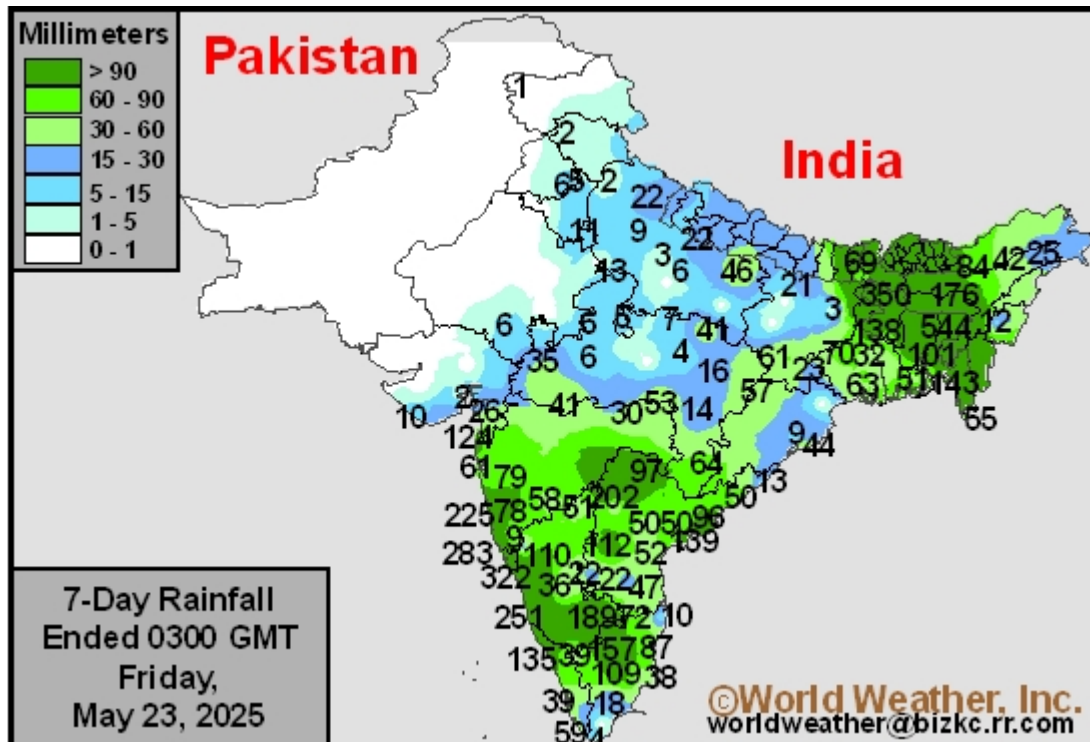


India Pre-Monsoonal Rain Setting Stage For Aggressive Planting

By Andrew Owen

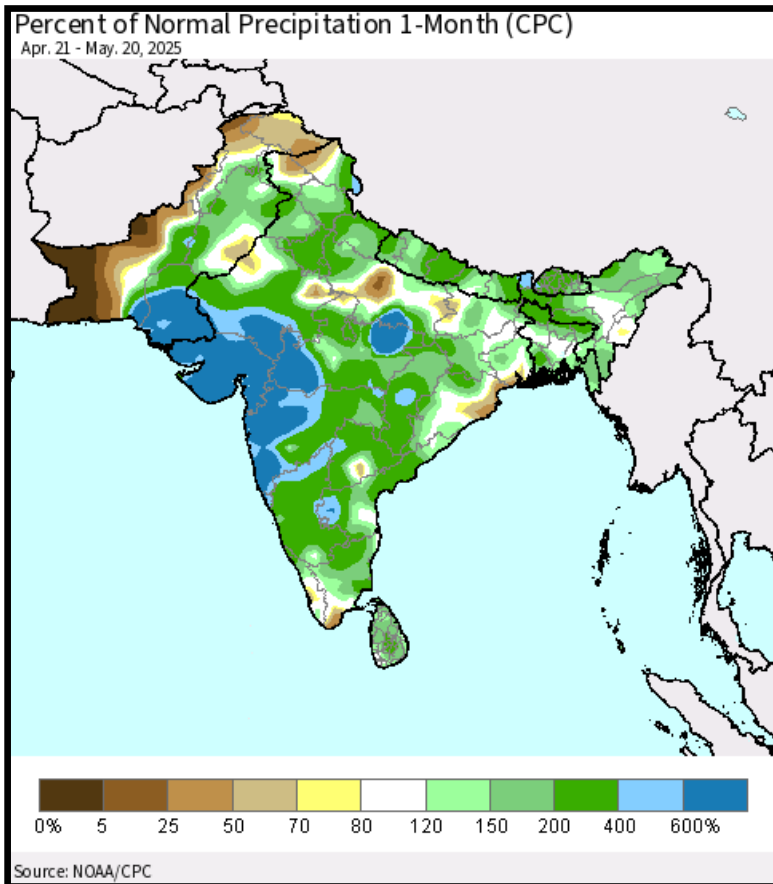
Kansas City, May 23 (World Weather Inc.) – Rainfall was abundant to excessive in southern and portions of both central and eastern India during the past week. The wetter bias has been ongoing throughout May with northern areas unusually wet earlier this month. The most recent wet weather has significantly bolstered soil moisture and even promoted flooding in several locations. Some damage to rice was considered possible in the wettest areas of eastern India and Bangladesh. Rain will continue to be scattered across portions of eastern, central, and southern India and portions of Maharashtra through the end of next week. A tropical disturbance will likely help enhance rainfall for portions of eastern India and Bangladesh later next week with severe flooding possible. Flooding will also be possible along the lower west coast as early season monsoonal rain begins. The additional rain may slow fieldwork of all kinds; including, the late harvest of winter crops and the early planting of summer crops, though the long term prospects for planting are quite favorable.

