Heatwave will ease in south India from June 2

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He said the onset would be weak as the monsoon system was failing to gain strength at the moment. The forecaster, however, has predicted a slight easing of heatwave conditions in these areas from June 2.

"There has been high atmospheric pressure over the southern region which is preventing the monsoon from pushing through. The heatwave in parts of the south is also linked to this. The pressure has now weakened, resulting in partial relief from the heat, but hasn't gone away," Pai said.

The Met office said a fresh pulse of moist winds from the west — called western disturbance — had reached Jammu & Kashmir and was likely to interact with a low pressure system over Haryana to bring scattered dust storms and thundershowers over northwest India, including the national capital region from Monday.

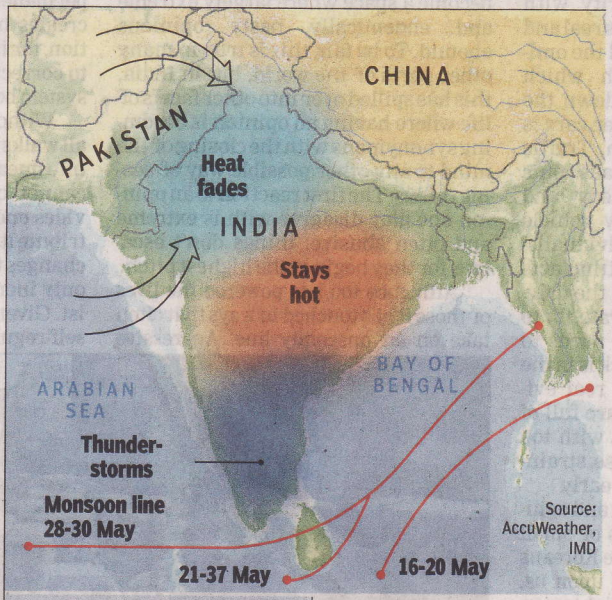
Occasional wet spells are likely to continue for three-four days and may result in maximum temperatures dropping below 40 degrees Celsius over the region. The relief, however, is unlikely to last beyond June 4.

The IMD scientist said a west-moving rain system called Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO), which was expected over the Indian Ocean in the last week of May and would have aided the monsoon's onset, too did not make an appearance. "An MJO is now likely around June 5," he said.

Sivananda Pai said there were shallow monsoon pattern winds over Kerala at the moment but these need to appear at higher levels of the atmosphere as well for monsoon to be declared.

IMD has predicted a below-normal monsoon this year, with rains pegged at 93% of the long-term average, mainly on account of a monsoon-depressing El Nino pattern that has set in over the Pacific and is predicted to strengthen over the next few months.

HEAT-BUSTER ON THE WAY



- **Dust and thunderstorms** in northwest India **from Monday** expected to **bring down temperatures**
- **High heat** to persist for **2 more days** over parts of central, east & south India
- **Monsoon** likely to **hit Kerala** around **June 5**, says IMD

HOTTEST SPOT ON SUNDAY
Chandrapur | 46.8° C