

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

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IMD First Forecast for Monsoon 2018

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the Economy

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Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

Policy and Program Announcements

Grain and Feed

Oilseeds and Products

Cotton and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast a near normal Southwest Monsoon for 2018 suggesting that June to September rainfall is likely to be 97 percent of the Long Period Average (LPA). Southern India has been receiving an excess or large excess of rain during the pre-monsoon period while most of the other regions have received less rainfall than the previous year. Reservoir levels reflect this data, also. This report is the second in a series covering India's 2018 monsoon season.

General Information:

On April 16, the IMD forecast a near normal Southwest Monsoon for 2018 suggesting that June to September rainfall would likely be 97 percent of the LPA with a model error of plus/minus 5 percent. The fifty-year LPA for the Southwest Monsoon rainfall is 89 cm. The forecast suggests maximum probability for normal rainfall during the season (refer to Table 1). The IMD's second forecast is scheduled for release in June. For more details refer to the [IMD Press Release](#).

In addition, the IMD's forecast suggests April to June temperatures will be warmer than normal in north and northwestern India and normal to slightly below normal for eastern, east-central, and southern parts of India. (Refer FAS [IN8034 India Official Pre-Monsoon Conditions Forecast](#)).

Table 1. Probability Forecast for Southwest Monsoon 2018

Category	Rainfall Range (% of LPA)	Forecast Probability (%)
Deficient	Less than 90	14
Below Normal	Between 90-96	30
Normal	Between 96-104	42
Above Normal	Between 104-110	12
Excess	Greater than 110	02

Source: Indian Meteorological Department

According to IMD rainfall data, all India pre-monsoon (Mar/May) rainfall continues to be lower than the fifty-year average by 18 percent (Refer table 2). However, the southern peninsula region has received 32 percent above normal rains through May 2, 2018. The southern state of Karnataka has recorded 66 percent higher than normal rains in pre-monsoon season, with 19 districts in the state receiving excess rains (60 percent or more). Higher temperatures and deficit rainfall in various regions across India has affected reservoir storage levels.

States having less reservoir storage than the previous year for the corresponding period are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jharkhand, Odisha, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana. States having better storage than last year for the corresponding period are Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tripura, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

**Table 2. India: Regional Rainfall Distribution (Pre-Monsoon)
from March 1- April 25, 2018**

Regions	2018 Actual (mm)	Normal (mm)*	2018 Percentage Departure from Normal
Northwest India	52.6	73.1	-28%
Central India	15.8	17.5	-9%
Southern Peninsula	51.3	39.0	32%
East and Northeast India	116.9	156.0	-25%
All India	50.2	61.2	-18%

* Normal rainfall is the fifty year average of rainfall from 1951-2000

Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Table 3. India: State-wise Rainfall Distribution in Southern States

	Large Excess	Excess	Normal	Deficient	Large Deficient	Normal	No Rain	Total
Karnataka	19	7	3	1	0	0	0	30
Telangana	1	5	3	1	0	0	0	10
Andhra Pradesh	5	4	1	2	1	0	0	13
Tamil Nadu	1	4	6	15	6	0	0	32
Kerala	5	3	4	2	0	0	0	14

Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Table 4. India. Storage Status at 91 Major Reservoirs in Billion Cubic Meters (BCM)

Region	Volume on April 26, 2018 (in BCM)	Total Capacity (in BCM)	Percentage of Capacity on April 26, 2018	Percentage of Capacity on April 26, 2017	10-Year Average Capacity Level on April 26
Northern Region	3.54	18.01	20%	26%	27%
Eastern Region	6.72	18.83	36%	44%	30%
Western Region	7.52	31.26	24%	29%	28%
Central Region	11.79	42.30	28%	40%	27%
Southern Region	7.54	51.59	15%	10%	20%
All India	37.11	161.99	23%	27%	25%

Source: Ministry of Water Resources