Precipitation varied significantly across India and Bangladesh during the past week. Bangladesh and the Eastern States, along with Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, and northern and central Tamil reported anywhere from 1.50 to 7.50 inches of rain with local amounts ranging from 9.00 to nearly 21.50 inches in Bangladesh and along the Karnataka and Maharashtra coastlines for the seven-day period ending this morning. West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, southern Tamil Nadu, and portions of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and southern Gujarat received 0.35 to 2.75 inches of rain while a few locations in Punjab, Haryana, and southern Rajasthan received up to 0.43 inch. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.



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Excessively hot weather was noted in portions of western and central India during the past week. Daytime highs often peaked above 100 degrees Fahrenheit with pockets warming as high as 117 degrees. Temperatures were closer to normal elsewhere with



highest readings ranging from 90 to 105 degrees, though pockets in eastern and southwestern India only warmed to the 80s during periods of more significant rain.

The month of May has, so far, been one of the wettest in recent memory with nearly the entire nation reporting above normal amounts.

Some of the precipitation reported earlier this month in northwest and west-central India was more than six times the norm since that region does not usually get much moisture this month. Rain in many other areas has been greater than two times the norm with several getting more than four times the usual moisture. May is not usually a very wet month, but **some of**

the rain has certainly been impressive this year allowing early season planting and pre-planting activity to begin early. Early season cotton in the north has likely established better than usual. Not all of the rain has been welcome since this is the harvest season for winter crops and fieldwork has been delayed periodically.

