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पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एम.ओ.ई.एस.)
Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD)

2026 दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून ऋतु की मुख्य विशेषताए
Salient Features of the 2026 Southwest Monsoon Season

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rainfall over the country as a whole during the 2026 southwest monsoon season (June- September) was 87% of its long period average (LPA). All India Summer monsoon rainfall was 759.4 mm which is 4th lowest since 2001 and 13th lowest since 1901.
- Seasonal rainfall over Northwest India, Central India, South Peninsula, and Northeast India were 94.1%, 97%, 76% and 74% of the respective LPA. Rainfall over East & Northeast India was 1017.1 mm which is lowest since 1901 and South Peninsula was 542.0 mm which is 4th lowest since 1901 and 2nd lowest since 2001. However, Central India receive normal rainfall
- The southwest monsoon season (June to September) rainfall over the monsoon core zone, which consists of most of the rain-fed agriculture regions in the country, received 779.9mm rainfall which is less the lower limit of normal category (782.8 to 881.2).
- Out of the 36 meteorological subdivisions, eighteen subdivisions, constituting 53% of the area, received normal rainfall, while 17 subdivisions, representing 42%, recorded deficient rainfall. The remaining one subdivision (Odisha), covering 5% of the country's total area, experienced excess rainfall during the season.
- Monthly rainfall over the country as a whole was 65% of LPA in June,101% LPA in July, 84%LPA August and 92% of LPA in September.
- The southwest monsoon advanced over the South Andaman Sea and Nicobar Islands on 16 May 2026, nearly six days earlier than the normal schedule. It arrived in Kerala on 4th June 2026, 3 days later than the climatological normal onset date of 1 June, and covered the entire country by 9th July 2026, near normal date of 8 July. The monsoon withdrawal began from west Rajasthan on 19 September, delayed by 2 days.
- There were 13 low pressure systems, including six Monsoon Depressions during the season, out of that three intensified in to Deep Depression. There were 77 Low Pressure System Days against its normal 57 days.
- The seasonal forecast issued by IMD for the SW monsoon season rainfall was accurate and within the forecast error limit, while the forecasts of ENSO and IOD conditions were broadly consistent with their observed evolution. However, the forecast of monsoon onset over Kerala was 8-day early as compared to actual date of onset.

1. Onset and Advance of 2026 Southwest Monsoon

The Southwest Monsoon made an early advance over the Andaman Sea and adjoining areas on 16 May 2026, reaching parts of the southeast Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, including Sri Vijaya Puram. This was 6 days earlier than the normal date of 22 May.

The monsoon further advanced on 18 May over more areas of the southeast Arabian Sea, Comorin area, Bay of Bengal and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. After remaining nearly stationary for a few days, it resumed its northward progress from 23 May, gradually covering more areas of the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. By 30 May, it had advanced over the Lakshadweep region, Comorin area and large parts of the Bay of Bengal.

The Southwest Monsoon set in over Kerala on 4 June 2026, which was 3 days later than the climatological normal onset date of 1 June. Thereafter, the monsoon progressed steadily in stages, covering southern, eastern and northeastern India, followed by central and parts of northwest India during June.

By 30 June 2026, the monsoon had covered most parts of the country, and continued to advance during early July. Finally, the Southwest Monsoon covered the entire country by 9 July 2026 against the normal date of 8th July. Thus, although the monsoon onset over Kerala was slightly delayed, its subsequent advance resulted in the monsoon reaching all parts of India by early July. The onset & advancement dates of Monsoon 2026 are shown in Fig.1. There was delay in monsoon advance over Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh & Odisha by about 7-10 days and over northeast India by about 5-10 days and near normal date over northwest India.

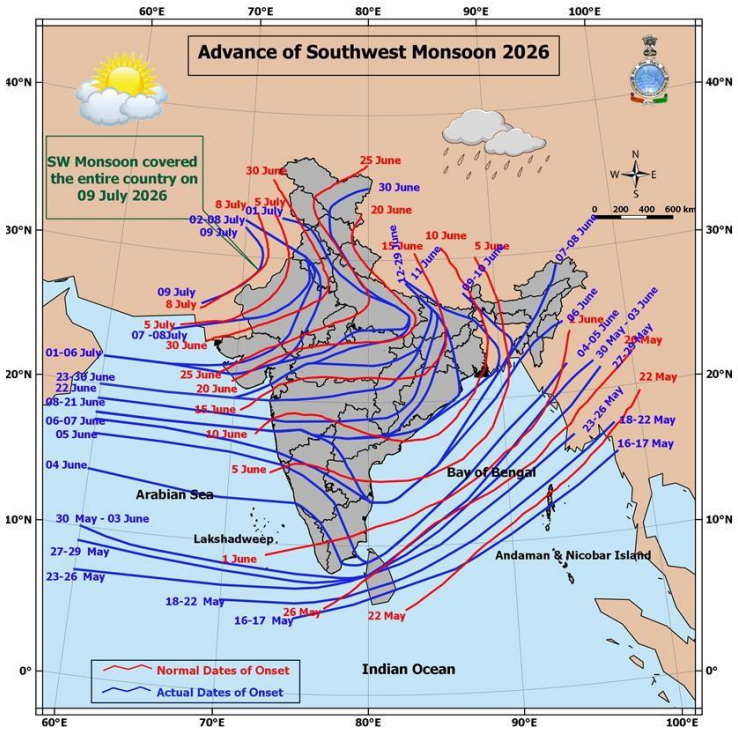


Fig.1: Isochrones of advance of the Southwest monsoon during 2026

The withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon 2026 commenced on 19 September, 2 days delayed by its normal date of September 17. The withdrawal dates of the 2026 Southwest Monsoon are illustrated in Fig.2.

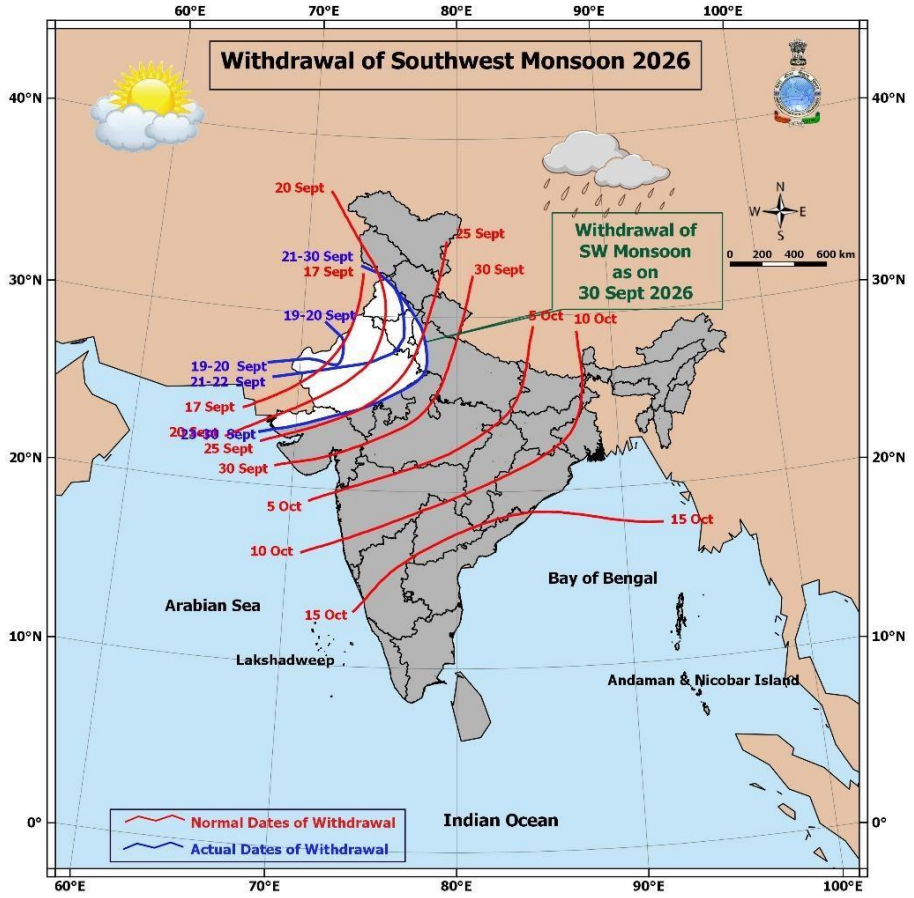


Fig.2: Isochrones of withdrawal of southwest monsoon 2026 as on 30th September 2026.

