

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** July 24, 2024

**Report Number:** IN2024-0032

**Report Name:** Erratic Monsoon Gathers Pace After Timely Onset

**Country:** India

**Post:** Mumbai

**Report Category:** Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security, Agricultural Situation, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products, Cotton and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

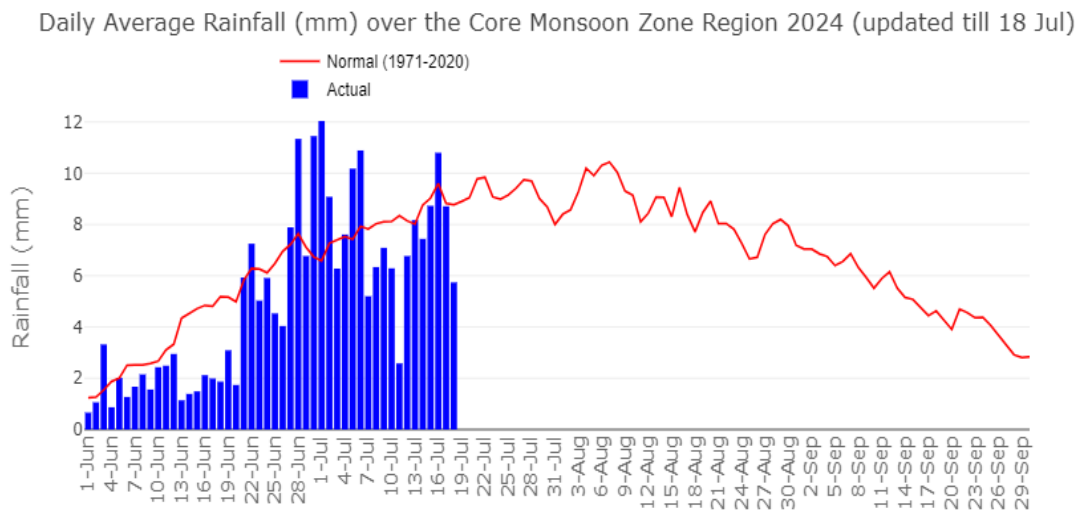
The onset of the 2024 southwest monsoon over the state of Kerala was on May 30, one day earlier than the forecast date published by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). The timely onset of above normal rains in June are expected to support kharif planting, even with the slow northward progress of the monsoon in June. The rains have recovered since the beginning of July boosting Kharif 2024 planting which is 10 percent higher than last year. Cumulative rainfall as of July 17 is three percent below the normal fifty-year average.

**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.

### Delayed Monsoon Pauses Kharif Planting in North India

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted [May 31](#) as the southwest monsoon onset date over the state of Kerala with an error of +/- four days. The forecast provided an accurate range with the onset over Kerala happening on May 30. The timely onset and forecast of above normal rains in June are expected to support *kharif* 2024 planting, even with the slow northward progress of the monsoon leaving north India reeling under dry heatwave conditions in June. According to IMD, during the month of June the cumulative rainfall over northwest India was 33 percent lower than the normal fifty-year average, and the maximum temperatures recorded were between 43-47 degrees Celsius, almost 5-8 degrees higher than normal. Further, India's cumulative rainfall from June 1- July 17 is three percent below the normal fifty-year average. According to the [drought monitoring portal](#), out of the total 733 districts across India, 242 districts (33 percent) have received deficit monsoon rains from June 01-July 17.

Figure 1: Daily Average Rainfall (MM) Over the Core Monsoon Zone Region 2024



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

So far, in July, the monsoon rains have rallied, boosting Kharif 2024 planting to a level that is 10 percent higher than last year. Sowing of paddy nursery, cotton, green gram, black gram, maize, pigeon pea and groundnut is underway in north India. To conserve water, farmers are adopting direct seeding of rice, and use paddy straw, rice husk or sugarcane trash to reduce soil temperature and moisture loss. In

