

भारत सरकार

Government of India

पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एम. ओ. ई. एस.)

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग

INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Climate Research and Services (CRS)



Monthly Climate Summary for March 2026

1. Monthly Rainfall Scenario (01 to 31 March, 2026)

Rainfall over the country as a whole for the month of March 2026 was 33.7 mm which is 13% more than its Long Period Average (LPA) of 29.9 mm. Daily variation of the rainfall over the country as a whole during the month of March 2026 with normal based on data of 1971-2020 is presented in Fig 1 (a). The all India rainfall percentage departure from normal for March during 1901-2026 is presented in Fig. 1(b).

Rainfall over All India (33.7 mm) ranked as the 32nd highest since 1901 and the 10th highest since 2001, as shown in Fig. 1(c). Rainfall over East and Northeast India (100 mm) ranked as the 11th highest since 1901 and the 2nd highest since 2001, next only to 2005 (117.3 mm), as presented in Fig. 1(d). Rainfall over South Peninsular India (19.5 mm) ranked as the 26th highest since 1901 and the 9th highest since 2001, as shown in Fig. 1(e).

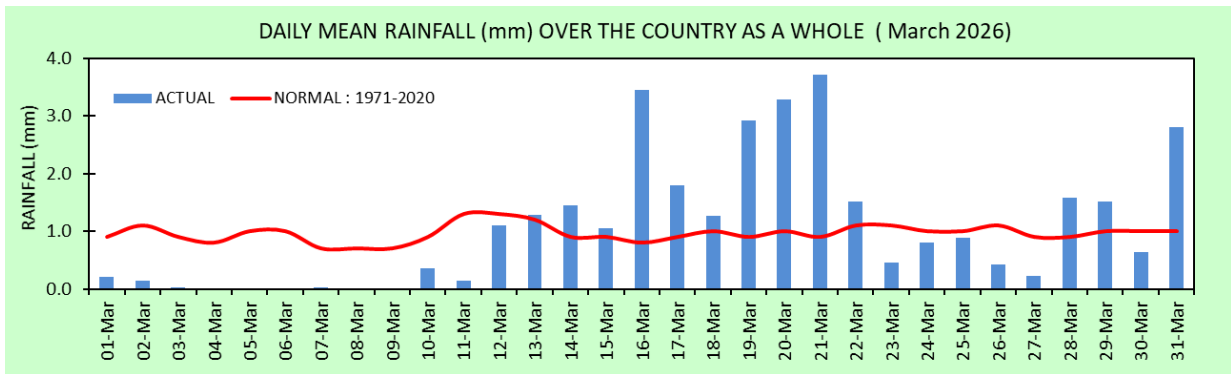


Fig.1 (a): Daily variation of rainfall over the country as a whole during March 2026.

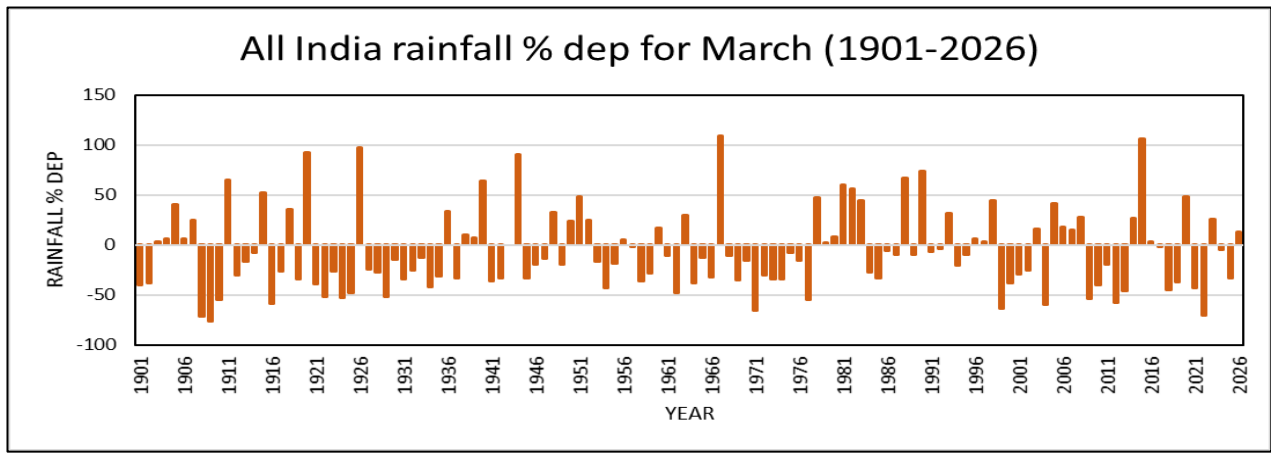


Fig. 1(b): All India monthly rainfall percentage departure from normal (1971-2020) for March from 1901-2026.

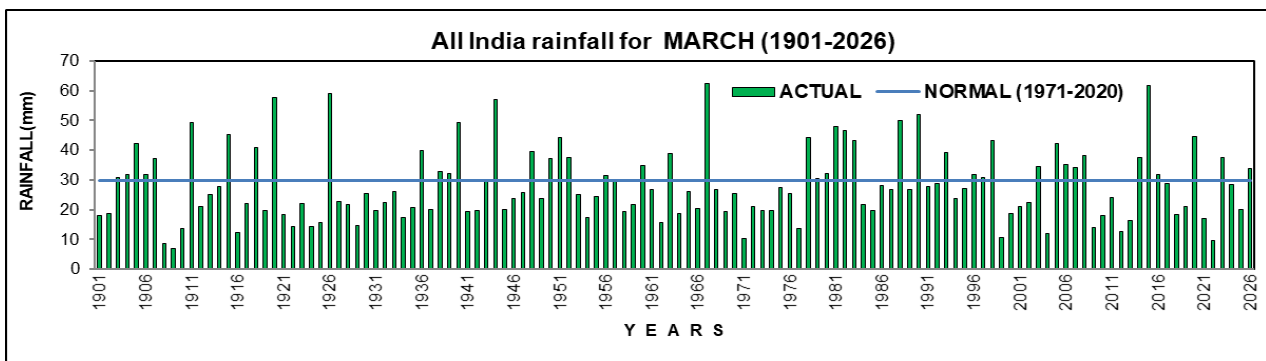


Fig. 1(c): Time series of area weighted rainfall over All India for March (1901 – 2026).

