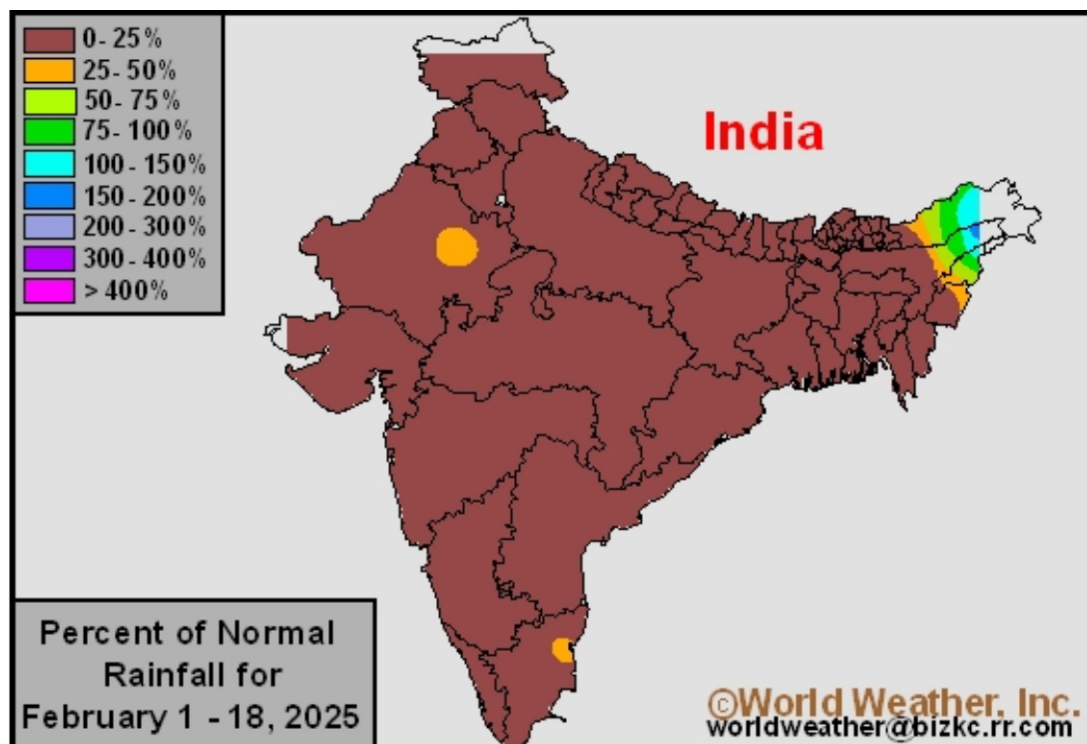


India To Heat Up; May Stress Rabi Crops In Driest Fields

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 20 (World Weather Inc.) – India's Rabi crops are in the most moisture sensitive reproductive stage of development and this will continue for another few weeks with filling likely in March. A large portion of the country has trended drier than normal so far this month with many areas getting little to no moisture in January. Irrigated crops have developed under relatively good conditions despite the lack of abundant rainfall. *There are concerns that some of the rain-fed crops have not developed well and the need for timely rain is high. Northern and eastern India will have a few opportunities for rain during the coming week that will offer minor relief; however, temperatures will also trend above normal during the last days of February and may stress crops in the driest fields. Production may be cut due to the warm and dry weather in some areas.*

Precipitation was limited in much of India so far this month with the exception of some far Eastern States' locations. Much-drier-than normal weather was noted in the bulk of the nation February 1-18 with most locations receiving less than 25% of normal precipitation. A few areas in Rajasthan, southern India, and the Eastern States were drier than normal in January as well. Temperatures in recent weeks often trended above normal at times as well; although, no excessive heat was noted.

