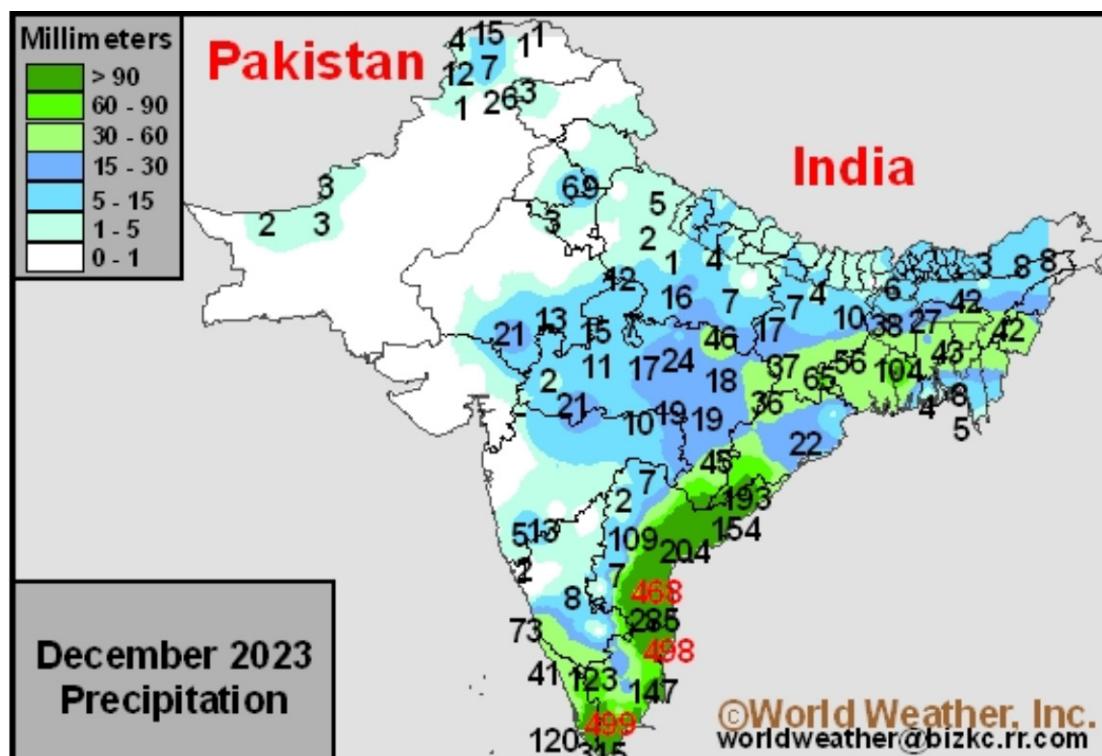


## **India In Growing Need Of Rain As Reproduction Nears**

**By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner**

Kansas City, January 26 (World Weather Inc.) – Western and northern India have trended much drier than normal in recent months and is in need of rain. Winter grains, oilseeds, pulses, and other crops must have a good moisture source either from irrigation or timely rain to yield well and that may not be the case right now. Dryland crops may have developed unevenly or poorly and production potential may be lower than normal this season without a significant improvement in rainfall during the next few weeks. Irrigated crops have grown under more favorable conditions, though there is still need timely rain. Many areas in central, southern, and eastern India have also dried down this month and are in a growing need of rain. [Below average precipitation will persist for much of the country in the next week to ten days and possibly during much of February during reproduction.](#)