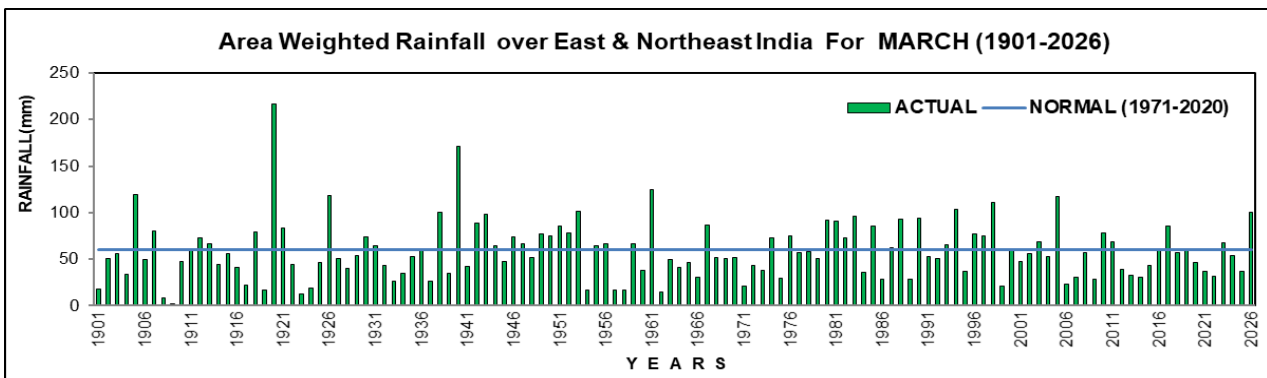


Fig. 1(d): Time series of area weighted rainfall over East & Northeast India for March (1901–2026)

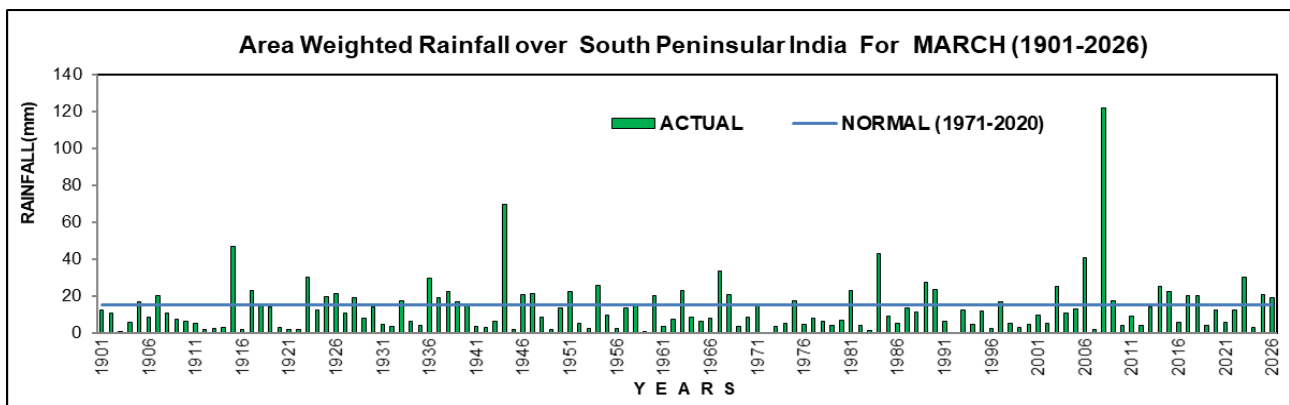


Fig. 1(e): Time series of area weighted rainfall over South Peninsular India for March (1901 – 2026).

The monthly rainfall for March 2026 is given in the table below:

Regions	Actual Rainfall (mm)	Normal Rainfall (mm)	% Departure from LPA
All India	33.7	29.9	13
Northwest India	36.2	47.9	-24
Central India	8.2	7.8	5
South Peninsula	19.5	15.5	26
East & Northeast India	100	59.7	68

During this month, 11 sub-division received large excess rainfall, 4 sub-division received excess rainfall, 11 sub-divisions received normal rainfall, 6 sub-divisions received deficient rainfall and 4 sub-divisions received large deficient rainfall. (Fig. 2).

