

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: IMD Forecasts Early Monsoon Onset with Above-Normal Rainfall

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Cotton and Products, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products

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Report Highlights:

On April 15, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted a 59 percent chance of an above-normal 2025 southwest monsoon, and an onset date of May 27, five days ahead of typical June 1 onset. IMD predicts that rainfall from June through September will likely reach 105 percent of the long-period average (LPA), which is the fifty-year average of 870 millimeters (mm), and above-normal temperatures are expected across most parts of the country starting in May, likely impacting planting decisions due to increased irrigation requirements.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Ministry of Earth Sciences/India's Meteorological Department (IMD) website <https://mausam.imd.gov.in/>. The U.S. Consulate General Mumbai – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report.

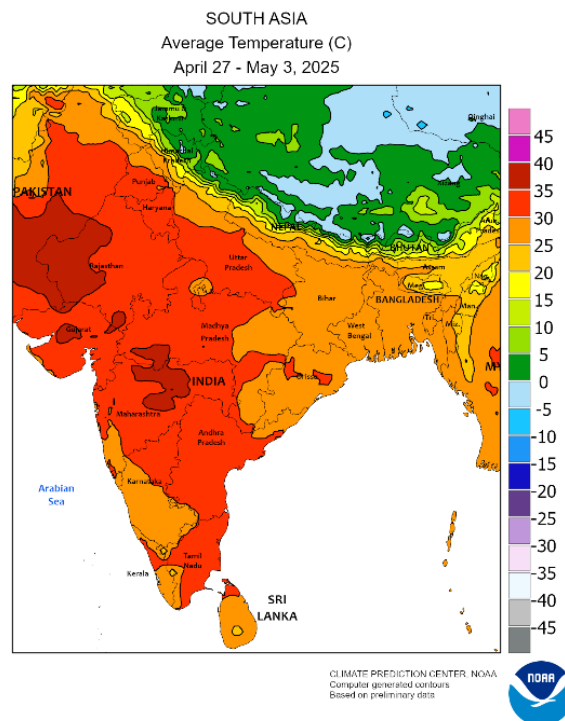
Monsoon Outlook

On April 15, IMD published its [first long range forecast](#) for the 2025 southwest monsoon, predicting that rainfall from June through September will likely reach 105 percent of the LPA, and an early onset by May 27, five days earlier than the usual date of June 1. The agency also issued a [monthly outlook](#) for May that indicates excess rains expected with above normal temperatures and will issue an end-of-May forecast for the Monsoon Core Zone (MCZ), which represents most rainfed agriculture regions in the country and is a critical forecast related to agricultural planning.

Heatwave Outlook

IMD has [forecasted](#) above-normal temperatures for May. Many parts of northwest, central, and adjoining east India are likely to experience an increased number of heatwave days, particularly in states such as Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of Gujarat, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, adjoining Telangana, and north Karnataka.

Figure 1. Weekly Average Temperature



Source: [Climate Prediction Center, National Weather Service, NOAA](#)

Figure 2. 2025 Monsoon Rainfall Forecast

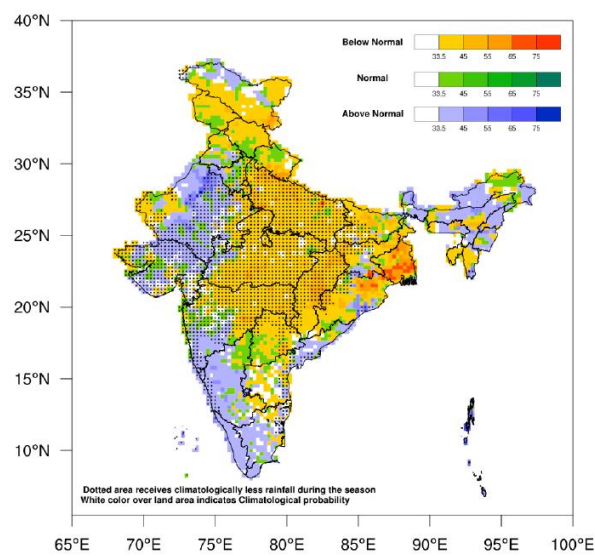
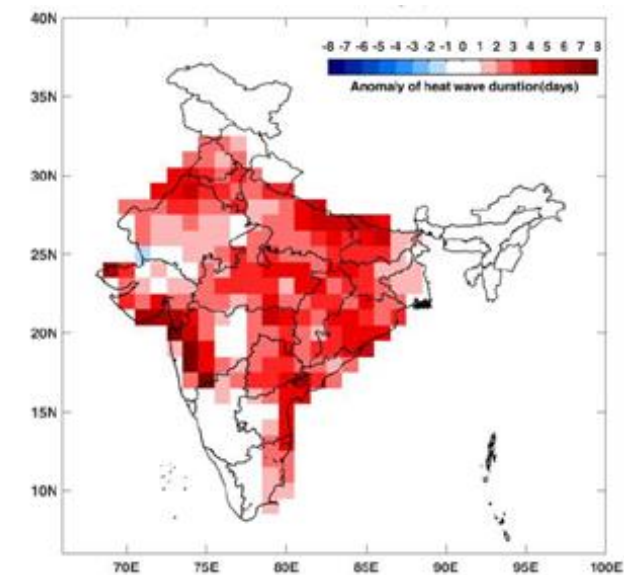


