

EDITION INDIA

The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

Tuesday, Apr 16, 2024

EPAPER TODAY'S PAPER

TRENDING

Mumbai News

Delhi News

Chandigarh News

Bangalore News

Pune News

Lucknow News

Ahmedabad News

ADVERTISEMENT

News / India / Southwest monsoon: El Nino weakening, IMD forecasts above-normal rainfall of 106%

Southwest monsoon: El Nino weakening, IMD forecasts above-normal rainfall of 106%

This is the first time in a decade that the IMD has predicted “above normal” rainfall at the first stage itself, nearly 45 days ahead of the beginning of the four-month monsoon season. It is usually more conservative with its predictions in the first stage.

Written by Nikhil Ghanekar, [Anjali Marar](#)
Bengaluru, New Delhi | Updated: April 16, 2024 07:31 IST



1



India is likely to see above-normal rainfall this monsoon season. (Express file photo by Partha Paul)

INDIA IS likely to receive “above normal” rainfall this monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its first long-range forecast for the season on Monday. The country as a whole is expected to get 106 per cent of the long period average (LPA) rainfall, it said.

Importantly, nearly the entire country, except some pockets in the northwest, east and northeast, was likely to get good rainfall, the IMD said.

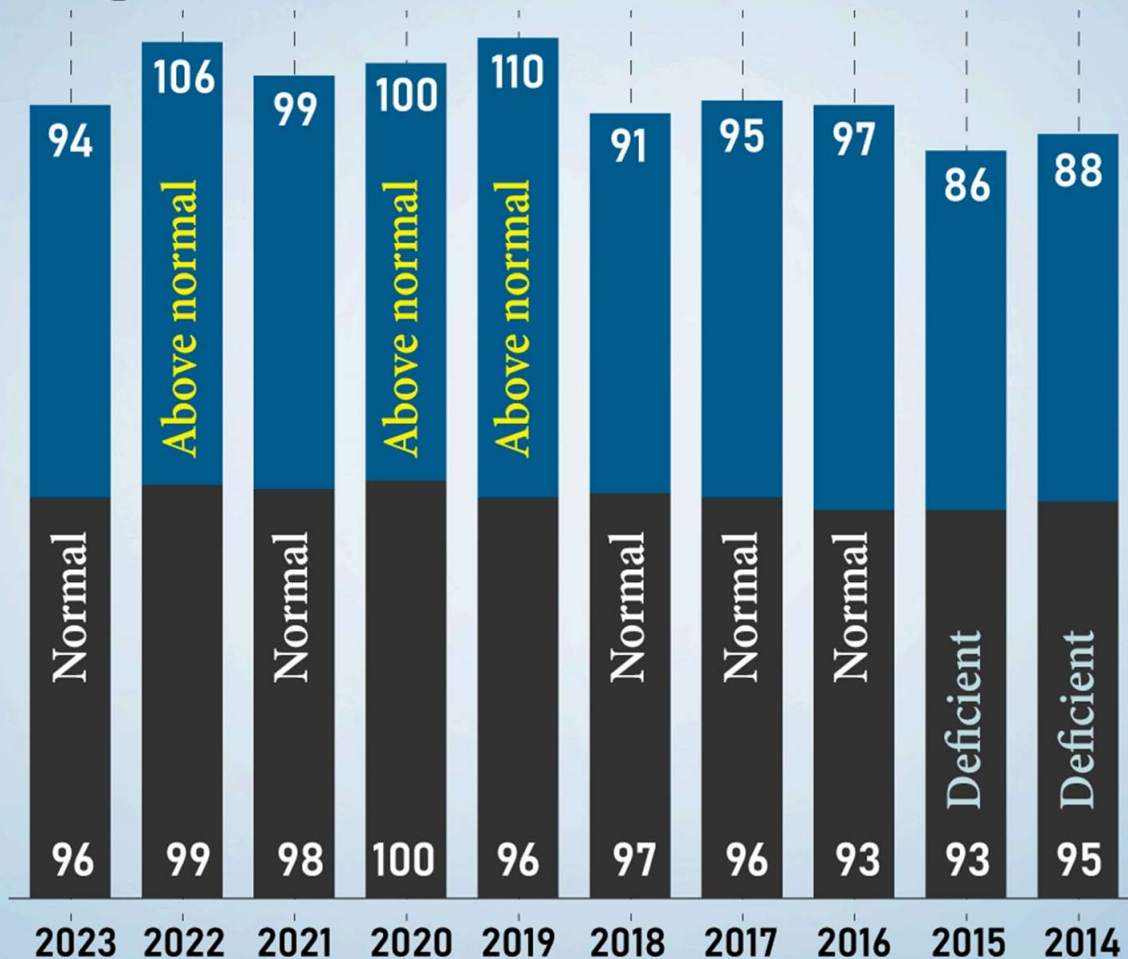
This is the first time in a decade that the IMD has predicted “above normal” rainfall at the first stage itself, nearly 45 days ahead of the beginning of the four-month monsoon season. It is usually more conservative with its predictions in the first stage.

