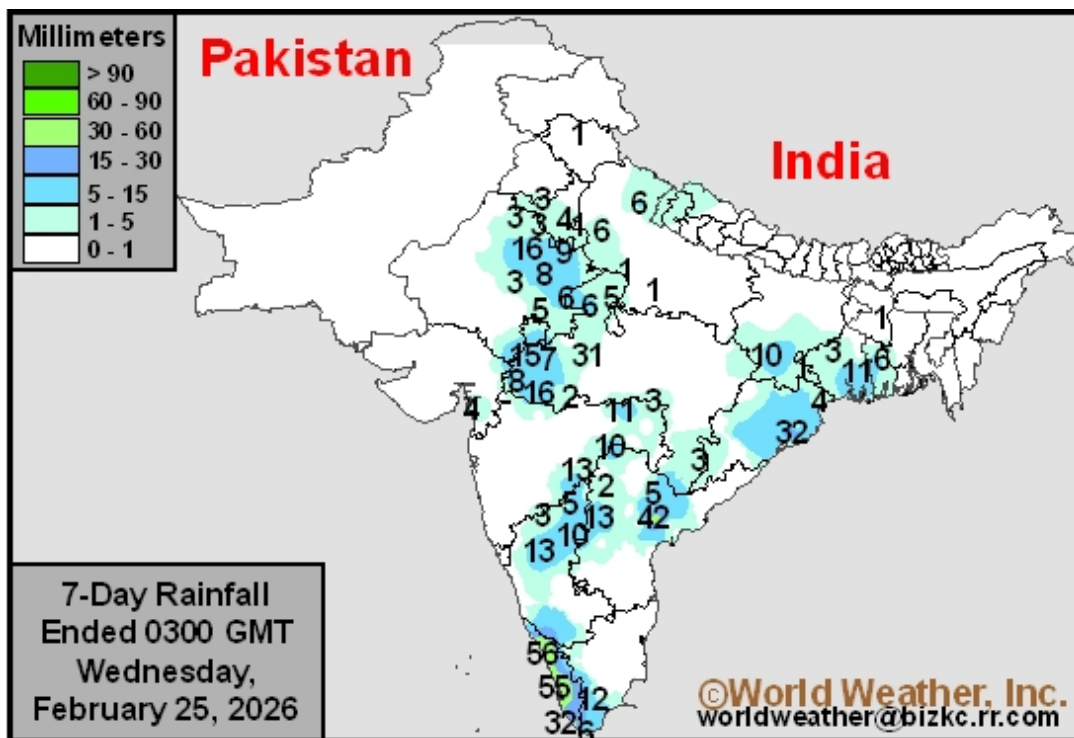


India To Heat Up Stressing Northern, Central Crops

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, February 27 (World Weather Inc.) – Spotty rain was noted in several locations in India during the past week. Resulting rainfall was welcome where it occurred, though ultimately too light to impact soil moisture. Temperatures were also warmer than usual, but not excessively hot. The environment was not horrific for reproducing and filling winter crops; however, there is a definite need for moisture. Some crops have not had significant rain since mid-January and this week’s rain was just not enough. Irrigated crops were still performing well while dryland crops were struggling with dryness. Weather conditions are unlikely to change much with dry-biased conditions expected in the coming ten days. The biggest change is a trend toward greater warming in northern parts of the nation that will lead to greater crop stress while all winter crops are finishing reproduction and begin filling. The heat and dryness could raise some concern for yield losses.

Rainfall during the seven-day period ended Wednesday of this week was most significant in some central parts of the nation. Kerala received 1.26 to 2.20 inches of rain while several areas in Telangana, northern Karnataka, eastern Maharashtra, western Madhya Pradesh, eastern Rajasthan, eastern Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal received 0.20 to 0.63 inch. A few local rain totals to 1.65 inches occurred in Telangana and Odisha. Other locations in India were dry or received limited rainfall.