2. Rainfall Distribution

The actual rainfall during the 2026 southwest monsoon season (June to September) for the entire country and four broad geographical regions is presented in the table below, alongside their respective Long Period Average (LPA) values. The Table 2 also includes rainfall data for the full four-month monsoon period as well as for the second half of the season (August and September) across the country. As shown in Table-2, the 2026 seasonal rainfall for the country as a whole was deficient, less than 90% of the Long Period Average (LPA). Regionally, two of the four geographical zones recorded normal rainfall: Central India (94 – 106 % of LPA) and Northwest India (92 – 108 % of LPA). In contrast, East and Northeast India and the South Peninsula experienced below-normal rainfall, receiving less than 94% of the LPA. Additionally, rainfall in the monsoon core zone was 779.9 mm which is less the lower limit of normal category (782.8 to 881.2).

Table 1. Season (June to September) Rainfall			
Region	**Long Period Average (LPA) (mm)**	**Actual Rainfall for 2026**	
		Rainfall (mm)	**Rainfall (% of LPA)**
All India	868.6	759.4	87
Northwest India	587.6	553.0	94
Central India	978.0	952.8	97
East & Northeast India	1367.3	1016.3	74
South Peninsula	716.2	542.0	76
Monsoon Core Zone	826.0	779.9	94
Monthly & second half of the monsoon season rainfall over the country as a whole (All India)			
Month	**LPA (mm)**	**Actual Rainfall for 2026**	
		Rainfall (mm)	**Rainfall (% of LPA)**
June	165.3	106.8	65
July	280.5	283.3	101
August	254.9	213.3	84
September	167.9	155.1	92
August + September	422.8	368.4	87

Month wise, the rainfall over the country as a whole was below normal in June (<92% of LPA), August (<94% of LPA) and normal in July (94-106% of LPA) and September (91-109 % of LPA). The rainfall during the second half of the seasonal over the country as whole was also below normal (< 94% of LPA).

The Sub-division wise and district wise seasonal rainfall distribution over India during southwest monsoon season – 2026 is given in Fig.3(a) and 3(b) respectively. Out of the total 36 meteorological subdivisions, only 1 subdivision of Odisha constituting (5% of the total area) received excess, 18 subdivisions received normal rainfall (53% of the total area) and 17 subdivisions constituting (42 % of the total area) received deficient season rainfall. Out of the total 741 meteorological districts, 282 districts constituting (38% of the total area) received below normal rainfall, 34 districts received significantly below normal (5% of the total area) and 312 districts constituting (42 % of the total area) received normal rainfall 90 districts constituting (12 % of the total area) received excess rainfall and 16 districts (2% of the total area) received substantially above-normal rainfall.

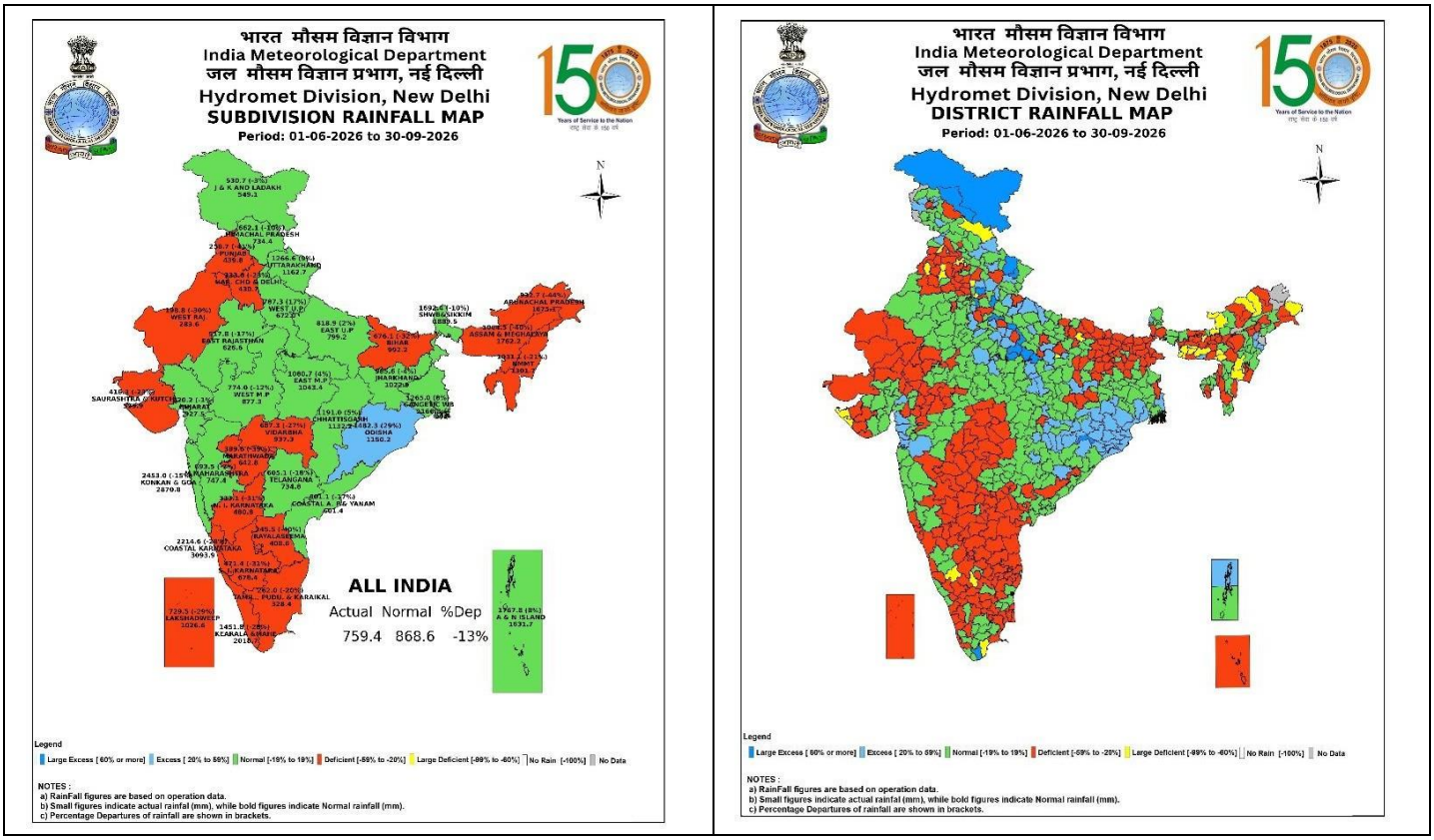


Fig.3 shows (a) subdivision and (b) districts wise seasonal (June to September) rainfall & its departure from long period average during 2026.