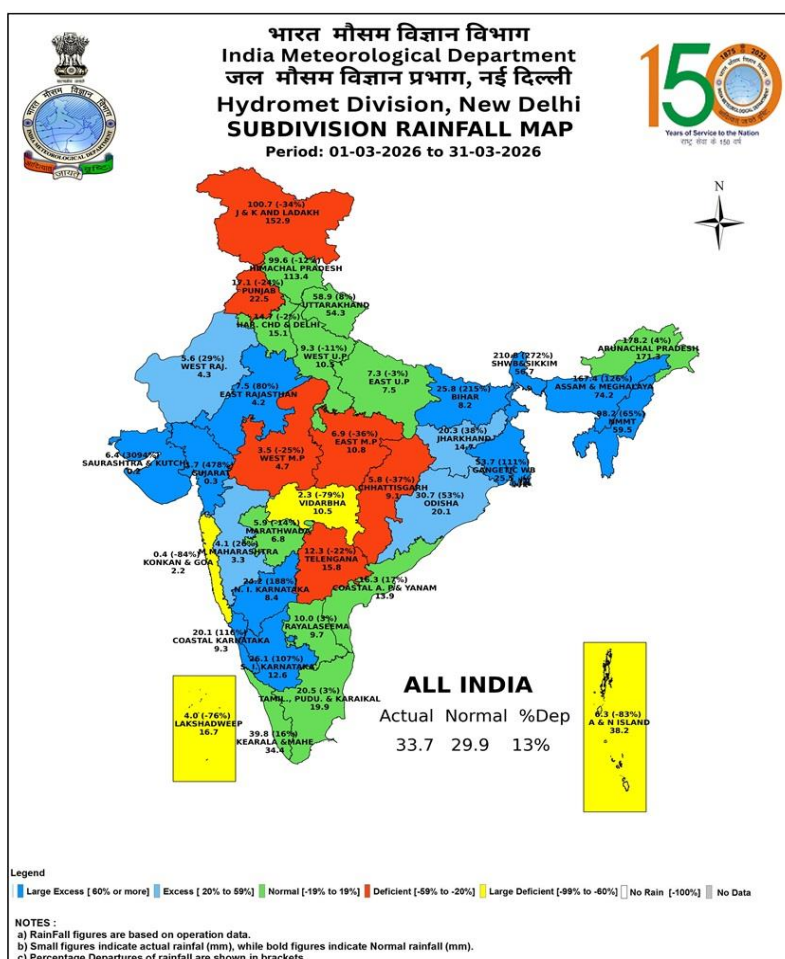
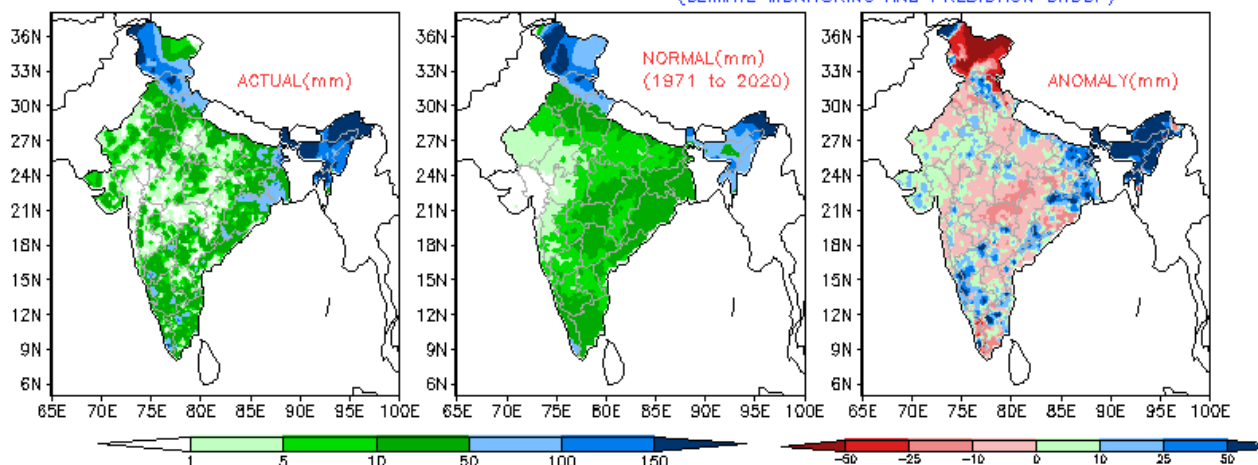


Fig. 2: Subdivision-wise rainfall distribution for March 2026.

The observed spatial distribution of rainfall during March 2026, normal rainfall based on data of 1971 to 2020 and rainfall departures from normal during March 2026 are shown in Fig. 3.

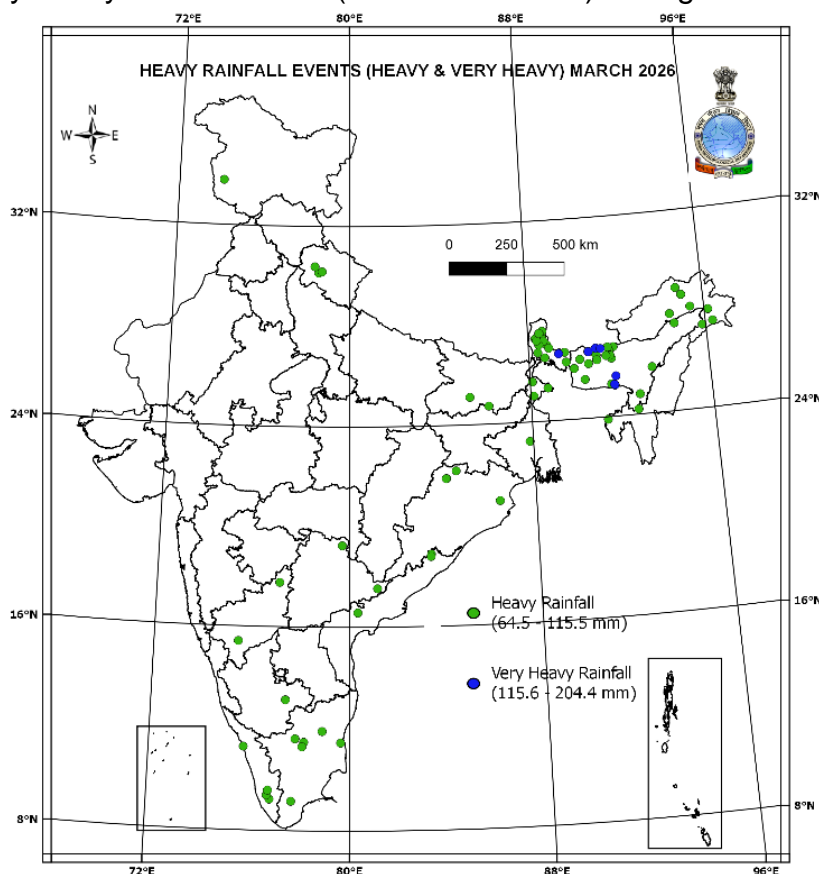
(CLIMATE MONITORING AND PREDICTION GROUP)



**Fig. 3: Observed spatial Rainfall pattern for the month March 2026 over India and their departure from normal (1971 to 2020 period).
Departure from normal is anomaly = actual rainfall - normal rainfall.**

2 Frequency of Heavy Rainfall events

March 2026 witnessed several heavy rainfall events, predominantly over the Northeast region. The spatial distribution of these events is illustrated in Fig. 4. Out of a total of 79 occurrences, 72 were classified as heavy rainfall events (64.5–115.5 mm), while 7 were categorized as very heavy rainfall events (115.6–204.4 mm) during the month.



(Only highest category of rainfall event considered for a station)

Fig. 4: The location of occurrences of heavy, very heavy rainfall events in the month of March 2026.

3. Chief Synoptic weather features observed during March 2026.

Western Disturbances: During the month, a total of eight Western Disturbances (WDs) (3–4, 5–7, 6–8, 9–14, 14, 17–22, 21–24, and 25–28 March) affected India, compared to the normal frequency of 5–6. Of these, six WDs influenced Northwest India between 11th and 31st March, leading to light to moderate precipitation accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, gusty winds, and hailstorms over northwest and adjoining central parts of the country.