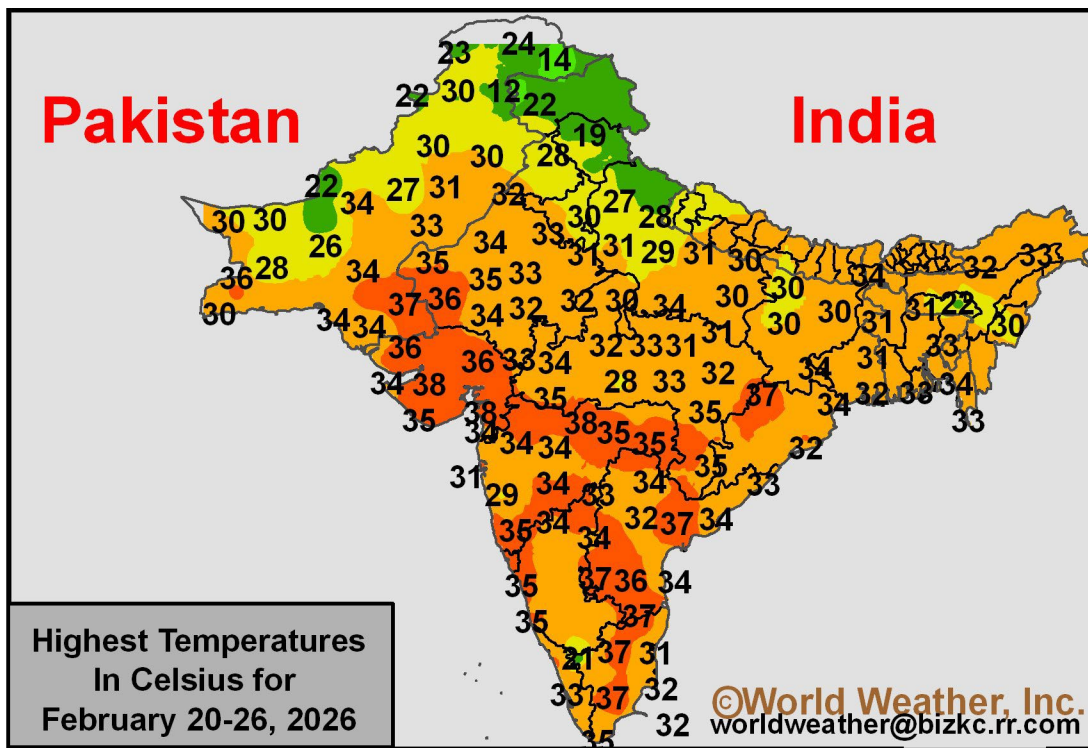
Any rain at this time of year is welcome and can help improve crops; however, soil moisture was already limited before the week’s rain fell and daily temperatures were warm

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enough to maintain a steady rate of drying. Most likely crops only benefited from the past week of showers for a couple of days before evaporation removed all of the usable moisture.

Moisture shortages are ongoing in much of India, which is typical for this time of year. However, much of crop country outside portions of northern, extreme southern, and a few locations in western India were drier than normal during the past month. Temperatures also climbed slightly above normal at times in recent weeks inducing faster drying rates.

Northern India received enough rain early this month and late January to support relatively favorable reproduction conditions for the rabi grains, oilseeds, pulses, and other crops. Follow-up rain has been minimal and many dryland areas may have become too dry for ideal late-season development.



Irrigated rabi crops elsewhere in India are likely reproducing and developing under relatively good conditions; however, there are concerns the environment is becoming a little too warm for ideal late-season conditions, which could reduce production potentials. Dryland crops would welcome a good shot of rain in the near future for ideal late-season growth and reproduction.

Not much precipitation is predicted for the next week to ten days. Some rain will fall in Kerala and Tamil Nadu with a few areas in Kerala getting 1.00 to 3.00 inches of moisture. Rainfall elsewhere is unlikely to be more than 0.75 inch. Another area of rain will occur from Uttarakhand into Jammu and Kashmir where some 1.00 to 3.00-inch totals are possible. *The rain will be welcome in both regions, but the bulk of India's crops will stay dry and experience rising temperatures and some developing heat and moisture stress.*

Rising temperatures in this next week to ten days will replace daily highs in the 80s and lower to a few middle 90s Fahrenheit to readings of 93 to 105 degrees. There is some potential for a spot or two trend hotter. The heat will need to be closely monitored.

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Any rain that falls in far southern and extreme northern India in coming days will be welcome and could induce a good environment for reproducing and filling rabi crops. Irrigated crops elsewhere will also experience a relatively good late-season growth and reproduction environment. *The main concern in coming weeks will be the warmer than usual temperatures and lack of rain in unirrigated fields possibly leading to a reduction in production.*

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