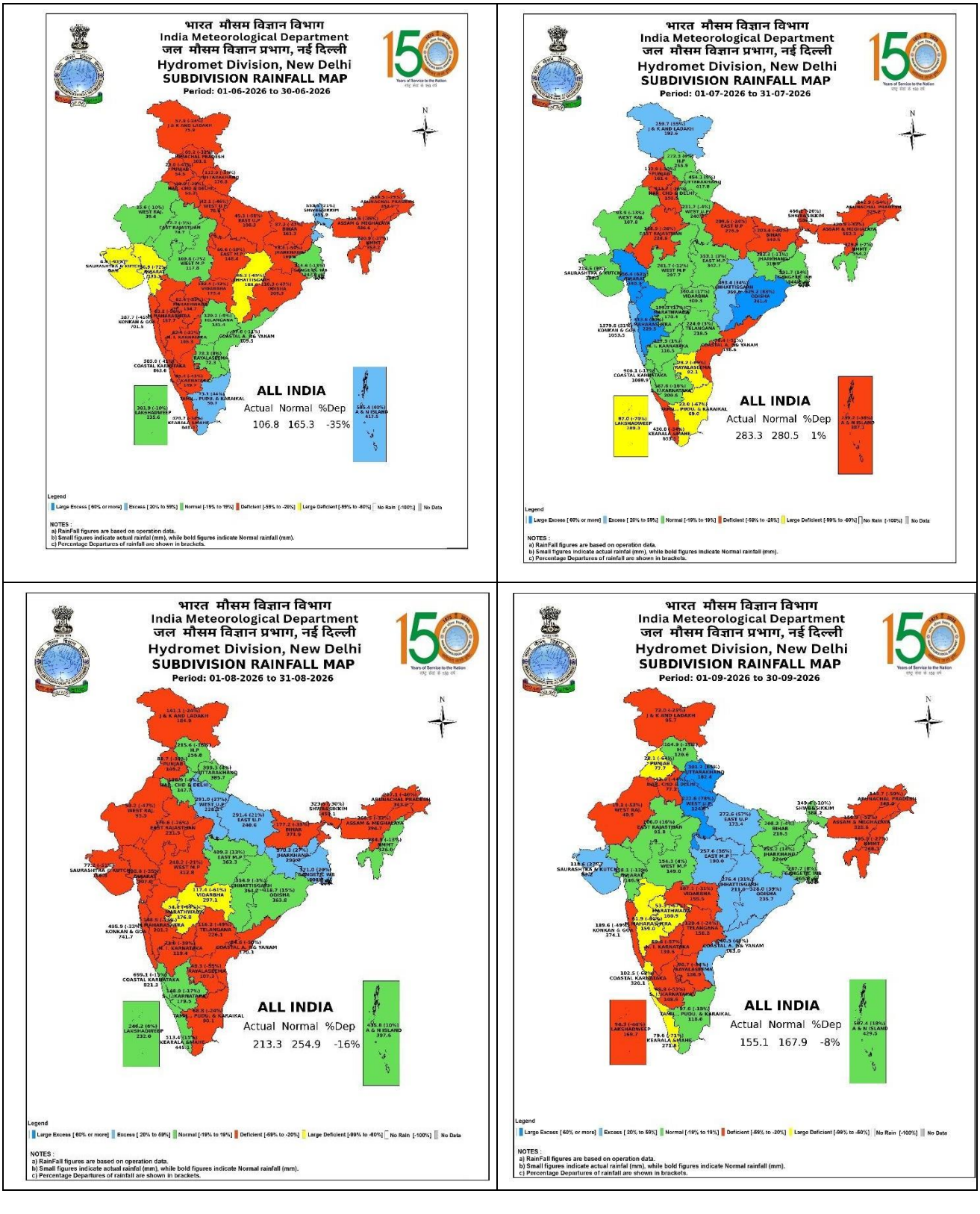


Fig.4 a: Sub-division wise monthly rainfall distribution over India during southwest monsoon season 2026

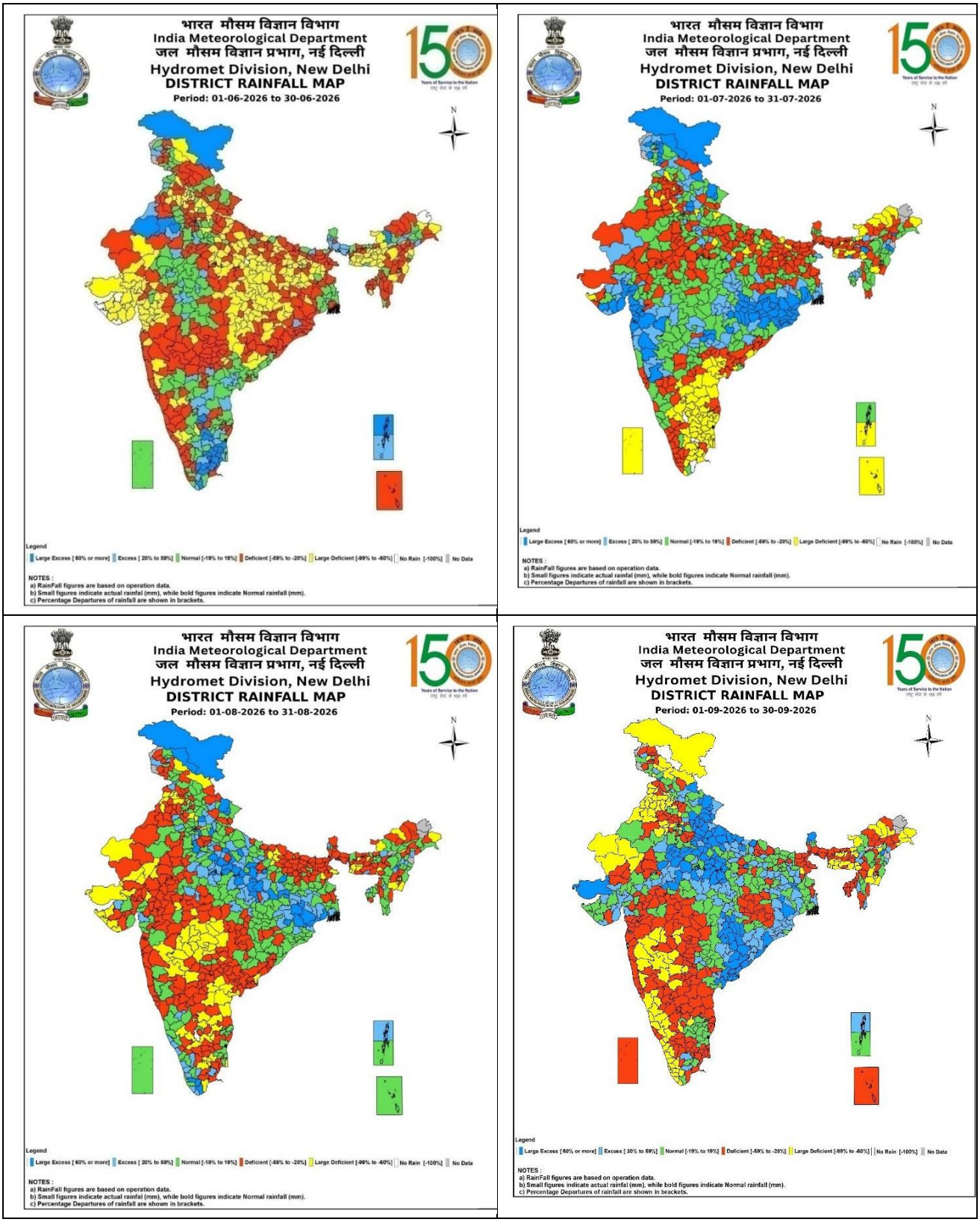


Fig.4 b : District wise monthly rainfall distribution over India during southwest monsoon season 2026

