Down To Earth

CLIMATE

INDIA 2026

AN ASSESSMENT OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER

All 36 Indian states and Union Territories experienced extreme weather events

India experienced extreme weather events on 92% of the days in the first nine months

Extreme weather events killed 3,220 people and affected 4.25 million hectares of cropped area



Trends: Extreme weather events during 2022-2026

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CSE, founded in 1980, is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi. CSE researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable.
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Down To Earth is a fortnightly on the politics of environment and development. In its 35th year of publication, it continues to adhere to its founder Anil Agarwal's objective of bringing out news, perspectives and knowledge to prepare citizens to change the world.

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CONTENTS

05 **Foreword**

08 **Executive Summary**

14 **Comparative analysis (2022-26)**

22 **Regional analysis**
- All India
- Central
- South Peninsula
- Northwest
- East and Northeast

26 **Seasonal analysis**
- Winter (January-February)
- Pre-monsoon (March-May)
- Monsoon (June-September)

50 **Disaster-wise analysis**
- Lightning and storms
- Heavy rains, floods and landslides
- Heatwaves
- Coldwaves/cold days
- Snowfall
- Cloudbursts

Scan to access India's Atlas on Weather Disasters

FOREWORD

LET'S NOT BURY OUR HEADS IN SAND

SUNITA NARAIN

THE WORLD is on fire. But who will put out the flames when we are so caught up in multiple crises and trapped in a habit of procrastination? These polycrises are related, each feeding on the other—much like a flesh-eating bacteria. We need to get our heads out of the sand and start behaving like adults, rather than pushing away the changes that we need to be serious about. Let's do a reality check.

India was hit by almost one extreme weather event a day in the first nine months of 2026. These not-so-natural disasters killed 3,220 people and around 47,244 livestock; damaged at least 4.25 million hectares of cropped areas; destroyed public infrastructure worth crores of rupees; and decimated 128,334 houses, crippling the lives of the very poor and pushing them deeper into debt and penury. This is the human face of climate change, as documented in *Climate India 2026*, a report by the Centre for Science and Environment and *Down To Earth*.

The world has failed to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C—the guardrail, science had set years ago. This breach will now intensify the climate emergency, with much worse impacts to come in the years ahead. This could also lead to irreversible damage, if tipping points are crossed, such as the projected dieback of the Amazon rainforest, the thawing of permafrost or the collapse of major ice sheets. This is according to the UNEP's "Emissions Gap Report". Then there is the dire warning from the Planetary Health Check that says not only are the world's temperatures rising but also its ability to "sequester" and "soak" emissions is declining. In other words, the worlds' natural carbon sinks, the forests, oceans and soils, which today sequester roughly half the emissions released by humans, are under threat. This only means more bad news in the future.

And that is not all. The western world is up in flames—literally and figuratively—as people protest against the cost of living and governments grapple with mounting public debt and financial strains. As a result, these countries have even less interest or capacity to do what is needed—slash emissions, given their disproportionate use of the atmospheric space, and substantially

increase payments for climate costs in the countries of the South. This means that the poor in the climate-vulnerable countries are pitted against the poor in wealthy world, even as the rich go laughing to the bank. This is where the rubber meets the broken, potholed road we call our world.

There are two undeniable facts we must confront. One, the world is not on track to contain the rise in temperatures because it has never seriously addressed the challenge of climate inequality. Wealthy countries have a disproportionate responsibility to cut emissions, not simply because they have greater resources to do so, but because they have amassed wealth by externalising and never paying for the cost of pollution. Think about it like the cost of clean-up that needs to be paid when industries pollute so that they can produce. That is what happened in the old world as these pollutants, namely carbon dioxide and methane and other gases, were released into the common atmospheric space. The problem was compounded by the fact that these gases have a long residence life; some emitted say 150 years ago, would exist still. Now, think of the atmosphere as a cup, which keeps filling and the dangers cascade.

This is why, it was agreed 34 years ago, at the Rio Conference where the original climate agreement was signed, that wealthy countries had the responsibility to take the lead in cutting emissions, so that there would be room for the rest of the world—including countries like China and India—to develop. To ensure that these countries could grow without pollution, finance and technology transfers would be provided. None of this happened. And now, the world is on the cusp of catastrophic impacts, because the rich did not cut emissions fast enough and emissions from the then poor countries have increased. This is climate injustice. It cannot be undone. Instead, it is the imperative that must drive solutions to combat climate change.

There is another inequity, which mirrors the climate inequity. The cry for change that is coming from what we consider the wealthy parts of the world is about social injustice. In France, where protests of the young are raging, there has been a huge cut in public spending in education; in Spain, the shortage of affordable housing has become a major source of discontent; and so on. But in all these countries private wealth has increased and is even more concentrated than ever. This is because wealth distribution—much like emission redistribution—never happened.

For real change, we must listen to the anger of the young, not dismiss it. Worldwide, they are saying aloud what we only dare to whisper. They can see the writing on the wall: they are caught between rising temperatures, uncertainty in jobs because of artificial intelligence and an economic model that seems to work only for the super-rich. Their anger is a mirror held up to us. Let's for once embrace it so that we can change the present and their future. For all our sakes. ⓧ@sunitanar

FIRST STEPS FORWARD

ON OCTOBER 22, an extraordinary meeting of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) took a provisional call to set aside US $21.6 million for Nepal following the devastating August 2026 rock-ice avalanche and floods, marking its first response to a specific disaster.

FRLD was set up in 2022 at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) to provide rapid financial support to developing countries suffering economic and non-economic losses and damages attributed to climate-driven extreme weather events. As per a statement, the decision has adopted a pilot approach that allows Nepal to submit a funding request under the fund's Barbados Implementation Modalities, which represent the initial operational phase. Its first call for proposals was announced during COP30 in November 2025. “Following Nepal’s formal letter on August 31, 2026 requesting support from the Fund, the FRLD Board commenced to assess available options. Backed by strong solidarity from the whole Board, intensive consultations were held throughout September and October, culminating in today’s extraordinary Board meeting, in accordance with the Board’s Rules of Procedure,” says the statement. FRLD will stamp this provisional decision at its 10th meeting this December.

FRLD cited the World Weather Attribution’s (WWA's) assessment identifying climate change as a destabilising factor in Nepal’s flash floods. The disaster followed a cascade of events triggered by the collapse of rock and ice from a glacier on Langtang Lirung mountain near the Nepal-China border. “Warming and permafrost degradation likely weakened the source rock wall by increasing bedrock temperatures and thawing ice within fractures,” says WWA, a consortium that analyses influence of climate change on extreme weather events.

FRLD’s allocation is less than half a per cent of the Nepal government’s official loss and damage estimate of around $4.77 billion. However, it marks the rollout of loss and damage compensation. "By stepping up to meet this moment, the Board has shown that we can adapt our operations to the pressing needs on the ground," says Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, executive director of FRLD. "This decision not only paves the way to support Nepal's recovery but also marks a step towards the full implementation of the mandate of the Fund," he adds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines extreme weather events as occurrences that are "rare at a particular place and time of year". While India does not have an official definition, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its annual "Statement of Climate of India" reports, classifies lightning and thunderstorms, heavy to very heavy, and extremely heavy rainfall, landslides and floods, coldwaves, heatwaves, cyclones, snowfall, dust and sandstorms, squalls, hailstorms and gales as extreme weather events. The agency defines each of these weather events on its website "Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India", launched in January 2022, and in other documents (see 'How IMD defines extreme weather events')

The "Climate India 2026: An assessment of extreme weather events", prepared by the Centre for Science and Environment and *Down To Earth* (CSE/DTE), attempts to build an evidence base on the frequency and expanding geography of extreme weather events in India. It has sourced data on extreme events from two key government sources: IMD and the Disaster Management Division (DMD) of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. In addition, it has scanned media reports to track the events— particularly the pre-monsoon period when official data is inadequate. The media reports have also provided further information on the extent of loss and damage.

The assessment focuses on two key aspects: The number of days India recorded extreme weather events, and the resulting loss and damage, measured in terms of human fatalities, crop area affected, houses damaged, and livestock lost. The report analyses data from January to September 2026 and compares it with trends from the preceding four years—2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

While the occurrence of extreme weather events is tracked daily, information on loss and damage is available only at the seasonal level. This marks a change from previous years, when such data was compiled monthly. The methodology was revised in 2025 because government data on losses was largely released at the end of each season, making monthly disaggregation unfeasible.

How IMD defines extreme weather events

LIGHTNING AND STORMS

Lightning is an electrical discharge caused by imbalances between storm clouds and the ground or within the clouds themselves. Storms include duststorms (caused by thunderstorms or strong pressure gradients associated with cyclones which increase wind speed over a wide area), hailstorms (an outgrowth of a severe thunderstorm in which balls or irregularly shaped lumps of ice fall with the rain), thunderstorms and gales (a very strong wind).

HEAVY RAINS, FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

Heavy rainfall happens when a region receives 64.5-115.5 mm rain in 24 hours. In the case of very heavy rainfall, the threshold increases to 115.6-204.4 mm and in extremely heavy rainfall it is 204.5 mm or more. The report has considered all very heavy and extremely heavy rainfall events, and heavy rainfall events only when they have caused damage.

HEATWAVES

Heatwave conditions signify a certain amount of rise in temperature at a given place with respect to normal climatological value. The report has considered heatwaves (4.5°C to 6.4°C departure of the maximum temperature from normal), and severe heatwaves (departure of more than 6.4°C).

COLD DAY/COLDWAVE

Cold day conditions occur when the maximum temperature drops by 4.5°C to 6.4°C than average. If the deviation is more than 6.4°C, then it is considered a severe cold day. Coldwave conditions occur when the minimum temperature drops by 4.5°C to 6.4°C than normal. Similarly, severe coldwave occurs when the minimum temperature drops by more than 6.4°C than normal. The report has considered all the four categories.

SNOWFALL

Snowfall is a hydrological hazard where a large amount of snow can affect transport, crops and people. IMD's "Annual Disaster Weather Report" reports the snowfall cases over India that caused human deaths. The report has also considered only those snowfall events that caused deaths.

CLOUDBURSTS

A cloudburst is very heavy rainfall (100 mm per hour) over a localised area. It is accompanied with strong winds and lightning.

CYCLONES

Cyclones are intense vortex or whirls in the atmosphere with very strong winds circulating around them in anti-clockwise direction in the Northern Hemisphere and in clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere.

SOURCE USED: INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Information on extreme weather events in a 24-hour period and forecasts and warnings are published in IMD's All India Weather Summary and Forecast bulletins and daily press releases. CSE/DTE tracks each day's report from the IMD website and maps out the events by state and Union Territory (UT) and event type.

On loss and damage due to extreme weather events, IMD uses

media reports and publishes the number of human deaths and livestock losses in its "Climate Summary for the Month".

SOURCE USED: HOME MINISTRY'S DISASTER MANAGEMENT DIVISION (DMD)

The department under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs issues a "Situation report regarding flood/heavy rainfall in the country" as and when the event happens. It includes the forecast from IMD and the Central Water Commission (on floods). It also has a section on damages reported by the states/Union Territories in the previous 24-hour period.

From June 10, 2022, the situation reports have provided the "Cumulative loss and damage data for the monsoon season". This datasheet provides information on human deaths during the monsoon period because of drowning, lightning, landslides and other reasons. It also provides information about the damage to houses, crops and livestock in the affected states. But starting 2024, the cumulative data is not published online. As a result, CSE/DTE database had to source its loss and damage numbers from the "Damage reported by States/UTs during the last 24 hrs" table published under the "Situation report regarding Flood/ Heavy rainfall in the Country". An analysis of the previous years shows that the cumulative numbers are usually higher than the total of the daily numbers. DMD must resume releasing the cumulative numbers for each month, since they are more comprehensive.

The situation reports are primarily for floods and heavy rainfall, and cyclones. India needs similar daily assessment for all weather-related disasters and the loss and damage they cause, given the frequency of these events.

One of the key indicators to establish the extent of damage is "people affected". It is also a target under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (target B-1), by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. While DMD's daily situation report provides information on this globally accepted parameter of population affected, it is not included in the cumulative loss and damage datasheet. DMD must require states to provide this data at the end of each weather disaster so that it can be included in the cumulative data that was earlier issued for the monsoon period.

In addition, each state has a disaster management authority (SDMA), which report on the events on their websites. However, the data is at best sketchy and not released regularly. There are signs of change. Assam's SDMA releases daily situation reports with details

on the extent of loss and damage. But, in this CSE/DTE report, SDMA data has not been considered as it is not uniformly available for the country.

In the case of any discrepancy in the three sources—IMD, DMD and media reports— the source with the highest reported number has been considered. For crop area affected, we have relied on the daily situation reports by DMD along with media reports (which is also used by IMD for compiling its loss and damage data).

GAPS IN DATA

While a realistic estimate can be made about the number of days the country recorded extreme weather events from IMD releases, major gaps remain when it comes to loss and damage assessment. DMD provides data as received from the states. But states do not provide data regularly and so the data is not comprehensive. For instance, media reports suggest widespread crop loss during pre-monsoon (March-May), but the Centre's loss and damage report does not quantify the same.

The absence of a robust clean and comprehensive public database on extreme weather events in the country poses difficulties in the evaluation of disaster situations and their impacts.

The data regarding crop losses due to any disasters is not maintained centrally, acknowledged the Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare in the Lok Sabha on August 2026.

It is also clear that now, given the intensity and frequency of these events, the country no longer needs to count just the disasters; it needs credible and comprehensive numbers on the loss and damage.

WHY THIS REPORT?

India recorded extreme weather events on 251 of the 273 days from January 1 to September 30, 2026. This means that for almost 92 per cent of the first nine months of this year, India had an extreme weather event breaking in one or more parts of the country. It also experienced record-breaking temperatures in few months even as regions across the country were deluged because of very and extremely heavy rainfall.

This led to floods and the loss of life and livestock. This vouches for the increased frequency and intensity of the extreme events that we are seeing in our rapidly warming world.

What the country has witnessed so far in 2026 (January-September) is the new normal in a warming world. A 2020 report by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction says globally, there has been "a sharp

increase [in disasters] over the previous twenty years"

The CSE/DTE report is an attempt to build an evidence base on the frequency and expanding geography of extreme weather events in India.

This is extremely important as currently fragmented data on extreme weather events are publicly available and they fail to provide the overall picture.This report is based on DTE's "India's Atlas on Weather Disasters", an open-access online public interactive database on extreme weather events that was created in 2022. So the report provides season-wise, month-wise and region-wise analysis of extreme weather events and their associated loss and damage for first nine-months (Jan to Sep) of the five years: 2022,2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

2026: HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY FINDINGS

India faced extreme weather events on 92 per cent of days in the first nine months of this year, marked by heat and coldwaves, lightning and storms, heavy rain, floods and landslides. These events claimed 3,220 lives, affected at least 4.25 million hectares of crops, destroyed 128,334 houses, and killed 47,244 animals.

Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh experienced extreme weather on almost 64 per cent of the 273 days in the first nine months of 2026, the most in the country. However Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest fatalities at 811, followed by Maharashtra (286 deaths) and Bihar (245 deaths). Maharashtra was the worst hit in terms of cropped area affected, with an area of 2.83 million hectares, followed by Uttar Pradesh (0.69 million ha) and Bihar(0.23 million ha).

Regionally, the northwest India - consisting of 10 states/UTs including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan and the Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand - experienced the highest frequency of extreme weather events in 2026, with 235 event days, followed by the East and Northeast regions at 218 days.

The year 2026 also broke several climate records. February was India's driest since 1901, while the month became the fourth warmest in 125 years. This July, India recorded its third-highest mean temperature for the month, with the minimum temperature ranking as the second highest on record.

Such records were broken at regional level too. Northwest India (NW India), recorded its third warmest and driest February in 125 years. The NW India also recorded its warmest nights, with the average minimum temperature 2.15°C above normal - the highest

increase among all regions recorded this year.

In August, South Peninsular India recorded its highest minimum temperature in 125 years, while East and Northeast India experienced its 2th highest. South Peninsula also recorded its hottest-ever September with the average temperature 1.32°C above normal.

These record-breaking statistics are a stark reminder of climate change's intensifying grip. Events that once occurred once in a century are now happening every few years. The frequency is overwhelming India's most vulnerable populations, who lack the resources to recover from the unending cycle of loss and damage.

In terms of event types, the first nine months of 2026 brought nearly every form of extreme weather - from heavy rains, flood and landslides, which claimed 1,894 lives, to lightning and storms that led to at least 1,253 deaths. The country did not record any cyclone in the first nine months.

The extreme weather "report card" is sobering. It highlights not only how frequent such events have become but also the scale of the devastation they inflict. It underscores the urgent need for systems that record the full extent of these losses - both economic and human - to give a clearer picture of climate change's true impact.

The findings also signal a crucial shift needed in India's approach: from disaster response to risk reduction and resilience-building. Flood management, for instance, requires more than contingency plans - it demands robust drainage and water-recharge infrastructure, along with the restoration of green spaces and forests that can act as natural water buffers in future storms.

The report further stresses the moral and financial imperative of climate reparations from high-emission countries responsible for much of the global warming that drives these disasters. Climate models are unequivocal: extreme weather events will only become more frequent and severe. This is no longer a projection - it is today's reality.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

OVER THE YEARS

2022-26



A disaster a day has become the new normal in India, with extreme weather events affecting 86 to 99 per cent of days every year between 2022 and 2026.

The share of affected days rose from 86–88 per cent in 2022 and 2023 to 93 per cent in 2024, the hottest year on record globally and in India and peaked at 99 per cent in 2025. In 2026, India recorded extreme weather events on 251 of the 273 days from January 1 to September 30, 2026. This means that in 2026 too, for almost 92 per cent of the first nine months of this year, India had an extreme weather event breaking in one or more parts of the country

The impact has been severe. Extreme weather claimed 16,200 lives across the country over these five years. Nearly 65 per cent of these deaths occurred between 2024 and 2026. Annual deaths rose from 2,755 in 2022 to 2,923 in 2023 and 3,238 in 2024, before reaching a five-year high of 4,064 in 2025. In 2026, the toll stood at 3,220, 17 per cent higher than in 2022.

The damage to agriculture has also increased. At least 20.6 million hectares of cropped land were affected between 2022 and 2026, with more than 82 per cent of the damage occurring in the last three years.

The affected area rose from 1.84 million hectares in 2022 and 1.84 million hectares in 2023 to 3.2 million hectares in 2024. In 2025, it shot up to 9.47 million hectares. In 2026, another 4.25 million hectares were affected, the second-highest figure in five years.

CHANGING SEASONS

The five-year period has seen major changes in seasonal weather patterns. Winters have become warmer, with fewer cold wave events. The 2026 winter recorded the second-lowest number of cold wave and cold day events in five years. February 2026 saw no such events for the first time in five years and was the fourth-warmest February in 125 years.

Himachal Pradesh recorded a severe heatwave in early March 2026, marking the earliest occurrence in five years. This shift in timing, arriving 74 days earlier than in 2024, suggests changing patterns in extreme heat events.Coastal Andhra Pradesh also experienced its earliest heatwave in five years, highlighting a trend of earlier heatwaves across India.

Alongside the monsoon, the pre-monsoon season is emerging as another period of heightened risk for agriculture. Between March and May, at least 0.73 million hectares of cropped land were affected - the second-highest loss recorded during the pre-monsoon season in the past five years, after 2023.

In 2026, India's southwest monsoon ended with 13 per cent less rainfall than the long-period average. However, this did not mean fewer extreme weather events. Heavy rain, floods and landslides occurred somewhere in the country on all 122 days of the monsoon season, damaging at least 3.44 million hectares of cropped land As El Niño strengthens in the tropical Pacific and drought conditions persist in more than half of India (with some regions in "extreme" and "exceptional" drought) the first nine months of 2026 have been devastating for the farmers who continue to commit suicide at the rate of one every hour in India.

The rise in extreme weather has been seen across all regions of India. In the Central region, the share of days affected by extreme weather rose from 73 per cent in 2022 to 78 per cent in 2026. In the East and Northeast, it increased from 63 to 80 per cent.

The Northwest region saw extreme weather on 71 per cent of days in 2022. This rose to 94 per cent in 2025 before falling to 86 per cent in 2026. In the South Peninsular region, the share increased from 46 per cent in 2022 to a peak of 75 per cent in 2025, before declining to 64 per cent in 2026.

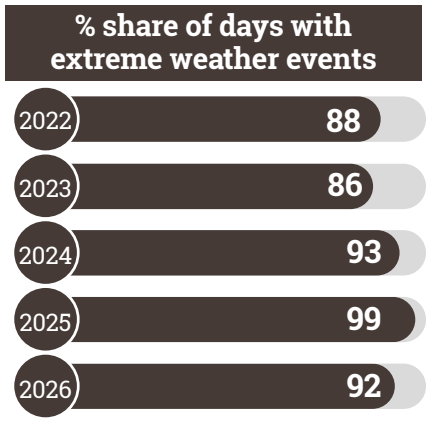
While the intensity and type of events vary across seasons and regions, no part of the country has remained untouched.

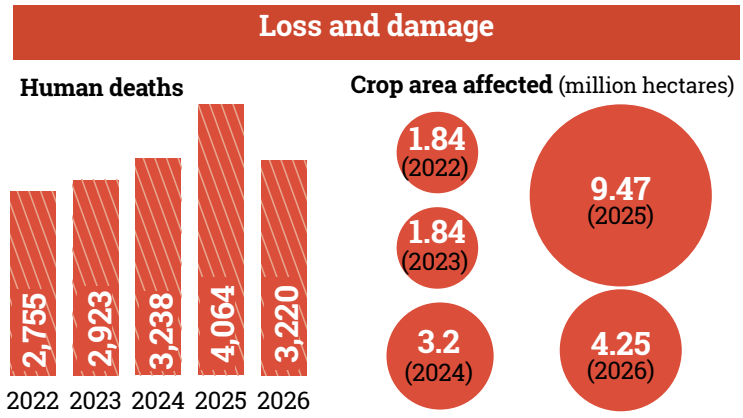
VISIBLE CHANGE

Extreme weather events affected 86 to 99 per cent of days every year between 2022 and 2026. The share of affected days rose from 86–88 per cent in 2022 and 2023 to 93 per cent in 2024. In 2026, India recorded extreme weather events on 251 of the 273 days from January 1 to September 30, 2026. Extreme weather claimed 16,200 lives during 2022-2026. At least 20.6 million hectares of cropped land were affected between 2022 and 2026.