Figure 3. Heatwave Outlook during Apr-Jun



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Summer Sowing Gains Signal Positive Prospects for Upcoming Kharif Season

Pre-monsoon rainfall across the country through May 12 was observed six percent below the fifty-year average/LPA, with the exception of central and southern India with 89 and 35 percent above normal levels. Excess rains in these regions provided adequate soil moisture for summer planting, leading to an [11 percent year-on-year increase](#) in the summer-sown crop area.

Table 1. Summer Crop 2025 Sowing Progress (in million hectares)

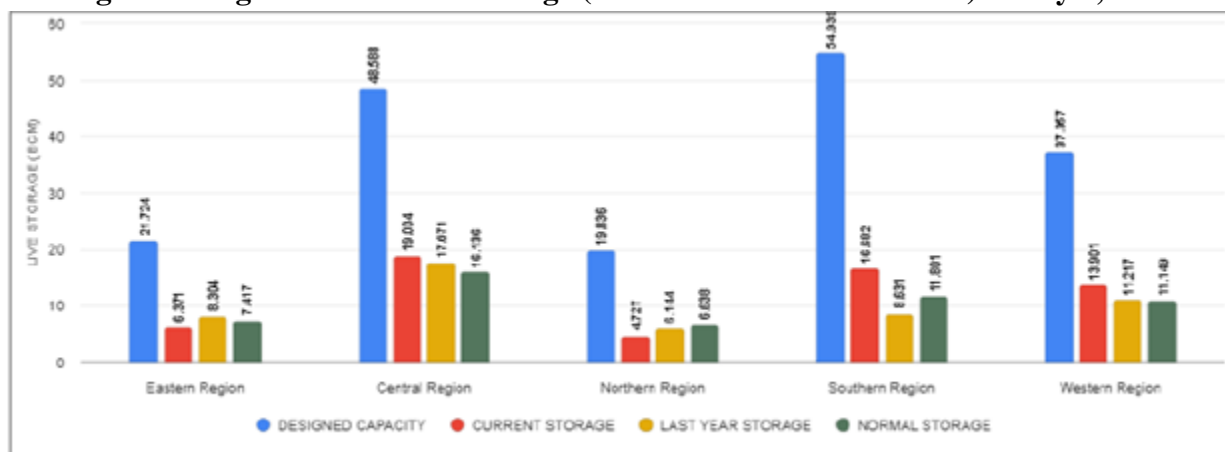
Crop	Area Sown as of May 2, 2025	Area Sown as of May 2, 2024	Normal Area (Five-year Average)	Y-o-Y Change	Change from Normal	Absolute Change
Rice	3.20	2.86	3.08	12%	4%	0.35
Pulses	2.07	1.85	2.17	12%	-5%	0.22
Coarse Cereals	1.45	1.30	1.10	12%	31%	0.16
Oilseeds	0.95	0.92	0.79	3%	21%	0.03
Total	7.67	6.92	7.13	11%	8%	0.75

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare

Reservoir Levels

India’s Central Water Commission monitors the live storage status of 161 reservoirs across the country on a weekly basis. According to the [May 1](#) reservoir storage bulletin, live storage stands at 60.7 billion cubic meters (BCM), 33 percent of total capacity.

Figure 4. Regional Reservoir Storage (billion cubic meters – BCM) – May 1, 2025



Source: Ministry of Jal Shakti/Central Water Commission

Attachments:

No Attachments.