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INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Outlook for the Rainfall during Second Half of the SW Monsoon Season (August – September) and Monthly Rainfall and Temperature during August, 2026

Highlights

- 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.
- During August 2026, rainfall over the country is likely to be **below normal (less than 94% of the Long Period Average (LPA))**. Below-normal rainfall is very likely over many parts of the country except many areas of Eastern Peninsular India, some areas of Northwest and Central India and isolated areas of East and Northeast India where normal to above-normal rainfall is likely.
- During August 2026, the **monthly average maximum temperatures are expected to remain above normal** over most parts of the country. However, some areas of Northwest and Central India, along with isolated regions of the adjoining Southern Peninsula, are likely to experience normal to below-normal monthly average maximum temperatures during the month. The **monthly average minimum temperatures during August 2026 are expected to remain normal to above normal** over most parts of the country.
- 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.
- 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**.

The IMD will issue the forecast for rainfall during September by the end of August 2026.

Outlook for the Rainfall during Second Half of the SW Monsoon Season (August – September) and Monthly Rainfall and Temperature during August, 2026

1. Background

Since 2021, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been using a new strategy for issuing operational long range forecasts on a monthly and seasonal scales for rainfall and temperatures over the country. For this, a newly developed Multi-Model Ensemble (MME) forecasting system is used. The MME system utilizes simulations from the coupled global climate models (CGCMs) sourced from various global climate prediction and research centers, including IMD's Monsoon Mission Climate Forecasting System (MMCFS) model.

IMD had issued the first stage forecast for the 2026 southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the country on 13th April and update for the forecast on 29th May 2026. In addition, IMD also issued the forecast for rainfall during June on 29th May, 2026 and during July on 30th June, 2026. Southwest Monsoon Rainfall Forecast for the Rainfall during August-September, 2026 and Monthly Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for August 2026 are presented here.

2. Probabilistic Forecast of Rainfall over the Country during August to September (Aug+Sep), 2026

The rainfall averaged over the entire country from **August to September is likely to be below normal (<94% of the Long Period Average (LPA))**. The LPA of rainfall over the country as a whole during the August to September period, based on historical data of 1971 to 2020 is 422.8 mm.

The spatial distribution of probabilistic forecasts for the tercile categories (above normal, normal, and below normal) of rainfall during the August to September 2026 period is presented in **Figure 1**. 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.

3. Probabilistic Forecast for the Rainfall over the Country during August 2026

The rainfall averaged over the entire country for **August 2026 is likely to be below normal (<94% of LPA)**. The LPA of the rainfall over the country as a whole during August, based on data of 1971-2020 is 254.9 mm.

The spatial distribution of probabilistic forecasts for the tercile categories (above normal, normal, and below normal) of rainfall during August 2026 is illustrated in **Figure 2**. Below-normal rainfall is very likely over many parts of the country except many areas of Eastern Peninsular India, some areas of Northwest and Central India and isolated areas of East and Northeast India where normal to above-normal rainfall is likely.

4. Probabilistic Forecast of Temperatures over the Country during August 2026

Fig.3a and Fig.3b show forecast probabilities of the maximum and minimum temperatures respectively for August 2026. During August 2026 (Fig. 3a), monthly average maximum temperatures are expected to remain above normal over most parts of the country. However, some areas of Northwest and Central India, along with isolated regions of the adjoining Southern Peninsula, are likely to experience normal to below-normal monthly average maximum temperatures during the month.

In August 2026, the monthly average minimum temperatures are expected to be normal to above normal over most parts of the country (Fig.3b). No significant signal is indicated by the model over the white-shaded land areas of the country.

5. Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) conditions in the Pacific and the Indian Oceans

Currently, moderate El Niño conditions 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 the Southwest Monsoon season.

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 Southwest Monsoon season. However, climate forecasts from some international forecasting centres suggest that positive IOD conditions are likely to develop during September 2026.

6. Extended Range Forecast and Short to Medium Range Forecast Services

IMD also provides extended range forecasts (7–day averaged forecasts for the next four weeks) of rainfall and maximum & minimum temperatures over the country updated every week on Thursday. This is based on the Multi-model ensemble dynamical Extended Range Forecasting System currently operational at IMD. The extended range forecasts are available through the IMD website https://mausam.imd.gov.in/imd_latest/contents/extendedrangeforecast.php).