India, as a whole, normally receives 870 mm of rainfall during the monsoon season. This is referred to as LPA, or “normal” (currently, the average of 1971-2020 period). According to the IMD, rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of this 50-year average is considered “normal”; less than 90 per cent is considered “deficient”; 90-95 per cent is “below normal”; and 105-110 per cent is “above normal”.

“The country can expect good monsoon rainfall during the southwest monsoon season this year. The seasonal rainfall will be 106 per cent of the LPA,” said



Comparative quantitative rainfall (in per cent) predicted during first stage LRF and realised seasonal rainfall



Source : IMD

Comparative quantitative rainfall (in per cent) predicted during first stage LRF and realised seasonal rainfall

Last year, the IMD had predicted 96 per cent rainfall in the first stage forecast. The

Rains during the June-September monsoon season accounts for 75 per cent of India's annual rainfall.

ADVERTISEMENT



New lease of life for API pump

Experience seamless retrofitting. Minimise downtime and maximise

 Sulzer

This year, multiple indicators were favouring “above normal” rainfall, Mohapatra said. Primary among these was the transition of the weakening El Nino in the Pacific Ocean into a neutral condition ahead of the monsoon onset, and the likely emergence of La Nina towards the latter half of the season.

EXPLAINED

Below normal in N-E again

Northeast India is again expected to get below normal rainfall. This region has been seeing a declining trend in monsoon rainfall in the last few years.

The alternating phases of El Nino and La Nina in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, off the coast of South America, that correspond to the abnormal warming and cooling of the sea surface in that area, strongly influences global weather patterns,

“The ongoing El Nino event is weakening. But it continues to remain in the ‘moderate’ category. Closer to the onset of the southwest monsoon season, El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions are likely to establish,” Mohapatra said.

“Thereafter, La Nina conditions are expected to emerge during the second-half of the monsoon season, which could bring higher-than-normal rainfall over the country,” he said.

The IMD said that in the 22 years since 1951 when La Nina conditions prevailed, monsoon rainfall was normal or above normal for 20 years — it was below normal in 1974 and 2000. There were nine years when La Nina conditions were preceded by El Nino conditions, like this year, and rainfall was on the positive side in all those years, Mohapatra said.

“But there are many other ocean-atmospheric dynamic factors which affect the rainfall during the monsoon season apart from La Nina, which we do not have good knowledge of yet,” M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said.

The Indian Ocean Dipole — which is the Indian Ocean counterpart of El Nino — is in its neutral phase at present. But the Met department said that the positive phase of the IOD is most likely to emerge during the coming months.

“During the start of the monsoon season, positive IOD conditions would emerge. Positive phase of the IOD is good for rainfall over India,” Mohapatra said.

Another positive factor that could favour the monsoon this year is the below average snow cover along Eurasia and northern hemisphere during December-March.

Asked about the probability of pre-monsoon showers during the upcoming seven-phase elections, which will be the second longest in India’s history, Mohapatra said

“With respect to elections, we are providing all information including climatological and forecast information to the Election Commission,” he said.

© The Indian Express Pvt Ltd

First uploaded on: 15-04-2024 at 14:57 IST

TAGS: [IMD](#) [Monsoon](#) [Rainfall](#)

EXPRESS *Shorts*



IPL 2024 Orange Cap: Virat Kohli extends lead while Travis Head enters Top 10

Sports Updated: April 16, 2024 05:59 IST

Virat Kohli continues to lead the race for the Orange Cap in IPL 2024, with a quickfire 42 off 20 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Heinrich Klaasen and Travis Head also entered the top 10, with Rohit Sharma joining the race after scoring 105* off 63 balls.

[VIEW ALL SHORTS](#) >

LIVE BLOG

Mumbai News Live Updates: 2 arrested for firing outside Salman Khan's residence in Mumbai
53 mins ago