Thunderstorm: Widespread thunderstorm activity occurred across many parts of the country in March 2026, particularly during the second half of the month, due to favourable troughs and upper-air cyclonic circulations. This led to a reduction in maximum temperatures over most regions. Consequently, no heat wave conditions prevailed over the country during the latter half of the month.

Heat Wave conditions: Heat wave conditions prevailed over Gujarat State, Vidarbha, and southern parts of Himachal Pradesh (Fig 4(a)) during the first half of the month (5–15 March 2026) due to the presence of an anticyclonic circulation over the western parts of the country. The absence of active Western Disturbances and the lack of their interaction or confluence with easterly systems during this period also contributed significantly to these conditions.

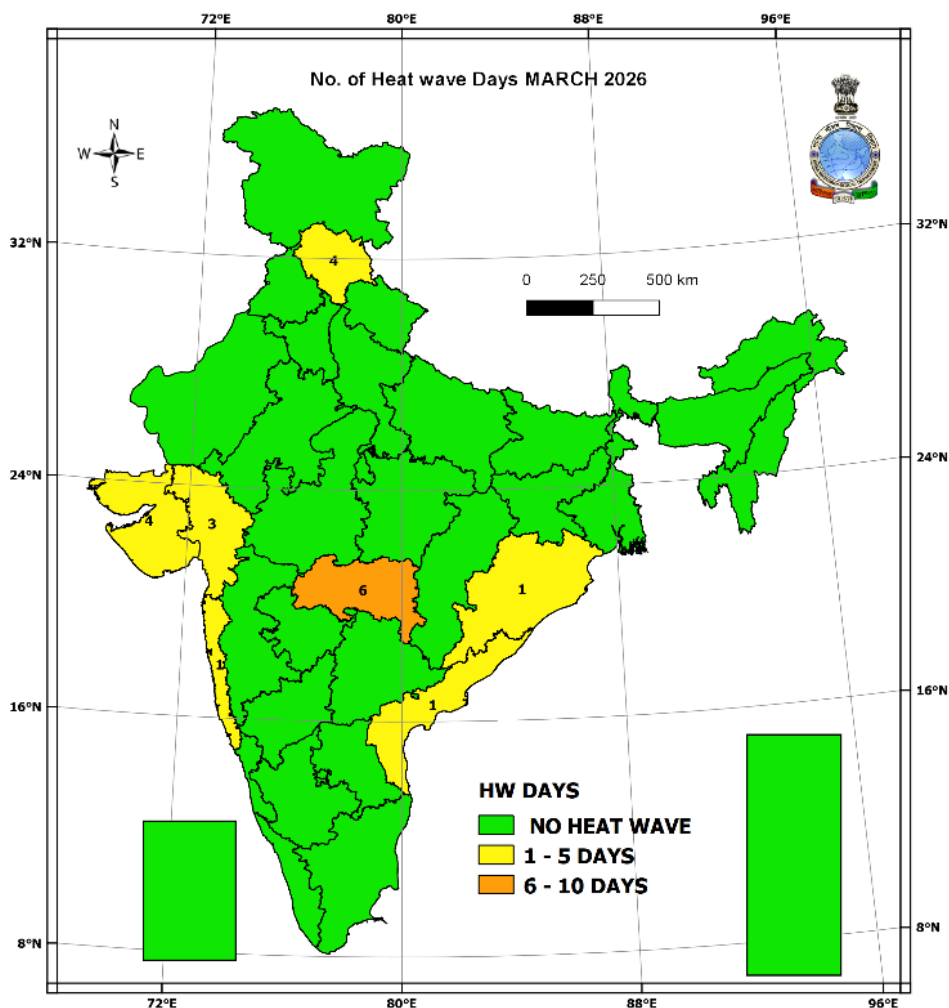


Fig. 4(a): Sub- division wise number of Heat Wave days in the month of March 2026.

There were many stations received record rainfall (24 hours). The table below shows stations that received 24-hour record rainfall and their previous record.

24 Hours Record Rainfall				
STATION NAME	NEW	DATE	PREVIOUS	DATE
	RECORD (mm)#	(March 2026)	RECORD (mm)	
BARAPANI	49.4	10-03-2026	45.4	29-03-2005
BENGALURU (KIA)	64.8	19-03-2026	55.6	17-03-2018
BHAGALPUR	40.4	21-03-2026	27.9	30-03-1998
HONAVAR	57	29-03-2026	42	13-03-2009
KHAJURAHO	59.6	21-03-2026	34.6	10-03-2005
MALDA	71.4	21-03-2026	62.5	30-03-1998
SATARA	36.3	31-03-2026	35.5	31-03-1984
RAJKOT	37.6	20-03-2026	21.6	17-03-1911

based on real-time available data

4. Characteristics of Temperatures for the month of March 2026

The average maximum, average minimum and mean temperature for the country as a whole during March 2026 were 32.41 °C, 19.00 °C and 25.70 °C respectively, against the normal of 31.70 °C, 17.71 °C and 24.71 °C based on data of 1991-2020. Thus, the average maximum, average minimum and mean temperature were above normal with departure from normal of 0.70 °C, 1.29 °C and 1.00 °C respectively for the country as a whole. The daily variation of maximum and minimum temperature departure from normal over the country as a whole for March 2026 is shown in the Fig. 5(a) and (b) respectively.

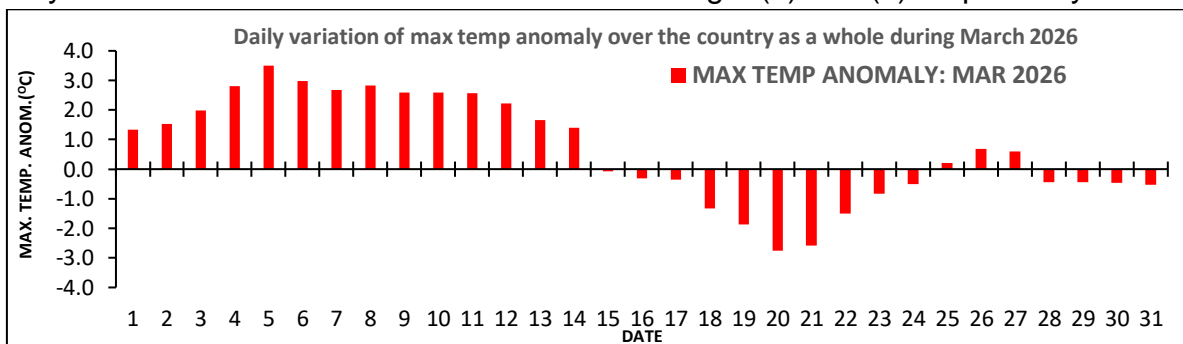


Fig. 5(a): Daily variation of maximum temperature anomaly (departure from normal) over the country as a whole for March 2026