2022-2026: EXTREME IMPACT

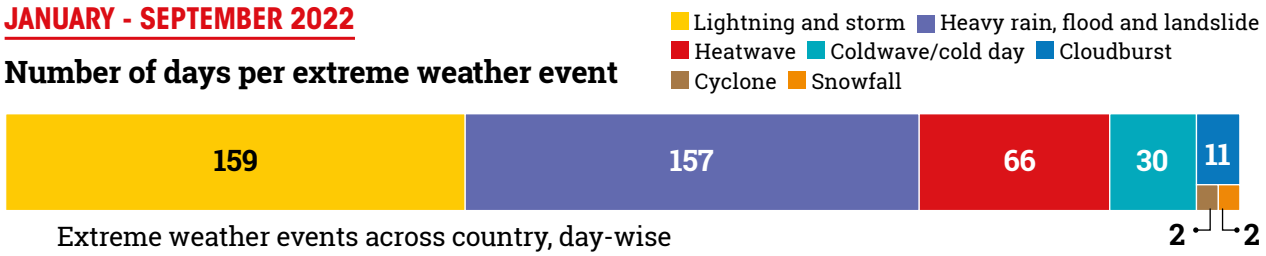
In 2026, extreme weather affected 92 per cent of days (251 of the first 273 days), damaged 4.25 million hectares of cropland and claimed 3,220 lives. The cropped area affected in 2026, remained more than twice the level recorded in 2022.



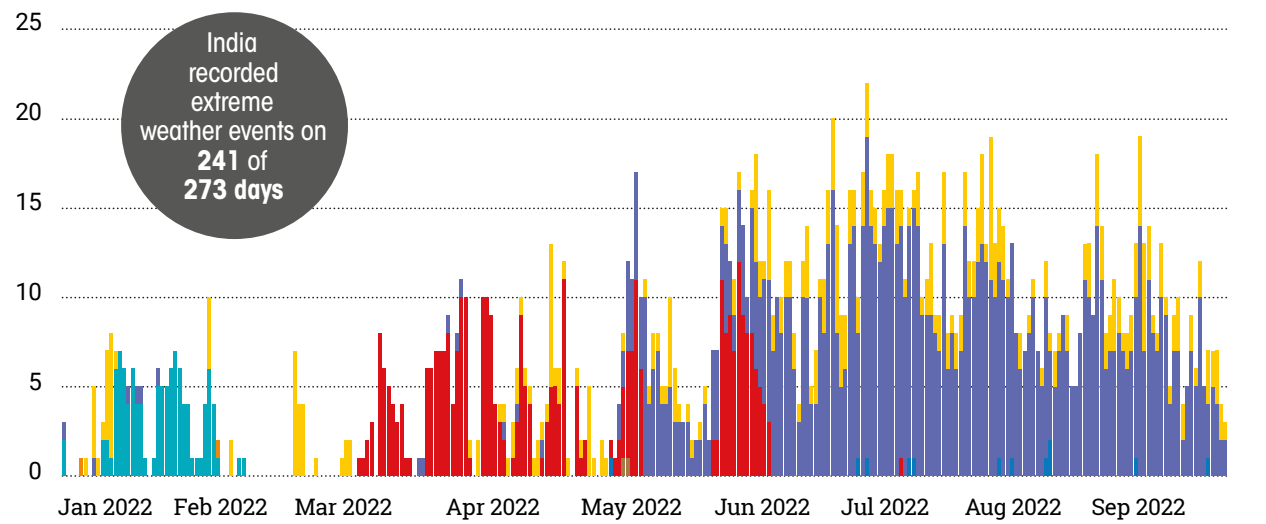


JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2022

Number of days per extreme weather event

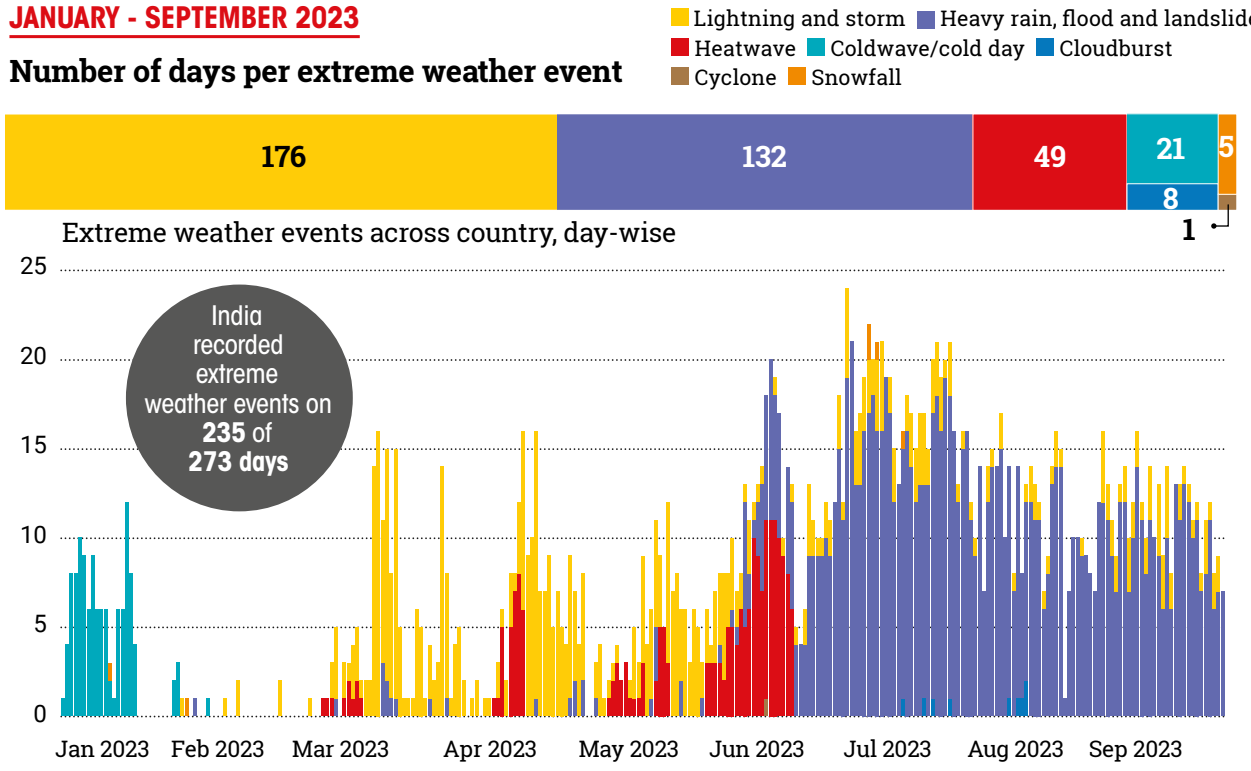


Extreme weather events across country, day-wise



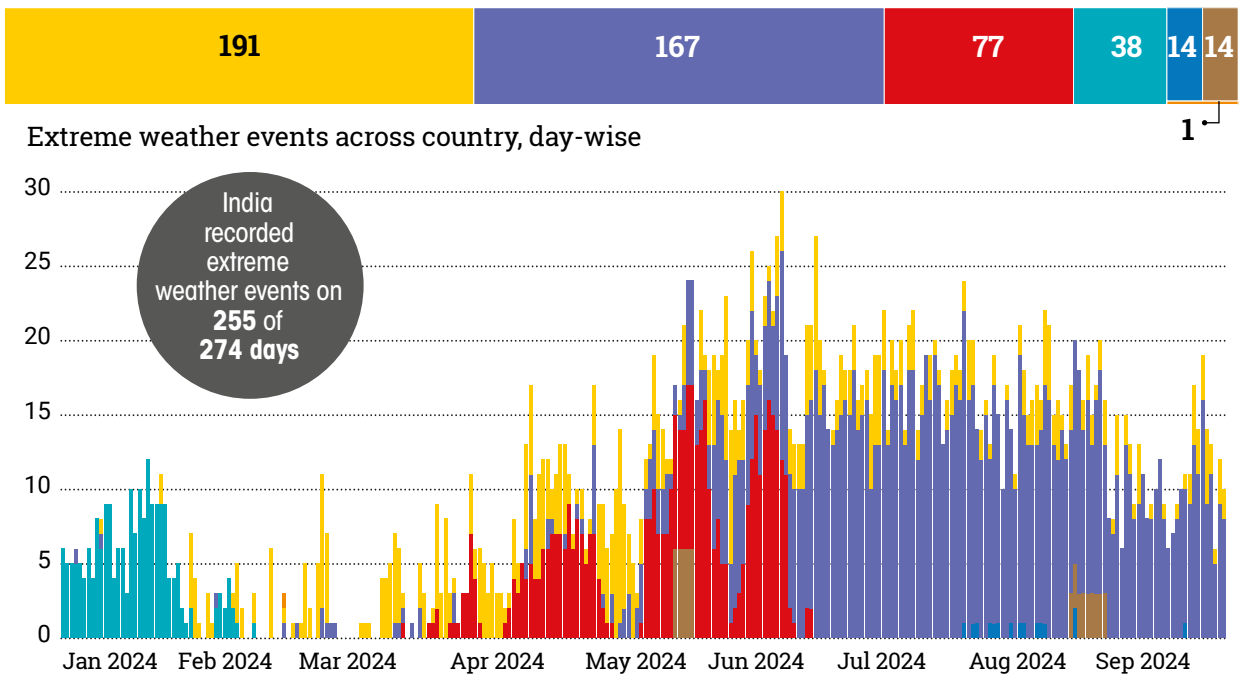
JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2023

Number of days per extreme weather event



JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2024

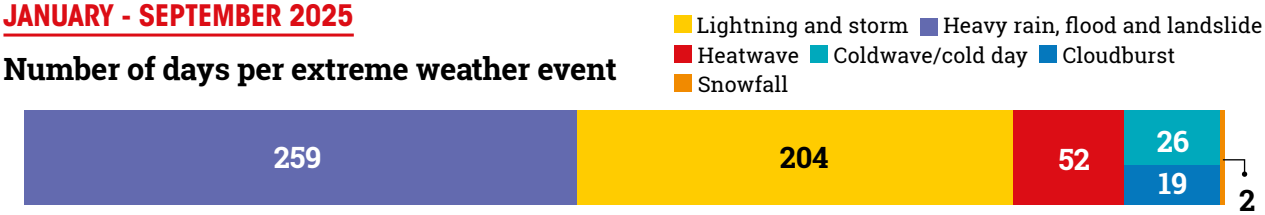
Number of days per extreme weather event



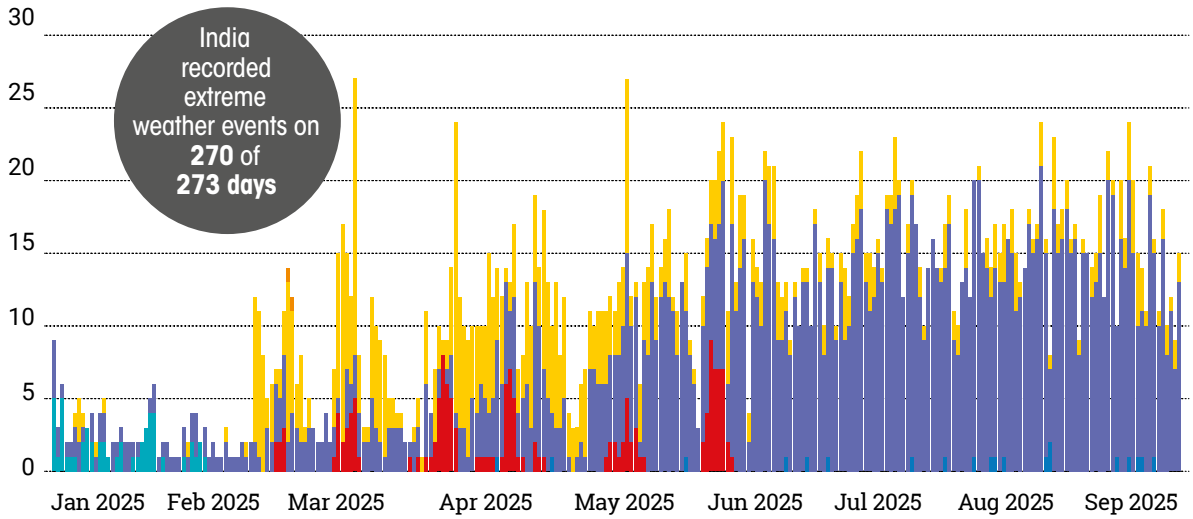
Source: Based on India's database of weather disasters dashboard by CSE-DTE Data Centre. Data sourced from the Disaster Management Division Union Ministry of Home Affairs, India Meteorological Department and media reports

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2025

Number of days per extreme weather event

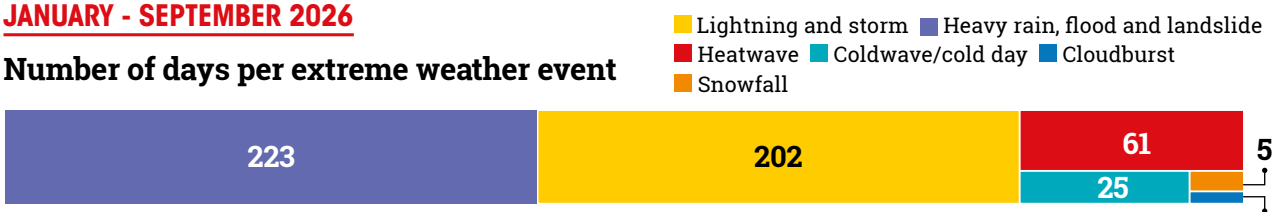


Extreme weather events across country, day-wise

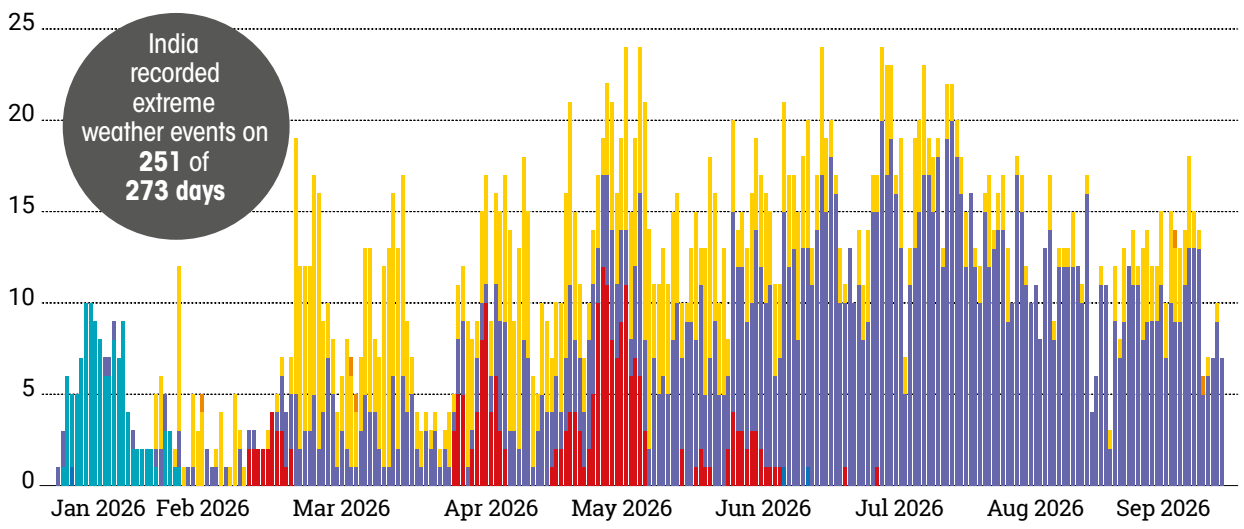


JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2026

Number of days per extreme weather event



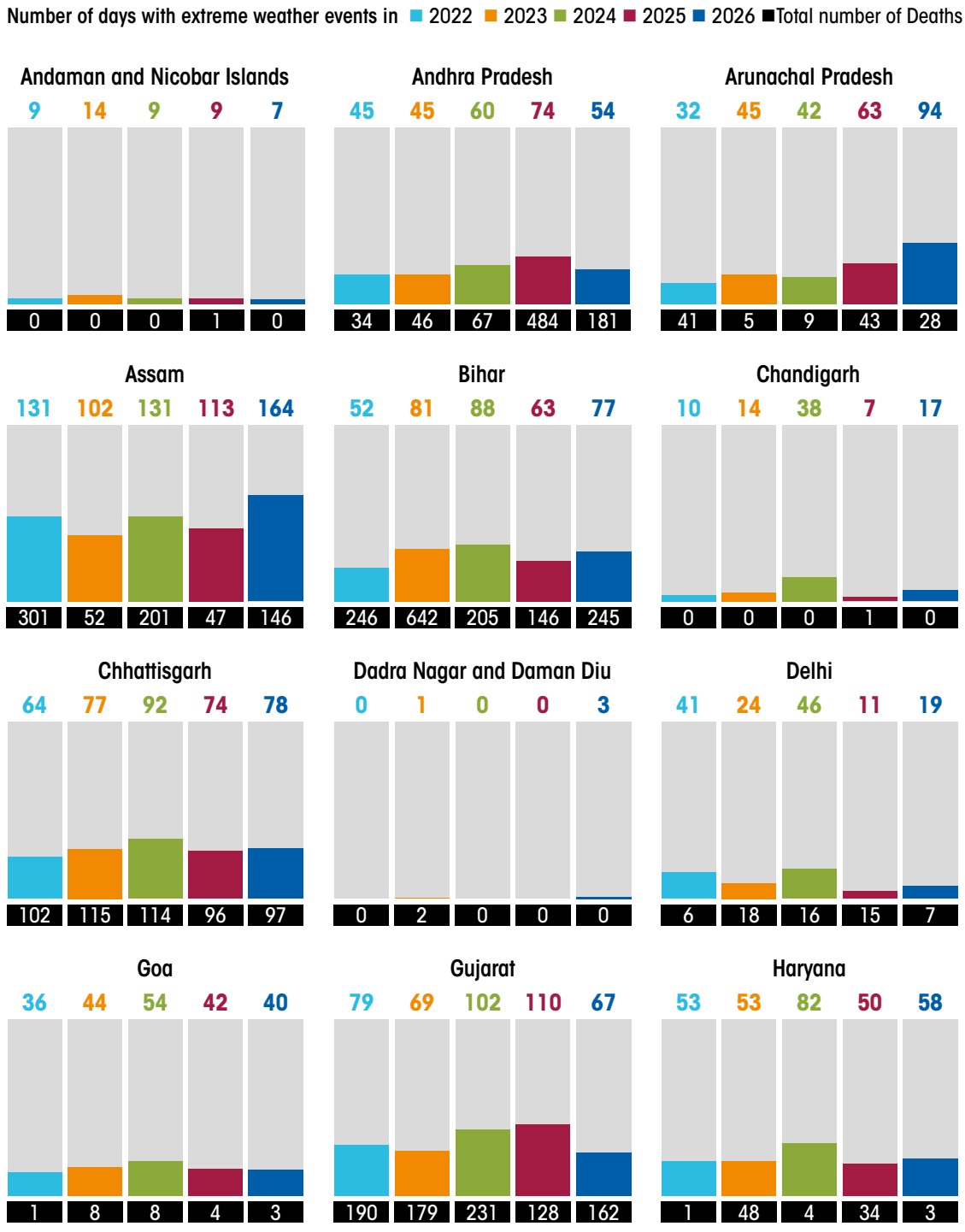
Extreme weather events across country, day-wise



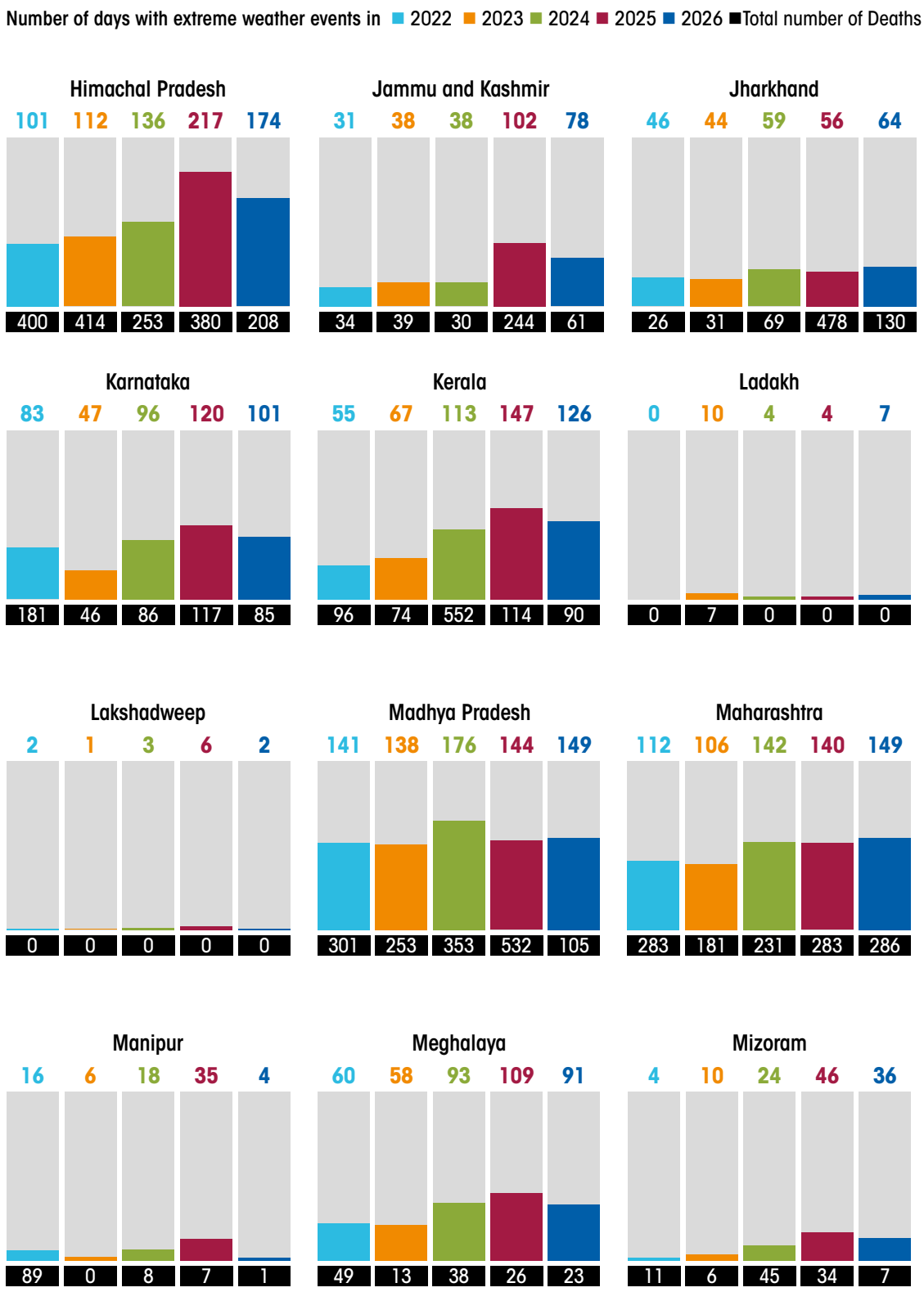
Source: Based on India's database of weather disasters dashboard by CSE-DTE Data Centre. Data sourced from the Disaster Management Division Union Ministry of Home Affairs, India Meteorological Department and media reports

