas.
- UltraTech Cement has committed to increasing its **green power mix to 85% by 2030**, and the project reaffirms its dedication to innovation, sustainability, and the pursuit of a brighter, cleaner future for all.

The Group Captive Scheme

- It is a **Power purchase mechanism** which involves individuals or groups establishing a power plant to buy electricity specifically for their own use.
- These captive users **must collectively own a minimum of 26%** of the power plant and **consume a minimum of 51%** of the generated electricity annually, based on their proportional ownership shares, with a **variation not exceeding 10%**.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/05-04-2024/print>