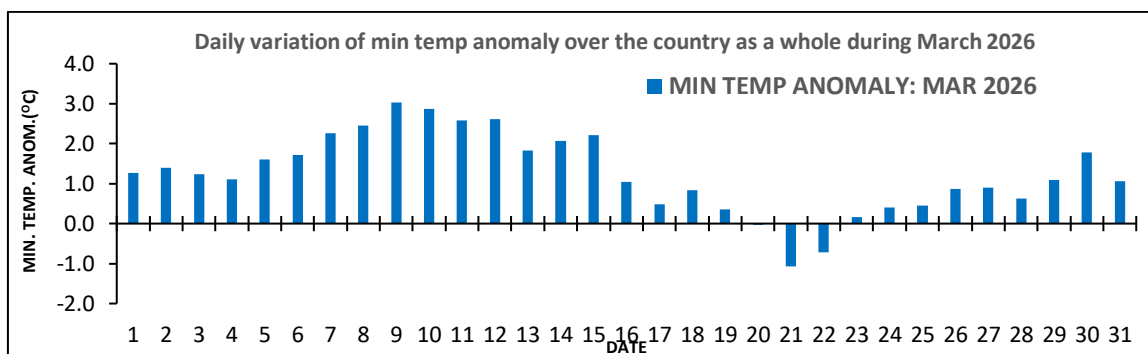


Fig. 5(b): Daily variation of minimum temperature anomaly (departure from normal) over the country as a whole for March 2026

Fig. 6 shows the time series of monthly average maximum, average minimum and mean temperature over the country as a whole for the month of March 1901-2026. Over the country during March, the average maximum temperature was the 19th highest since 1901. The average minimum temperature was the highest at 18.999 °C since 1901 against the earlier record of 18.998 °C in 1953. The mean temperature was the 9th highest since 1901.

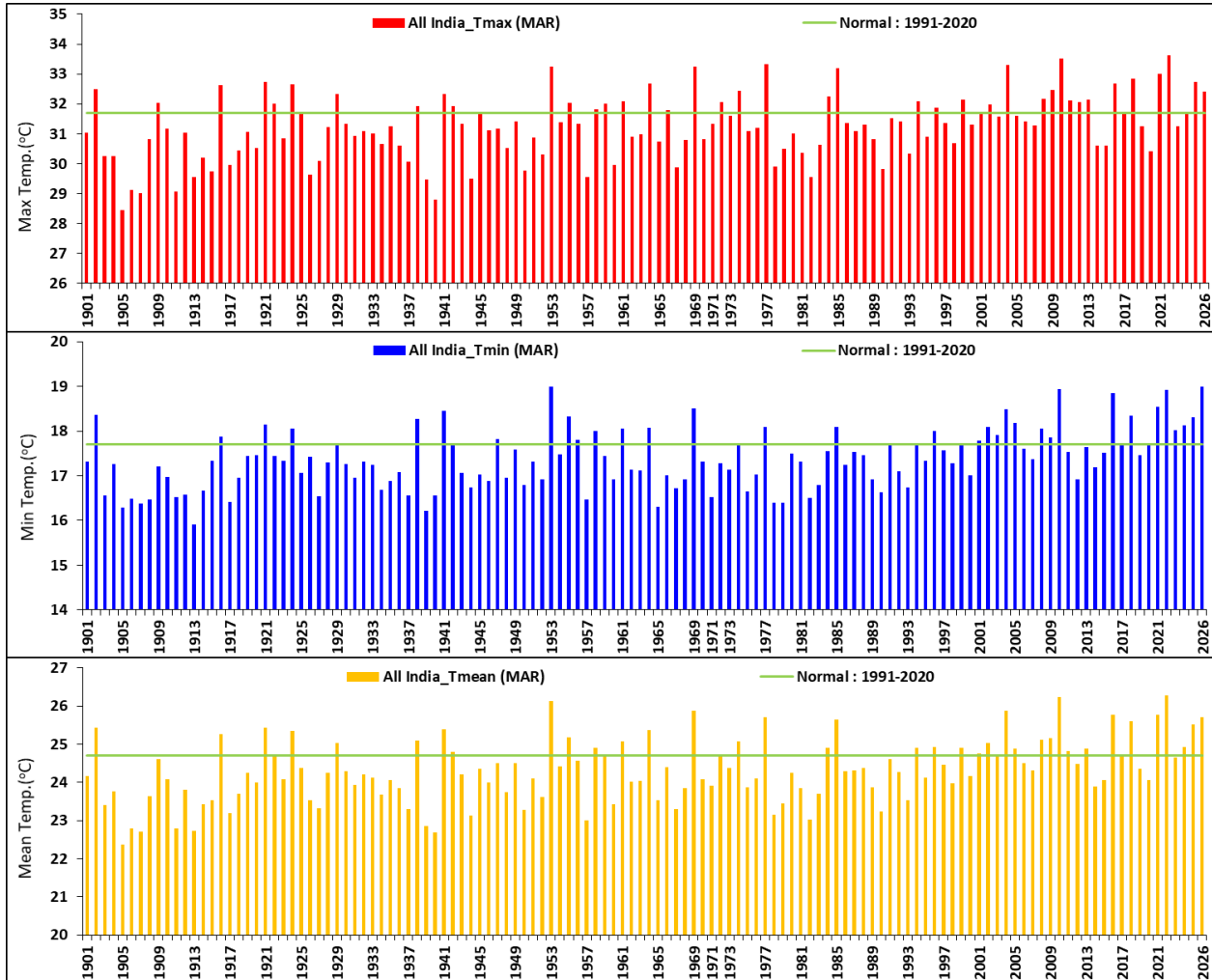


Fig. 6: Time series of monthly average maximum, average minimum and mean temperature over the country as a whole for the month of March 1901-2026

Fig. 7 shows the time series of monthly average minimum and mean temperature over the Northwest India for the month of March 1901-2026. Over Northwest India during March, the average minimum temperature was the highest at 15.524 °C since 1901 against the earlier record of 15.522 °C in 2010. The mean temperature was the 5th highest (22.62°C with departure from normal of 2.12 °C) after the years 2022 (23.33 °C), 2010 (23.25 °C), 2004 (23.03 °C) and 1953 (22.84 °C) since 1901.