STATE-WISE

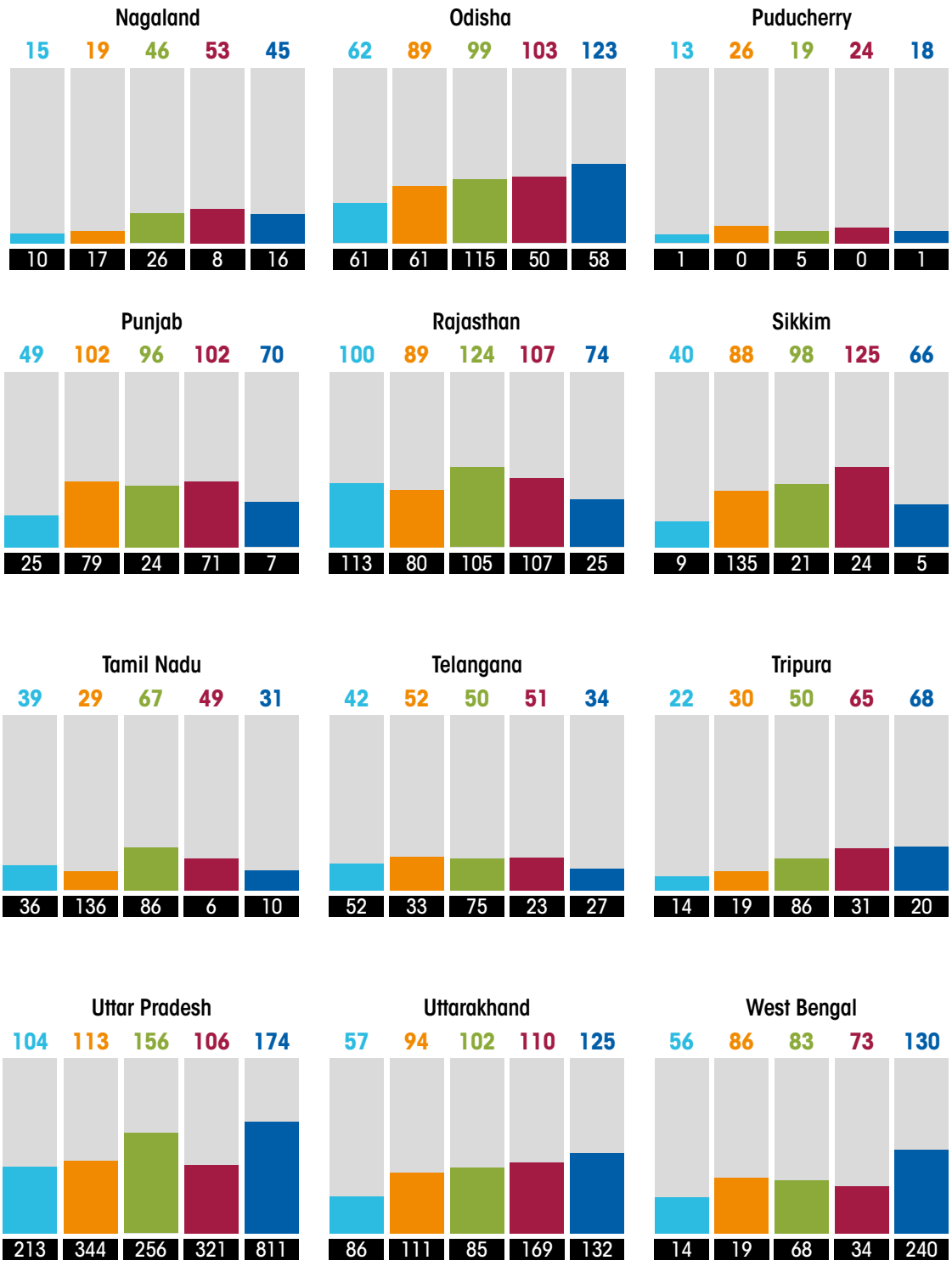
In 2026, seven states and UTs recorded their highest number of extreme weather days since 2022. Assam, HP, MP, Maharashtra and UP recorded more than 100 days of extreme weather in each of the five years from 2022 to 2026.



INDIA 2026


Number of days with extreme weather events in 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 Total number of Deaths
Himachal Pradesh
101 112 136 217 174
400 414 253 380 208
Jammu and Kashmir
31 38 38 102 78
34 39 30 244 61
Jharkhand
46 44 59 56 64
26 31 69 478 130
Karnataka
83 47 96 120 101
181 46 86 117 85
Kerala
55 67 113 147 126
96 74 552 114 90
Ladakh
0 10 4 4 7
0 7 0 0 0
Lakshadweep
2 1 3 6 2
0 0 0 0 0
Madhya Pradesh
141 138 176 144 149
301 253 353 532 105
Maharashtra
112 106 142 140 149
283 181 231 283 286
Manipur
16 6 18 35 4
89 0 8 7 1
Meghalaya
60 58 93 109 91
49 13 38 26 23
Mizoram
4 10 24 46 36
11 6 45 34 7

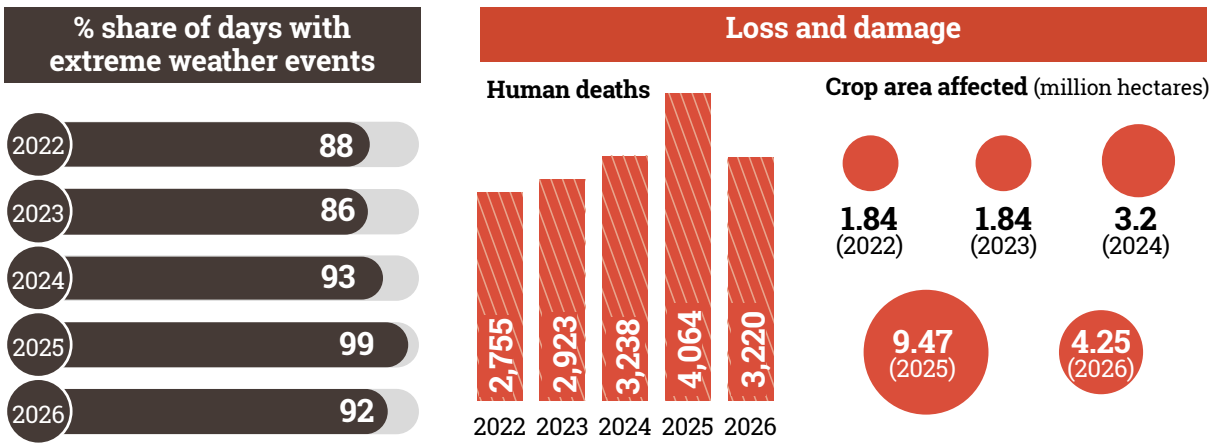
Number of days with extreme weather events in 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 Total number of Deaths



PAN-INDIA & REGION-WISE (2022-2026): FIVE YEARS OF RISING EXTREME WEATHER ACROSS ALL REGIONS OF INDIA

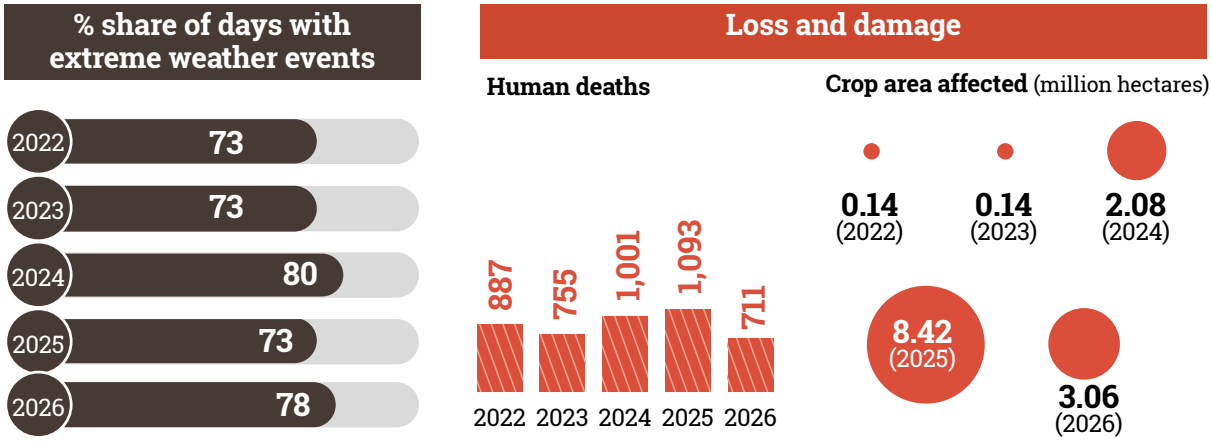
EXTREME WEATHER IN INDIA (2022-2026)

In 2026, India recorded the second highest number of days affected by extreme weather and the related human deaths in five years. At least 4.25 million hectares of cropped area was affected, the second highest since 2022.



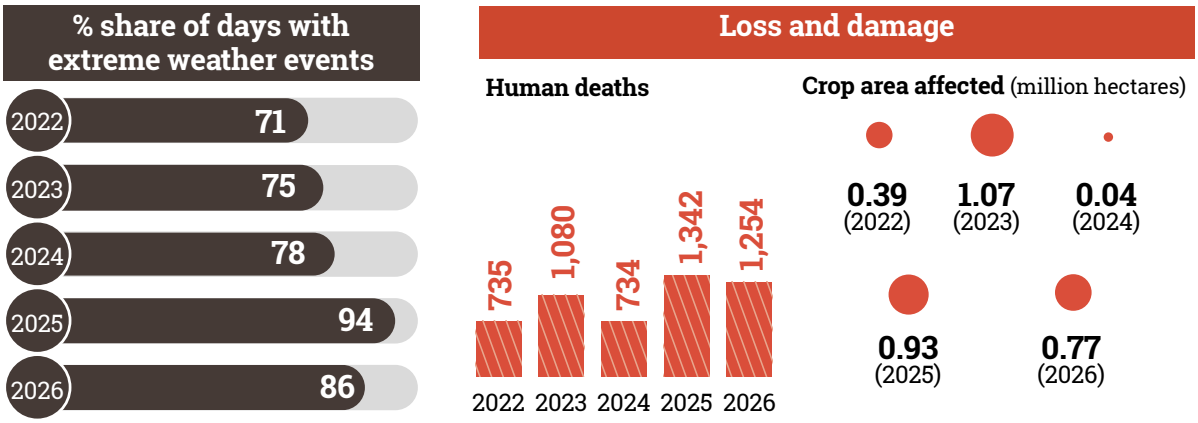
EXTREME WEATHER IN CENTRAL REGION (2022-2026)

The region witnessed a sharp rise in extreme weather events and their impacts. The share of affected days rose from 73 per cent in 2022 to 78 per cent in 2026 while the area of cropland damaged in 2026 was more than 22 times that recorded in 2022.



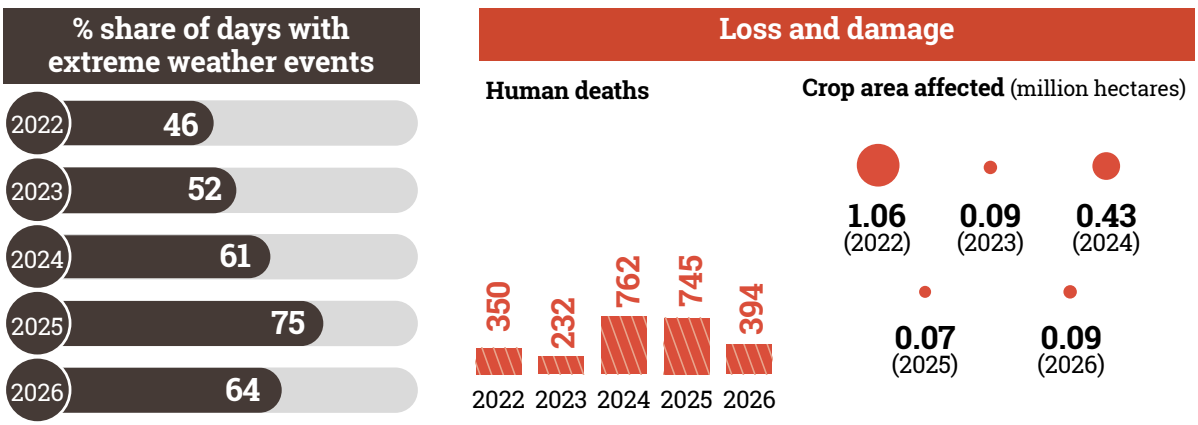
EXTREME WEATHER IN NORTHWEST INDIA (2022-2026)

The share of days affected by extreme weather events increased from 71 per cent in 2022 to 86 per cent in 2026, recording its second-highest number of affected days.



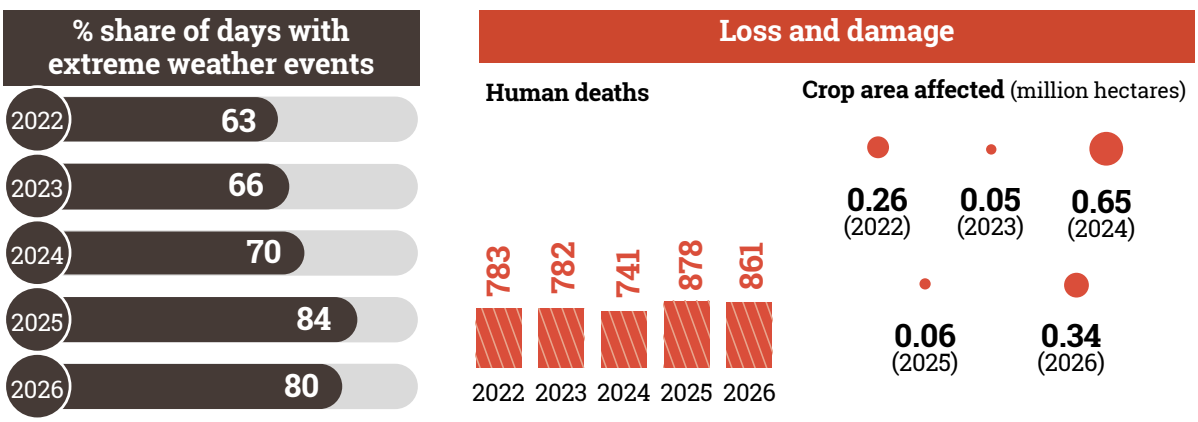
EXTREME WEATHER IN SOUTH PENINSULA (2022-2026)

The share of days affected by extreme weather events increased from 46 per cent in 2022 to 64 per cent in 2026, recording its second-highest number of affected days.



EXTREME WEATHER IN EAST AND NORTHEAST INDIA (2022-2026)

The share of days affected by extreme weather events increased from 63 per cent in 2022 to 80 per cent in 2026, recording its second-highest number of affected days.



2026: DISASTER A DAY

India experienced extreme weather events on 251 of the 273 days, or 92 per cent of the days from January 1 to September 30, 2026. At least 3,220 people died; 4.25 million hectares (ha) of crop areas affected; over 47,244 animals were killed; and 128,334 houses damaged.

Region-wise extreme weather events (January 1- September 30, 2026)

Number of days | Deaths | Crop area affected (ha) | Total animal deaths (big and small) | Houses damaged (fully and partially)

Central region

It recorded extreme weather events on **212** of the **273 days**, which claimed **711 lives**, damaged **3.06 million ha** crop area



*Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu

Chhattisgarh	78	97	81	314	54
DNH&DD*	3	0	0	NA	0
Goa	40	3	0	NA	87
Gujarat	67	162	5	1,948	5,865
Madhya Pradesh	149	105	41	357	2,682
Maharashtra	149	286	2,830,777	2,459	16,384
Odisha	103	58	233,245	89	3,446

South Peninsula region

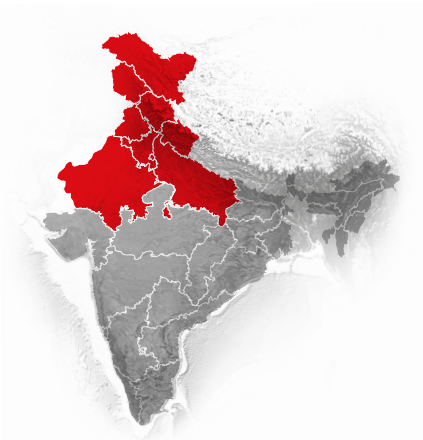
It recorded extreme weather events on **175** of the **273 days**, which claimed **394 lives**, damaged - **0.087 million ha** crop area



A&N Islands	7	0	0	NA	0
Andhra Pradesh	54	181	47,063	NA	7
Karnataka	101	85	17,006	512	1,316
Kerala	126	90	11,793	1,000	2,669
Lakshadweep	2	0	0	NA	0
Puducherry	18	1	0	31	15
Tamil Nadu	31	10	7,204	NA	0
Telangana	34	27	4,047	NA	0

Northwest region

It recorded extreme weather events on **236** of the **273 days**, which claimed **1,254 lives**, damaged - **0.77 million ha** crop area



Chandigarh	17	0	0	NA	0
Delhi	19	7	0	NA	0
Haryana	58	3	0	30	0
Himachal Pradesh	174	208	6,378	3,106	692
Jammu and Kashmir	78	61	127	542	325
Ladakh	7	0	0	15	1
Punjab	70	7	52,609	NA	60
Rajasthan	74	25	9,464	NA	0
Uttar Pradesh	174	811	698,249	313	5,313
Uttarakhand	125	132	42	730	1,056

NA: Not Available

Number of days | Deaths | Crop area affected (ha) | Total animal deaths (big and small) | Houses damaged (fully and partially)

East and Northeast region

It recorded extreme weather events on **219** of the **273 days**, which claimed **861 lives**, damaged – **0.34 million ha** crop area

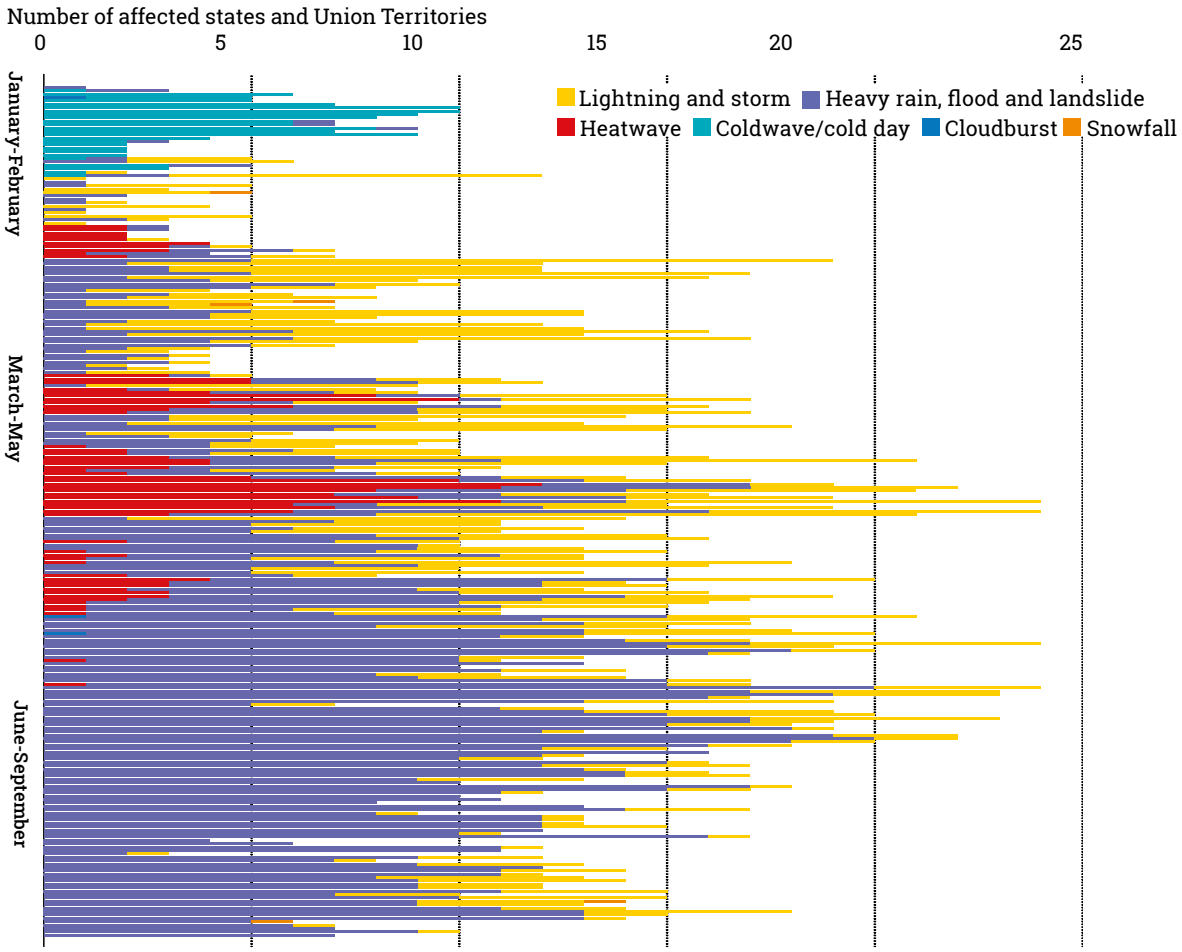
Arunachal Pradesh	94	28	1,166	692	1,221
Assam	164	146	84,185	34,429	59,279
Bihar	77	245	230,022	10	0
Jharkhand	64	130	29	11	0
Manipur	4	1	30	NA	0
Meghalaya	91	23	127	38	511
Mizoram	36	7	4	4	136
Nagaland	45	16	828	76	982
Sikkim	66	5	13	3	207
Tripura	68	20	6,105	1	3,456
West Bengal	130	240	13,940	534	8,334

NA: Not Available



Day-wise extreme weather events in India

(January 1 - September 30, 2026)



Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, and media reports

SEASON-WISE
2026

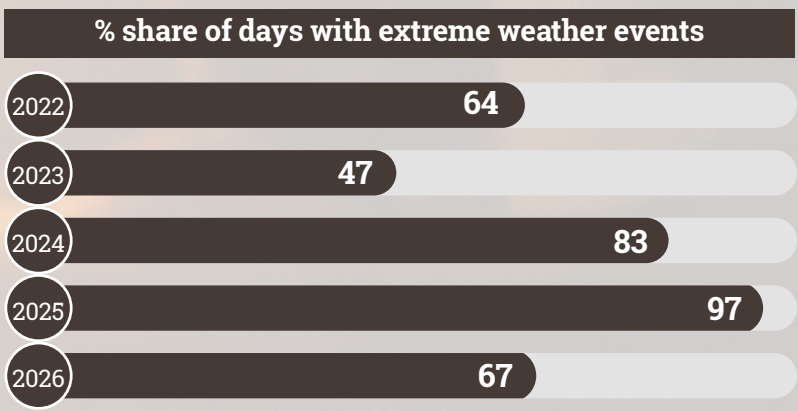
WINTER

January - February 2026
(59 days)

India witnessed extreme weather events on 41 out of 59 days in the winter months of 2026. The events were spread across 26 states/UTs.

