

## Seven climate records set so far in 2016

From soaring temperatures in Alaska and India to Arctic sea ice melting and CO2 concentrations rising, this year is smashing records around the world



Scorched land on the outskirts of Jaipur, Rajasthan. The desert state recorded India's hottest ever temperature of 51C on 19 May. Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

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2) Every month this year has been the hottest on record globally for that month. May, [data published this week by Nasa](#) revealed, was no exception. Nasa's dataset, one of three main global surface temperature records, [shows February recorded the highest anomaly against long term average temperatures](#).



4) Alaska, along with the rest of the Arctic, has experienced record-breaking heat. [Spring was the warmest on record](#) in the state, with an average temperature of 0C, and the average year-to-date temperature has been 5.5C above the long term average.

5) Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have been breaking records every year for decades, but the size of the margin by which [the record is forecast to break the annual record in 2016](#) is striking and itself a record. The increase for 2016 is expected to be 3.1 parts per million, up from an annual average of 2.1.

6) Australia, no stranger to record-breaking heat, [just clocked up its hottest autumn yet](#). Average temperatures were 1.86C above the average, beating the previous record of 1.64C above average, set in 2005.

7) The Great Barrier Reef, a natural wonder and world heritage site, experienced its worst ever coral bleaching event, as a blob of warm water made its way around the world. [An aerial study found that just 7% of the reef escaped bleaching](#), which can lead to the coral permanently dying.