The Sub-division wise monthly rainfall distribution over India during southwest monsoon season – 2026 is given in Fig.4 a. During June 2026, rainfall distribution across India exhibited considerable spatial variability. Of the 36 meteorological subdivisions, 3 meteorological subdivisions received excess rainfall, 8 received normal rainfall, 22 experienced deficient rainfall, and 3 recorded large deficient rainfall. No subdivision received large excess rainfall. Among the four homogeneous regions, Central India recorded the largest rainfall deficit, with rainfall at 50% of its Long Period Average (LPA), followed by East & Northeast India (65% of LPA), Northwest India (68% of LPA), and South Peninsula (80% of LPA). Thus, all four homogeneous regions received below-normal rainfall during June 2026. At the subdivision level, the rainfall deficiency was particularly pronounced over Central India and Northwest India, while isolated excess rainfall was observed over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Tamil Nadu & Puducherry & Karaikal. Overall, the country received 104 mm of rainfall against the normal of 165.3 mm, resulting in a 37% deficiency during June 2026.

During July 2026, rainfall distribution improved considerably during July 2026 (Fig. 4b), with a notable improvement observed over the Central India region. The region, which had experienced a substantial rainfall deficit in June, received comparatively better rainfall during July, resulting in an improvement in the overall spatial distribution of rainfall across the country. 3 meteorological subdivisions received large excess rainfall, 3 received excess rainfall, 16 received normal rainfall, 11 received deficient rainfall, and 3 received large deficient rainfall. A marked spatial variability in rainfall distribution was observed over Central India. Out of the 10 subdivisions in the region, 3 received large excess rainfall, 2 received excess rainfall, and 5 received normal rainfall. In contrast, rainfall over South Peninsula was predominantly deficient, with 3 out of 10 subdivisions receiving large deficient rainfall, 3 receiving deficient rainfall, and 4 receiving normal rainfall. At the regional scale, Central India received above-normal rainfall, recording 133% of its Long Period Average (LPA). The other three regions received below-normal rainfall, with East & Northeast India recording 71% of LPA, Northwest India 96% of LPA, and South Peninsula 75% of LPA. Overall, July 2026 rainfall exhibited considerable spatial variability across the country, with Central India receiving above-normal rainfall while the remaining three homogeneous regions received below-normal rainfall.

In August 2026, rainfall conditions deteriorated again across much of the country, with most regions receiving below-normal rainfall. This widespread rainfall deficiency marked a reversal from the improvement observed during July, with several parts of the country experiencing inadequate rainfall during the month. 4 subdivisions received excess rainfall, 12 received normal rainfall, 18 experienced deficient rainfall, and 2 recorded large deficient rainfall. No subdivision received large excess rainfall. A marked spatial variability in rainfall distribution was observed during August 2026. Central India experienced predominantly deficient rainfall, including large deficient rainfall over two subdivisions, while South Peninsula also remained largely deficient. In contrast,

isolated excess rainfall was observed over East & Northeast and Northwest India. At the regional scale, all four homogeneous regions received below-normal rainfall during August 2026. East & Northeast India received 83% of LPA, Northwest India 91% of LPA, Central India 84% of LPA, and South Peninsula 73% of LPA. Overall, August 2026 rainfall exhibited considerable spatial variability, with deficient rainfall prevailing over most parts of the country. South Peninsula recorded the lowest rainfall in terms of percentage of LPA, while Northwest India recorded rainfall closest to its normal.

In September 2026, 2 subdivisions have received large excess rainfall, 6 subdivisions received excess rainfall, 10 subdivisions received normal rainfall, 13 subdivisions received deficient rainfall and 5 subdivisions received large deficient rainfall. The most notable features of rainfall distribution in September were observed over Northwest India. Northwest India received 117% of LPA rainfall, with 2 subdivisions receiving large excess rainfall, 1 subdivisions receiving excess rainfall 2 subdivision receiving normal, 3 subdivision receiving deficient rainfall &1 subdivision recording large deficient rainfall out of a total of 9 subdivisions. Region wise, Northwest India (117% of LPA), experienced excess rainfall, Central India (103% of LPA) experienced normal rainfall and South Peninsula (73% of LPA) and East & Northeast India (75% of LPA) received deficient rainfall.

The District wise monthly rainfall distribution over India during southwest monsoon season – 2026 is given in Fig.4 b. Table 2 gives the Number of districts and area which experienced Large excess(LE), Excess(E), Normal(N), Deficient(D), Large Deficient (LD), No Rain(NR) and No Data(ND) during season and June, July, August, September 2026

Table 2. Monthly district rainfall for Seasonal ,June, July, August, September 2026

	Category	LE	E	N	D	LD	NR	ND	Total
Seasonal (JJAS)	No of Districts	16	90	312	282	34	0	7	741
	Area	2%	12%	42%	38%	5%	1%		
June	No of Districts	23	58	143	301	207	2	7	741
	Area	3%	8%	19%	41%	28%	1 %		
July	No of Districts	82	94	212	247	97	2	7	741
	Area	11%	13%	29%	33%	13%	1%		
August	No of Districts	43	90	215	289	96	1	7	741
	Area	6%	12%	29%	39%	13%	1%		
September	No of Districts	97	109	170	236	119	3	7	741
	Area	13%	15%	23%	32%	16%	1%		

Table 2 : District wise Seasonal and monthly rainfall distribution over India during southwest monsoon season 2026

Fig.5 depicts the monthly variation of rainfall for All India and four homogeneous regions during 2026 southwest monsoon season and Fig.6 depicts the weekly and cumulative weekly rainfall anomaly expressed as percentage departure from the LPA.