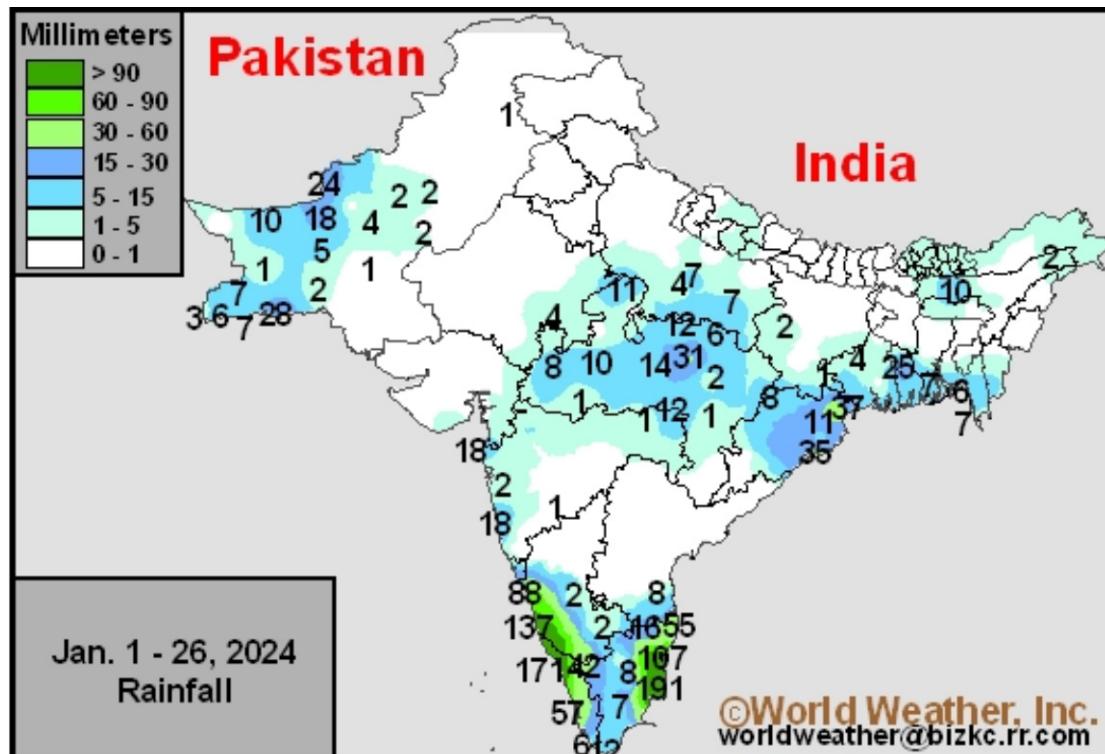
Many areas in southern, central, and eastern India received timely rain in December. Western and northern India otherwise received limited rainfall or were mostly dry. A large portion of India has otherwise trended drier than normal so far this month. Portions of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and coastal Karnataka still saw periods of rain with totals ranging anywhere from 0.28 to 3.46 inches and local amounts up to 7.52 inches along the coastlines from January 1 – 26. Portions of Odisha, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh received 0.24 to 1.46 inches so far this month. Pockets in Bangladesh, the Eastern States, and Uttar Pradesh received up to 0.39 inch of moisture while the remainder of the nation was mostly dry.



Moisture shortages spread and intensified across much of India this month due to the lack of rain. Temperatures have not been excessively hot, though pockets in southern India

## India In Growing Need Of Rain As Reproduction Nears

still have adequate to marginally adequate moisture. Temperatures have trended rather cool in northern India and neighboring locations in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in recent weeks. The cooler weather has limited stress and slowed crop development rates.



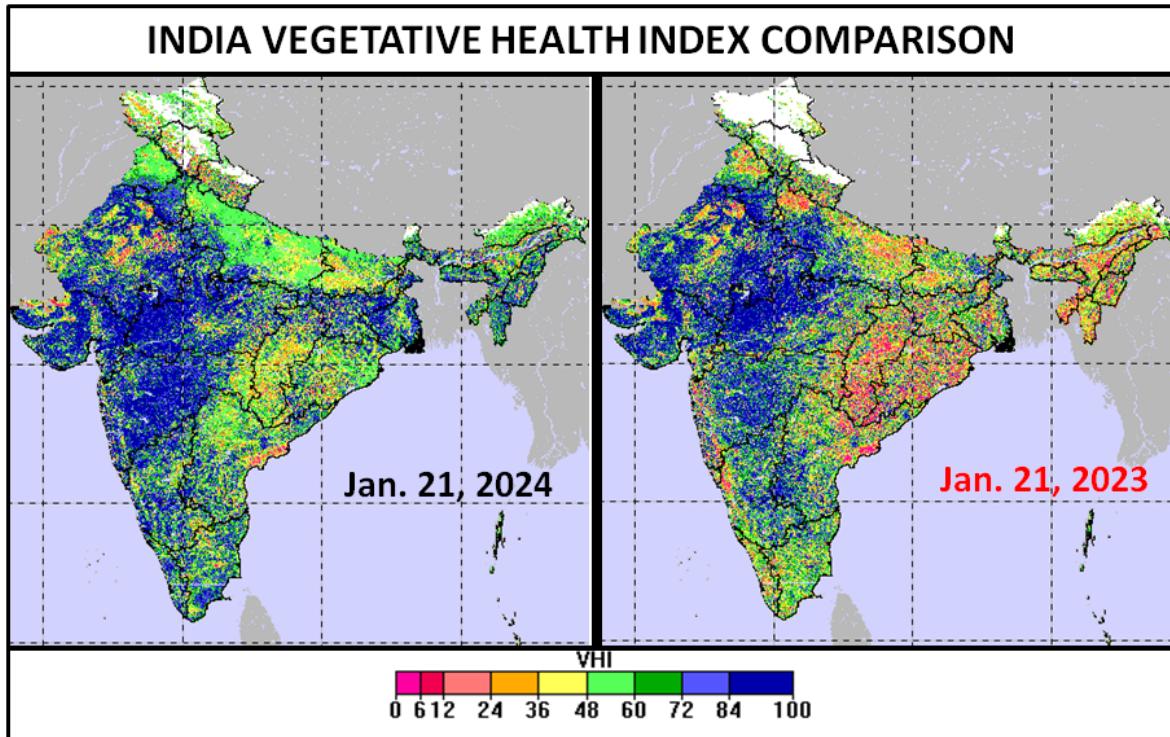
India produces a significant amount of wheat, barley, rapeseed, mustard, rice, pulses, among other crops during the winter. A significant amount of the wheat, barley and rapeseed are irrigated and many are produced in western and northern India. Sorghum, corn, rice, mustard, peanuts, and other pulses are generally produced in eastern, southern, and western India. Crops may be irrigated depending on available moisture, location, and the exact needs of the crop.