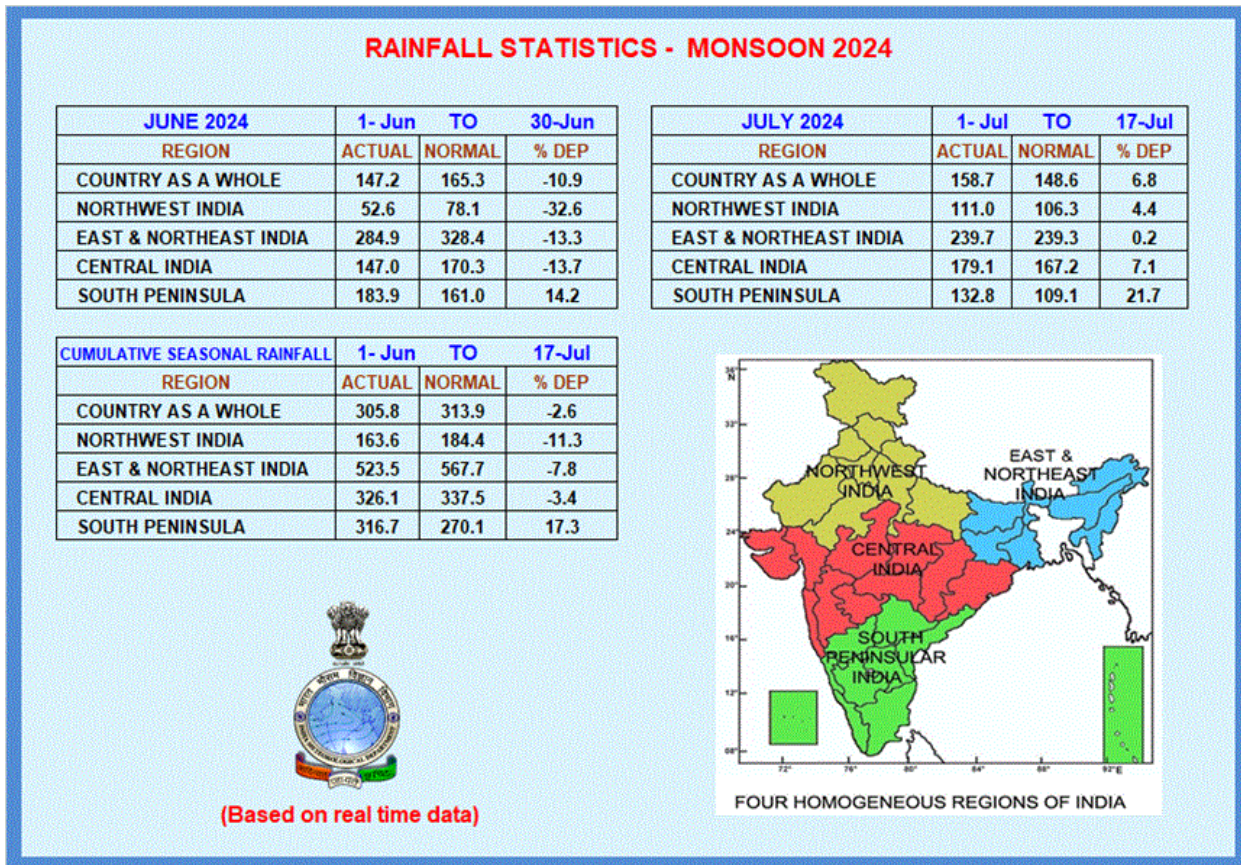
central and south India sowing of maize, cotton, rice, soybean, groundnut, and pigeon pea is underway with adequate availability of water and slightly improved reservoir storage. The [reservoir data](#) report dated July 11 indicates the storage levels in north India is only 30 percent of total live storage capacity. The storage level during the corresponding time last year was 63 percent and the ten-year average is 35 percent.

Looking ahead, [IMD forecasts](#) heavy to very heavy rainfall along the west coast and heavy spells over central and adjoining northwest India from July 18-24. Overall, the rainfall is likely to be above normal over most parts of central India and normal to above normal over the northwest plains and the south peninsular areas of India.

### Updated Long Range Forecast Outlook for Southwest Monsoon

On May 27, IMD issued an [updated long range forecast outlook](#) for the 2024 southwest monsoon. According to IMD, rainfall over the country is likely to be above normal (106 percent of the long period average). Specifically, the rainfall over central India and south peninsular region will likely be above normal, while northwest India is likely to receive normal rainfall and northeast India could receive below normal/deficit rainfall. See the following images for additional information:

Figure 2: Rainfall Statistics – Monsoon 2024



**Table 1. Kharif 2024 Crop Sowing Progress (in million hectares)**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Area Sown as of July 11, 2024</b>	<b>Area Sown as of July 11, 2023</b>	<b>Y-o-Y Change</b>	<b>Absolute Change</b>
Rice	11.56	9.58	21%	1.99
Pulses	6.23	4.95	26%	1.28
- Arhar	2.81	0.97	191%	1.85
- Urdbean	1.39	1.28	9%	0.12
- Moongbean	1.58	1.96	-19%	-0.38
- Kulthi	0.01	0.01	0%	0.00
- Other Pulses	0.44	0.74	-41%	-0.30
Coarse Cereals	9.76	10.50	-7%	-0.74
- Jowar	0.74	0.86	-14%	-0.13
- Bajra	2.83	5.01	-43%	-2.18
- Ragi	0.12	0.12	3%	0.00
- Small Millets	0.19	0.13	47%	0.06
- Maize	5.89	4.38	34%	1.50
Oilseeds	14.04	11.51	22%	2.54
-Groundnut	2.82	2.83	0%	-0.01
-Soybean	10.81	8.24	31%	2.57
-Sunflower	0.05	0.03	50%	0.02
-Sesamum	0.32	0.36	-11%	-0.04
-Niger	0.02	0.00	900%	0.02
-Castor	0.02	0.04	-59%	-0.02
-Other Oilseeds	0.01	0.00	25%	0.00
Sugarcane	5.77	5.69	1%	0.08
Jute and Mesta	0.56	0.60	-6%	-0.04
Cotton	9.58	9.30	3%	0.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.51</b>	<b>52.12</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5.39</b>

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

# Precipitation Forecasts

Precipitation (mm)  
during the period:

???, 18 JUL 2024 at 00Z

-to-

???, 26 JUL 2024 at 00Z

???, 26 JUL 2024 at 00Z

-to-

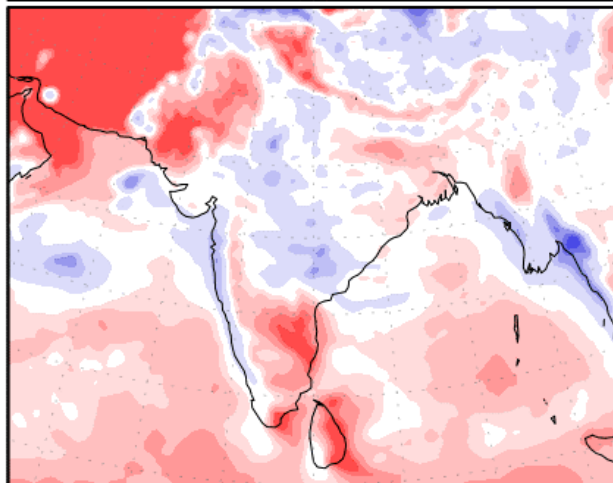
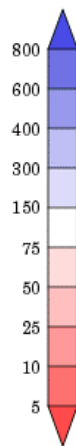
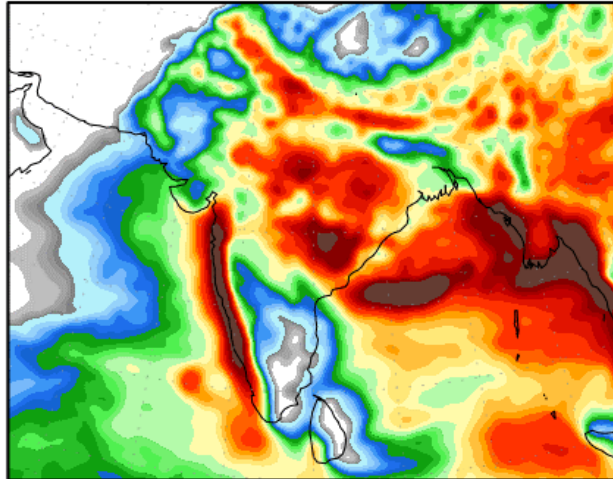
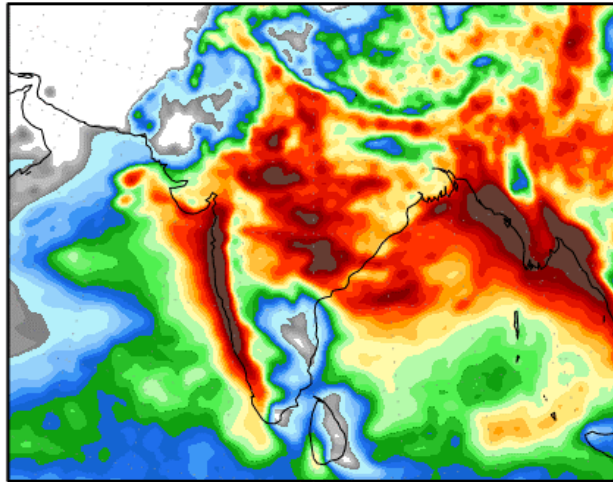
???, 03 AUG 2024 at 00Z