The extended range forecast is followed by a short to medium range forecast issued daily by IMD. The forecasts are available through the IMD website https://nwp.imd.gov.in/gfsproducts_cycle00_mausam.php.

Tercile probability rainfall forecast for 2026 August+September season

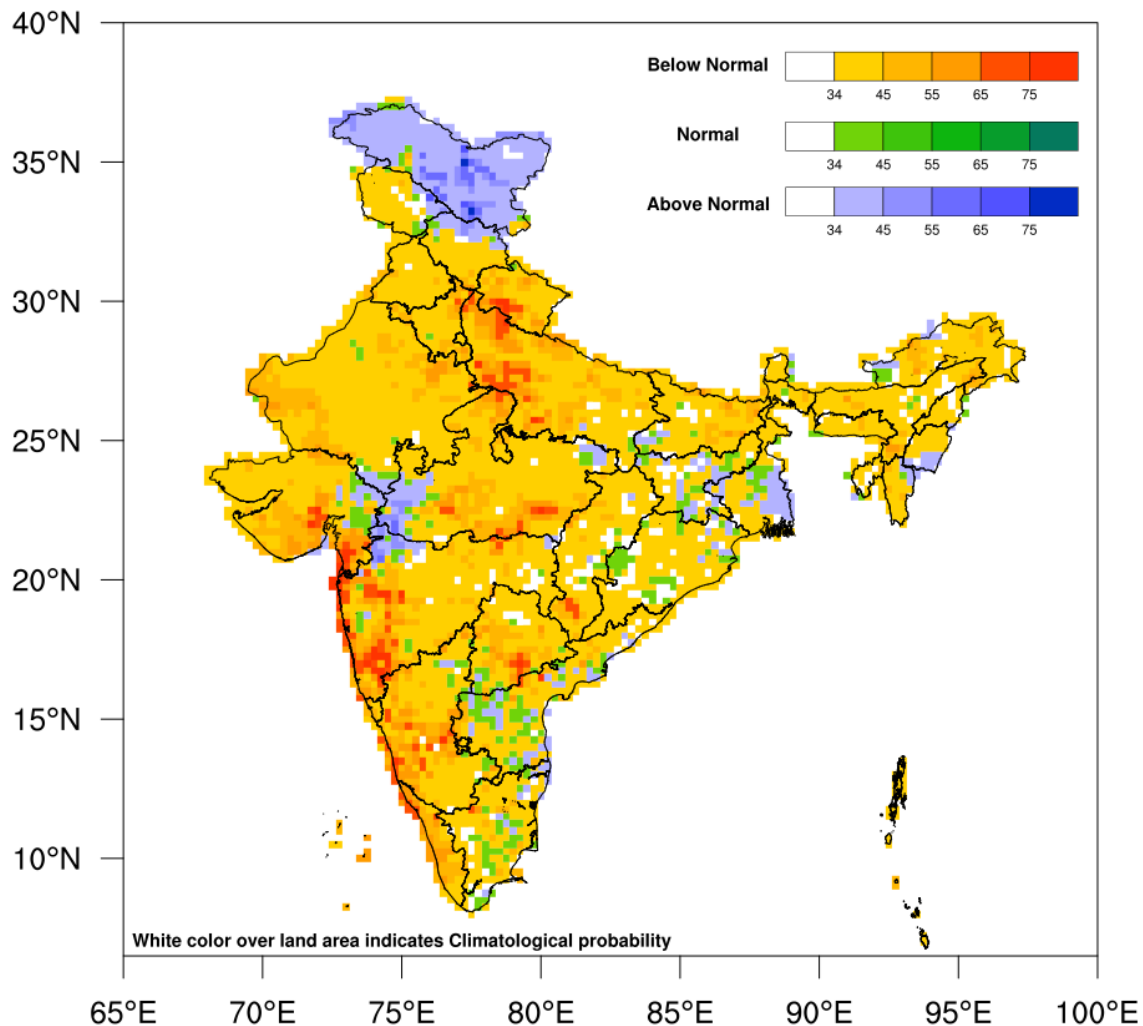


Fig.1. Probability Forecast of Tercile Categories of Rainfall over India during the Second Half (August to September) of the Southwest Monsoon Season, 2026. The figure illustrates the most likely tercile categories (below normal, normal, and above normal) of rainfall over India during the specified period, along with their corresponding probabilities. The model has no forecasting signal over the white shaded areas within the land region of the country. The probability is equally distributed among the tercile categories (33.33% each).

