



# Heatwaves in India Breaks Record

- By Ankit Agrawal



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# Record-breaking early heatwave hits India, Pakistan, temperatures keep rising



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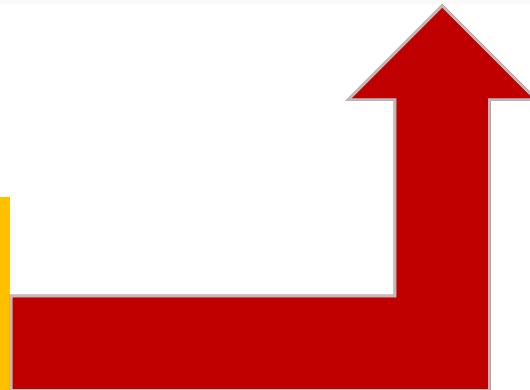
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## WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Severe heat conditions have been consistently reported over large parts of India since the **beginning of the summer season in March this year.**

**Maximum temperatures in** west Rajasthan and Vidarbha in Maharashtra have **remained between 40 degrees and 45 degrees Celsius throughout the last two months.**

Although March marks the seasonal transition from winter to summer, this year the month **saw two spells of heatwaves.**

## 4 HEATWAVES SINCE MARCH

There have been at least 26 heatwave days since the beginning of March, and as many as four spells of heatwaves in a little over a month and a half.

The last of these heatwaves remains ongoing.

The first of these lasted from March 11 to 19, and affected Kutch-Saurashtra, northern Konkan and Madhya Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, West Madhya Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh and interior Odisha.

The **next spell**, which **commenced on March 27**, was long — **and abated only on April 12.**

It hit all the regions that **were affected by the first heatwave**, and **also spanned** Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rayalaseema and East Madhya Pradesh, covering a very large patch of the country's north, west, and centre.

**After a brief respite of a few days, a new heatwave started on April 17.**

This was **relatively short, lasting until April 20**, and was **largely restricted to Delhi, Rajasthan, East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Vidarbha.**

A fourth heatwave spell commenced on April 24 over Kutch-Saurashtra and Rajasthan, **remains ongoing.**

It is **expected to spread in the coming days to Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, interior Odisha, Chhattisgarh, northern Gujarat, and Vidarbha.**





# Delhi, mercury to hit 46 Degrees; No respite for Bihar, Bengal & Maharashtra – 5 Facts

*Heatwave latest news: With the current conditions prevailing, the national Capital may break the 1941 record of highest temperature for the month of April.*

Written by [FE Online](#)

April 27, 2022 4:25:19 pm



# WHAT IS HEATWAVES?

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) declares a heatwave for a region when the **maximum temperature reaches,**

At least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees Celsius along the coast, and at least **30 degrees Celsius in hilly regions.**

Alternatively, a heatwave is declared when the **maximum temperature rises by between 4.5 degrees Celsius and 6.4 degrees Celsius above normal.**

A severe heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature departs from normal is **more than 6.4 degrees Celsius.**

A third condition for a heatwave arises when an area records a maximum temperature of more than 45 degrees Celsius and **up to 47 degrees Celsius** on any given day.

## MONTHS & AREA VULNERABLE TO HEATWAVES

Heatwaves occur most commonly in the summer months of April-June, with their severity and frequency **peaking in May**.

The **most heatwave prone areas** — known as the Core Heatwave Zone (CHZ) — are Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Vidarbha in Maharashtra, parts of Gangetic West Bengal, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

Heatwaves can last between 4 and 10 days, and occasionally for longer.

Heatwave spells in May are longer than those that occur in April and June, **mainly because of the absence of rainfall.**

Regions in the extreme north (Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Ladakh), northeast, and southwest (Karnataka, Kerala, Goa) **are less prone to heatwaves.**



## WHY SO HOT THIS YEAR?

The usual light-intensity rainfall, hail and lightning have remained absent by and large over many areas of the country since March.