Coldwaves/cold days were reported on 25 days, heavy rains, floods and landslides on 17 days, followed by lightning and storms on 14 days.

Himachal Pradesh was worst hit with 26 days of events, followed by Rajasthan (20 days). and Uttar Pradesh (18 days).



Loss and damage

Human deaths

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
22	8	15	64	32

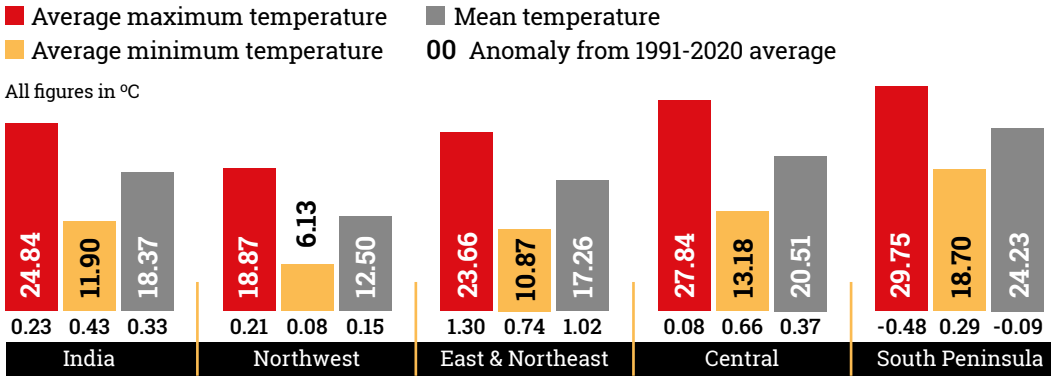
Crop area affected (million hectares)

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
0.03	0.39	0.04	0.02	0.06

TEMPERATURE

January 2026 was warmer than normal, driven mainly by warmer night. The average minimum temperature was 11.90°C, 0.43°C above normal, while the mean temperature was 18.37°C, 0.33°C above normal. The average maximum was 24.86°C, close to the normal of 24.61°C based on the 1991–2020 average.

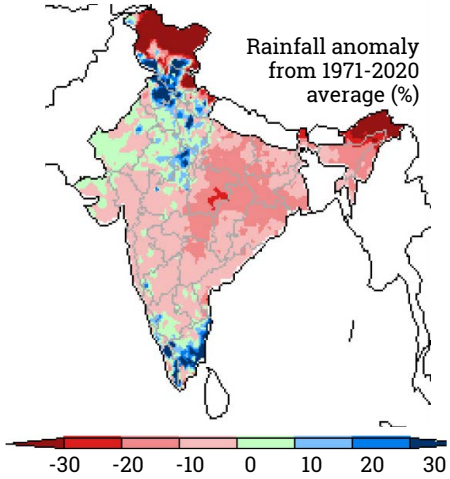
East and Northeast India saw its 10th warmest January in 125 years

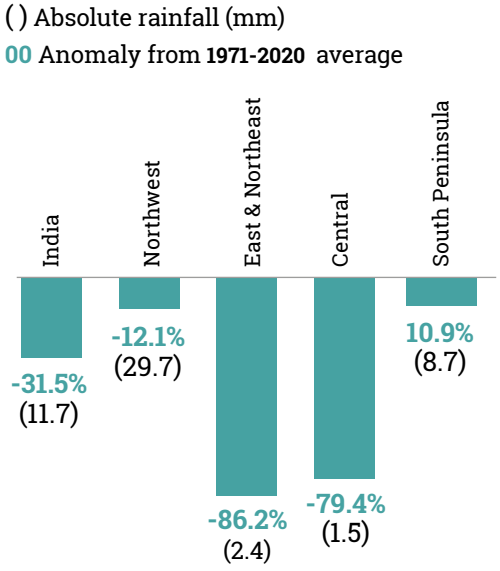


RAINFALL

India experienced its 25th driest January (11.7 mm) this year, with rainfall levels 31.5 per cent lower than the long period average (1971-2000). Rainfall over East and Northeast India was 2.4 mm, the seventh-lowest in 125 years. Central India (1.5 mm), with a deficit of 79.4 per cent, recorded its 13th driest January since 1901.

Of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions, only 4 received normal rainfall. 10 recorded no rainfall, while 18 experienced deficient to large deficient rainfall. In contrast, 8 sub-divisions recorded excess to large excess rainfall.





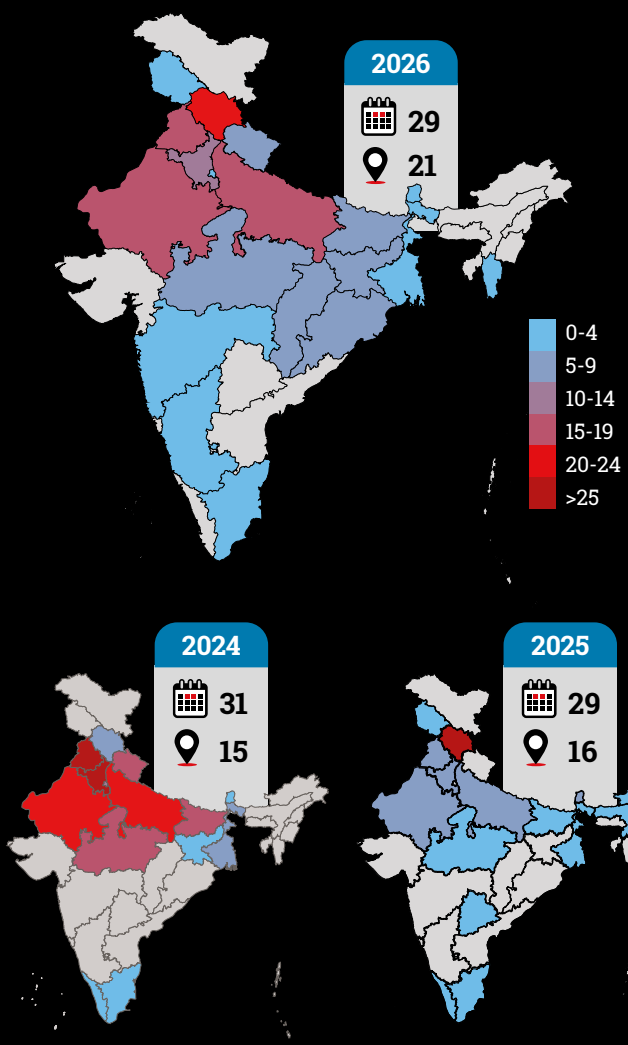
Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune

JANUARY INDIA 2026

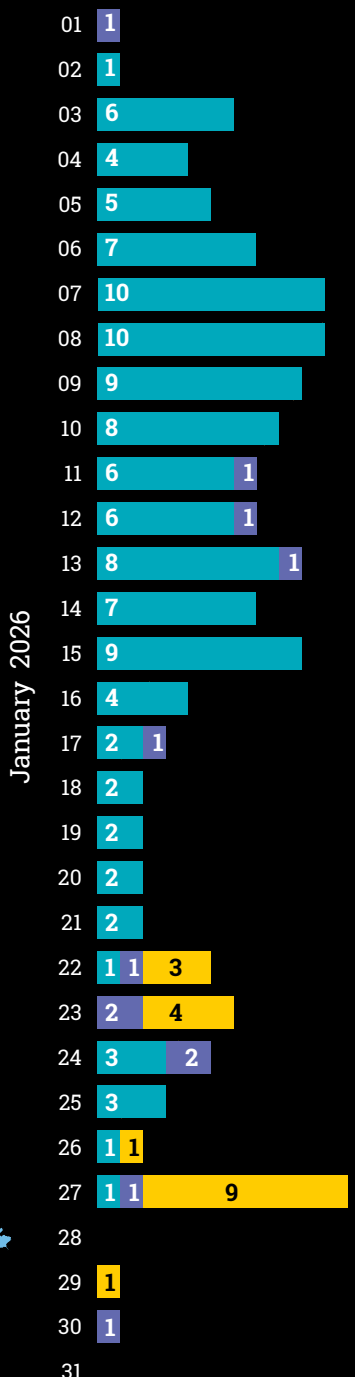
EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

India experienced extreme weather events on 29 out of 31 days in January. This was spread across 21 states/UTs. Himachal Pradesh was the worst hit with such events on 22 days, followed by Rajasthan (18 days) and Punjab (16 days)

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS — Number of days — Affected states / UTs



Bars indicate the number of states/UTs that experienced extreme weather events each day



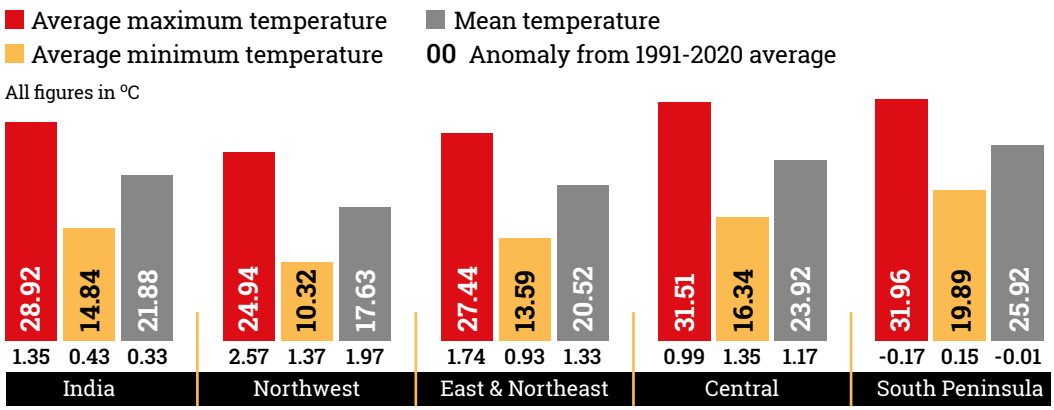
Coldwave/ cold day **(25 days)** | Heavy rain, flood and landslide **(11 days)** | Lightning and storm **(5 days)**

Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports

TEMPERATURE

In 2026, India recorded its fourth warmest February in 125 years, with the average temperature 1.18°C above normal. The minimum temperature was the third highest since 1901, with an anomaly of 1.02°C, while the maximum temperature ranked seventh highest on record, at 1.35°C. above the long-term average.

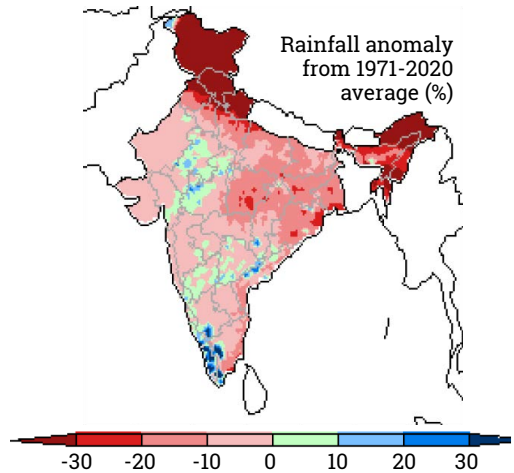
Northwest India, recorded its third warmest February in 125 years, with the mean temperature 1.96°C above normal



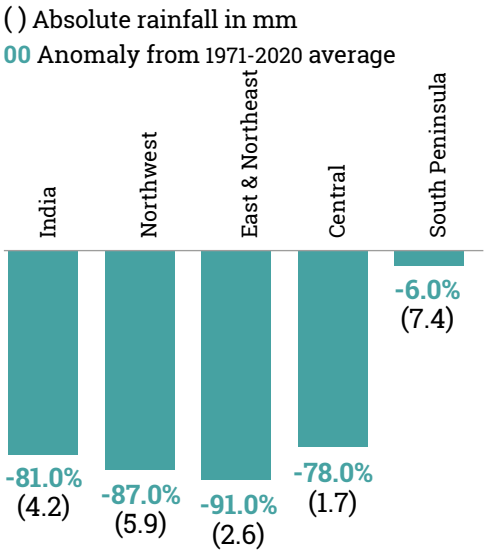
RAINFALL

India experienced its driest February (4.2 mm) with rainfall levels 81 per cent lower than the long period average (1971-2020). Rainfall over East and Northeast India was 2.6 mm, the second-lowest in 125 years. Northwest India (5.9 mm), with a deficit of 87 per cent, recorded its 3rd driest February since 1901.

Of India's 36 sub-divisions, 9 recorded no rainfall, 20 saw deficient to large deficient rains and only four received normal rainfall



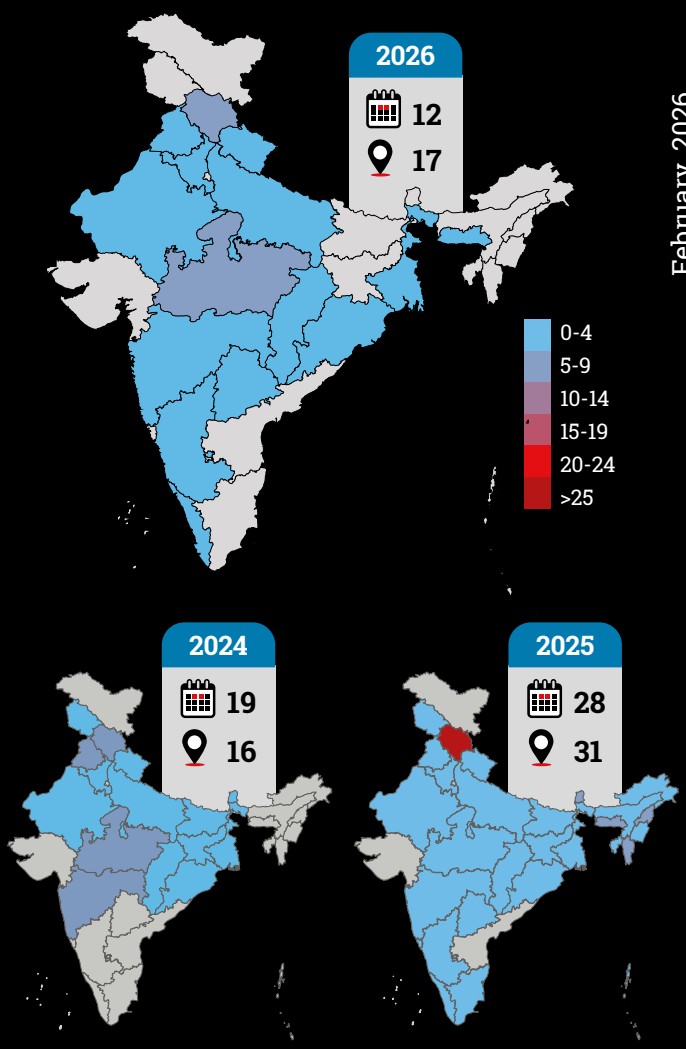
Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune



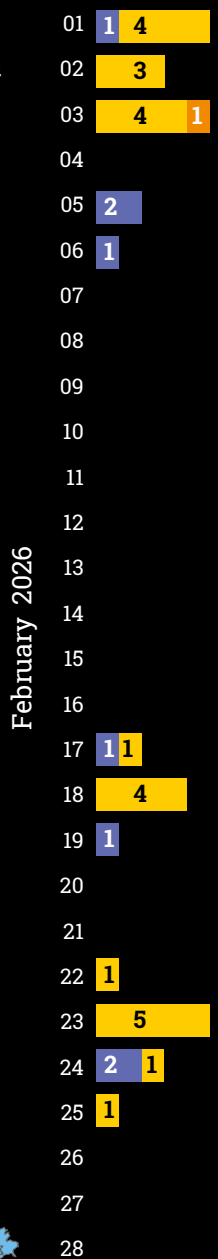
EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

India experienced extreme weather events on 12 out of 28 days in February. This was spread across 17 states/UTs. Madhya Pradesh was the worst hit with such events on 5 days, followed by Himachal Pradesh (4 days) and Uttar Pradesh (3 days). 15 states/UTs experienced hailstorms on at least one day.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS — Number of Days — Affected states



Bars indicate the number of states/UTs that experienced extreme weather events each day



Heavy rain, flood and landslide **(6 days)** | Lightning and storm **(9 days)** | Snowfall **(1 day)**

Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports



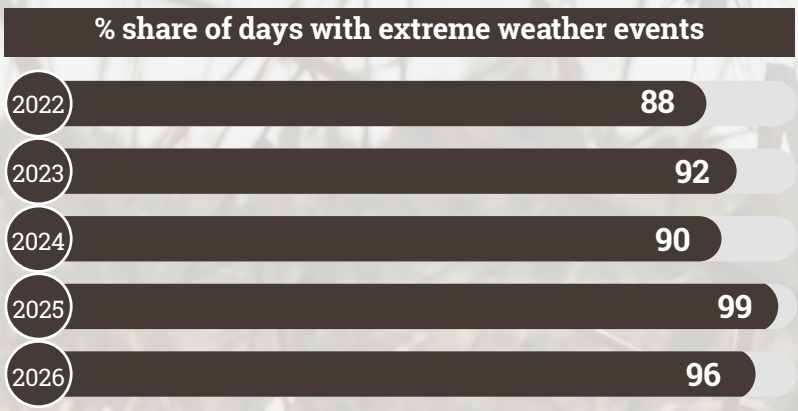
PRE MONSOON

March-May 2026
(92 days)

India witnessed extreme weather on 88 of 92 pre-monsoon days in 2026, spanning 33 states and UTs.

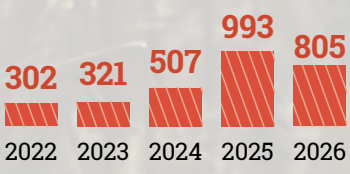
Heavy rain, floods, and landslides occured on 84 days, lightning and storms on 83 days, heatwaves on 42 days and snowfall on 2 days. The events claimed 805 lives and damaged 0.73 lakh hectares of crops.

Maharashtra was worst hit (62 days), followed by Assam (51) and Uttar Pradesh (49).

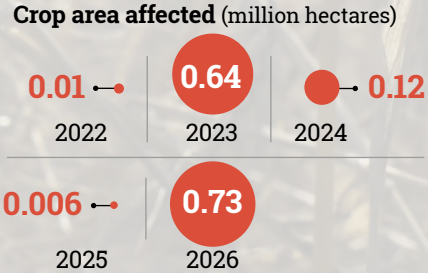


Loss and damage

Human deaths



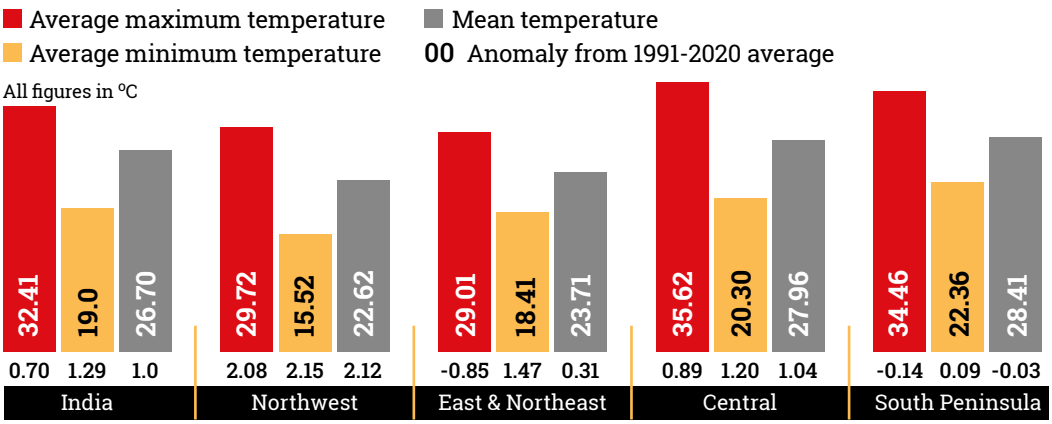
Crop area affected (million hectares)



TEMPERATURE

In March 2026, maximum, minimum and mean temperatures across India were all above normal. The average minimum temperature was 1.29°C above normal, making it the highest in 125 years. This indicates that India experienced its warmest nights in 125 years.

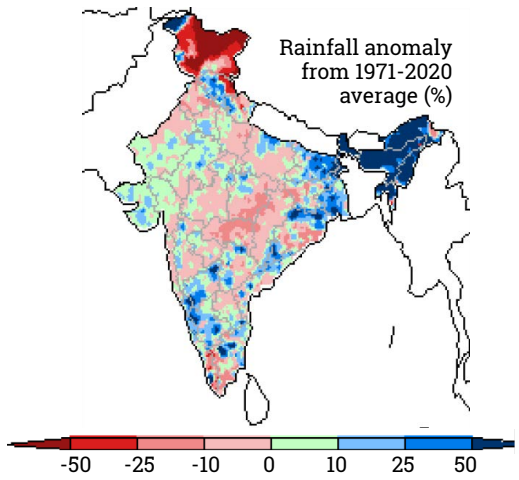
Northwest India recorded its warmest nights in 125 years, with the average minimum temperature 2.15°C above normal



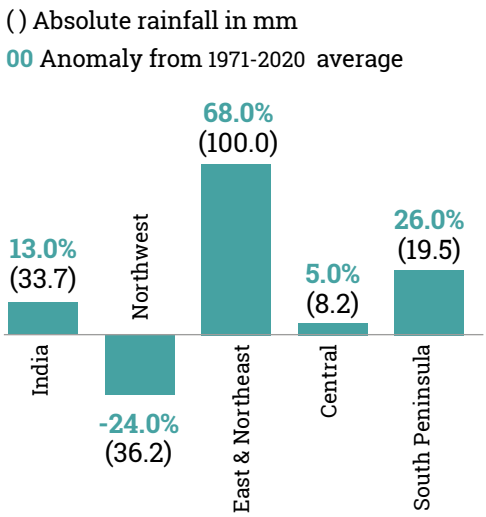
RAINFALL

In March 2026, India received 13 per cent more rainfall than the long-period average (LPA). East and Northeast India recorded their 11th highest rainfall in 125 years, receiving 100 mm against the normal 59.7 mm—a surplus of 68 per cent. South Peninsula also received 26 per cent more rainfall than normal, while Northwest India recorded a deficit of 24 per cent.

Of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions, 11 subdivisions received normal rainfall. 15 sub-divisions received excess to large excess rainfall. In contrast, 10 sub-divisions experienced deficient to large deficient rainfall.