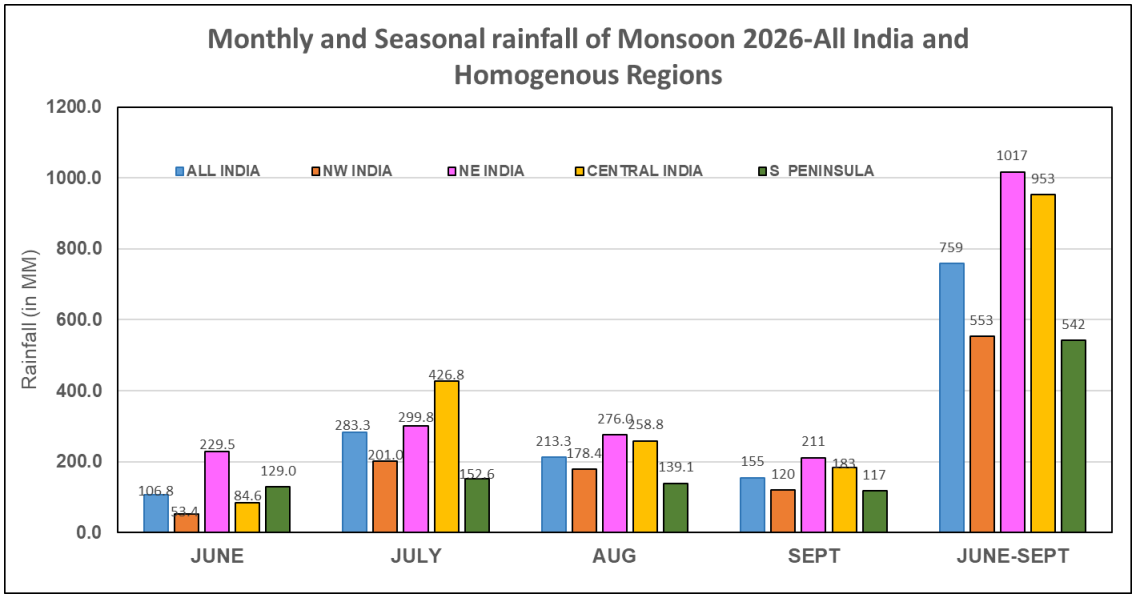


Fig.5. Monthly and seasonal monsoon rainfall (mm) of 2026 over Broad homogenous region and Country as a whole.

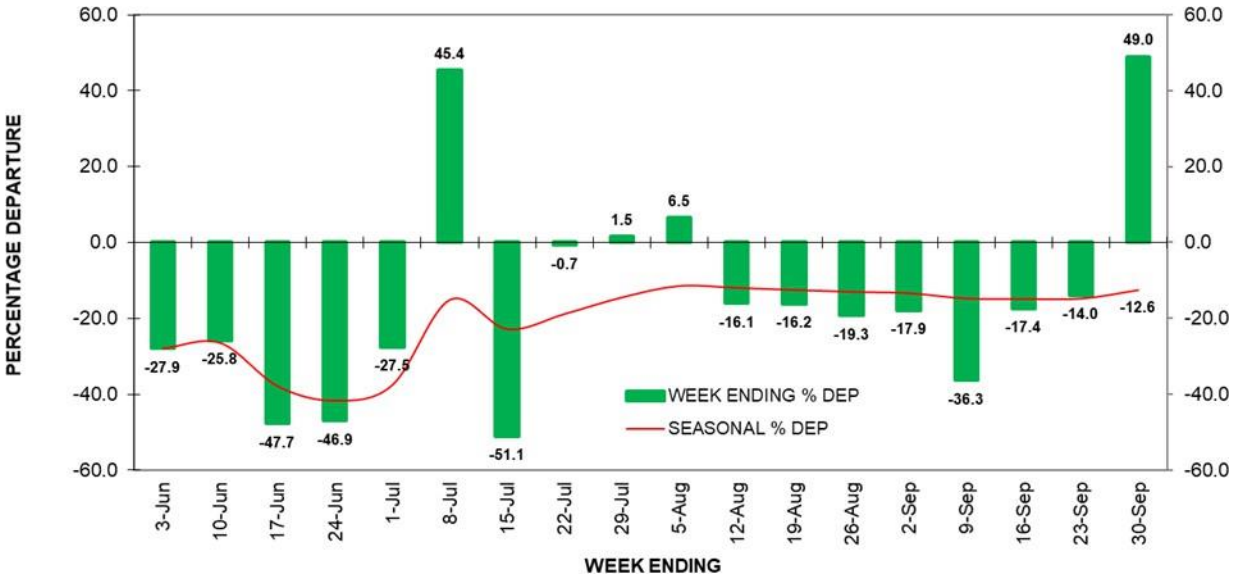


Fig 6. Week by week progress and cumulative rainfall (% departure from normal) over Country as a whole.

The weekly rainfall distribution during the southwest monsoon season 2026 exhibited considerable variability. Rainfall was predominantly deficient during June, with the seasonal rainfall departure worsening from −27.9% in early June to about −47% by the end of the month. A brief spell of excess rainfall (+45.4%) was observed during the week ending 8 July, followed by a sharp decline to −51.1% during the week ending 15 July. Thereafter, rainfall improved during late July and early August, with excess rainfall of +1.5% and +6.5% during the weeks ending 29 July and 5 August, respectively. Subsequently, rainfall remained below normal, with the seasonal departure stabilizing around −16% to −19% during August, before declining further to −36.3% by the week ending 9 September. Thereafter rainfall remained deficient to about -17.4 % in the week ending 16 September and -14.0 % in the week ending 23 September. However last week of September experienced a wet spell resulting in increase in rainfall to 49%.

3. Synoptic scale systems and Extreme weather events during the Southwest Monsoon Season

During the season, Six Monsoon depressions formed during the season and three intensified into Deep Depression. The tracks of the Monsoon Depression are shown in Fig.7. The number of low-pressure systems formed during the season is shown in Table-3.

During June 2026, four Western Disturbance (WD) spells affected the Western Himalayan Region and Northeast India. These systems were active during 3–7 June, 10–14 June, 15–18 June, and 18–30 June. Climatologically, June witnesses an average of three low-pressure systems (LPSs), accounting for about 11 LPS days. However, no low-pressure area (LPA) formed during June 2026, representing a significant departure from the climatological average and contributing to the large rainfall deficiency during the month

During July 2026, five Western Disturbance (WD) spells affected the Western Himalayan Region and adjoining areas of Northwest and Northeast India. Their periods of influence were 1–17 July, 17–19 July, 22–26 July, 26–31 July and 31st July to 2nd August. Four low-pressure systems formed over the North Indian Ocean during the month, equal to the climatological average of four systems. Of these, one intensified into a Deep Depression during 26 July–1 August and another into a Depression during 5–7 July, while the remaining two persisted as a Well Marked Low Pressure Area and a Low Pressure Area respectively. Although the number of low-pressure systems was near normal, their persistence was significantly higher than the climatological average, with 24 LPS days recorded against the normal of 13.56 days. The prolonged persistence of these systems, particularly over Central India led to enhanced rainfall activity over the region and contributed to normal to excess rainfall over many parts of Central India.

In August 2026, seven Western Disturbance (WD) spells affected the region, indicating frequent and persistent WD activity during the month. Intense rainfall associated with WDs was mainly observed over eastern, east-central and northwest India, particularly in association with their interaction with monsoonal weather systems. During the month, seven low-pressure systems (LPSs) affected the Indian region. The month began with the weakening of a depression formed during the previous month over southeast Rajasthan. Subsequently, six LPSs developed over the Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas, of which two intensified into depressions and moved west-northwestwards across central and

northern India. Another LPA developed over the northwest Bay of Bengal towards the end of the month and lay over Gangetic West Bengal on 31 August.

During September 2026, eight western disturbances impacted India and also gave good rainfall over the western Himalayan region and adjoining plains of north west India. Two deep depressions formed over the north Bay of Bengal during 21- 27 September and 28 -30 September respectively. In addition, a low-pressure area developed over the north Bay of Bengal during 10–17 September.

Category	CS	DD	D	WML	LOW	Total LPS	Total LPS days	Climatology LPS	Climatology LPS Days
June	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**11**
July	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**4**	**24**	**3**	**14**
Aug	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**6**	**27**	**4**	**17**
Sept	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**26**	**3**	**16**
Season's Total	**0**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**6**	**13**	**77**	**13**	**57**

Table 3: Number of Low-pressure System (LPS) including Low (L), Depression (D), Deep Depression (DD) in monsoon 2026.

