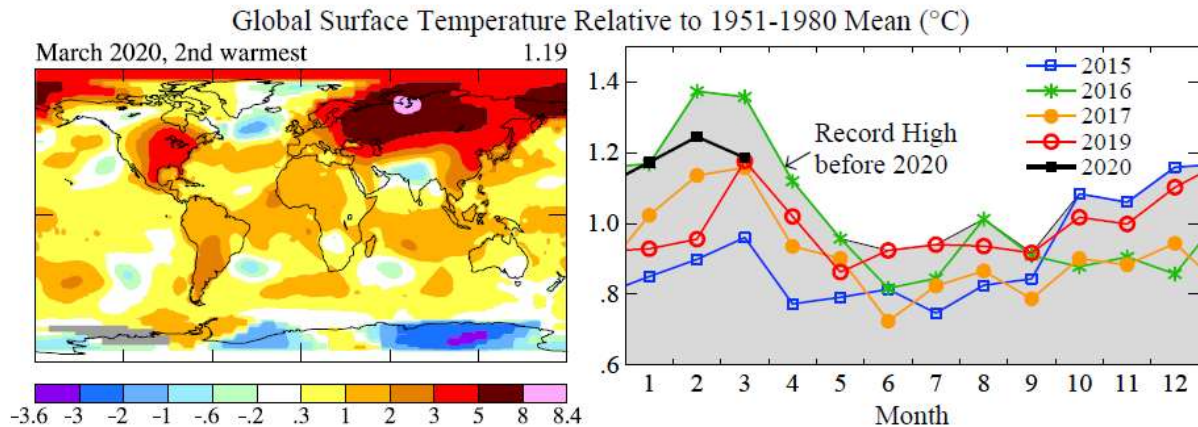


## March 2020 Global Temperature Update



March 2020, on global average, was the second warmest March since the reliable measurements began in 1880, at 1.19°C relative to the 1951-1980 base period (1.46°C relative to 1880-1920). The warmest March on record was 2016 at 1.36°C; third warmest was 2019 at 1.18°C, both relative to the 1951-1980 mean.

Most of Russia was unusually warm, some places more than 10°C warmer than the 1951-1980 mean (from a higher resolution map), but northern India and a large portion of Antarctica were unusually cold.

The graph on the upper right implies (because the 2020 temperatures cannot realistically exceed 2019, the red line, which was boosted by a weak El Niño) that the 12-month running mean temperature, which conveniently removes the seasonal cycle, is now at or near the relative maximum associated with the recent marginal El Niño (graph below). The temperature is almost as high as the 12-month running mean in early 2016, which was enhanced by a ‘Super El Niño.’

In a Communication (Bending the Curves) we conclude that the recent global warming rate is about 0.24°C per decade, substantially larger than the arming rate of 0.18°C per decade that characterized the past half century. Discussion of the tasks needed to ‘bend the curves’ will be continuing.