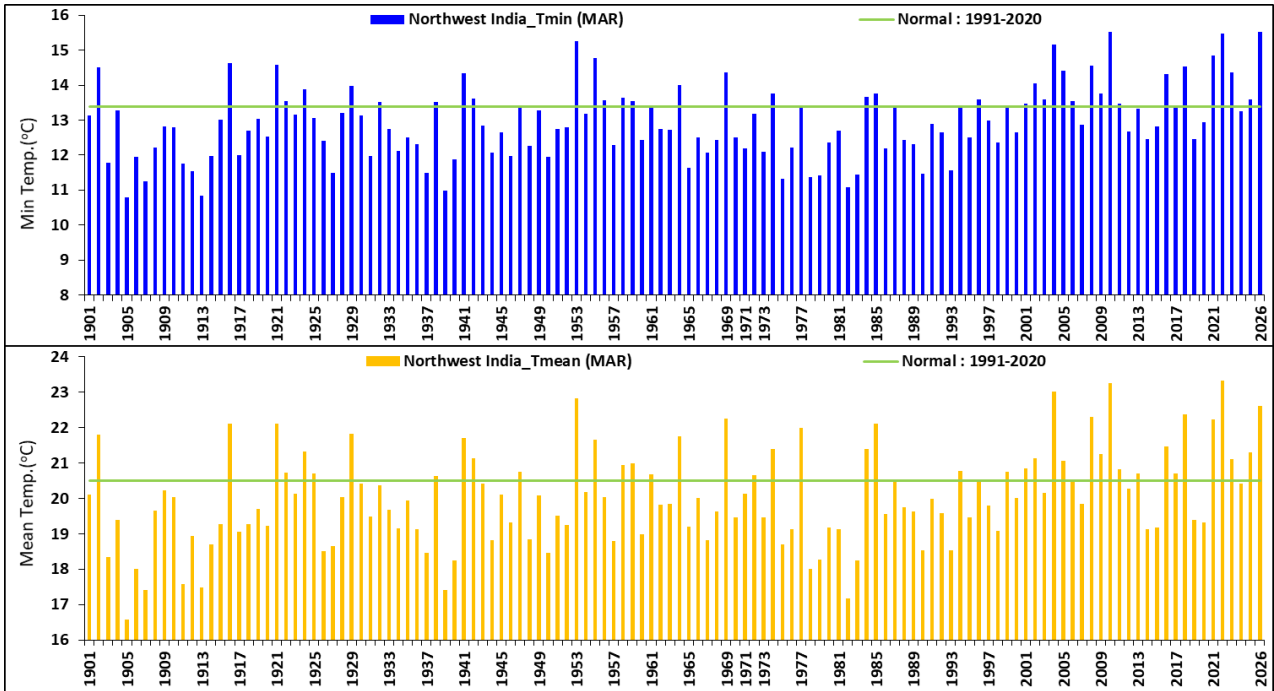


Fig. 7: Time series of monthly average minimum and mean temperature over Northwest India for the month of March 1901-2026

Fig. 8 shows the time series of monthly average minimum temperature over the East & Northeast India for the month of March 1901-2026. Over East & Northeast India during March, the average minimum temperature was the 2nd highest (18.41 °C with departure from normal of 1.47 °C) after the year 1953(18.54 °C) since 1901.

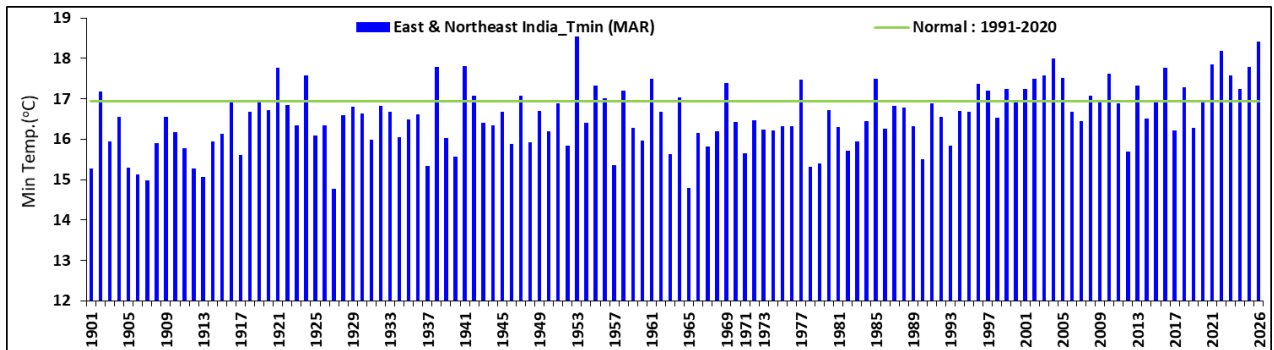


Fig. 8: Time series of monthly average minimum temperature over East & Northeast India for the month of March 1901-2026

Fig. 9 shows the time series of monthly average minimum temperature over the Central India for the month of March 1901-2026. Over Central India during March, the average minimum temperature was the highest 4th highest (20.30 °C with departure from normal of 1.20 °C) after the years 2016 (20.48 °C), 2010 (20.38 °C) and 1969 (20.32 °C) since 1901.