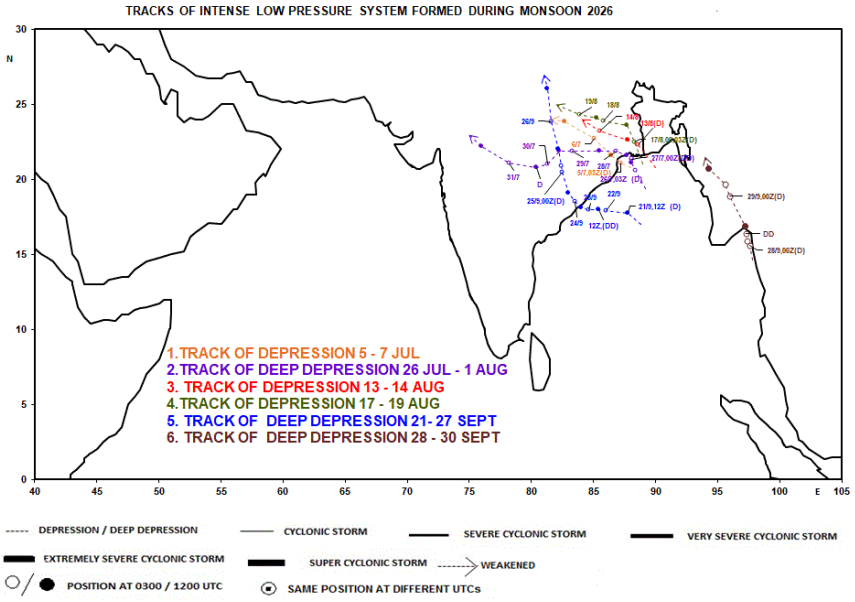


Fig. 7. Tracks of Depressions formed during Monsoon 2026.

The number of heavy rainfall events during the last five years is given in Table 4. Month-wise locations of Very Heavy Rainfall (115.6 to 204.4 mm) and Extremely Heavy Rainfall (more than 204.4 mm) reported stations for June to Sept 2026 are given in Fig.8. The extreme rainfall events were more realized over Konkan & Goa, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Saurashtra and Kutch, Gujarat, West Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Orissa, SHWB Kerala and Gangetic West Bengal.

Year	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
Month	>115.5 and <204.4	>204.4	>115.5 and <204.4	>204.4	>115.5 and <204.4	>204.4	>115.5 and <204.4	>204.4	>115.5 and <204.4	>204.4
Jun	237	80	429	65	284	51	432	70	109	13
Jul	829	131	1113	205	1059	194	673	84	918	269
Aug	577	63	402	66	762	132	692	108	422	62
Sep	232	22	399	90	527	96	312	41	316	44
Monsoon	1875	296	2343	426	2632	473	2109	303	1765	388

Table 4: The number of heavy rainfall events during the last five years

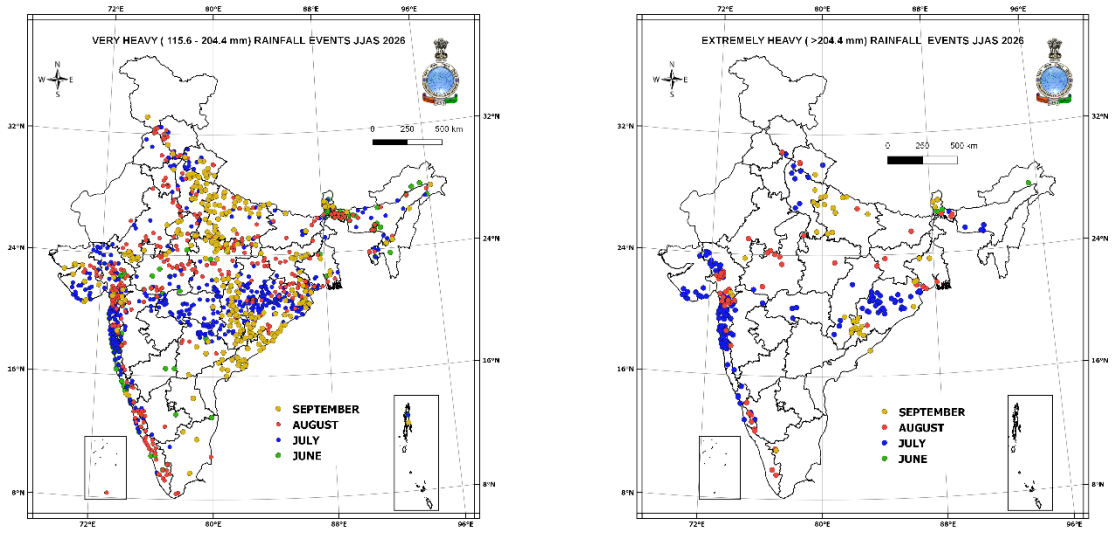


Fig 8. The location of Very Heavy Rainfall (115.6 to 204.4 mm) (left one) and Extremely Heavy Rainfall (more than 204.4 mm) (right one) stations during JJAS 2026.

The standardized rainfall anomalies over the core monsoon zone region for 2026 are shown in Fig. 9.

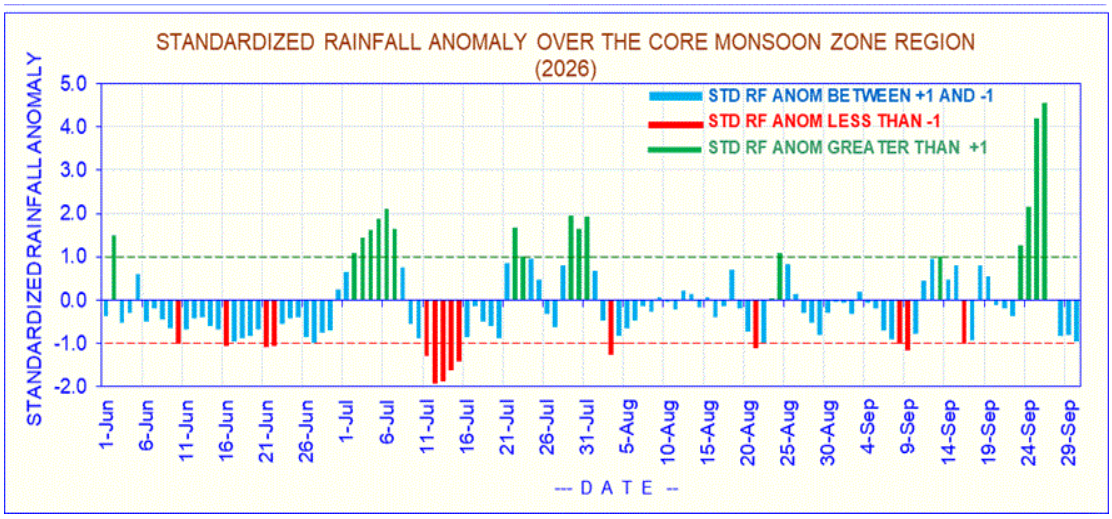


Fig 9. The standardized rainfall anomalies over the core monsoon zone region 2026

Rainfall over the Core Monsoon Zone (CMZ) during the 2026 southwest monsoon season exhibited considerable temporal variability, with alternating wet and dry spells rather than a sustained rainfall regime. In June predominantly below-normal rainfall, with frequent large negative standardized rainfall anomalies particularly pronounced during the second and third weeks of June. However, in July rainfall activity improved substantially during the first week of July, with several days recording positive anomalies, including values

exceeding +1. This active monsoon conditions was followed by another dry spell during mid-July, with anomalies falling below −1. Rainfall again improved during the last week of July, producing several positive anomalies. Rainfall during August was largely near normal to below normal, with relatively few significant positive anomalies. Intermittent dry spells occurred, particularly around the third and fourth weeks of August. In September Rainfall remained variable during the first three weeks, with several deficient rainfall episodes. However, a marked wet spell developed during the last week of September, with standardized rainfall anomalies rising sharply, reaching above +4 toward the end of the month.