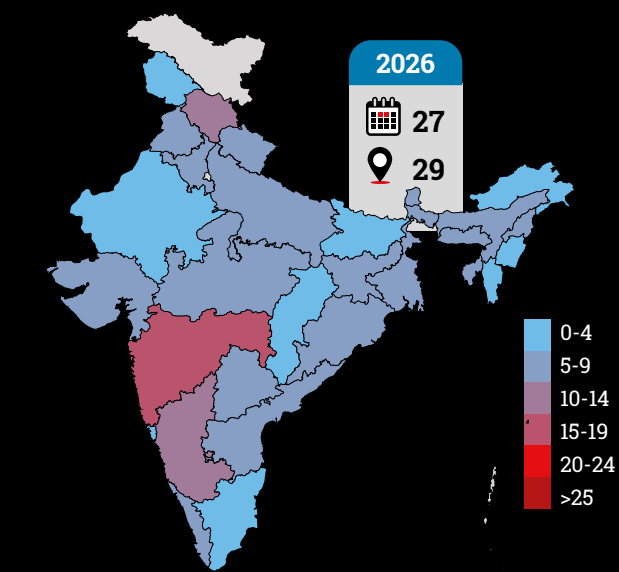
Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune

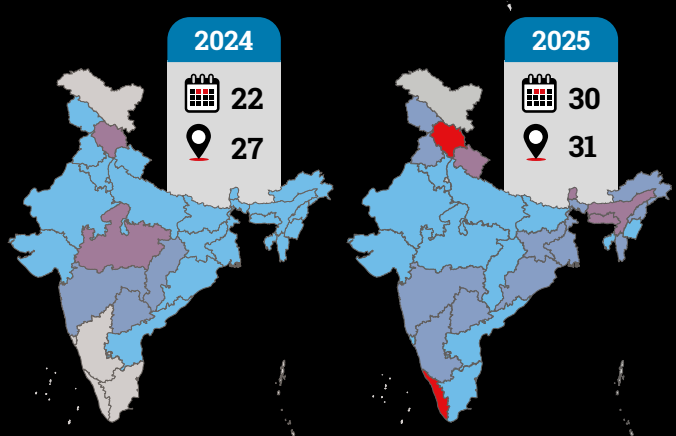


EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

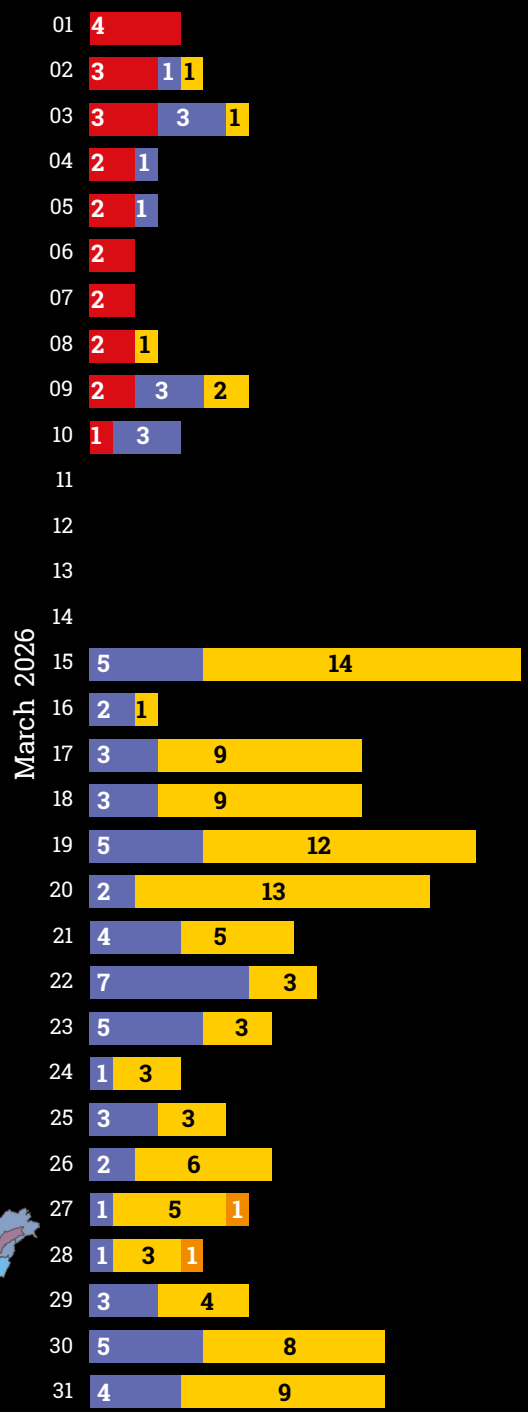
India experienced extreme weather events on 27 out of 31 days in March. This was spread across 29 states/UTs. Maharashtra was the worst hit with such events on 17 days, followed by Himachal Pradesh (15 days) and Karnataka (14 days).

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS — Number of Days — Affected states





Bars indicate the number of states/UTs that experienced extreme weather events each day



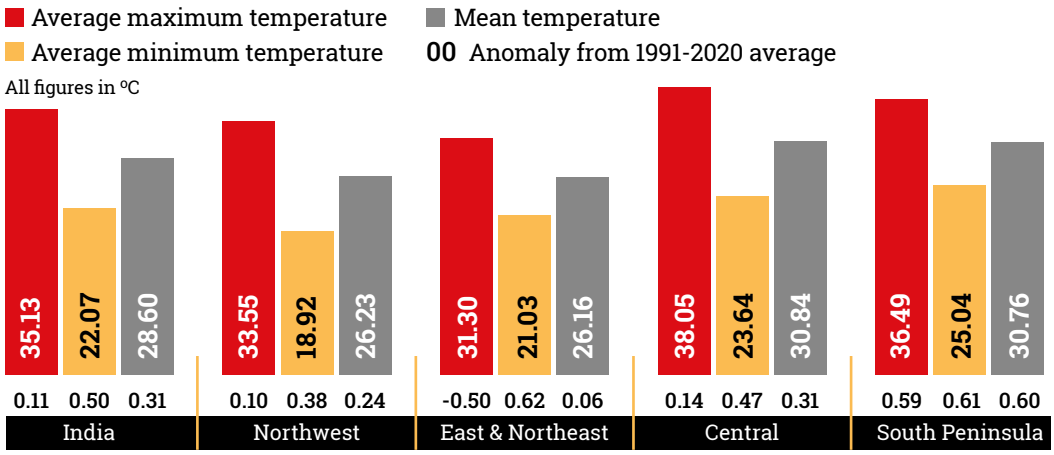
Heatwave **(10 days)** | Heavy rain, flood and landslide **(22 days)** | Lightning and storm **(21 days)** | Snowfall **(2 days)**

Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports

TEMPERATURE

In April 2026, nights across India were warmer than normal, with average minimum temperatures 0.50°C above normal. In contrast, average maximum temperatures during the day were almost normal, at just 0.11°C above normal (1991-2020).

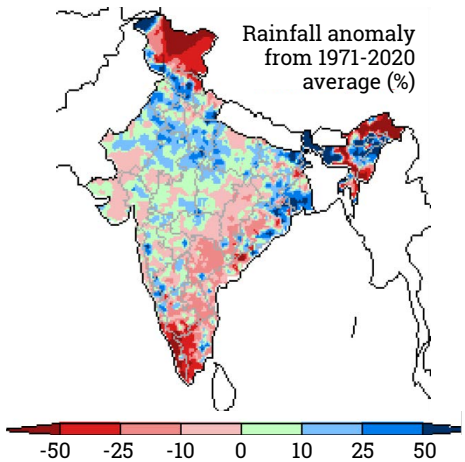
Southern India recorded its seventh-highest maximum and eighth highest minimum temperatures since 1901.

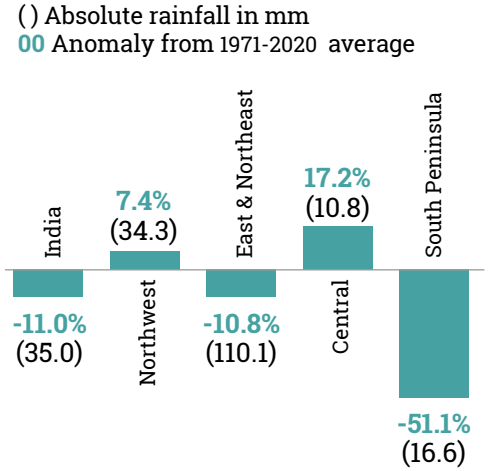


RAINFALL

In April 2026, rainfall across India was 11 per cent below the Long Period Average of 39.3 mm. South Peninsula India recorded its 10th lowest rainfall in 125 years. East and Northeast India too received 10.8 per cent less rainfall than normal. In contrast Central India received 17.2 per cent more rainfall than normal, followed by Northwest India (+7.4%).

Of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions, only 9 sub-divisions received normal rainfall.



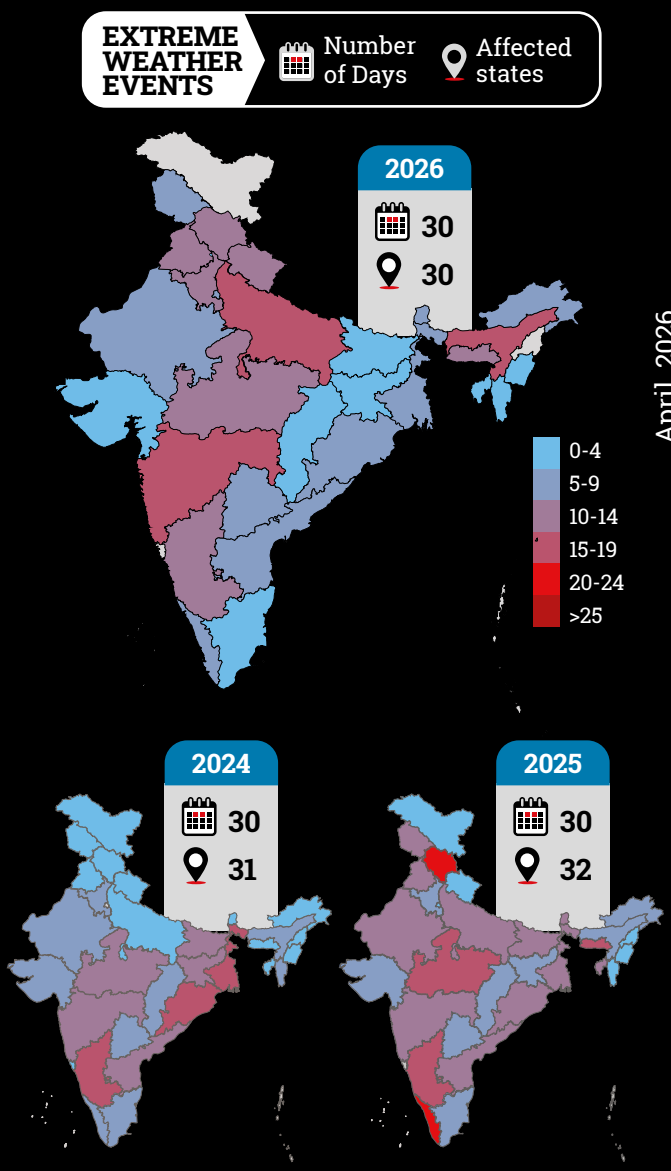


Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune

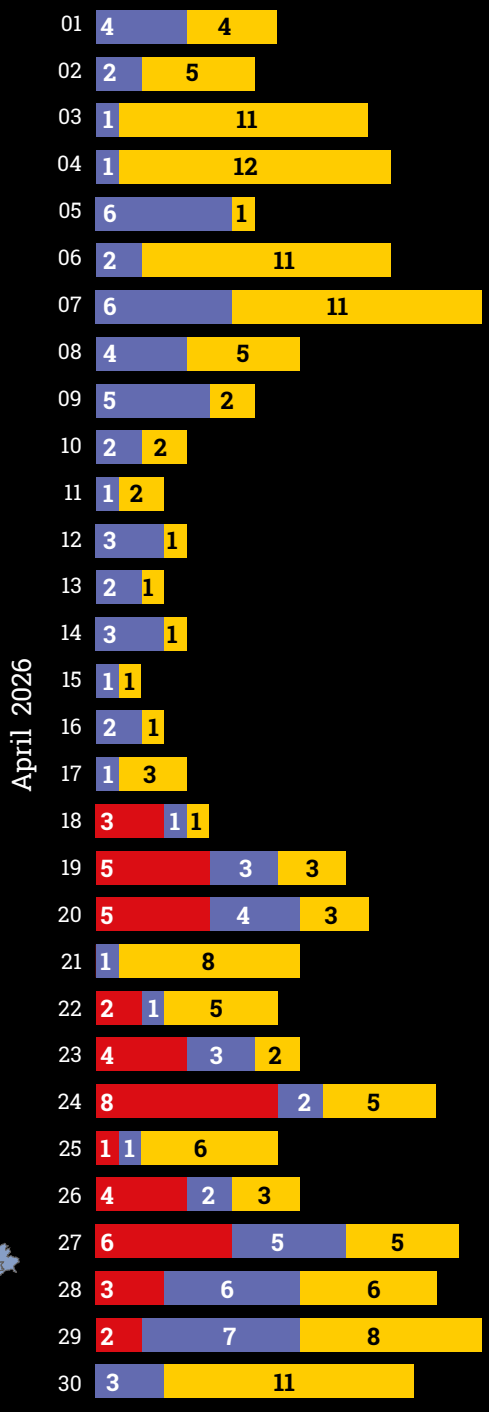
APRIL **INDIA 2026**

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

India experienced extreme weather events on all 30 days of April 2026, affecting 30 states and Union Territories. Assam was the worst hit, reporting such events on 20 days, followed by Maharashtra (19 days) and Uttar Pradesh (17 days).



Bars indicate the number of states/UTs that experienced extreme weather events each day



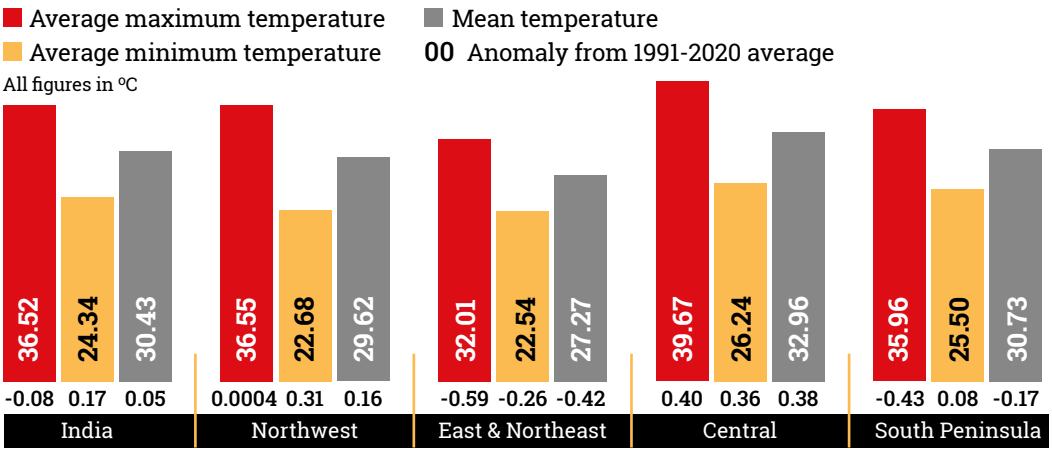
Heatwave **(11 days)** | Heavy rain, flood and landslide **(30 days)** | Lightning and storm **(30 days)**

Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports

TEMPERATURE

In May 2026, the daytime temperatures were nearly normal, while nights were slightly warmer than usual. The average maximum temperature across the country in the month was 36.52°C, slightly below the normal of 36.60°C, while the average minimum temperature was 24.34°C, slightly above the normal of 24.17°C.

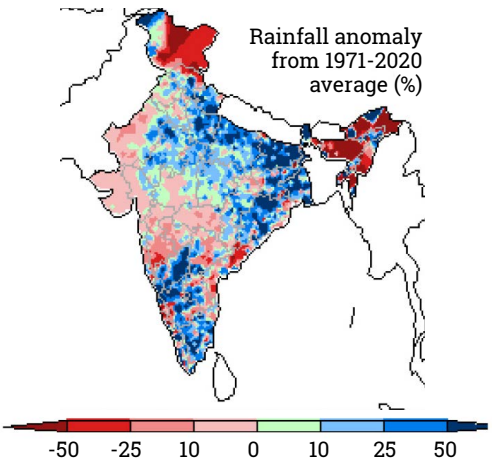
Central India recorded the highest maximum temperature of 39.67°C and was the hottest region, with a mean temperature of 32.96°C (0.38°C above normal)

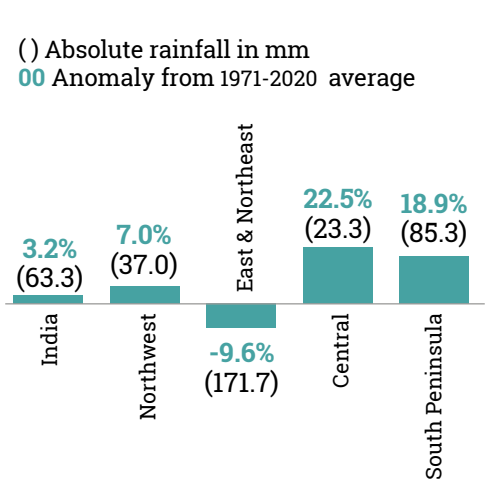


RAINFALL

India received 63.3 mm of rainfall in May 2026: 3 per cent above normal. Northwest India received near-normal rainfall. Central India and the South Peninsula received 22.5 per cent and 18.9 per cent more rainfall than normal, respectively. East and Northeast India received 9.6% less.

Of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions, only 10 sub-divisions received normal rainfall.

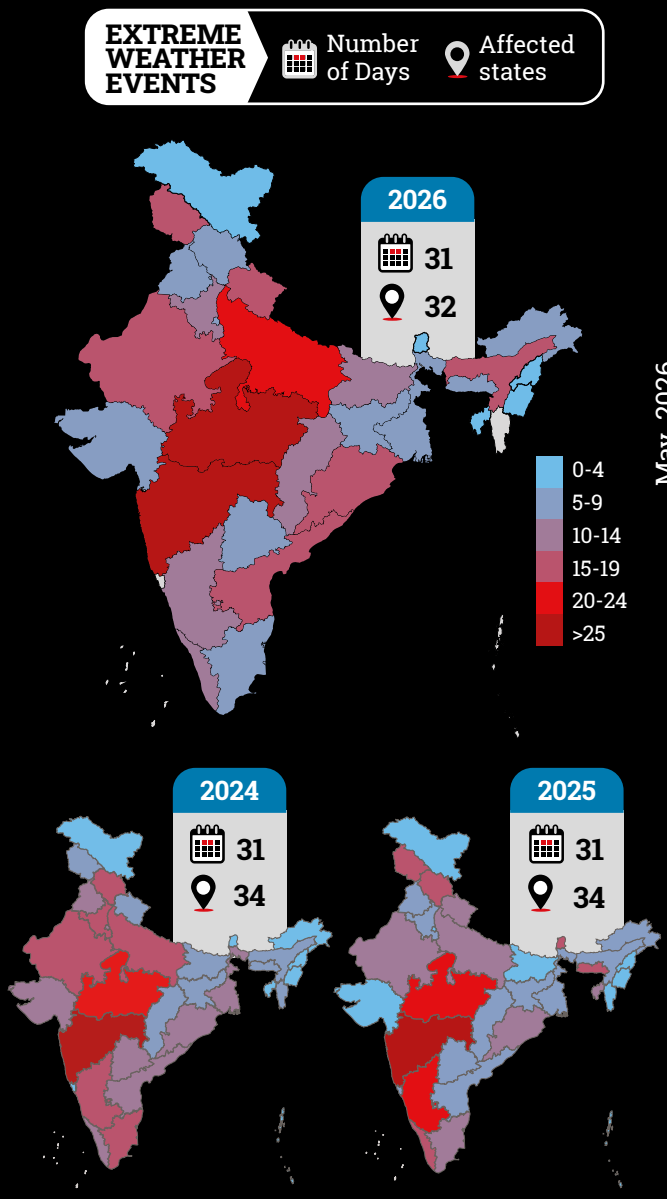


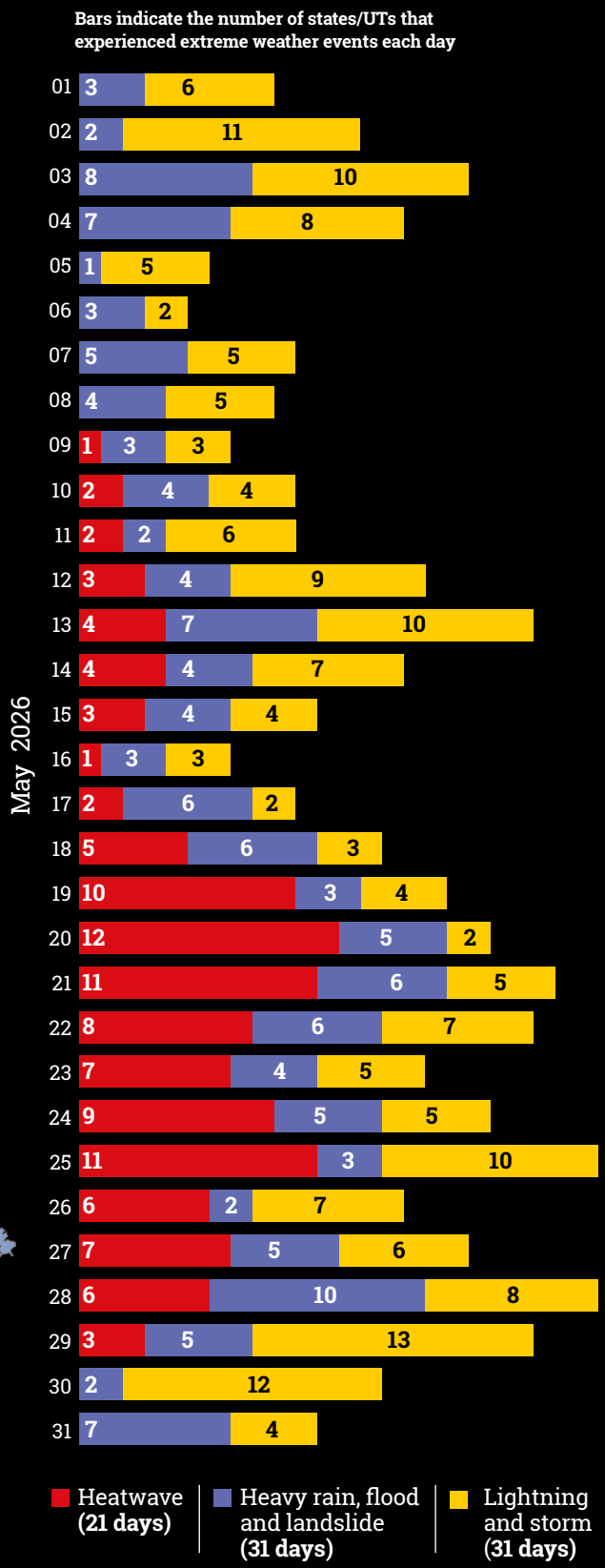


Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

India experienced extreme weather events on all 31 days of May 2026, affecting 32 states and Union Territories. Kerala was the worst hit, reporting such events on 30 days, followed by Madhya Pradesh (26 days) and Maharashtra (25 days).





Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports



MONSOON

June-September 2026
(122 days)

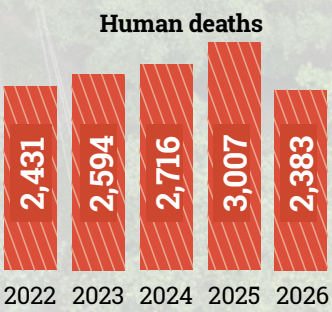
India witnessed extreme weather on all 122 monsoon days in 2026, spanning all 36 states and UTs

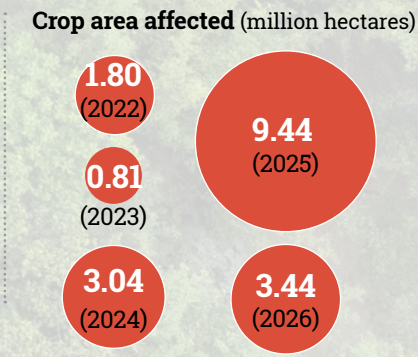
Heavy rain, floods, and landslides occurred on all 122 days, followed by lightning and storms on 106 days and heatwaves 19 days. The events claimed 2,383 lives and damaged 3.44 million hectares of crops.

Assam was worst hit with (113 days) of events, followed by Uttar Pradesh (107 days) and Himachal Pradesh (105 days)



Loss and damage



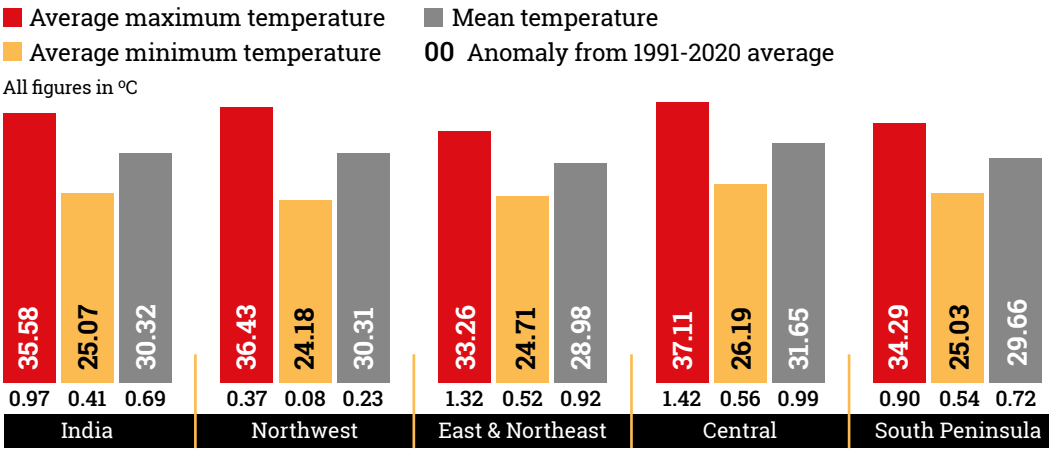


PHOTOGRAPH: ISTOCKPHOTO

TEMPERATURE

In June 2026, East and Northeast India experienced its 8th warmest June in 125 years, with maximum temperatures 1.32 °C above and minimum temperature 0.52 °C above the long-period average.

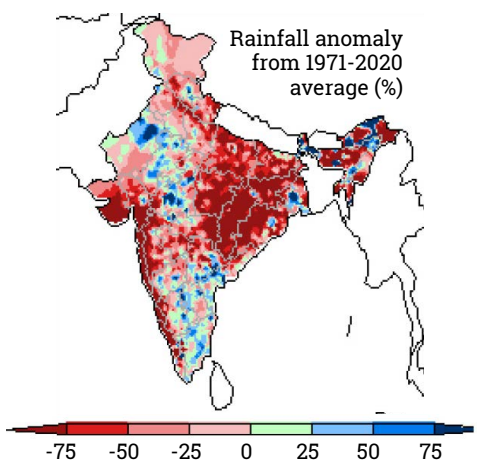
South Peninsular India recorded its 8th highest minimum temperature in 125 years

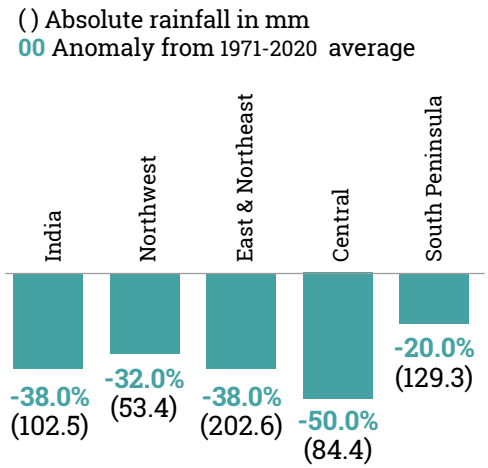


RAINFALL

India received 103 mm of rainfall in June 2026: 38 per cent below the normal of 165.3 mm. All four regions recorded deficit rains. Central India received 50 per cent rainfall less than normal, followed by East and Northeast India (-38 per cent), Northwest India (-32 per cent) and South Peninsula (-20 per cent).

Of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions, only 8 sub-divisions received normal rainfall.

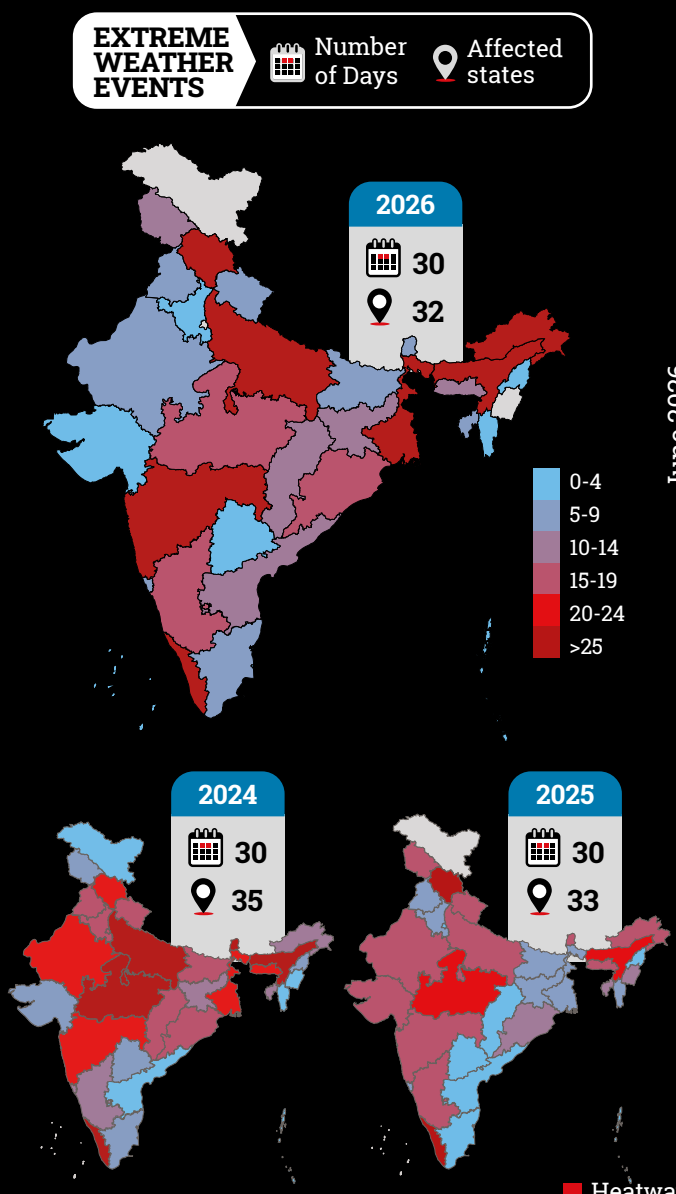




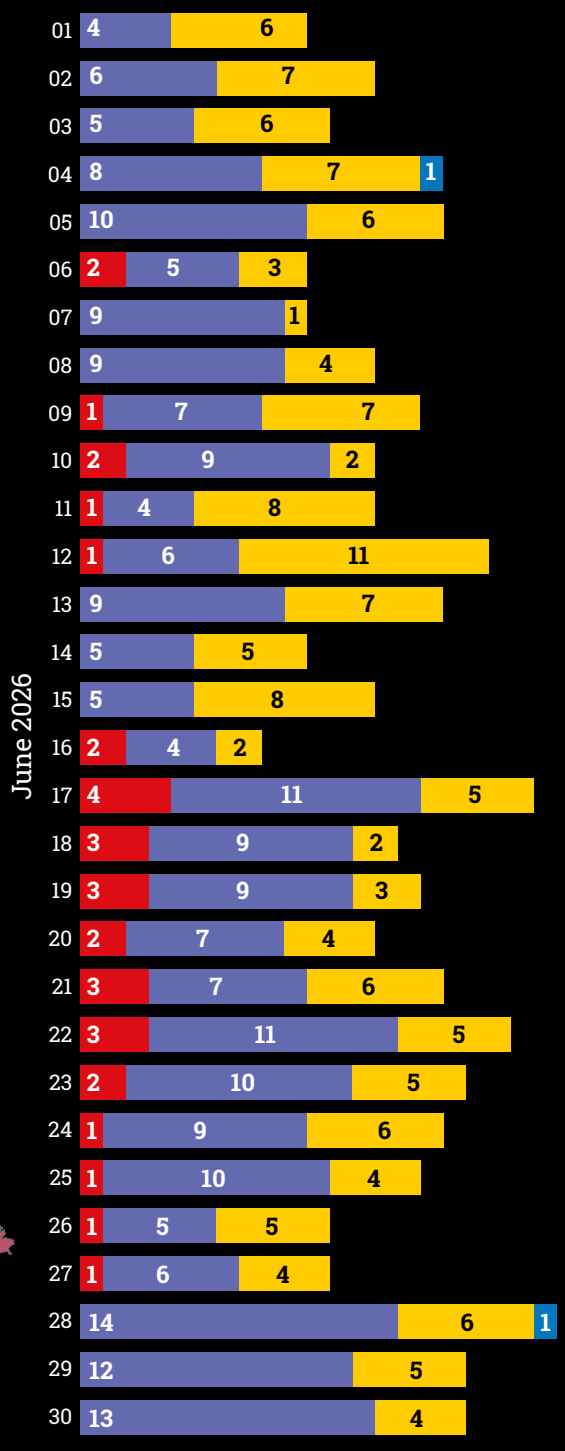
Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

India experienced extreme weather events on all 30 days of June 2026, affecting 32 states and Union Territories. Assam was the worst hit, reporting such events on 29 days, followed by Maharashtra (28 days) and Kerala (26 days).



Bars indicate the number of states/UTs that experienced extreme weather events each day



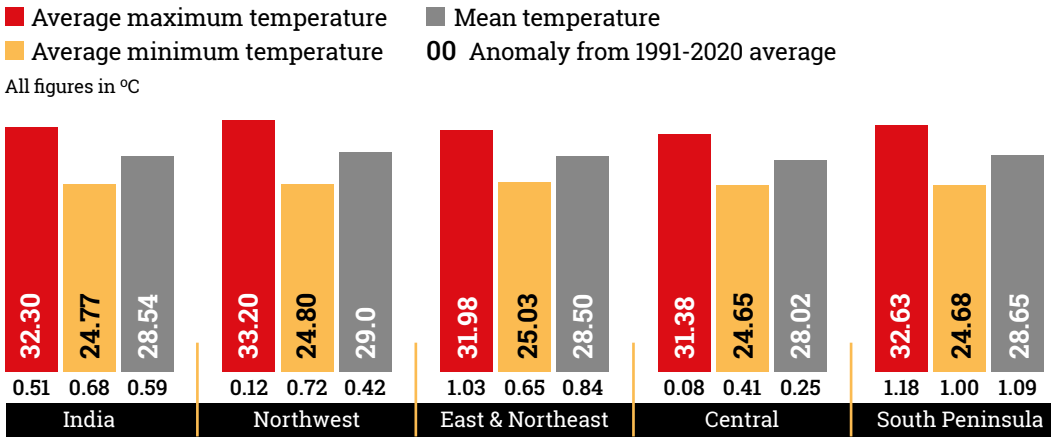
Heatwave **(17 days)** | Heavy rain, flood and landslide **(30 days)** | Lightning and storm **(30 days)** | Cloudburst **(2 days)**

Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports

TEMPERATURE

July 2026 was unusually warm, especially at night, across India. The country recorded the 11th-highest average maximum temperature, the 2nd-highest average minimum temperature, and the 3rd-highest mean temperature in 125 years.

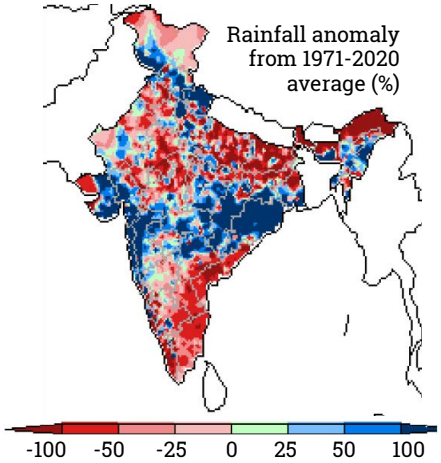
South Peninsular India recorded its 2nd highest minimum temperature in 125 years; East and Northeast regions its 4th highest minimum temperature

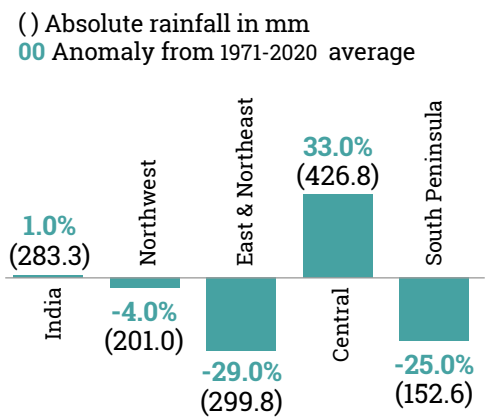


RAINFALL

In July 2026, India received near normal rainfall. East and Northeast India received 29 per cent below-normal rainfall in July 2026, recording 299.8 mm, the 6th lowest July rainfall for the region in 125 years.

Of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions, only 16 sub-divisions received normal rainfall.

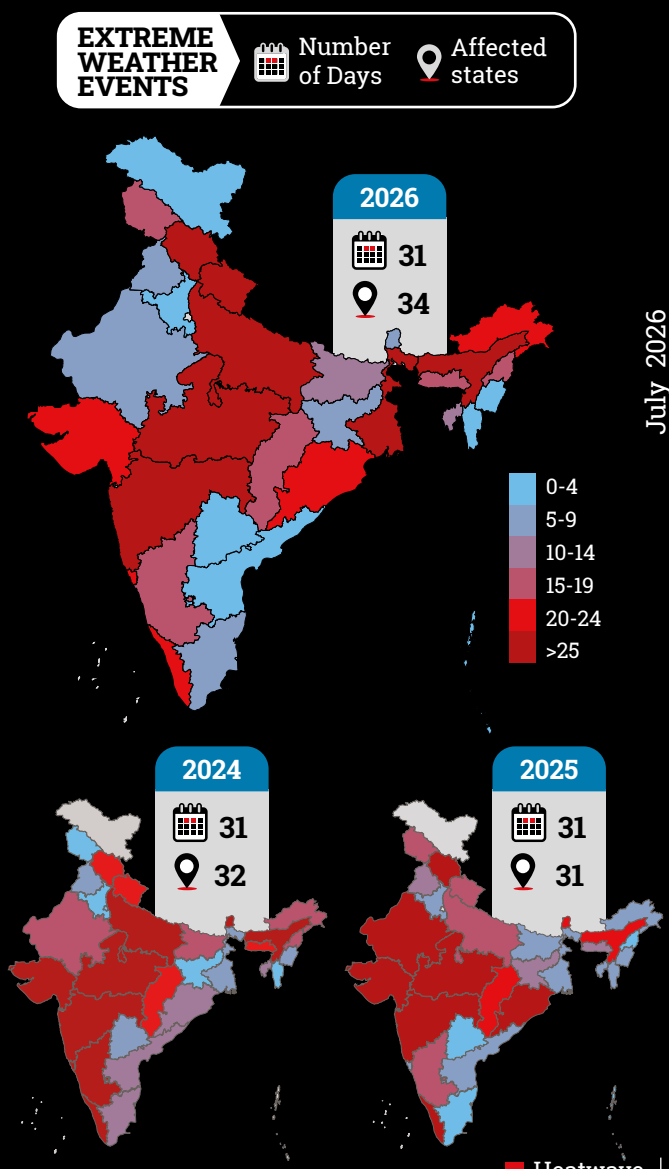


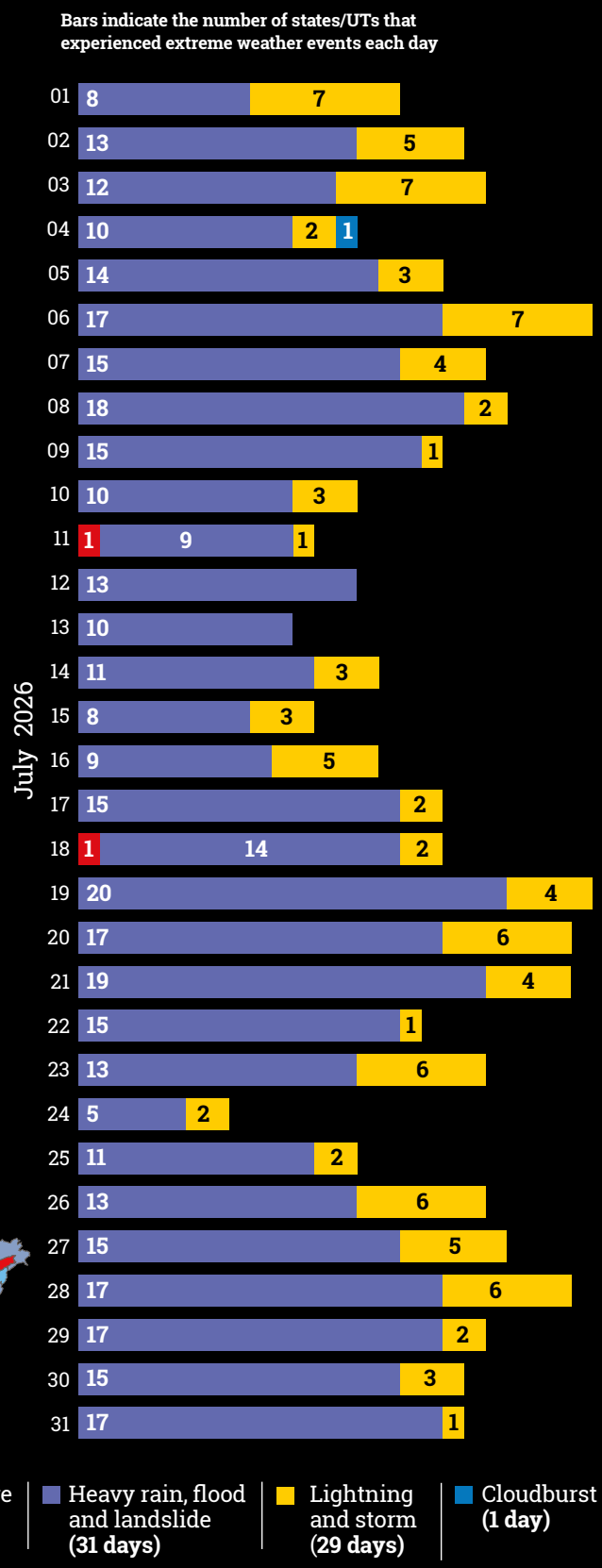


Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

India experienced extreme weather events on all 31 days of July 2026, affecting 34 states and Union Territories. Assam was the worst hit, reporting such events on 30 days, followed by Himachal Pradesh (28 days) and and West Bengal (28 days).



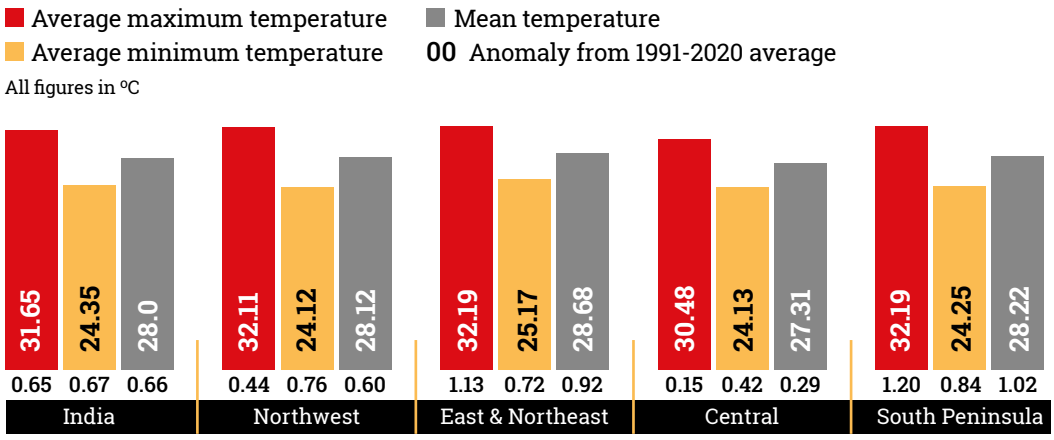


Sources: The India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports

TEMPERATURE

This August India recorded its highest minimum temperature in 125 years. The average maximum temperature and mean temperature too was the 2nd and 4th highest since 1901.

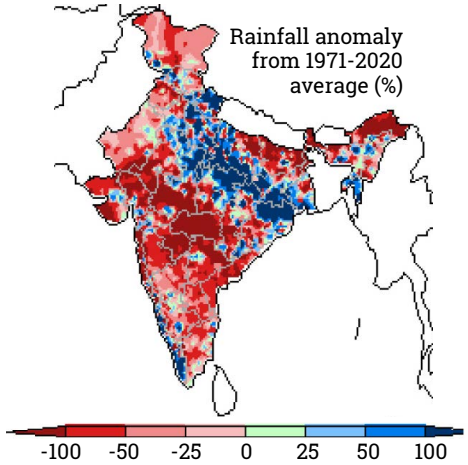
South Peninsular India recorded its highest minimum temperature in 125 years; East and Northeast regions its 2nd highest minimum temperature

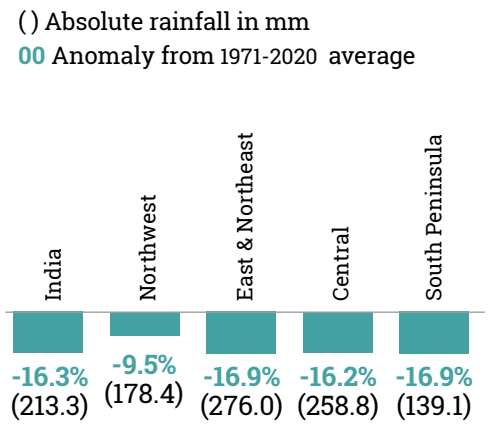


RAINFALL

In August 2026, India received 16 per cent below-normal rainfall recording 213.3 mm of rainfall against the Long Period Average (LPA) of 254.9 mm. East and Northeast India received 16.9 per cent less rainfall than normal in August 2026, recording 276 mm, the region's 9th-lowest August rainfall in 125 years.