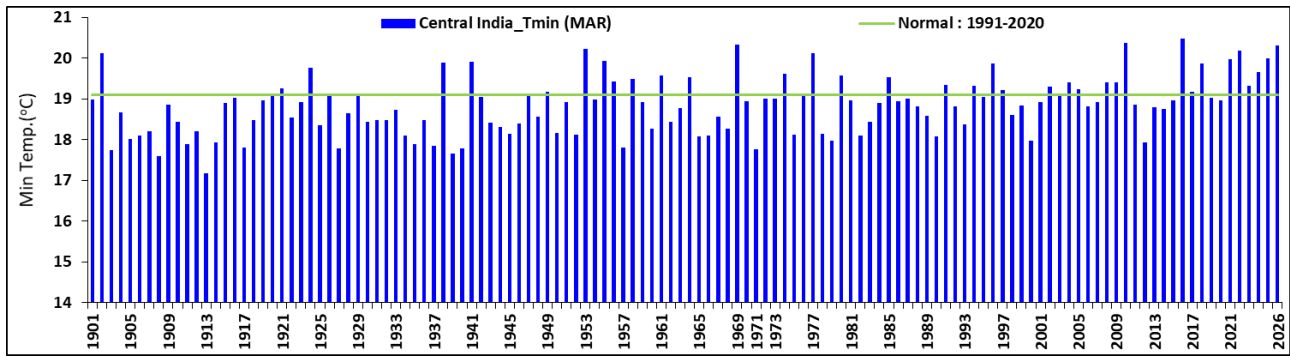


Fig. 9: Time series of monthly average minimum temperature over Central India for the month of March 1901-2026

The Temperatures during March 2026 for all India and homogeneous regions with its top ranks since 1901 are given below:

MARCH 2026		Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Mean Temp (°C)
ALL INDIA	ACTUAL	32.41	19.00	25.70
	NORMAL	31.70	17.71	24.71
	ANOMALY	0.70	1.29	1.00
	Rank since 1901	19	1	9
NORTHWEST INDIA	ACTUAL	29.72	15.52	22.62
	NORMAL	27.64	13.37	20.51
	ANOMALY	2.08	2.15	2.12
	Rank since 1901	10	1	5
EAST & NORTHEAST INDIA	ACTUAL	29.01	18.41	23.71
	NORMAL	29.86	16.94	23.40
	ANOMALY	-0.85	1.47	0.31
	Rank since 1901	101	2	31
CENTRAL INDIA	ACTUAL	35.62	20.30	27.96
	NORMAL	34.73	19.10	26.92
	ANOMALY	0.89	1.20	1.04
	Rank since 1901	17	4	11
SOUTH PENINSULAR INDIA	ACTUAL	34.46	22.36	28.41
	NORMAL	34.60	22.27	28.44
	ANOMALY	-0.14	0.09	-0.03
	Rank since 1901	35	31	31

Note: Values are rounded off to the nearest two decimals.

The five highest temperature records with corresponding top ranks since 1901 along with year of occurrence for all India, East & Northeast India and Central India (TMin), Northwest India (TMin, TMean) are given in the tables below:

All India (March 2026)					Northwest India (March 2026)				
Year	TMin	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Year	TMin	Normal	Anomaly	Rank
2026	18.9991	17.71	1.292	1	2026	15.524	13.37	2.150	1
1953	18.9986		1.291	2	2010	15.522		2.148	2
2010	18.94		1.23	3	2022	15.48		2.11	3
2022	18.92		1.21	4	1953	15.25		1.88	4
2016	18.85		1.14	5	2004	15.17		1.80	5

East & Northeast India (March 2026)					Northwest India (March 2026)				
Year	TMin	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Year	TMean	Normal	Anomaly	Rank
1953	18.54	16.94	1.59	1	2022	23.33	20.51	2.82	1
2026	18.41		1.47	2	2010	23.25		2.75	2
2022	18.19		1.25	3	2004	23.03		2.52	3
2004	17.99		1.05	4	1953	22.84		2.33	4
2021	17.85		0.91	5	2026	22.62		2.12	5

Central India (March 2026)				
Year	TMin	Normal	Anomaly	Rank
2016	20.48	19.10	1.37	1
2010	20.38		1.28	2
1969	20.32		1.22	3
2026	20.30		1.20	4
1953	20.22		1.11	5

The stations that recorded the highest maximum and lowest minimum temperatures during March 2026 are listed in the table below. The list also includes their previous records along with the corresponding dates.

Highest Maximum Temperature				
STATION NAME	NEW	DATE	PREVIOUS	DATE
	RECORD (°C) #	(MAR 2026)	RECORD (°C)	
DIU	41.3	10-03-2026	40.7	27-03-2018
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	37.8	29-03-2026	37.7	16-03-1988
UDAGAMANDALAM	27.6	06-03-2026	27.5	23-03-1985

Lowest Minimum Temperature				
STATION NAME	NEW	DATE	PREVIOUS	DATE
	RECORD (°C) #	(MAR 2026)	RECORD (°C)	
KANYAKUMARI	21.3	02-03-2026	21.4	01-03-2023

based on real-time available data

The observed spatial temperature pattern of monthly average maximum, average minimum and mean temperature over India and their departures from normal (1991 to 2020 period) for the month of March 2026 is given in Fig. 10.