4. Verification of Long-Range Forecast issued for SW Monsoon 2026

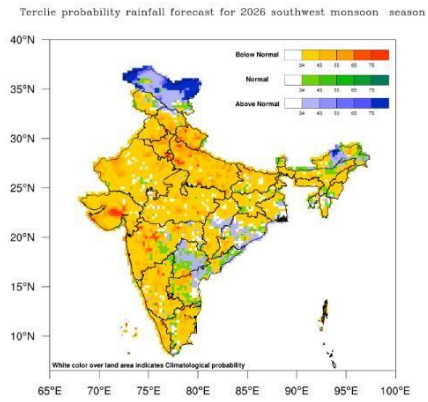
The forecast for the onset of Southwest Monsoon over Kerala in 2026 was not correct, making it only the second instance (after 2015) since the commencement of the operational monsoon onset forecast in 2005 in which the forecast did not materialize within the predicted window. The Forecast date of onset of monsoon over Kerala was 26th May with a model error of ± 4 days and realized date of onset of monsoon over Kerala was 4th June.

The first-stage forecast for the June–September seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole, issued in 15th April 2026, predicted below-normal rainfall at 92% of the Long Period Average (LPA), with a model error of ±5% of LPA. The updated forecast issued at the end of May 2026 indicated 90% of LPA, with a model error of ±4% of LPA. The actual seasonal rainfall was 87% of LPA. Thus, both the first-stage and updated forecasts correctly anticipated below-normal seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole.

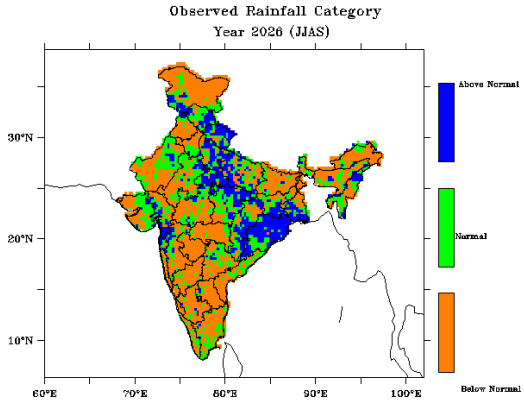
Considering the four broad geographical regions of India, the forecasts issued on 29th May, the southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September 2026) rainfall was most likely to be normal over Northeast India (94-106% of LPA) and below normal over Central & South Peninsular India (<94% of LPA) and Northwest India (<92% of LPA). The actual rainfall departure from long period average over Northwest India, Central India, Northeast India and South Peninsula were -6%, -3%, -26% and -24% of LPA, respectively. The seasonal forecast issued for homogeneous regions during the season was within the range of the forecast for South Peninsular India. For Central India and North West India, the observed rainfall was within normal limits and for East and Northeast India it was in below normal limits. The southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over the Monsoon Core Zone, which encompasses a major portion of the country's rainfed agricultural areas, was forecast to be below normal (<94% of LPA). During the season, the Monsoon Core Zone received 779.9 mm of rainfall, which was below the normal rainfall range (782.8–881.2 mm). Thus, the seasonal rainfall over the Core Monsoon Zone remained below normal, consistent with the forecast.

The monthly outlooks were within the forecast limit for June and August and was underestimated for the months of July and September. The forecast for the second half of the monsoon season (August –September) for the country as a whole also was in the forecast limit (below normal).

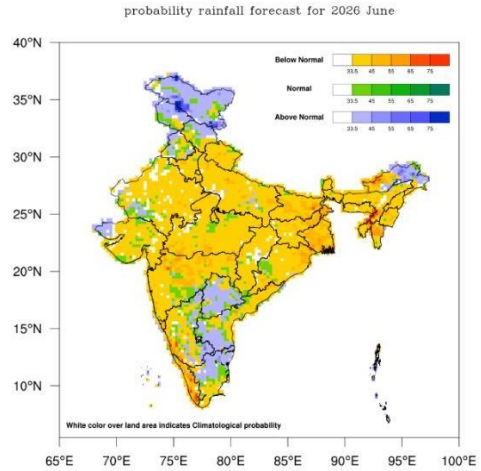
The Tables 5(a) and 5 (b) below gives the summary of the verification of the long-range forecasts issued for the 2026 Southwest monsoon.



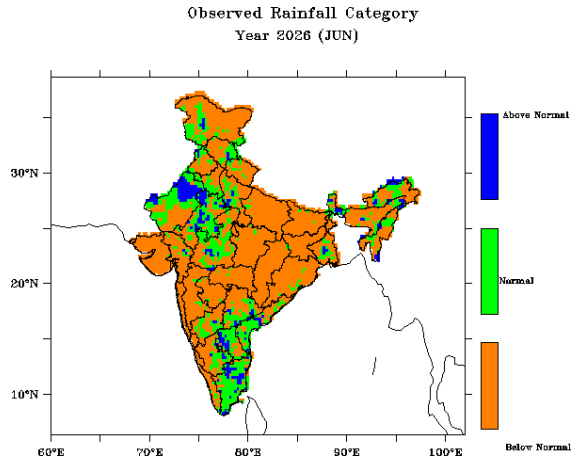
(a) Probabilistic Rainfall Forecast for June to September 2026



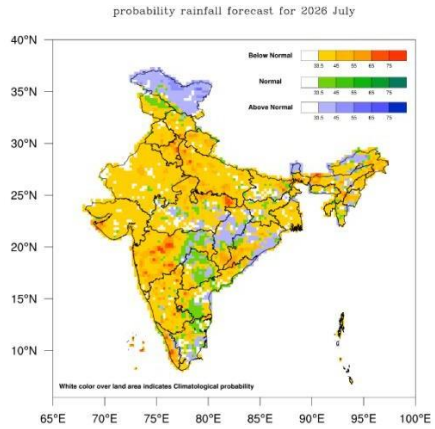
(b) Observed Rainfall Category for June to September 2026



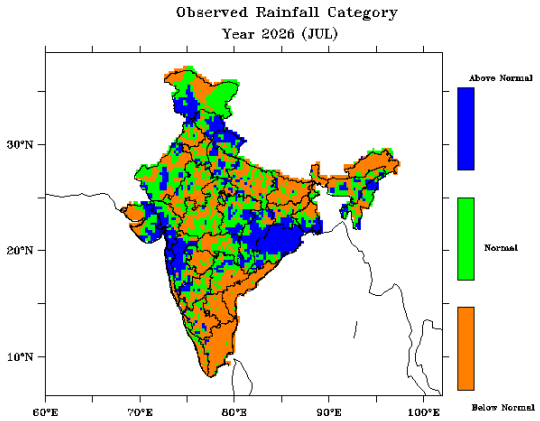
(c) Probabilistic Rainfall Forecast for June 2026