probability rainfall forecast for 2026 August

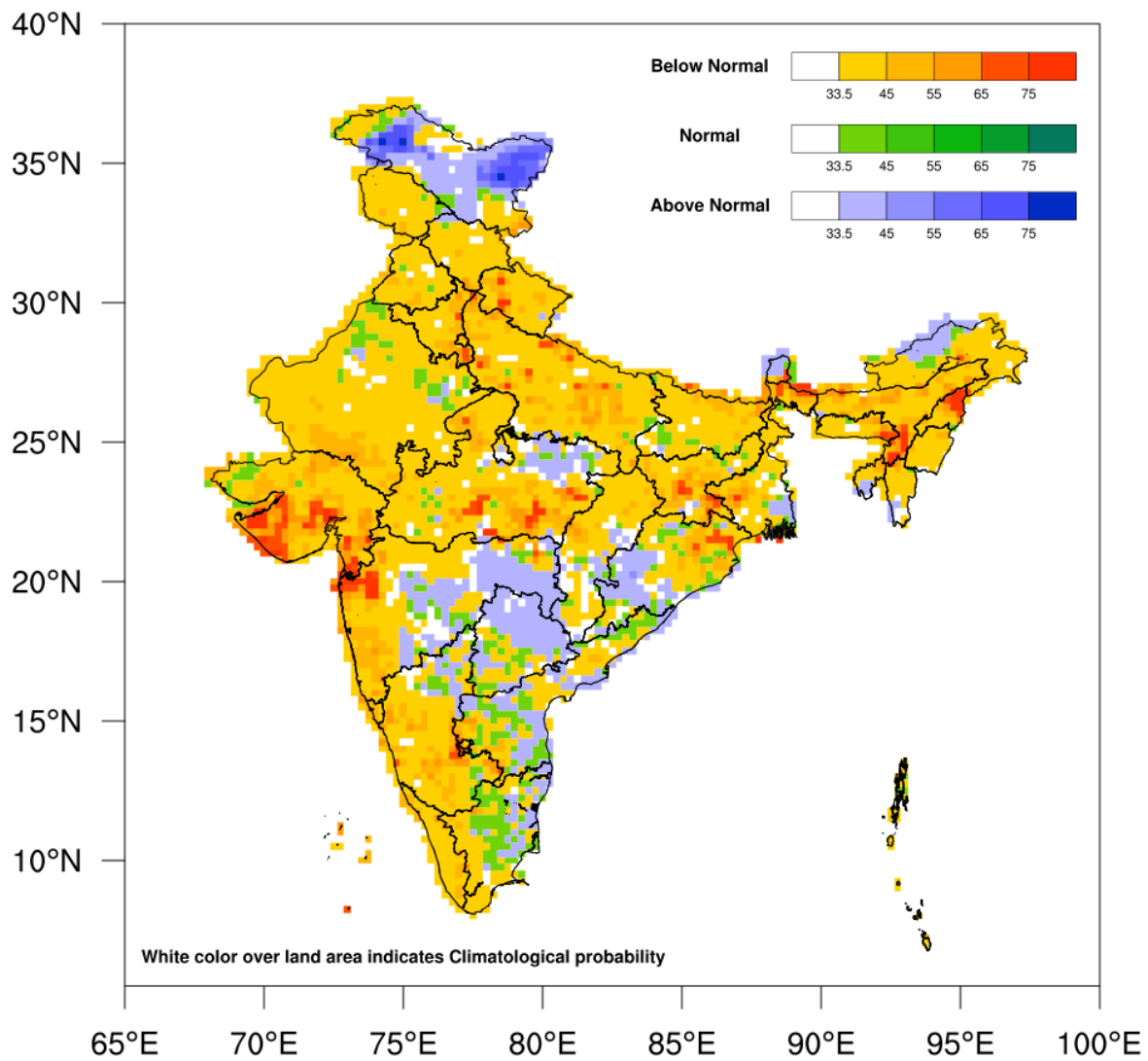


Fig.2. Probability Forecast of Tercile Categories of Rainfall over India during August, 2026. The figure illustrates the most likely tercile categories (below normal, normal, and above normal) of rainfall over India during the month of August, along with their corresponding probabilities. The model has no forecasting signal over the white shaded areas within the land region of the country. The probability is equally distributed among the tercile categories (33.33% each).