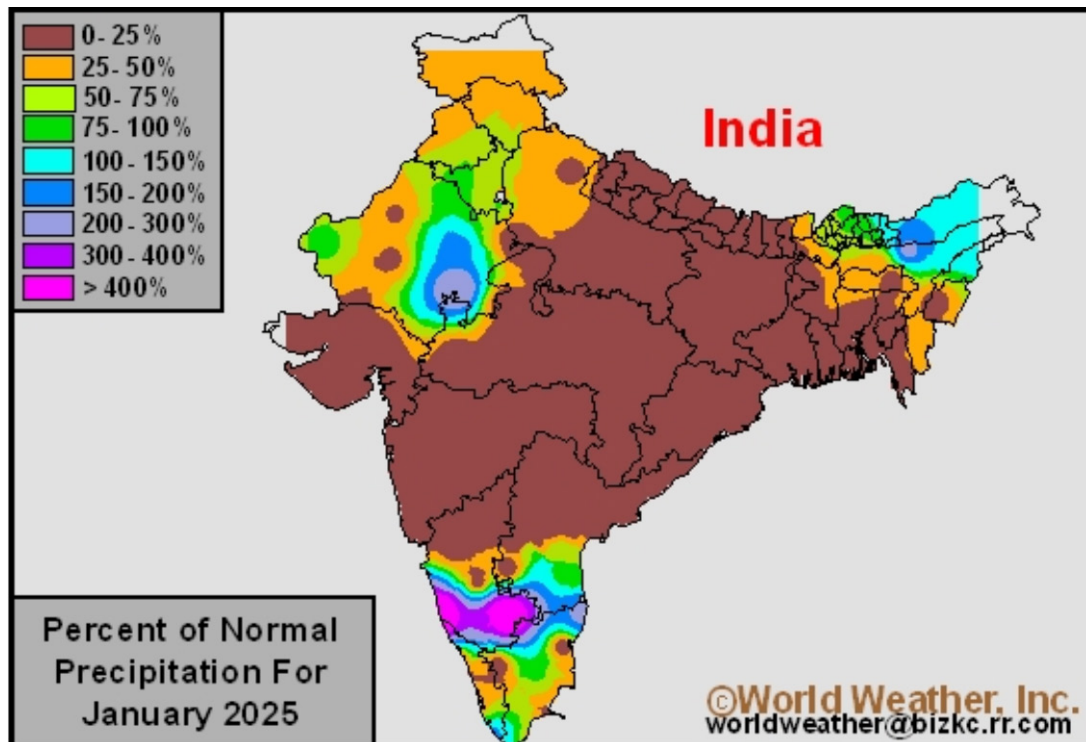


Irrigated Rabi crops in India were planted and developed under relatively good conditions during the autumn and early winter, despite limited precipitation. Sufficient monsoonal rain last year helped fill reservoirs that have helped support new growth. Rainfall in December and early in January also supported good development in southern India before drier weather evolved in recent weeks.

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Rain-fed Rabi crops in India have otherwise developed unevenly at times this season, most notably in northern India, Chhattisgarh, and neighboring locations. These crops are susceptible to stress if temperatures warm in the coming weeks before reaching maturation. The need for timely rain remains high to reduce concerns for production impacts from the lack of moisture.

Far northern India will have several opportunities for erratic rainfall during the coming week. A western disturbance will generate some of the most widespread rain today. Light rain will persist for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and neighboring locations Friday through Monday before another disturbance promotes more widespread rain Tuesday and Wednesday. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches and locally more in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Other locations will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts up to 1.50 inches in Punjab and Uttarakhand. The region will again have opportunities for rain February 28 – March 6.