Of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions, only 12 sub-divisions received normal rainfall.



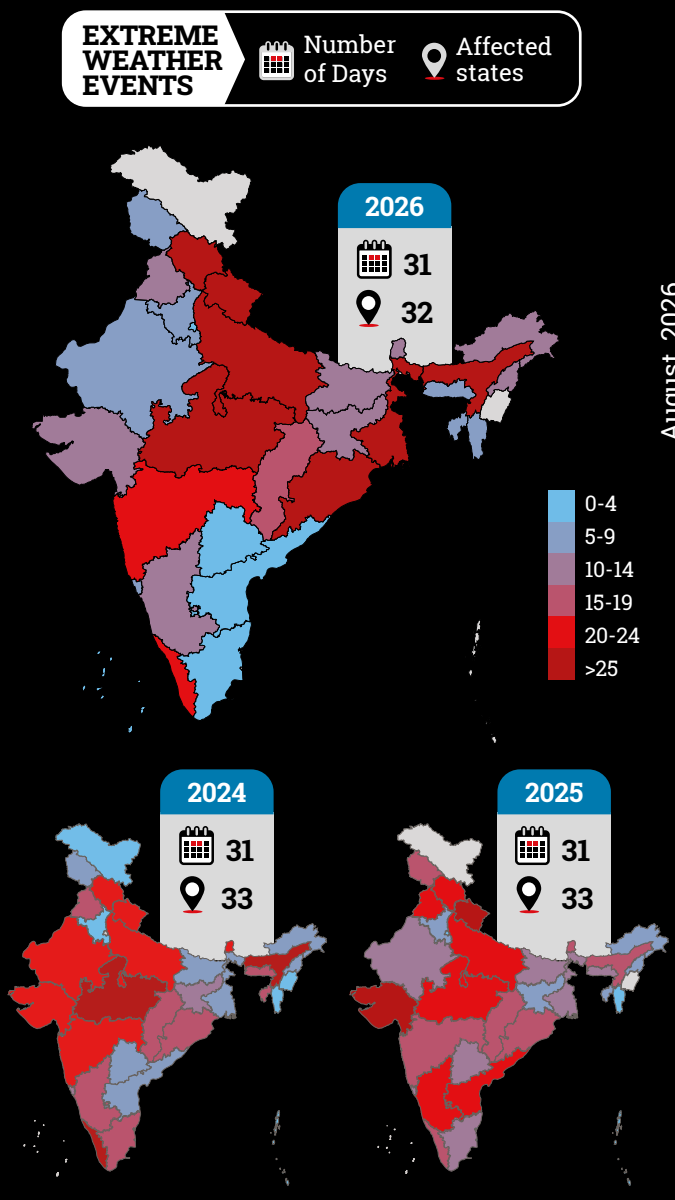


Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune

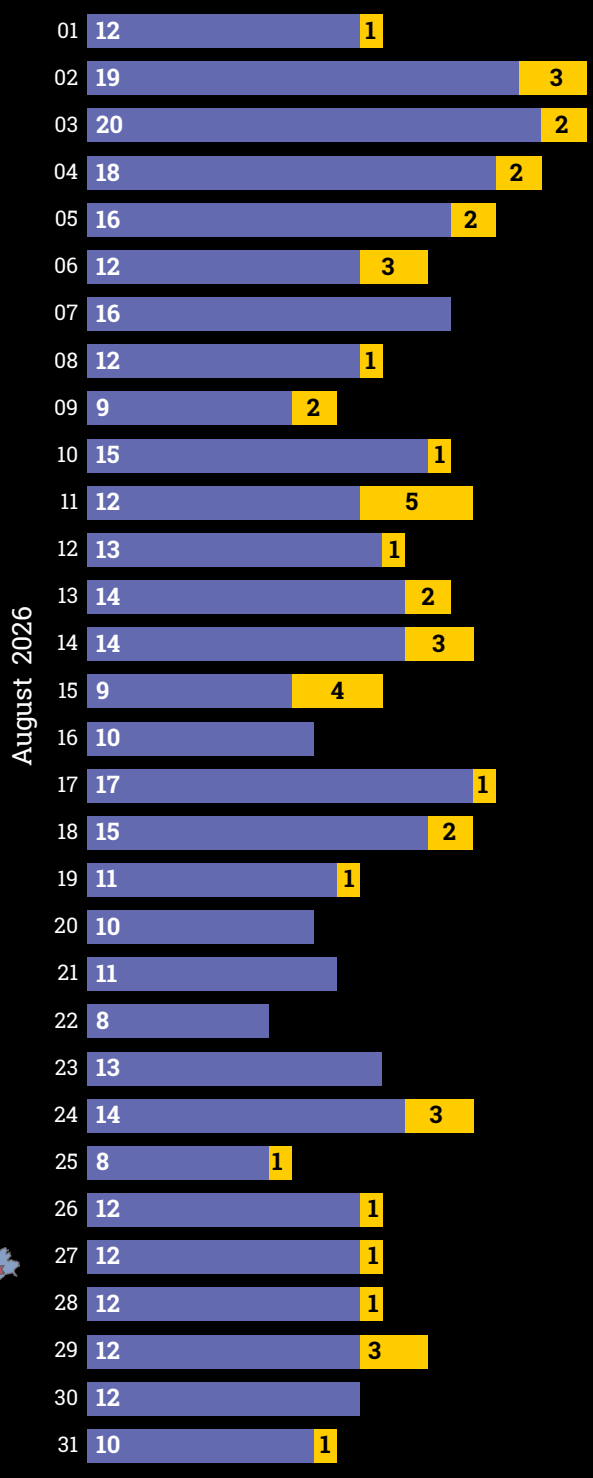
AUGUST **INDIA 2026**

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

India experienced extreme weather events on all 31 days of August 2026, affecting 32 States and Union Territories. Assam was the most affected, reporting extreme weather events on all 31 days, followed by Himachal Pradesh (29 days) and West Bengal (28 days).



Bars indicate the number of states/UTs that experienced extreme weather events each day

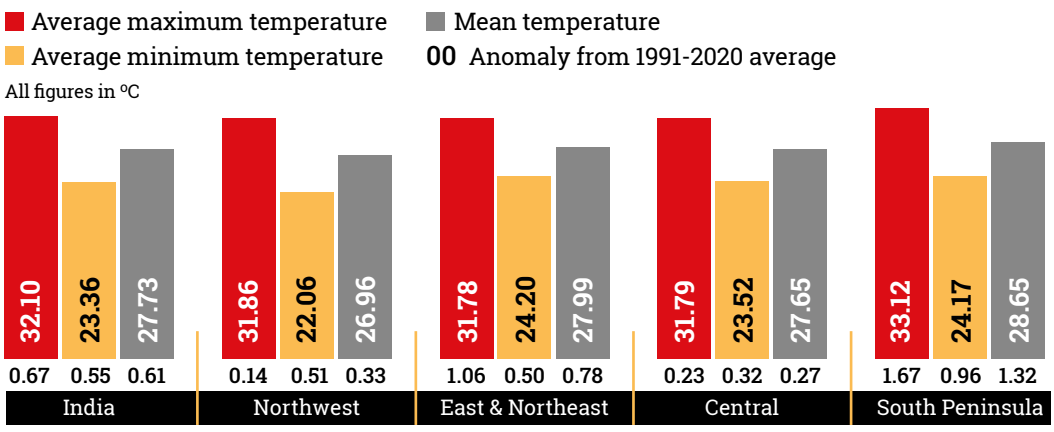


Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports

TEMPERATURE

This September, India recorded its 5th highest average mean temperature in 125 years, at 27.73°C, which was 0.61°C above normal. Both the average minimum (night-time) and maximum (daytime) temperatures too were the 6th highest since records began in 1901.

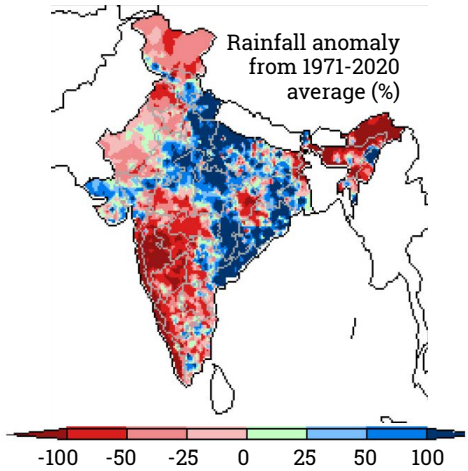
South Peninsular India recorded its hottest ever September. Both maximum and minimum temperatures too were the highest since 1901.

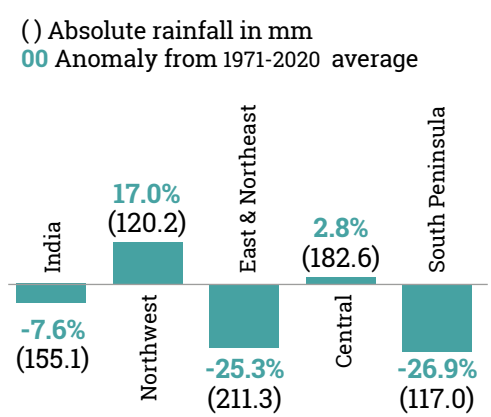


RAINFALL

In September 2026, India received 8 per cent below-normal rainfall recording 155.1 mm of rainfall. South Peninsula and East and Northeast India received 26.9 per cent and 25.3 per cent deficit rains. Northwest India and Central India received 17 per cent and 2.8 per cent surplus rains respectively.

Of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions, only 10 sub-divisions received normal rainfall.

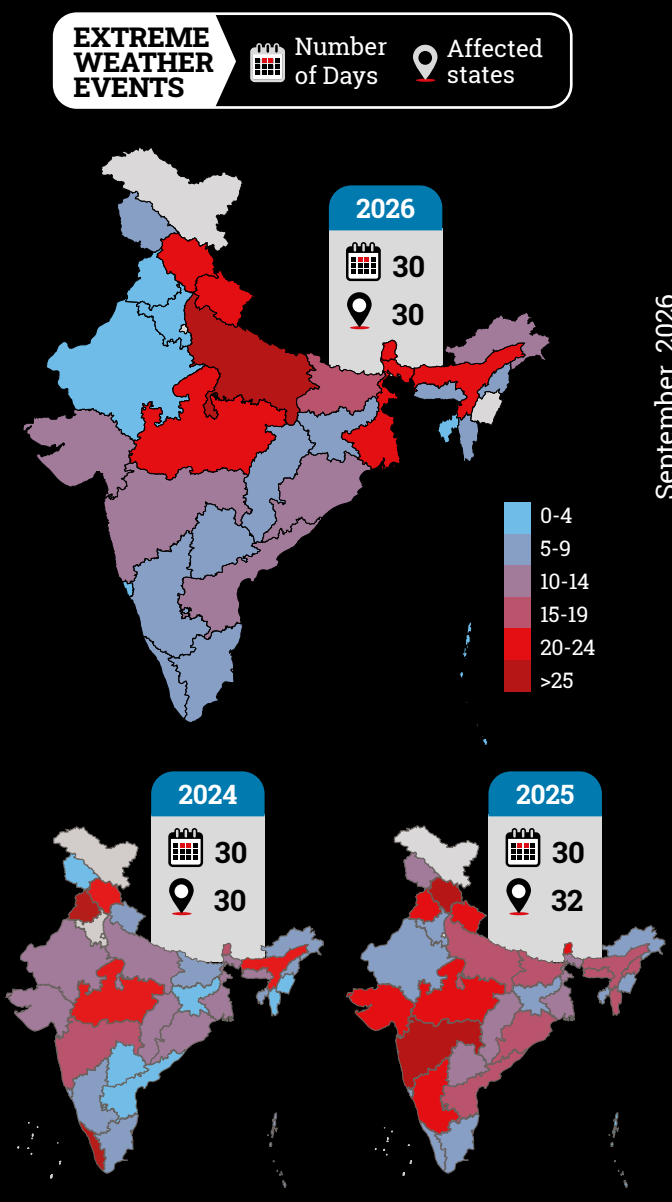


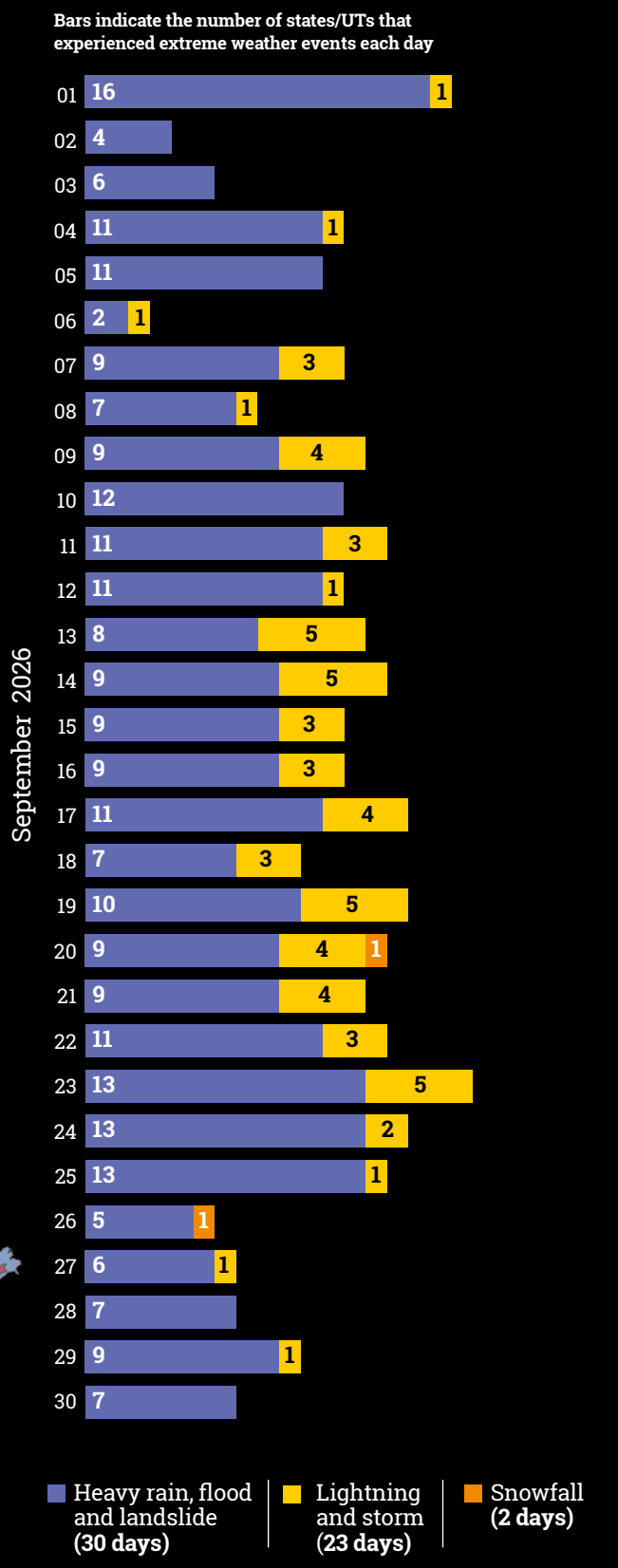


Source: India Meteorological Department, Pune

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

India experienced extreme weather events on all 30 days of September 2026, affecting 30 States and Union Territories. Uttar Pradesh was the most affected, reporting extreme weather events on 29 days, followed by Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (23 days) each.





Sources: India Meteorological Department, Pune, Disaster Management Division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and media reports

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

TYPES OF DISASTERS

Of the seven types of extreme weather events analysed, India experienced six between January and September 2026— all except cyclones.

The 2026 winter season recorded the second-lowest number of coldwave and cold day events in the past five years. For the first time in five years, February 2026 witnessed no coldwave or cold day events, reflecting the unusually warm conditions during the month. February was also the fourth-warmest in 125 years, highlighting the link between the absence of cold wave events and the exceptionally high temperatures recorded.

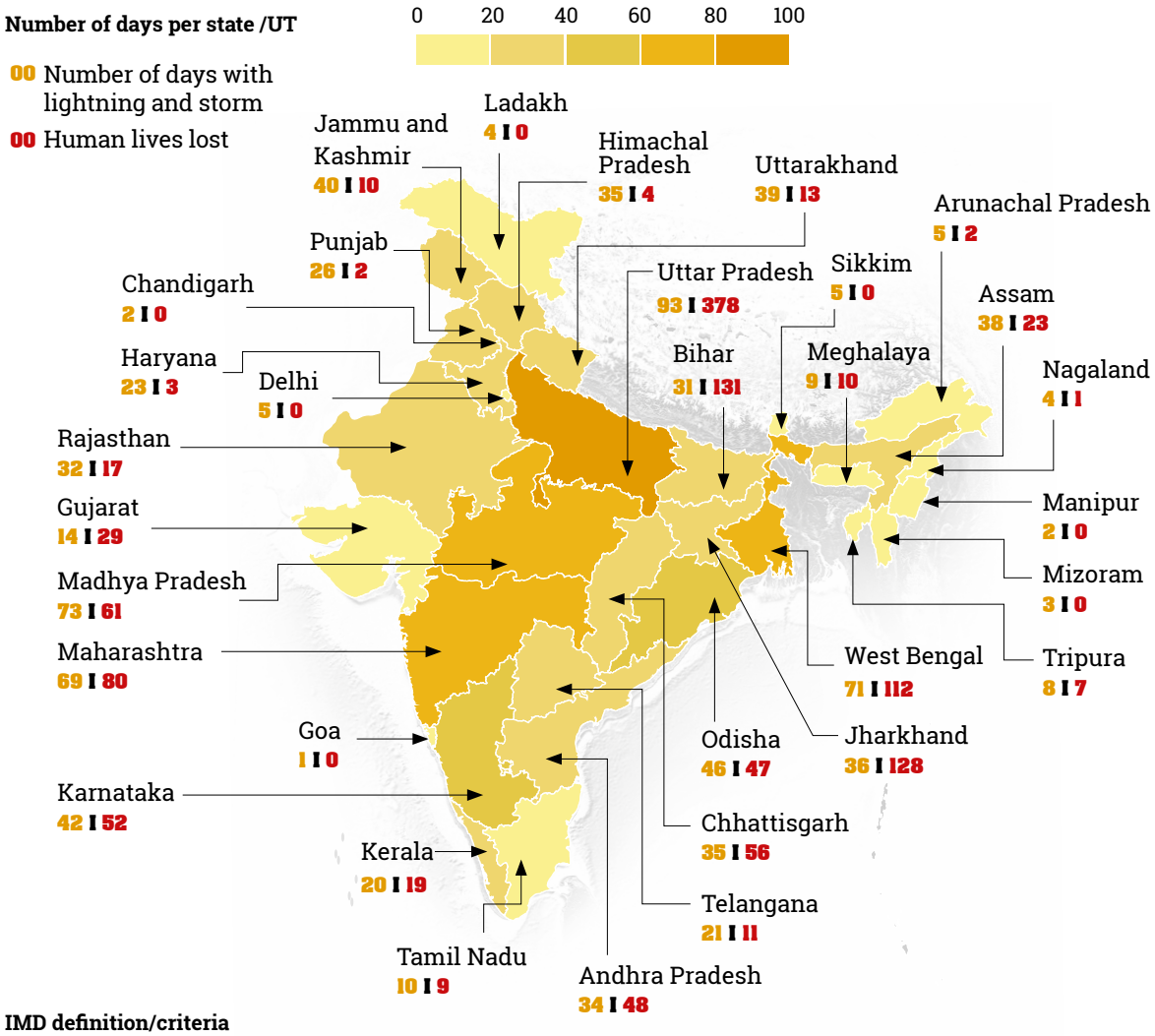
During the pre-monsoon season (March–May), lightning and storms were the most frequent extreme weather events. Hailstorms, a major part of these events, occurred on 80 per cent of the days in April and May 2026, affecting 27 states and causing significant crop damage.

In 2026, India's southwest monsoon ended with 13 per cent less rainfall than the long-period average. However, this did not mean fewer extreme weather events. Heavy rain, floods and landslides occurred somewhere in the country on all 122 days of the monsoon season, damaging at least 3.44 million hectares of cropped land. With El Niño strengthening and drought conditions affecting more than half of India, including regions facing extreme and exceptional drought, the year has been devastating for farmers.

INDIA 2026

LIGHTNING AND STORM

On 202 of 273 days, India experienced lightning and storms. They claimed 1,253 lives



IMD definition/criteria

Lightning is an electrical discharge caused by imbalances between storm clouds and the ground or within the clouds themselves. Storm includes duststorms (caused by thunderstorms or strong pressure gradients associated with cyclones which increase wind speed over a wide area), hailstorms (an outgrowth of a severe thunderstorm in which balls or irregularly shaped lumps of ice fall with the rain), thunderstorms and gales (a very strong wind).

