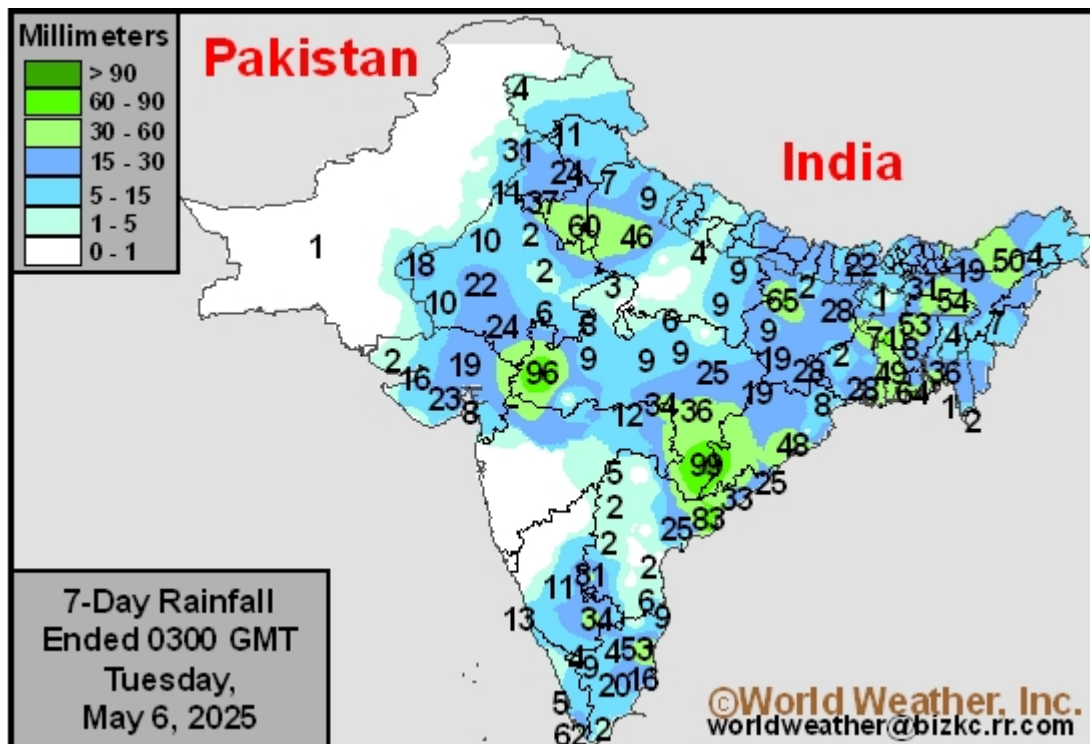


India Rain Slows Harvest, Raises Quality Concern

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 6 (World Weather Inc.) – Unusually great amounts of rain have impacted parts of northern India recently disrupting winter crop maturation and harvest progress. The moisture throughout India was welcome for late winter crops in the east and south and also for the early cotton crop that is being planted in the north. A disturbance will continue to generate rain and thunderstorms for Gujarat, southern Rajasthan and neighboring locations during the next several days at a time when conditions are usually dry and hot. The rain will limit excessive heating while also potentially improving pre-monsoon planting conditions. Many areas in southern, extreme eastern and far northern India will also see periods of rain during the coming week that may linger as normal planting dates approach. Late-season harvesting of winter crops and general fieldwork should advance around the periods of rain.

Rain was scattered across a large section of India during the past week. Western Maharashtra, northern Karnataka, Telangana, and a few locations in southern Andhra Pradesh and central Uttar Pradesh missed out on the rain. Precipitation totals elsewhere ranged from 0.35 to 2.55 inches with local amounts up to 3.90 inches in southern Chhattisgarh, western Madhya Pradesh, northeastern Andhra Pradesh, and Bangladesh for the seven-day period ending this morning.



Much of the rain reported in northern and some central parts of India during the past week was welcome and good for water supply and soil moisture, although a bit unusual for this time of year which is normally hot and dry. The moisture will not have much of an impact on very many areas since most crop development is winding down or