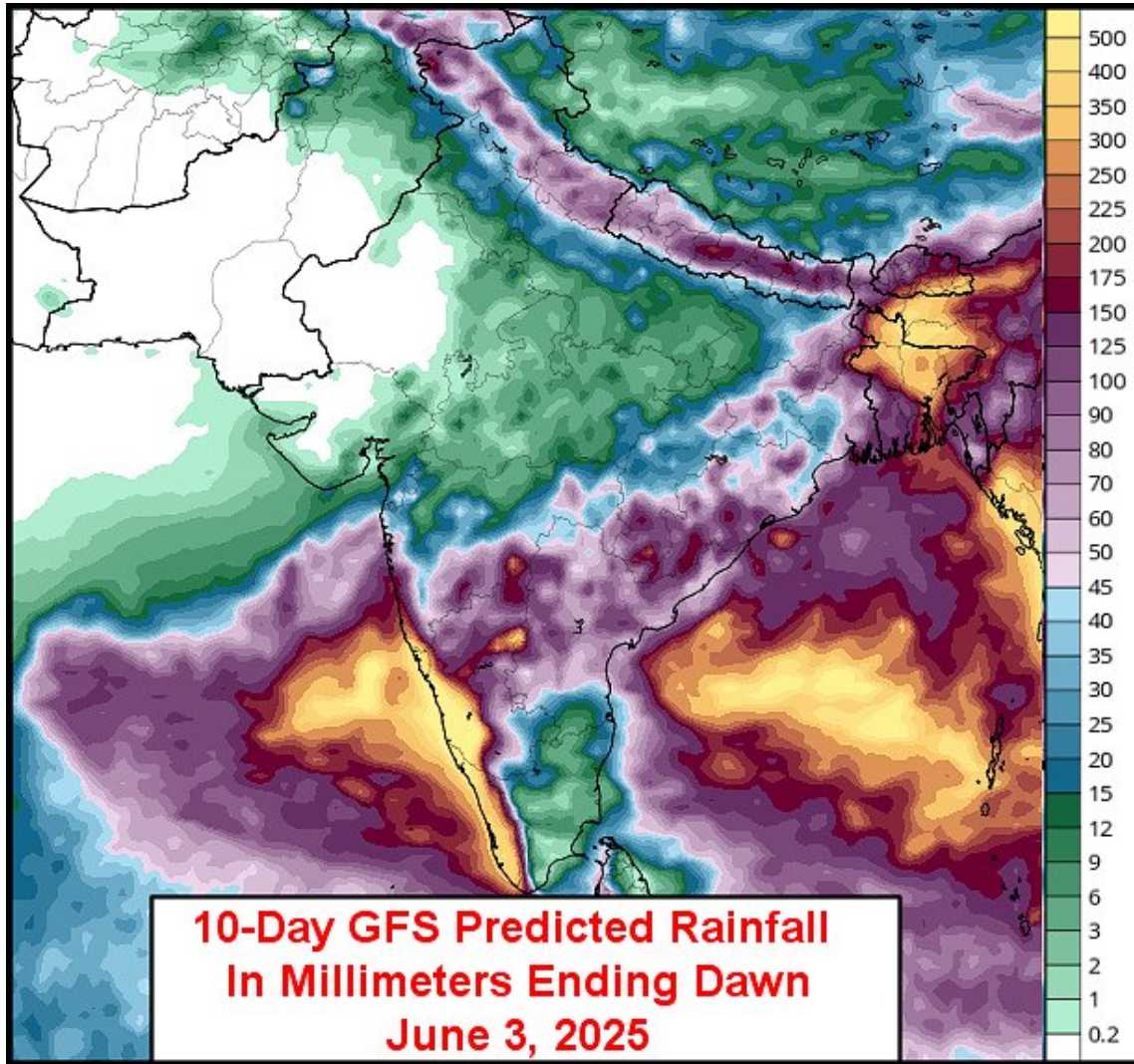
Recent rainfall helped significantly bolster soil moisture in southern, central, and eastern India and much of Maharashtra during the past week. Flooding was noted in the wettest locations of eastern and southwestern India, where minor damage to infrastructure was possible. Impacts to rice in eastern India were suspected of being minimal, though some recently planted crops may need to be reseeded.

Pre-monsoonal rain during the past week will help promote a good start to the planting season in portions of southern, central, and eastern India and Maharashtra. Planting usually begins this time of year as the monsoon approaches depending on the moisture profile of the soil. Early-season fieldwork may have advanced slowly in the wettest locations and a period of drier weather would be welcome.

India will receive varying amounts of rain through the end of next week. Southern, central, and eastern India into Maharashtra will again have several opportunities for rain. Precipitation will be scattered across these areas on a daily basis with waves of heavy rain slated for Kerala and coastal sections of Karnataka and Maharashtra. A tropical disturbance

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could also evolve over the Bay of Bengal next week that could enter eastern India and Bangladesh Thursday into next Friday. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 3.00 to 7.00 inches with local amounts of 10.00 inches or more in Bangladesh, the Eastern States, West Bengal, Kerala, and coastal sections of Karnataka and Maharashtra. A few pockets along the western India coastline could receive more than 15.00 inches of rain as well. The remaining locations will receive 0.75 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 7.00 inches or more from interior sections of Maharashtra and Karnataka into Odisha, northeastern Andhra Pradesh, and southern Chhattisgarh. Portions of Tamil Nadu and Bihar will also only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain.



Northern India will also see several opportunities for rain through the end of next week as a series of disturbances advance around the region. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches. The remaining production areas in western India will otherwise receive light rain trend mostly dry. Any rain that does occur will be lost to evaporation.

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Precipitation potentials will decrease for much of India May 31 – June 6. Periods of monsoonal rain are still expected for southern, central, and eastern India, though rainfall will likely be lower or much lower compared to the first week of the outlook.

Flooding will remain a concern along the southwestern India coastline and in portions of Bangladesh and eastern India in the coming weeks due to the periods of heavy rain. Minor damage to rice will be possible in Bangladesh and the Eastern States, along with infrastructure in eastern and southwestern India. The moisture will continue to promote a good environment for long-term production potentials. However, planting and general fieldwork may advance slowly at times in the wettest locations.

Rainfall in northern India will be beneficial for the cotton and other early-planted crops through the end of next week. Producers may wait until the monsoon expands to the region later in the summer before planting some of the later-planted crops. Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and neighboring areas will remain too dry to support aggressive planting through early June.

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