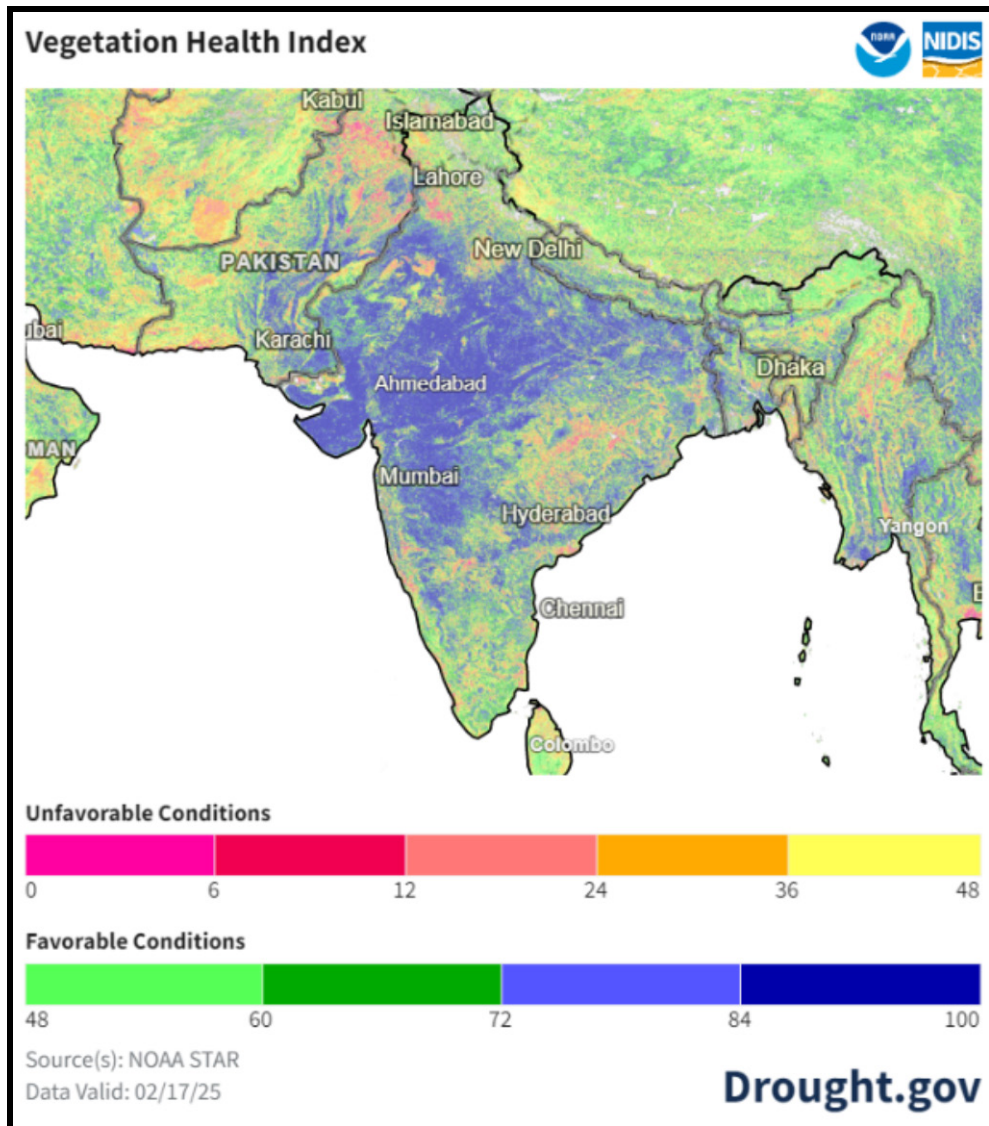
Rain will be scattered across a few locations in eastern India as well during the coming week. Light rain will be scattered across the region today and Friday before a weak disturbance generates more widespread rain over the weekend. Drier weather will evolve at the beginning and middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch with local amounts of 1.00 inch or more in the Eastern States, Bangladesh, West Bengal, northeastern Odisha, and immediate neighboring areas. Other locations in eastern India will receive little to no rain. Drier than normal weather will prevail February 27 – March 6.