Precipitation (% of normal)  
during the first period:

???, 18 JUL 2024 at 00Z

-to-

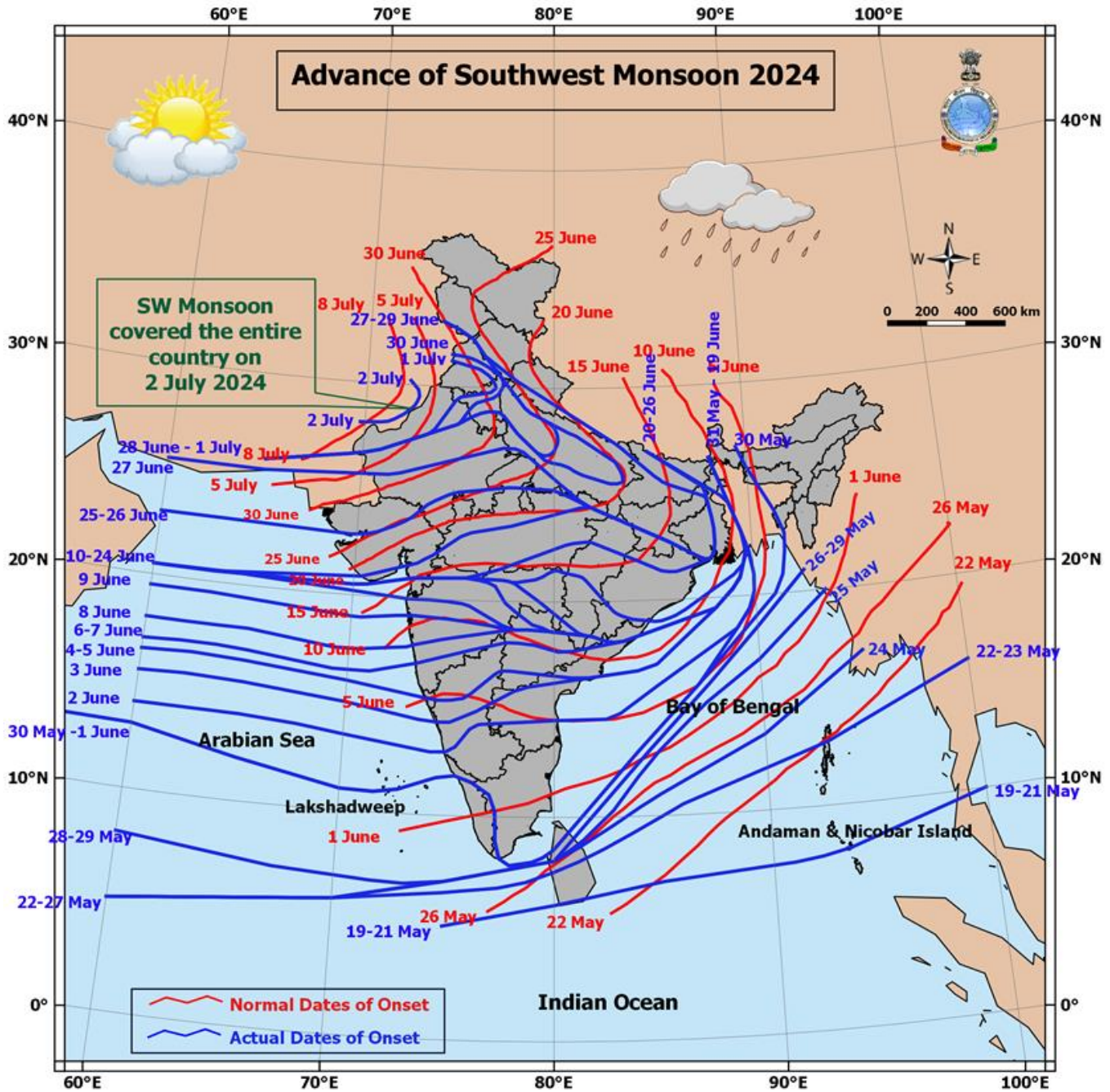
???, 26 JUL 2024 at 00Z



Precipitation forecasts from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction.  
Normal rainfall derived from Xie-Arkin (CMAP) Monthly Climatology for 1979-2003.  
Forecast Initialization Time: 00Z18JUL2024

GrADS/COLA

Source: [National Centers for Environment Prediction \(NCEP\)](https://www.ncep.noaa.gov/)



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.