Maximum Temperature Outlook for August 2026

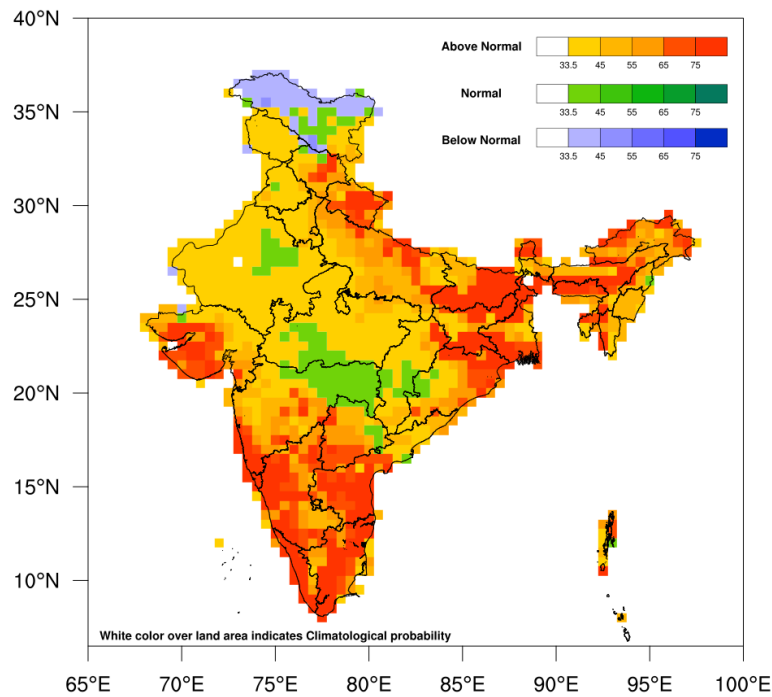


Fig.3a. Probability forecast of Tercile Categories of the Maximum Temperatures during August 2026.

Minimum Temperature Outlook for August 2026

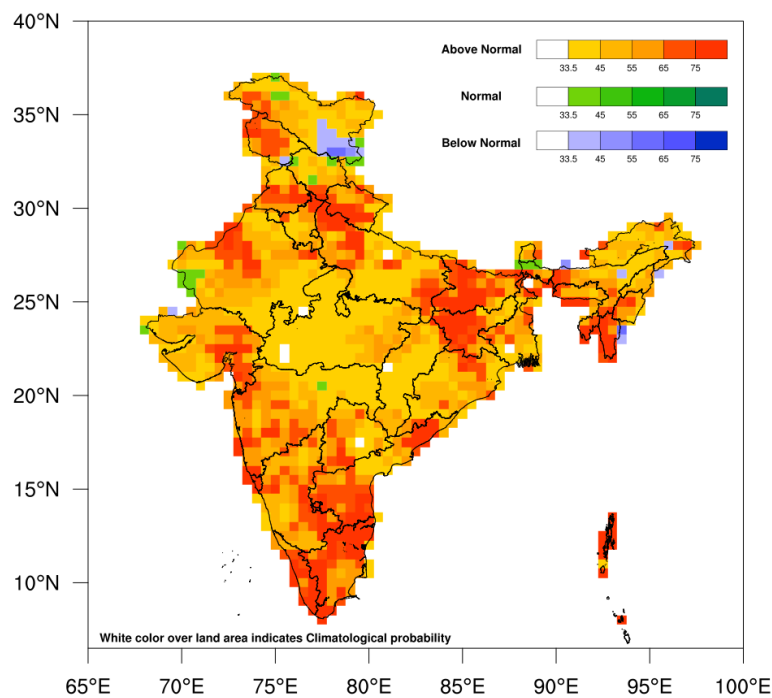


Fig.3b. Probability forecast of Tercile Categories of the Minimum Temperatures during August 2026