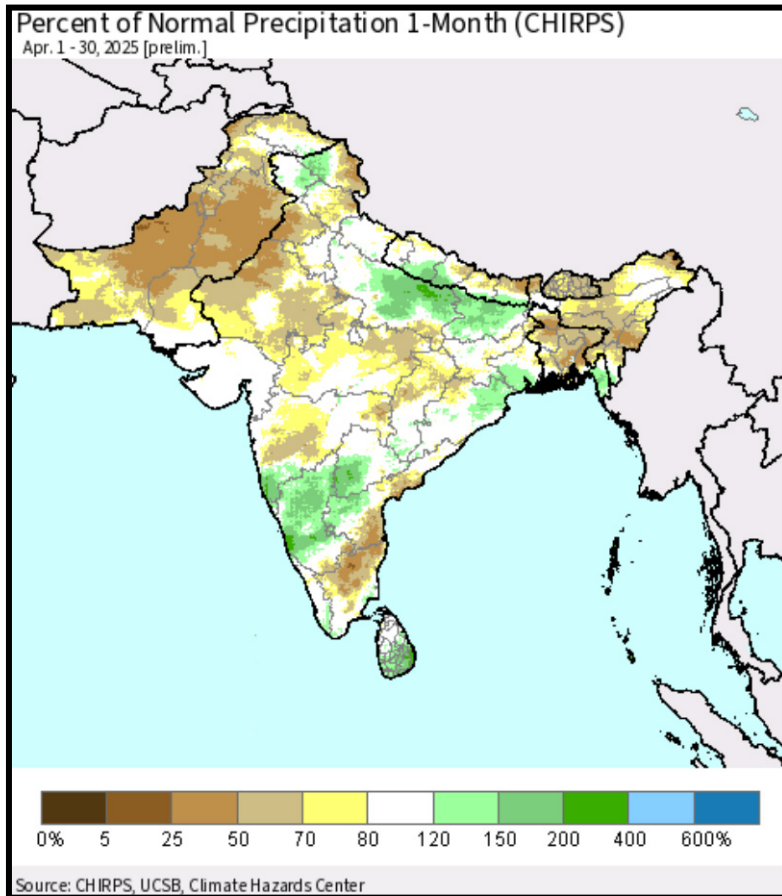
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done for the season. The rain will disrupt the maturation and harvest of some winter crops and could possibly raise a little concern over crop quality. However, most of the rain has ended except in parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan and neighboring areas.

The only crop that is normally planted at this time of year is early season cotton. That crop is largely irrigated and is produced in northern India and Pakistan. The unusual

rain of this week and that which is likely the remainder of this week will help to hold back temperatures and give some of that early cotton a better environment to germinate, emerge and establish in.

Several areas in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, southwestern Maharashtra, and neighboring locations received near to above normal rainfall in April. Other locations in India and Bangladesh generally received near to below normal rainfall during this time. Many areas in Bangladesh, the Eastern States, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and southeastern Andhra Pradesh received less than 50% of



normal precipitation for the month; although normal in the north is not very much and hot temperatures that always occur during the month takes the moisture that falls and evaporates it away reducing the impact on crops.

Drought or abnormally dry conditions were noted in several areas of western, northern, central, and eastern India toward the end of April. These areas normally dry down this time of year, though the lack of abundant rain may have slowed rice development in portions of eastern India. Planting of kharif (summer) crops usually begins late this month and/or June with the onset of the monsoon. Recent rainfall may linger long enough to support relatively good early-season planting potentials for some areas, though much more rain will be needed.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Western India will be unusually wet during the coming week. A disorganized disturbance will slowly advance over the region during the next several days that will promote scattered showers and thunderstorms through Friday. Light rain will linger over the

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weekend before drier weather evolves early next week. Gujarat and southern Rajasthan will receive 1.50 to 5.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 8.00 inches or more by next Tuesday morning. Other areas in Rajasthan into Maharashtra and western Madhya Pradesh will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts up to 1.50 inches. Precipitation will then be restricted for much of western India May 14 – 20.

Waves of rain during the next several days may promote flash flooding in the wettest areas of Gujarat. Travel and early-season fieldwork may be impacted by the rain and floods. However, some moisture may linger through the start of planting season. Early-season prospects will improve due to the rain.

Southern and extreme eastern and northern India will also see a mix of pre-monsoonal rain and sunshine during the coming week. Scattered showers will occur on a frequent basis with some of the most widespread rain occurring over the weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches with local amounts of 6.00 inches or more in Bangladesh, the Eastern States, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir. Other locations in southern India will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch with local amounts over 1.00 inch. Central India and the remaining production areas in eastern India will otherwise receive little to no rain during the coming week. Alternating periods of pre-monsoonal rain and sunshine are slated for much of southern, central, eastern, and northern India May 14 – 20.

Periods of rain in coming weeks will limit drying or even marginally bolster soil moisture in portions of southern, extreme eastern, and extreme northern India. Late-season harvesting of the rabi (winter) crops may advance slowly in the wettest locations, though producers should be able to harvest between rain events. Precipitation in eastern and northern India will otherwise be welcome for the early-planted rice and cotton.

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