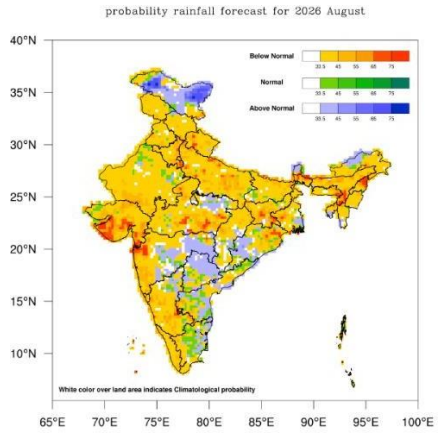
(d) Observed Rainfall Category for June 2026



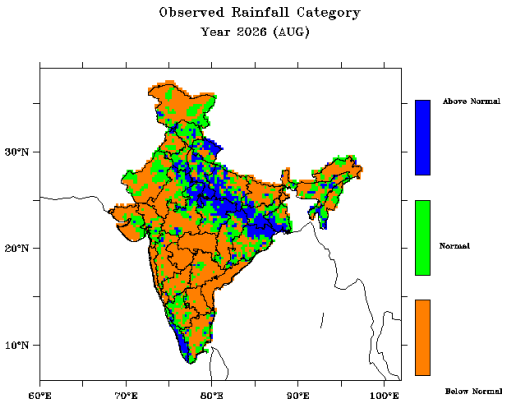
(e) Probabilistic Rainfall Forecast for July 2026



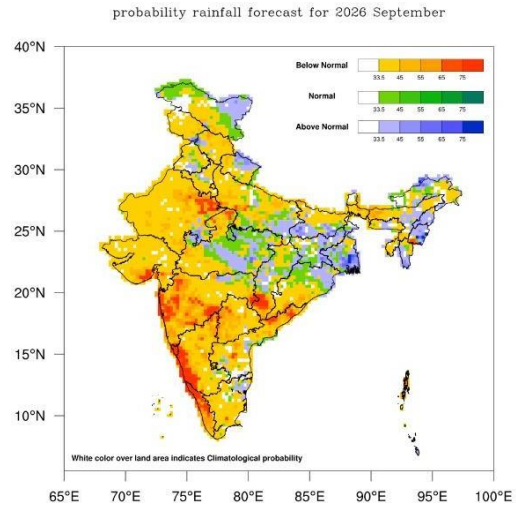
(f) Observed Rainfall Category for July 2026



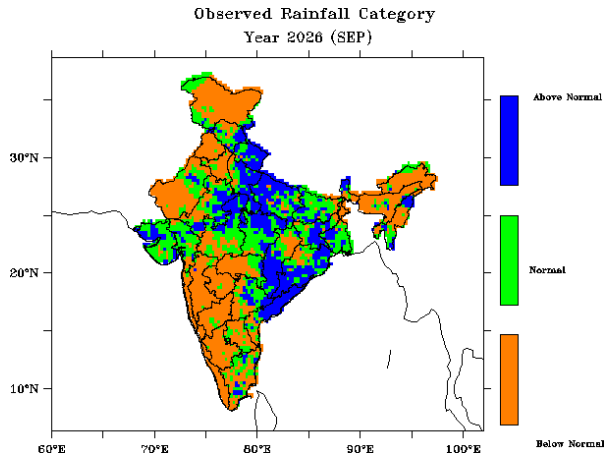
(g) Probabilistic Rainfall Forecast for August 2026



(h) Observed Rainfall Category for August 2026



(i) Probabilistic Rainfall Forecast for September 2026



(j) Observed Rainfall Category for September 2026

Fig 10. Spatial Probabilistic Forecast of 2026 in left panel and Forecast Verification plots in right panel for Seasonal and monthly forecasts

Table 5(a): Performance of monthly Rainfall Forecast during Monsoon 2026

Month	Forecast	Realized
June 2026	Below Normal rainfall (<92% of LPA) is most likely over the country as a whole during June, 2026	65% of LPA
July 2026	Below Normal (<94 % of LPA) is most likely over the country as a whole during July, 2026	101% of LPA
August 2026	Below Normal (<94 % of LPA) is most likely over the country as a whole during August, 2026	84% of LPA
September 2026	Below Normal <91 % of LPA) is most likely over the country as a whole during September, 2026	92% of LPA

Table 5(b): Performance of Long-Range Forecast of Southwest Monsoon 2026

Seasonal Forecast		**Observed**
13 April 2026-1st Stage for Season as a whole	29th May 2026-2nd stage -	
• Development of El Niño conditions are likely to develop during the SW Monsoon season • IOD conditions are likely to develop towards the end of the southwest monsoon season. • The northern hemisphere snow cover extent during the last three months (January to March 2026) was slightly below normal. Winter and spring snow cover extent over Northern Hemisphere as well as Eurasia has a general inverse relationship with the subsequent southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over the country.	• El Nino conditions are likely to develop during the southwest monsoon season • Neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue during the monsoon season • Quantitatively, the southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 90% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of ±4%, indicating that below normal rainfall is most likely over the country as a whole during the monsoon season (June to September), 2026 • The southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September, 2026) rainfall is most likely to be normal over	A weak El Niño conditions developed during in June and further strengthen during the SW Monsoon season and a strong El Niño conditions prevailed during end of the season Although forecasts indicated the development of positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions toward the end of the monsoon season, the IOD remained in the neutral phase throughout the Southwest (SW) Monsoon 2026 season. Correctly indicated below normal rainfall during the SW monsoon season Observed Rainfall is (87% of LPA).

• The 2026 southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the country as a whole is most likely to be below normal (95-90% of the Long Period Average (LPA)). Quantitatively, the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 92% of LPA with a model error of ± 5%. The LPA of the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole based on the period of 1971-2020 is 87 cm.	Northeast India (94-106% of LPA) and below normal over Central & South Peninsular India (<94% of LPA) and Northwest India (<92% of LPA). • The southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over the Monsoon Core Zone (MCZ) consisting of most of the rainfed agriculture areas in the country is most likely to be below normal (<94% of LPA).	
31st July -3rd Stage (For 2nd half of Monsoon 2026 (Aug-Sept)		**Observed**
• Moderate El Niño conditions currently prevail over the equatorial Pacific Ocean, with sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies remaining above normal across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific. These conditions are expected to strengthen further during the Southwest Monsoon season. Forecasts from the Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecast System (MMCFS) also indicate a continued strengthening of El Niño conditions throughout the remaining period of Southwest Monsoon season.		Correctly indicate the strengthening of El Nino condition.
• At present, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions prevail over the Indian Ocean. Forecasts from the Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecast System (MMCFS) indicate that these neutral IOD conditions are likely to persist throughout the remaining period of Southwest Monsoon season. However, climate forecasts from some international forecasting centres suggest that positive IOD conditions are likely to develop during September 2026.		Indicate Neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue until end of the monsoon season.
• Below-normal rainfall (less than 94% of the Long Period Average (LPA)) is likely over the country during the second half of the Southwest Monsoon season (August–September) 2026. During this period, below-normal rainfall is very likely over many parts of the country except some parts of the Peninsular India, Central India, northern parts of northwest India and East & Northeast India where normal to above-normal rainfall is likely.		Correctly indicated the Rainfall outlook for the second half of the southwest monsoon season. Below normal Rainfall received for 1st half (88% of LPA) & second half (87% of the LPA of the monsoon season 2026.