Timely precipitation in December and leftover moisture from the monsoon supported generally favorable planting, establishment, and early-season development for much of India last year. Production was suspected of being good due to the ample moisture in reserve. However, the lack of rain so far this month has increased the need for irrigation and general rainfall. Western, northern, and central India are some of the driest locations and in some fields are in dire need of moisture. Continued dryness in the coming weeks may impact reproduction, even in irrigated fields. Production potentials may be reduced if dryness persists. Southern and eastern India is also in need of rain to ensure ideal crop conditions.

El Nino dominated the planting and establishment season for winter crops in India and it was feared that the weather would be exceptionally dry and warm; however, the anomalies have not been as extreme as feared, despite the fact that the outlook is drier biased. The Vegetative Health Index suggests crops in eastern India are generally in better shape than they were a year ago and that may help perk up some of the off season rice and pulse production. Weather in western and northern India was favorable for

## India In Growing Need Of Rain As Reproduction Nears

planting and establishment and the pre-reproductive look of crops is as good, or possibly a little better, than last year in several areas. That does not mean production will be as successful as it was then. Rainfall and temperatures in February will have much to say about the nation's rabi crop production. A warm and dry February can cut deeply into production, but a milder month with near to below normal precipitation can still prove to be beneficial.



Precipitation will be limited across India through the end of next week. A Madden-Julian Oscillation event will slowly advance over the western Pacific Ocean during this time, which tends to suppress moisture for the Indian subcontinent. Light showers will still occur in portions of eastern and southern India toward the middle and latter part of next week. However, resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation or too light to impact long-term soil conditions. The environment will remain less than favorable for aggressive rabi crop development and reproduction.

