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## SOUTHWEST MONSOON UPDATES

### LONG RANGE FORECAST FOR THE 2026 SOUTHWEST MONSOON

#### Highlights

a) 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  $\pm 5\%$ . The LPA of the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole based on the period of 1971-2020 is **87 cm**.

b) At present, **Weak La Niña-like conditions are transitioning to ENSO-neutral** conditions over the equatorial Pacific. Atmospheric circulation features across the tropical Pacific remain consistent with weak La Niña-like conditions. The Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFS) suggests the **development of El Niño conditions during the SW Monsoon season**.

c) At present, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are present over the Indian Ocean and the latest Climate models forecast indicates that the positive IOD conditions are likely to develop towards the end of the southwest monsoon season.

d) 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.

The detailed report can be seen at

[https://internal.imd.gov.in/press\\_release/20260415\\_pr\\_4893.pdf](https://internal.imd.gov.in/press_release/20260415_pr_4893.pdf)

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