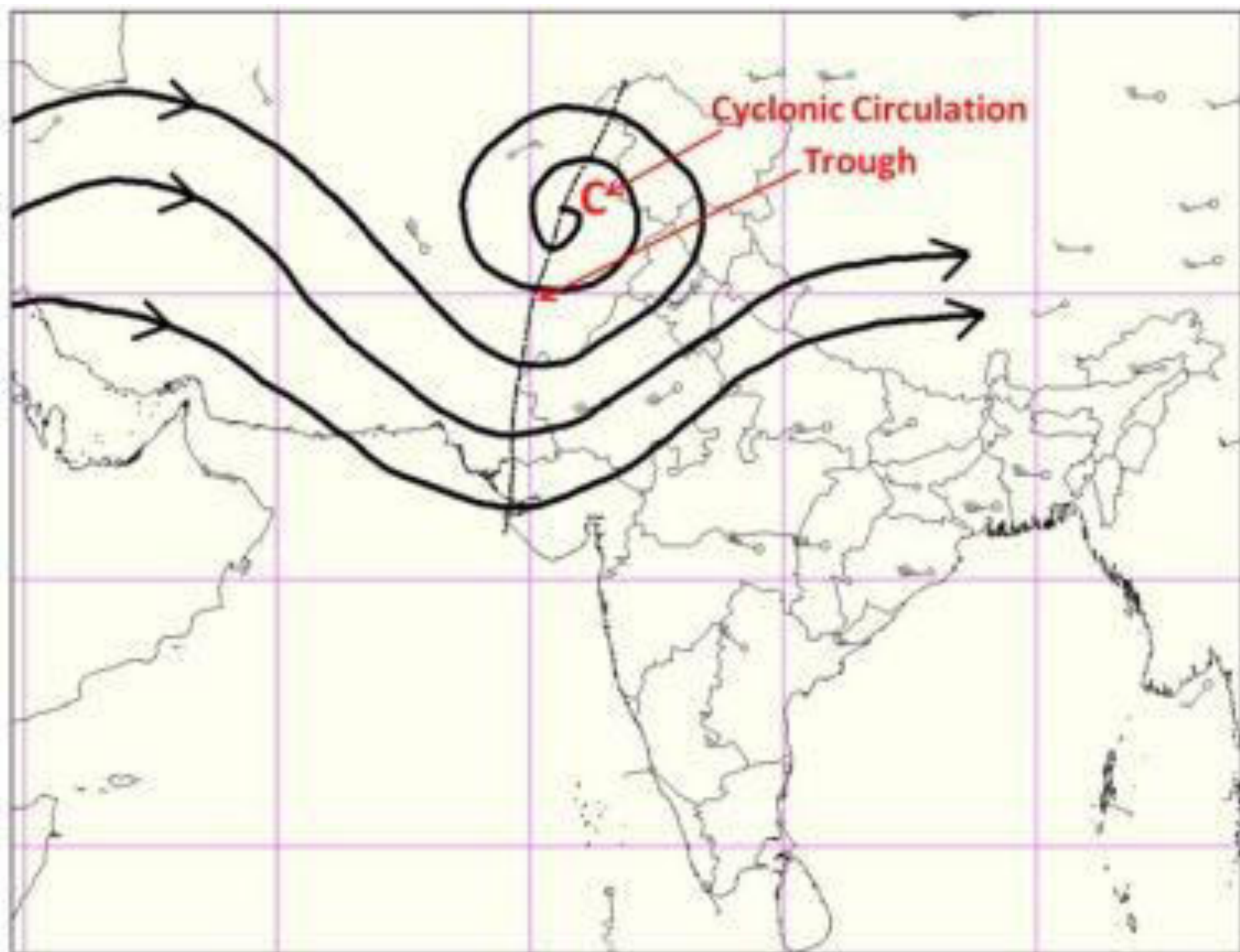
The country's all-India rainfall ended at minus 70.7 per cent in March.

**March 2022 was India's third warmest March since 1901.**

The monthly maximum temperature was 32.65 degrees Celsius against the normal of 31.24 degrees, the IMD said.

Normally, passing western disturbances – the eastward propagating stream of winds originating from the Mediterranean Sea – **interact with moist winds blowing from southern India to trigger thunderstorms.**

The **intermittent light rain and thunder helps keep a check on the heat.**



This summer, the western disturbances have not been **sufficiently strong**, IMD officials have said.

Even though five western disturbances have been recorded since March, three of these were feeble and passed over the extreme northern regions of the country, **failing to cause significant changes in weather.**

Over south peninsular and northeast India, however, April has **been wet.**

As a result, the summer has been relatively **cool in these areas.**

**Q. In which mode of heat transfer does the transfer of heat occur as a wave?**

A) Conduction

B) Convection

C) Radiation

D) All of the above





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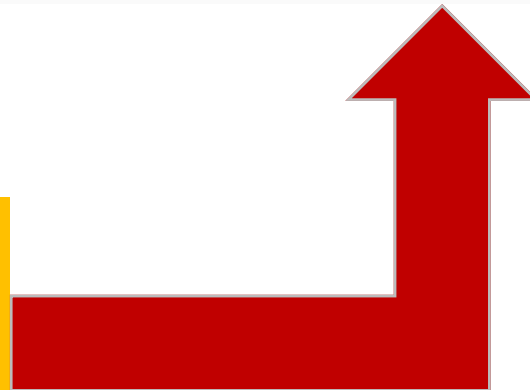
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