FREQUENCY TRACKER

Number of days lightning and storm were recorded in India



HEAVY RAIN, FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE

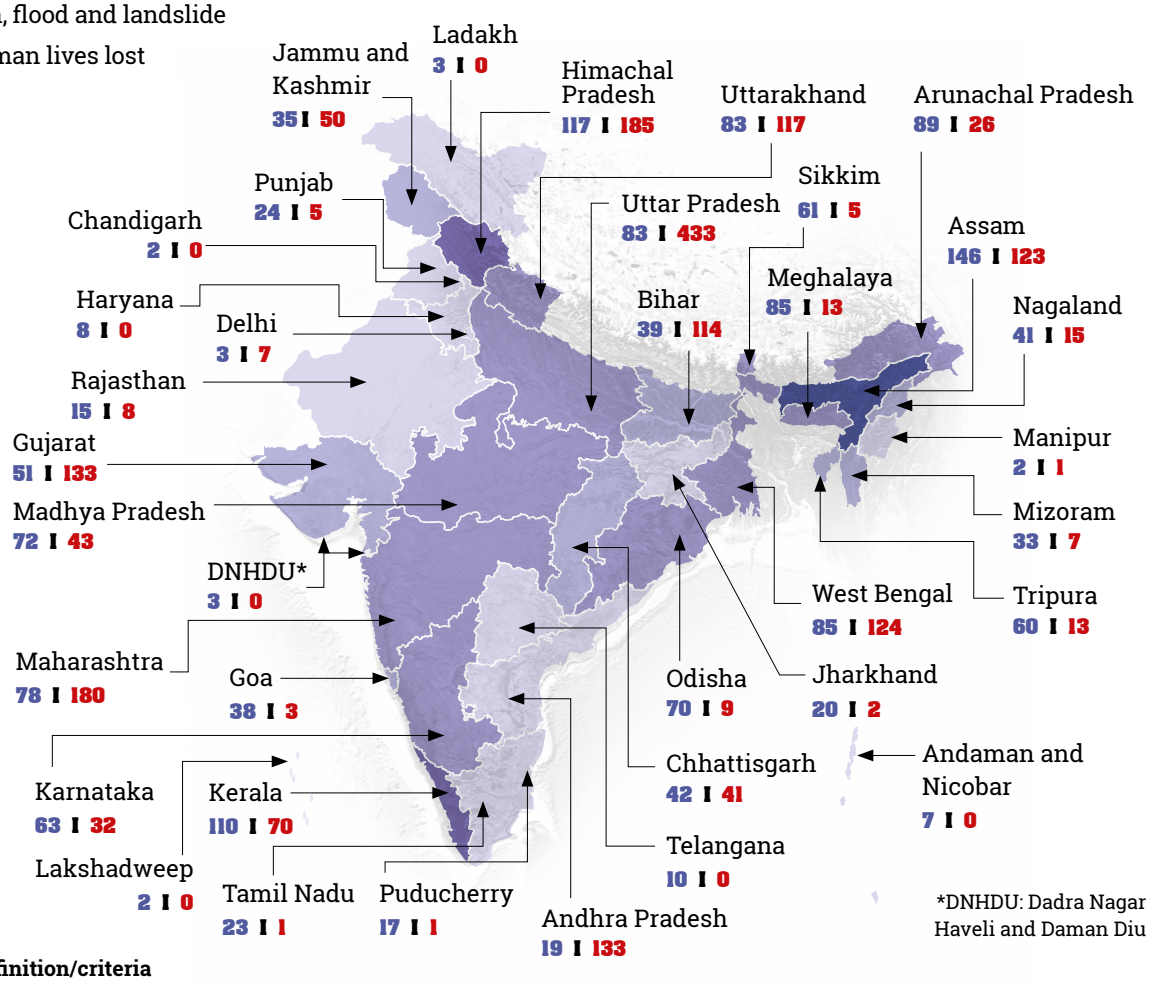
On 223 of 273 days, India experienced the extreme weather event. They claimed 1,894 lives

Number of days per state /UT

0 30 60 90 120 150

00 Number of days with heavy rain, flood and landslide

00 Human lives lost



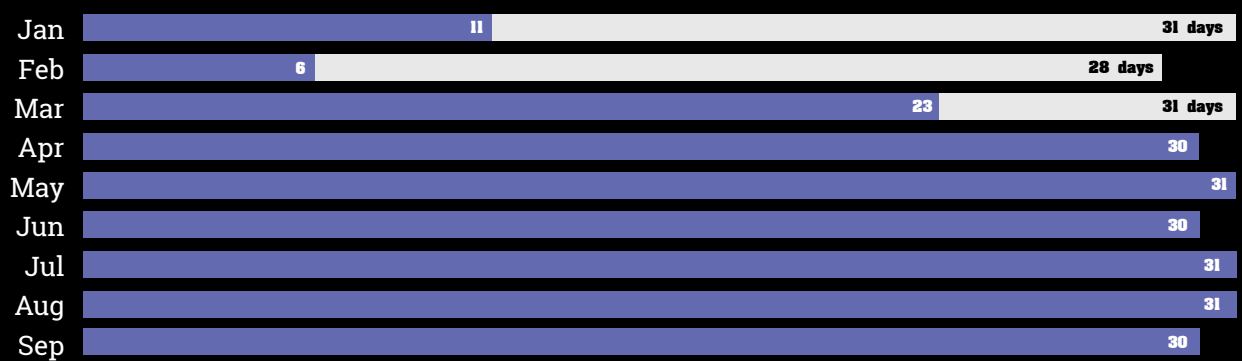
*DNHDU: Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu

IMD definition/criteria

Heavy rainfall happens when a region receives 64.5-115.5 mm rain in 24 hours. In the case of very heavy rainfall, the threshold increases to 115.6-204.4 mm and in extremely heavy rainfall it is 204.5 mm or more. The report has considered all very heavy and extremely heavy rainfall events, and heavy rainfall events only when they have caused damages.

FREQUENCY TRACKER

Number of days heavy rain, flood and landslide were recorded in India



INDIA 2026

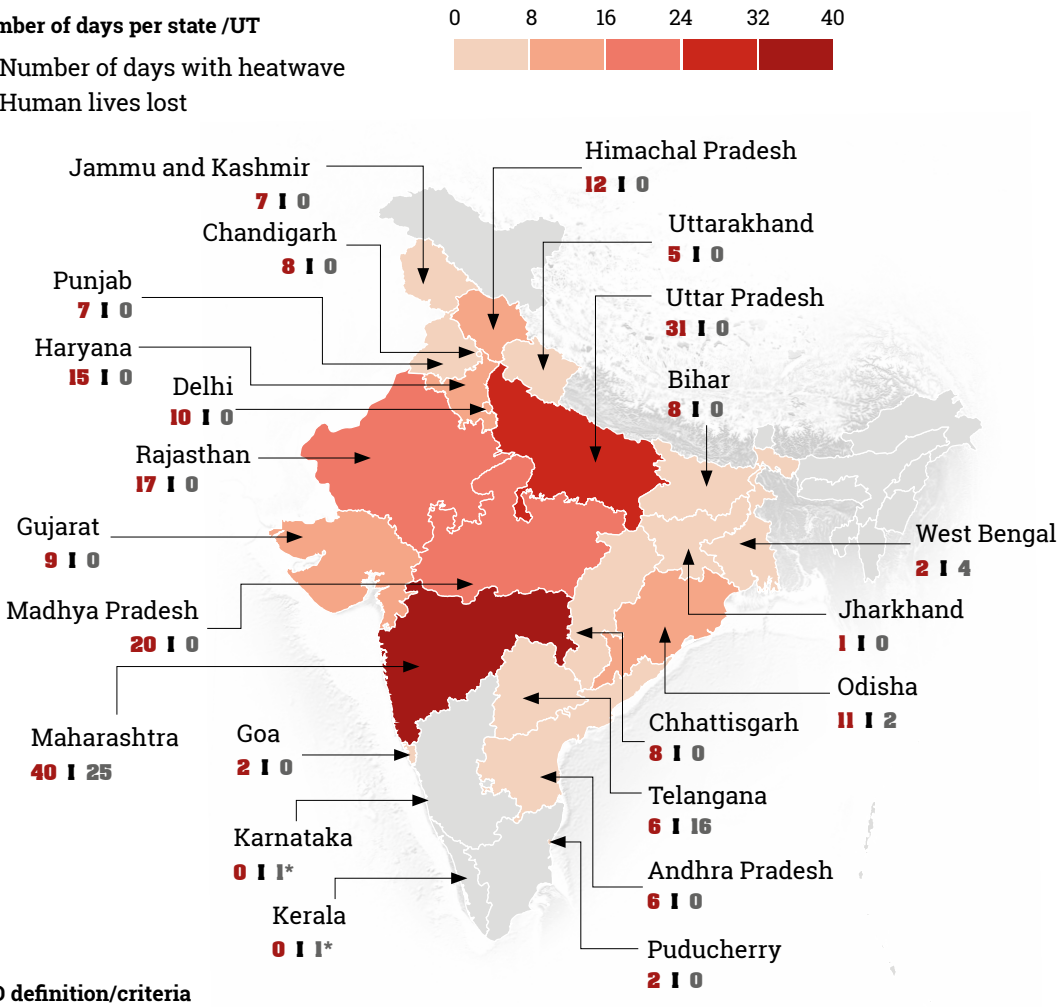
HEATWAVE

On 61 of 273 days, India experienced heatwaves. They claimed 49 lives

Number of days per state /UT

00 Number of days with heatwave

00 Human lives lost



IMD definition/criteria

Heatwave conditions signify a certain amount of rise in temperature at a given place with respect to normal climatological value. The report has considered heatwaves (4.5°C to 6.4°C departure of the maximum temperature from normal), and severe heatwaves (departure of more than 6.4°C).

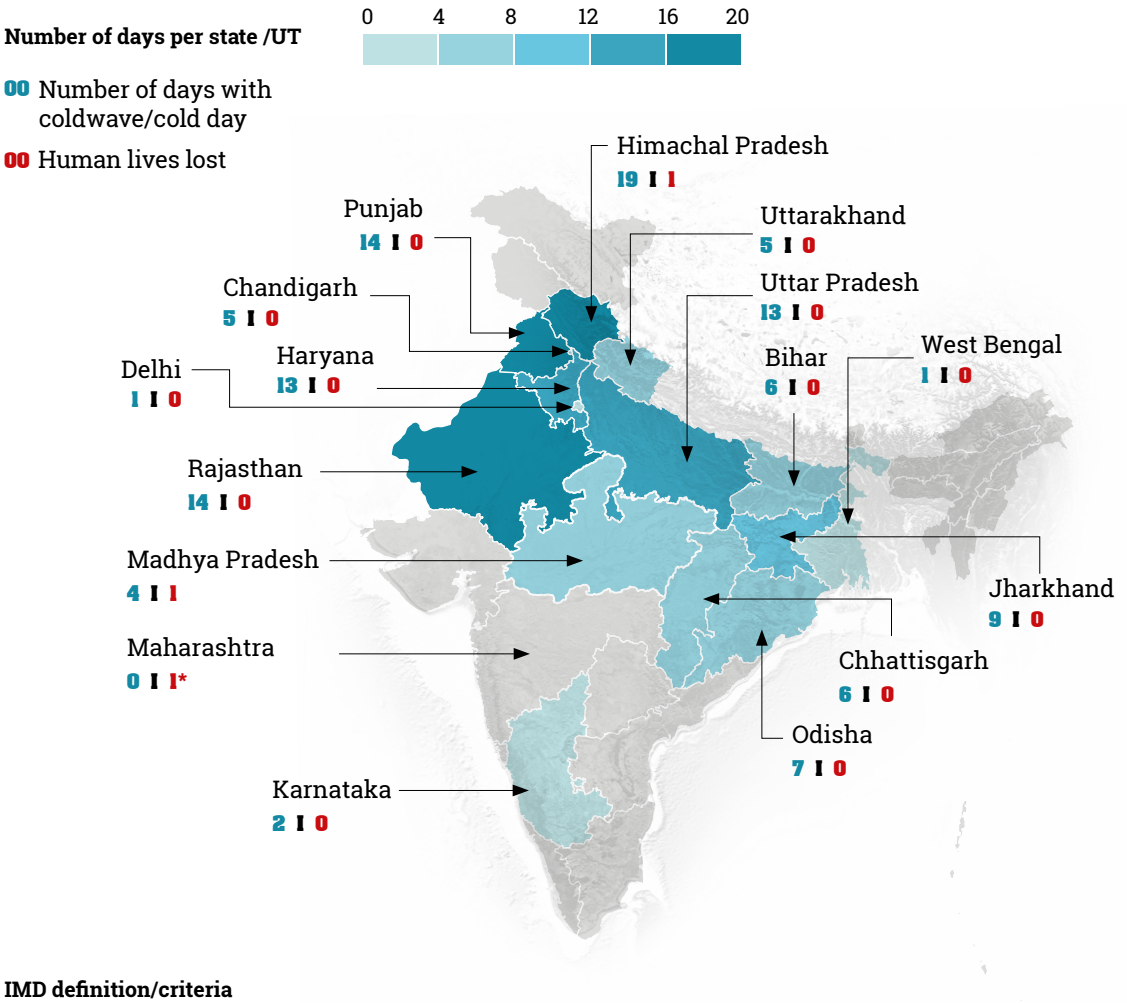
FREQUENCY TRACKER

Number of days heatwave were recorded in India



COLDWAVE/COLD DAY

On 25 of 273 days, India experienced coldwave/cold days. They claimed 3 lives



IMD definition/criteria

Cold day conditions occur when the maximum temperature drops by 4.5°C to 6.4°C than average. If the deviation is more than 6.4°C, then it is considered severe cold day. Coldwave conditions occur when the minimum temperature drops by 4.5°C to 6.4°C than normal. Similarly, severe coldwave occurs when the minimum temperature drops by more than 6.4°C than normal. The report has considered all the four categories.

FREQUENCY TRACKER

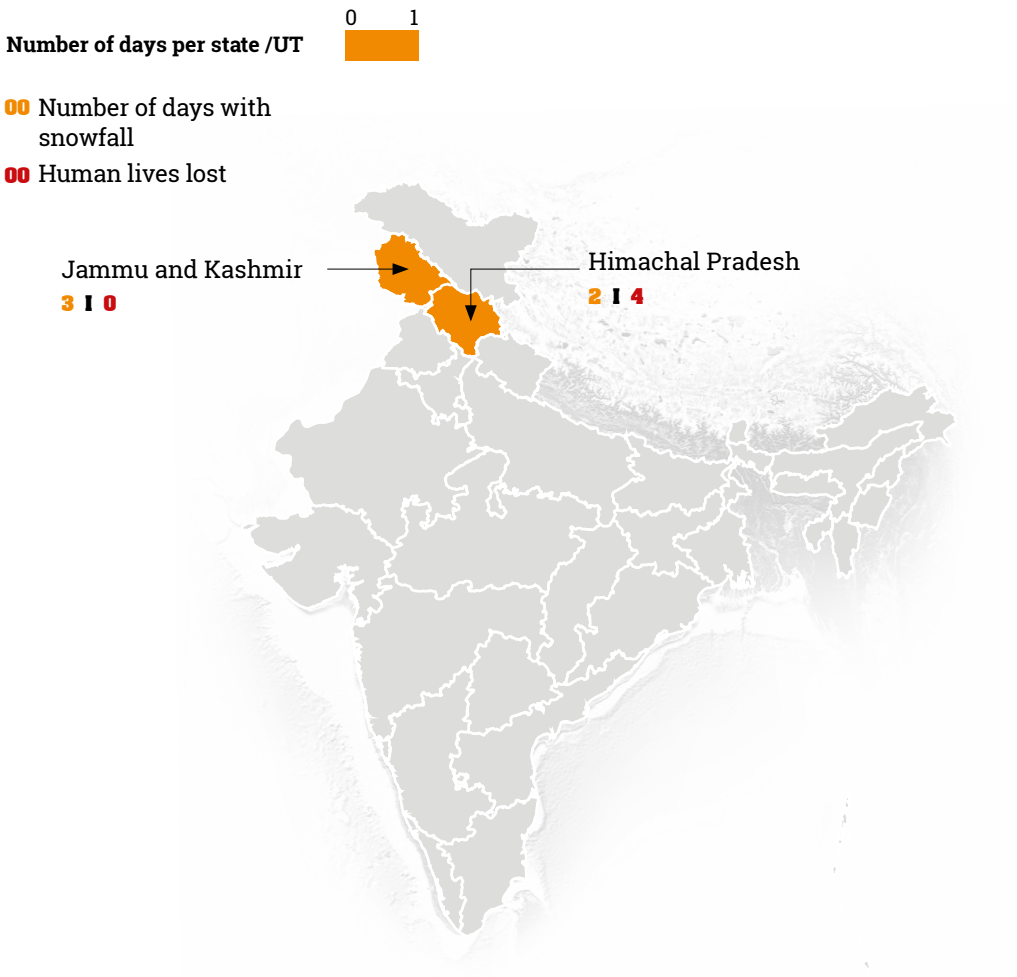
Number of days with coldwave/cold day



INDIA 2026

SNOWFALL

On 5 of 273 days, India experienced snowfall. It caused 4 human deaths

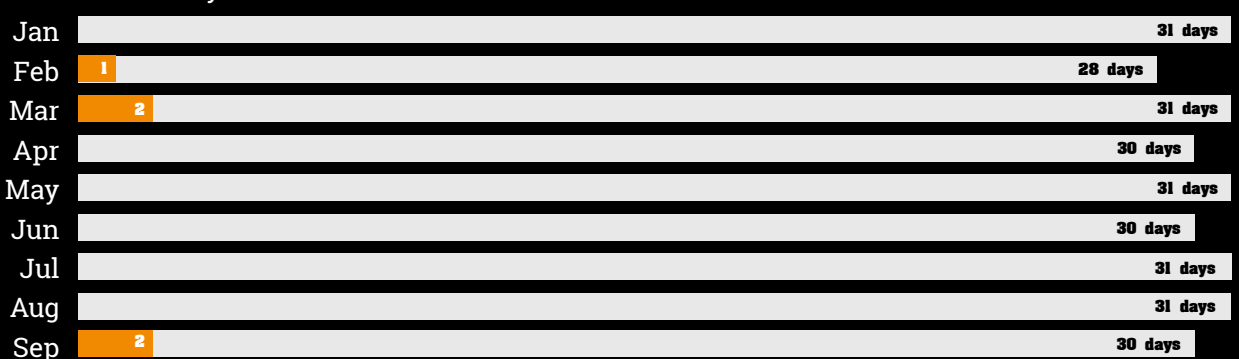


IMD definition/criteria

Snowfall is a hydrological hazard where a large amount of snow can affect transport, crops and people. Annual Disaster Weather Report by IMD reports the snowfall cases over India that caused human deaths. The report has also considered only those snowfall events that caused human deaths.

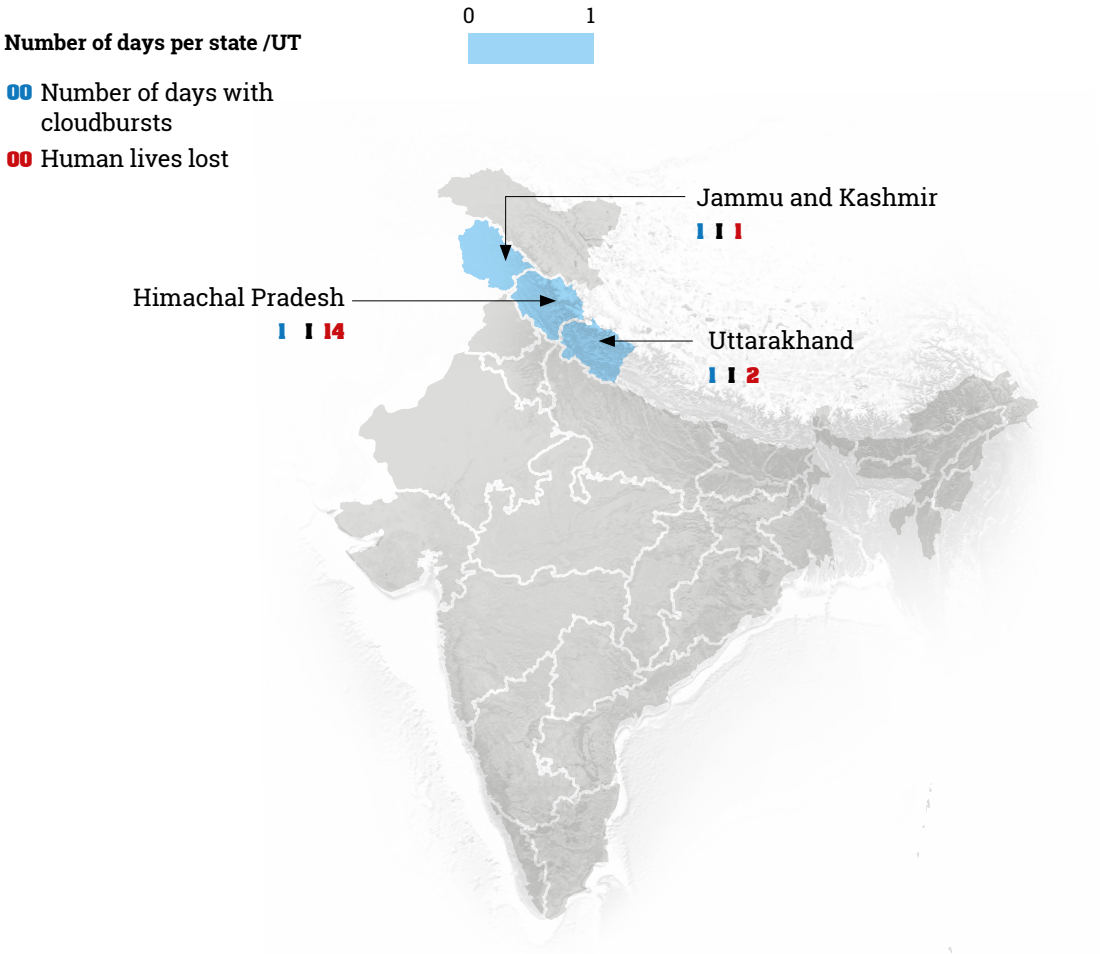
FREQUENCY TRACKER

Number of days with snowfall



CLOUDBURST

On 3 of 273 days, India experienced cloudbursts. They claimed 17 lives

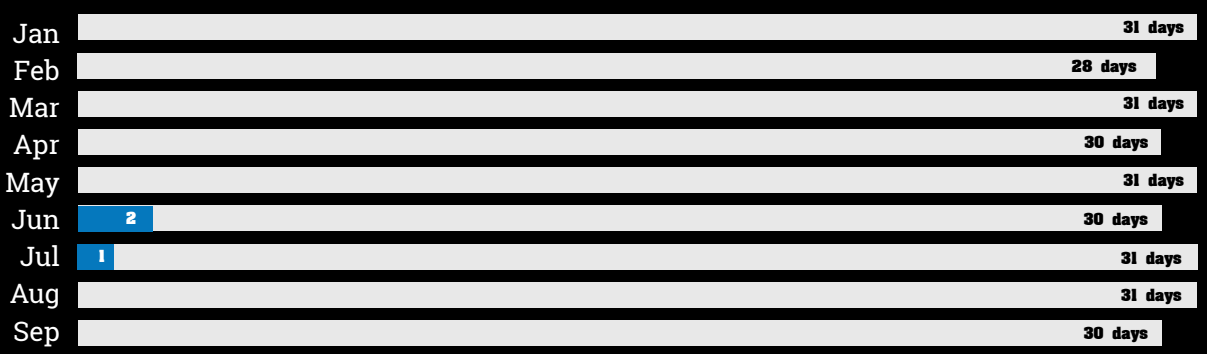


IMD definition/criteria

Cloudburst is very heavy rainfall (100 mm per hour) over a localised area. It is accompanied with strong winds and lightning.

FREQUENCY TRACKER

Number of days with cloudburst



ABOUT THE REPORT

All Indian states are significantly climate vulnerable, yet robust data on extreme weather events, which are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change, is not available publicly. This happens because government agencies use different definitions and data collection sources, which obscures the bigger picture.

This report, released annually since 2022, is an attempt to build an evidence base on the frequency and expanding geography of extreme weather events in India. It provides season-by-season, month-by-month, and region-by-region analyses of extreme weather events and the loss and damage they caused in the first nine months of 2026.

Scan to access India's Atlas on Weather Disasters

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