

2026 TO BE THE WARMEST YEAR EVER, PREDICTS CLIMATE ANALYSIS PLATFORM

World clocks hottest August. India keeps pace

JAYANTA BASU

New Delhi: The world experienced its hottest August in 2026, as did India, a recently published global climate report and data shared by the India Meteorological Department show.

The report, prepared by climate science analysis platform Climate Brink, has also forecast that 2026 is likely to become the warmest year ever.

"August 2026 was the warmest August on record in the Copernicus/ECMWF ERA5 dataset (the most trusted dataset for scientists) at 1.65°C above preindustrial levels. This beat the prior record set in August 2024 by a fairly wide margin," a scientist associated with the analysis pointed out.

The pre-industrial period is considered the

benchmark because human-induced temperature rise started after that.

"With right months of the year now in, and greater certainty in El Nino forecasts for the remainder of the year, it is now looking like there is around 75 per cent chance of 2026 to be the warmest year on record," he added.

"This year is on track for 1.62°C ±0.05°C above preindustrial," says the report.

It is more than the highest annual global average temperature rise recorded in 2024, which was in the range of 1.55°C to 1.60°C above the pre-industrial benchmark.

The global report also shows that Calcutta was the highest-warming city among Indian metros last year, with a 1.4°C rise compared to the pre-industrial global benchmark, followed by Bengaluru at 1.3°C.



Women use an umbrella to shield themselves from the sun in Calcutta last month. (Reuters)

"This is consistent with the trend over the last 50 years. We recently published an international paper where we showed, using the latest available UN analysis, that the rise in average temperature — about 2.7°C between 1858 and 2018 — was highest in Calcutta globally, followed by Tehran and Moscow," a

senior environment science department professor at Calcutta University said on the condition of anonymity.

The IMD confirmed that temperature rise in India was consistent with the global trend.

"August 2026 was the hottest August recorded in India since nationwide record-keeping began in

1901," IMD director-general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told The Telegraph.

The IMD data shows that the national average mean temperature soared to 28.01°C, surpassing the historical normal of 27.34°C by 0.67°C. The average minimum temperature, or the night temperature, also broke a 125-year record by touching 24.36°C against the normal of 23.68°C.

"The Indian temperature rise trend is consistent with the global trend as we had the warmest August both globally and in India," former IMD director-general K.J. Ramesh said.

During the global climate summit in Paris in 2015, countries had unanimously agreed to keep the temperature rise within 1.5°C, as anything beyond that could have extremely

severe climatic impacts on people living in mountain areas, close to the sea, and low-lying areas, as well as on the aquatic ecosystem.

Recently released UN reports point out that the world is set to permanently enter the 1.5°C-temperature-rise era, with the average temperature potentially settling at best around 1.8°C though several climate models predict the rise to reach 2°C or beyond.

"August being declared the hottest August on record, both globally and in India, is another stark reminder of what a warmer future could look like. Climate change does not cause El Nino, but it adds to the underlying heat and can amplify the impacts of an already strong El Nino," said Kartiki Negi, climate impacts lead of Climate Trends.