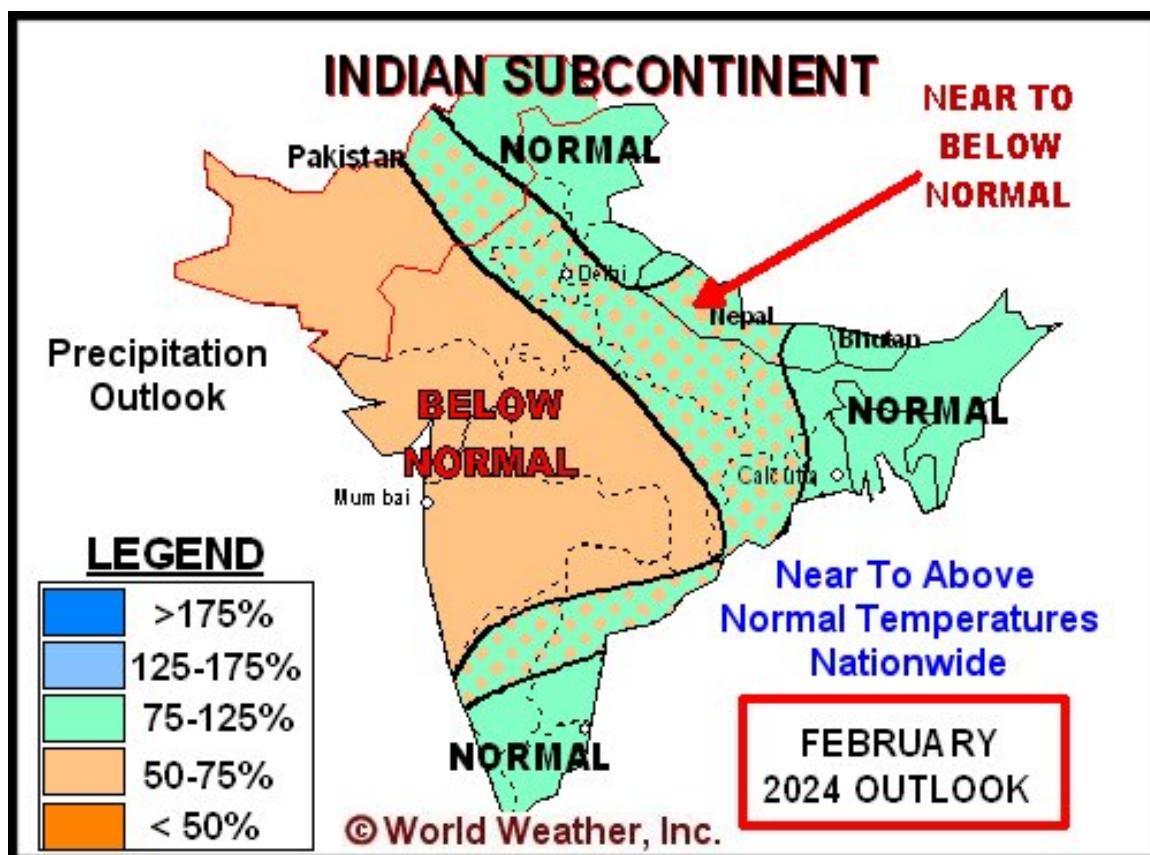
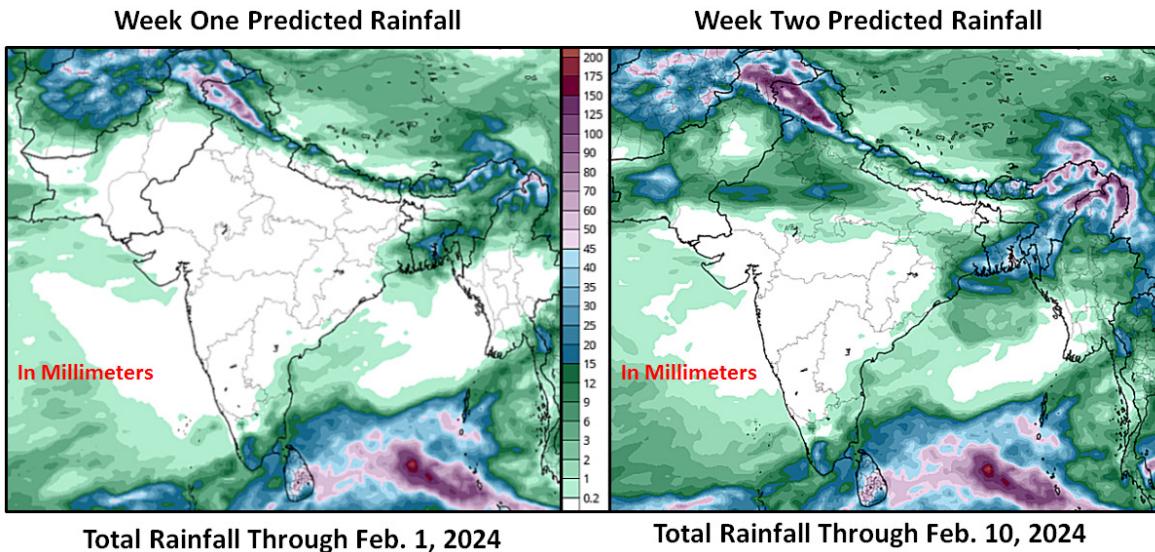
Several of this morning's forecast models suggest a western disturbance will track over India during the February 3 – 9 period. This disturbance could bring rain to portions of western, northern, central, and eastern India. Rainfall during this time will be too light to completely fix the moisture deficits and additional rain would be welcome. Rabi crops will still benefit from the rain and should experience better short-term development and reproduction. Confidence is low in the exact amount and coverage of the rain and a close monitoring of the situation is warranted.

Temperatures will trend near to slightly above normal across India during the next two weeks. No oppressively warm weather is expected, especially if the western disturbance during the second week verifies.

Rainfall during the month of February is expected to be near to below normal in eastern parts of the nation and more definitively dry biased in the west. Near normal rainfall

## India In Growing Need Of Rain As Reproduction Nears

is expected in the far north and far Eastern States as well as in the southern tip of the nation. Temperatures should be near to slightly above normal throughout the month.



The bottom line for India is that crops are in relatively good shape leading into reproduction, but there is a strong need for significant rain now and over the next few weeks as all crops move into reproduction. The lighter and sporadic nature of rain could cut into some of the winter crop yield, but since so much of the wheat, barley and

## India In Growing Need Of Rain As Reproduction Nears

*rapeseed is irrigated the odds are relatively good that an average crop will result especially if temperatures are mostly near normal. However, if February turns hotter than expected (which is not very likely) the stress on crops will be high especially if rainfall is below normal as suggested above.*

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