

# With over 9% deficit, monsoon may end in below-normal zone

## Withdrawal Begins; Oct-Dec Rains In South To Be Normal: IMD

Vishwa Mohan and  
Amit Bhattacharya | TNN

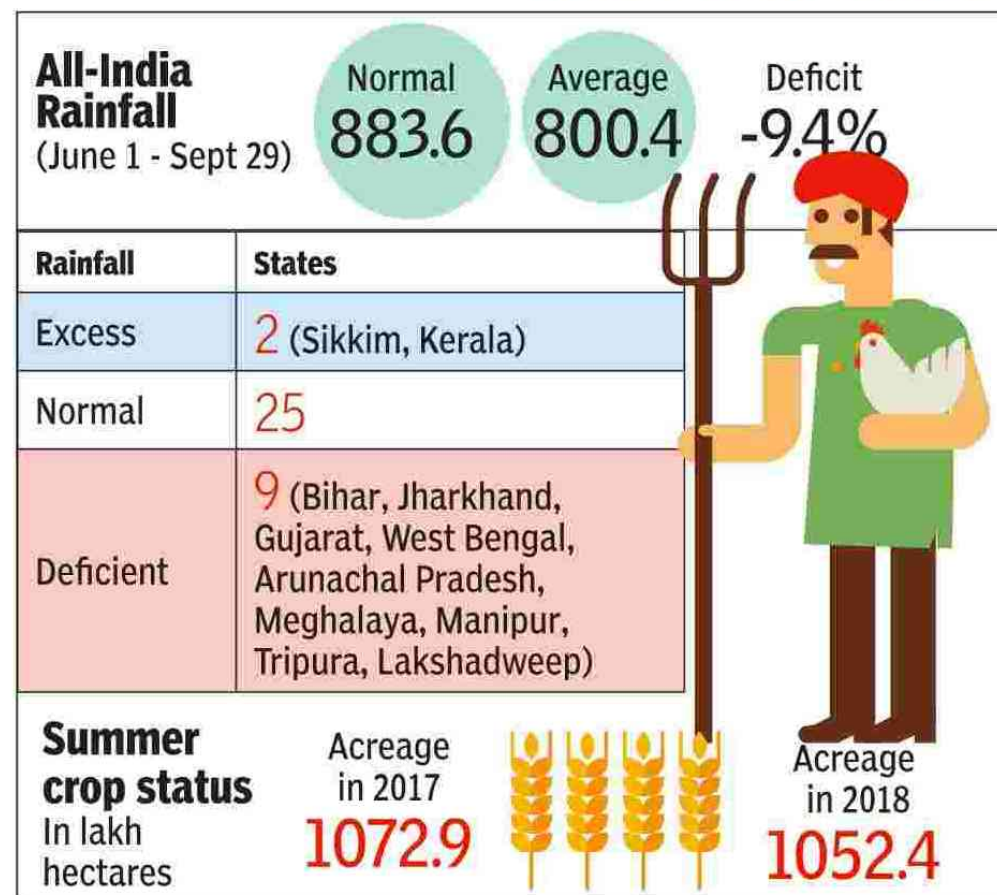
**New Delhi:** The southwest monsoon which began to withdraw from the country on Saturday, starting from west Rajasthan, is likely to end in the 'below-normal' zone this year with a deficit of 9.4% so far.

The India Meteorological Department, meanwhile, released its forecast for the north-east monsoon that brings rain to south India during the October-December period, saying rainfall is likely to be 'normal' in the region and higher than normal in Tamil Nadu.

While the monsoon season rainfall was below expectations, sowing of kharif crops was not majorly affected because of fairly good rain distribution. The acreage under kharif this year is 1.9% less than last year's and around 0.7% lower than normal.

"The southwest monsoon may be slightly below normal

### DEFICIT MARGINALLY HITS KHARIF CROPS



as we take all-India metrics to arrive at the figures, but you must see other side of it. Barring a few parts of the country, rainfall distribution has been

very good this year. It resulted in good acreage which almost touched last year's level," said IMD chief K J Ramesh.

He told **TOI** on Saturday

that IMD has in association with IIT Gandhinagar come out with a map, showing soil moisture content across the country as a result of this year's rains. "The map shows that the soil moisture content in most parts of the country is extremely good. It's a good sign for rabi (winter sown) crops and the overall farm sector," said Ramesh.

On Saturday, IMD declared the beginning of monsoon's withdrawal, nearly a month later than the normal date of September 1. Monsoon wind patterns have receded from some west Rajasthan areas.

IMD also released its operational forecast for the north-east monsoon, saying rainfall over south peninsula is "most likely to be normal with a tendency to be in the positive side of the normal". Tamil Nadu will get more rains as the IMD predicted 'above normal' rains during the upcoming season.

Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)