The remaining production areas in India (which includes the bulk of coarse grain, oilseed and pulse production areas as well as winter rice and sugarcane production areas) will either be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation during the coming

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week. Southern India will have a few opportunities for spotty rain February 27 – March 6 while central and western India remains mostly dry.

The temperature profile will trend near to above normal across India through the latter part of next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit with pockets warming to the 90s in much of northern and eastern India. Highs elsewhere will be in the 80s and 90s with pockets in southern and central India potentially warming above 100 degrees next week as a trough of low pressure builds over the Middle East. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist February 27 – March 6.

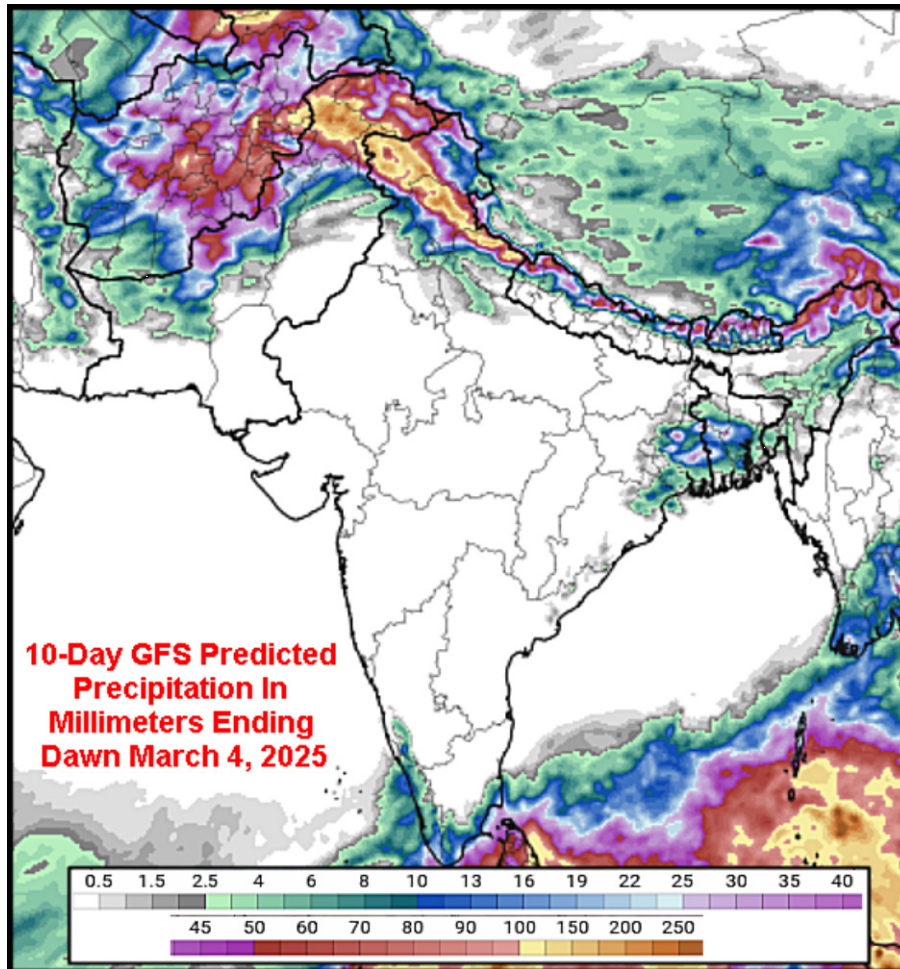


Rainfall in far northern India in the coming weeks will help improve or maintain a relatively good environment for Rabi grains, oilseeds, and other crops, although wheat will benefit most. Rain-fed fields will not receive enough rain to support ideal late-season development and some additional precipitation may be needed toward mid-March.

The potential for heat and a lack of significant rainfall in the remaining production areas of India may stress Rabi crops next week and in early March, most

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notably rain-fed fields in central and eastern India. Production may be decreased marginally in the driest locations and crops may start to mature a little early.



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