TEMPERATURE & ITS ANOMOLY FOR THE MONTH MARCH 2026

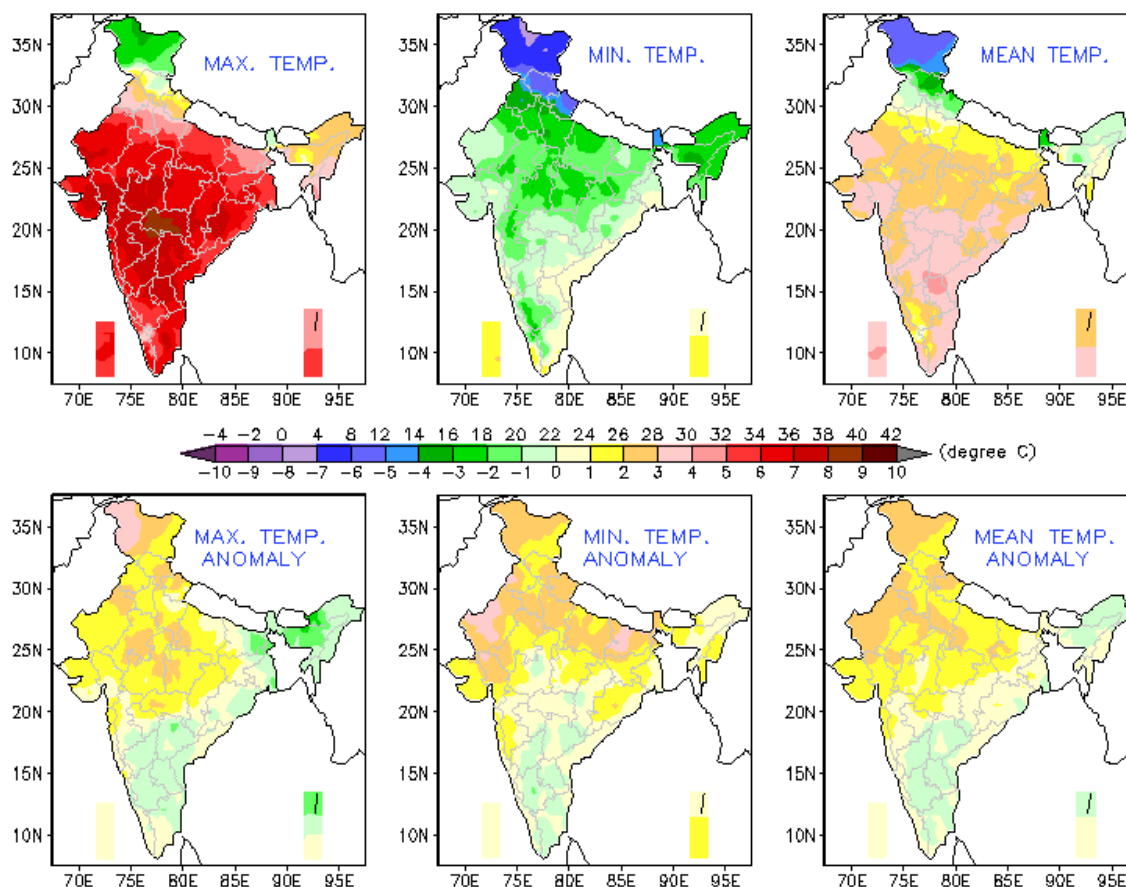


Fig. 10: Observed spatial temperature pattern of monthly average maximum, average minimum, and mean temperature over India (top three from left to right) and their departure from normal (1991 to 2020 period) for March 2026 (lower three from left to right)

5. Significant Weather Events:

During March, a total of 56 persons reportedly died, about 65 persons reportedly injured and about 120 livestock perished because of the mentioned hazards, as per the media report. Also, damage to crops reported in Amravati, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Nagpur, Washim districts of Maharashtra on 30 March. The locations of extreme weather events are presented in Fig. 11.

The details of event-wise casualties are given below. However, the actual data on casualties and damages may be available to concerned state governments.

Event	Number of human deaths due to extreme weather events
Thunderstorm/Lightning:	47 (Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Karnataka, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Bihar, Odisha)
Snowfall:	7 (Jammu and Kashmir)
Floods and Heavy Rains:	2 (Jammu and Kashmir)

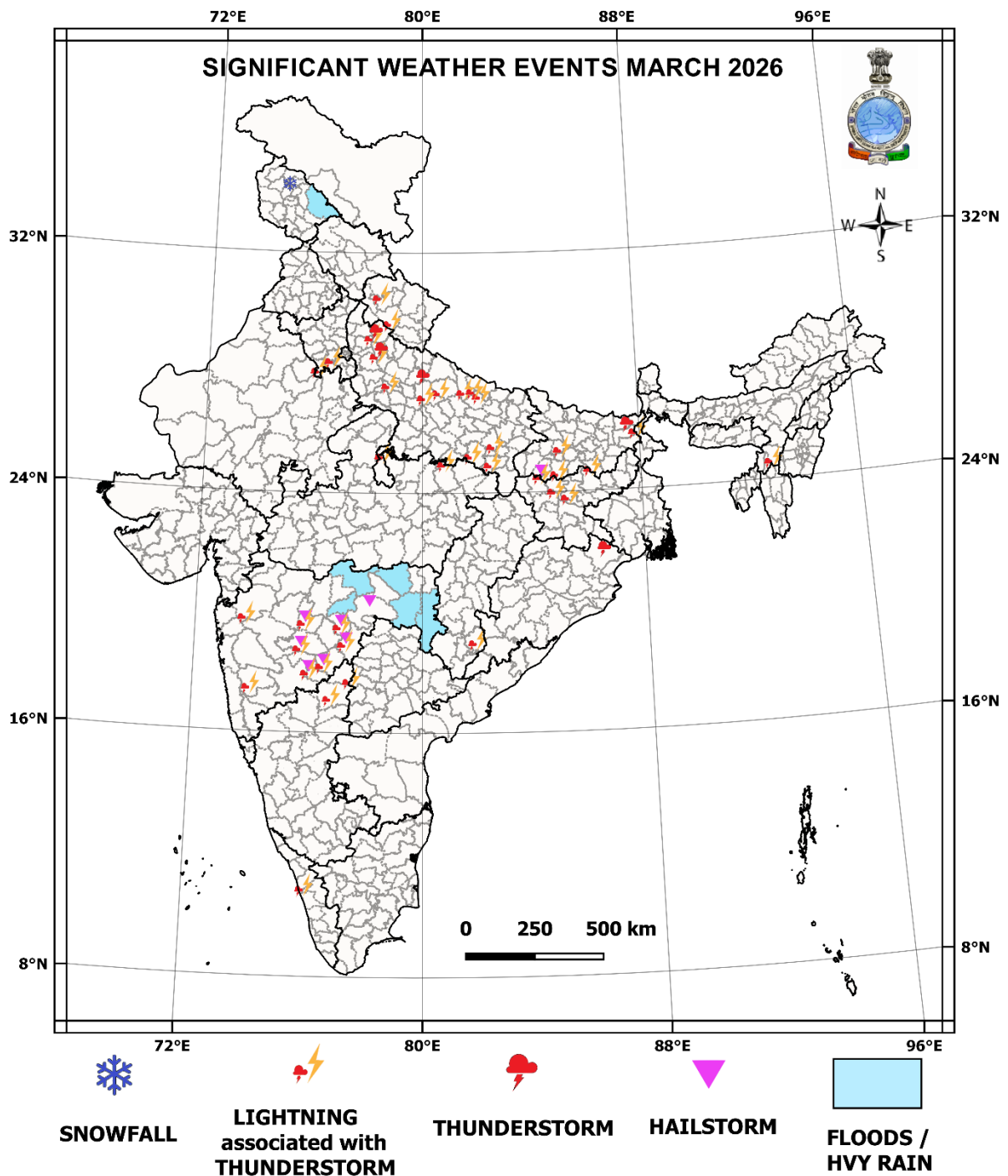


Fig. 11: Significant Weather Events during March 2026
 (Based on real time media reports and other state government agencies)