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पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एम. ओ. ई. एस.)
Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Monthly Outlook for the Rainfall and the Temperatures over India for February 2026

Highlights

a) Monthly rainfall during February 2026 over Northwest India consisting of seven meteorological subdivisions (East Uttar Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh) is most likely to be below normal (<78 % of Long Period Average (LPA)).

b) Monthly rainfall over the country as a whole during February 2026 is most likely to be below normal (<81 % of LPA).

c) Below-normal rainfall is likely over most parts of the country, except some areas of Northwest and Eastcentral India, and extreme southern parts of Northeast India, where normal to above-normal rainfall is likely.

d) Monthly minimum temperatures during February 2026 are likely to be above normal over most parts of the country, except some regions of South Peninsular India where normal minimum temperatures are expected. Below normal cold wave days are likely over several parts of Northwest and adjoining central India.

e) During February 2026, above normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country except isolated regions of Central India and the southern parts of peninsular India, where normal maximum temperatures are likely.

f) Currently, La Niña conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific, with sea surface temperatures (SSTs) being below normal over the central and eastern Pacific Ocean). Atmospheric conditions continue to support the La Niña phase. The latest forecast from global met centers and Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFS) indicates that La Niña conditions are likely to transit to ENSO-neutral conditions during the February–March-April 2026 period.

g) At present, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over the Indian Ocean. The latest forecast from global met centers and MMCFS forecast suggests that neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue during the next three months.

Monthly Outlook for the Rainfall and the Temperatures over India during February 2026

1. Background

Northwest India consisting of seven meteorological subdivisions (East Uttar Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) receives about 18% of its annual rainfall during the period of January to March. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in particular receive about 31% of their annual rainfall during this period. The rainfall during this period is very crucial for Rabi crops over the region. It is also crucial for the water management of the region. Because of these reasons, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been issuing long-range forecast outlooks for the winter rainfall over Northwest India. IMD also continuously works to improve the skill of forecasting models. At present the seasonal and monthly rainfall and temperature forecast is prepared based on the newly developed Multi-Model Ensemble (MME) technique since 2021. The MME approach uses the coupled global climate models (CGCMs) from different global climate prediction and research centers including IMD/MoES Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFS) model.

IMD has now prepared and presented the monthly forecast outlook for the following;

a. Probabilistic forecast for February 2026 rainfall averaged over Northwest India and the country as a whole.
b. Spatial distribution of the probabilistic forecasts of monthly rainfall over the country for February 2026.
c. Spatial distribution of the probabilistic forecasts of monthly maximum and minimum temperatures over the country for February 2026.

2. Probabilistic Forecast for the Rainfall during February 2026

The rainfall averaged over Northwest India is most likely to be below normal (<78 % of Long Period Average (LPA)) during February, 2026. Monthly rainfall over the country as a whole during February 2026 is also most likely to be below normal (<81 % of LPA). The LPA of rainfall over Northwest India and the country as a whole during February based on data from 1971-2020 is 65.0 mm and 22.7 mm, respectively.

The spatial distribution of the probabilistic forecast of tercile categories (above normal, normal, and below normal) of monthly rainfall over the country for February 2026 is shown in Fig.1. The forecast (Fig.1.) indicates that the below-normal rainfall is likely over most parts of the country, except some areas of Northwest and Eastcentral India, and extreme southern parts of Northeast India, where normal to above-normal rainfall is likely. The dotted areas in the map climatologically receive very less rainfall during the month and the white-shaded areas within the land areas represent no signal from the model.

3. Probabilistic Forecast for the Temperatures during February 2026

Fig.2 and Fig.3 show the forecast probabilities of the minimum and maximum temperatures respectively for February 2026.

The probability forecast for minimum temperature (Fig.2.) indicates that during February 2026, minimum temperatures are likely to be above normal over most parts of the country, except some regions of South Peninsular India where normal minimum temperatures are expected.

The probability forecast for maximum temperature (Fig.3) indicates that during February 2026, above normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country except some isolated regions in the Central India and the southern parts of peninsular India, where normal maximum temperatures are likely.

4. Outlook for the Cold Wave Days during February 2026

The anomaly (deviation from normal) forecast for the number of cold wave days in the country for the month of February 2026 is presented in Fig. 4. Cold wave days over most parts of the country are expected to remain within the normal range. However, below normal cold wave days are likely over several parts of Northwest and adjoining central India.

5. SST Conditions Over the Pacific and the Indian Oceans

Currently, La Niña conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific, with sea surface temperatures (SSTs) being below normal over the central and eastern Pacific Ocean). Atmospheric conditions continue to support the La Niña phase. The latest forecast from global met centers and MMCFS indicates that La Niña conditions are likely to transit to ENSO-neutral conditions during the February–March-April 2026 period.

At present, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over the Indian Ocean. The latest forecast from global met centers and MMCFS forecast suggests that neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue during the coming months.

6. Extended Range Forecast and short to medium-range forecasting services

IMD also provides extended range forecasts (7–day averaged forecasts for the next four weeks) of rainfall and maximum and minimum temperatures over the country updated every week on Thursday. This is based on the Multi-model ensemble dynamical Extended Range Forecasting System currently operational at IMD. The extended range forecasts are available through the IMD website https://mausam.imd.gov.in/imd_latest/contents/extendedrangeforecast.php).

The extended range forecast is followed by a short to medium range forecast issued daily by IMD. The forecasts are available through the IMD website https://nwp.imd.gov.in/gfsproducts_cycle00_mausam.php

7. Likely Impact of Above-normal Temperatures on Agriculture in February 2026

- Above-normal temperatures may accelerate crop growth and shorten the crop duration of *rabi* crops, particularly in Northwest, and Central India. Crops like wheat and barley may experience forced maturity, leading to sterile spikelets and chaffy grains, resulting in yield reduction.
- Oilseeds and pulses such as mustard, chickpea, lentil, and field pea may show early flowering and premature maturity, resulting in poor pod development, reduced seed size,

and lower yields. Warmer conditions may also favour rapid multiplication of aphids and other sucking pests.

- Vegetable crops such as potato, onion, garlic, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, and peas may be adversely affected during critical stages like tuber initiation, bulb development, flowering, and fruit setting. Elevated temperatures can induce bolting in onion and garlic, reduce tuber bulking in potato, because flower drop in tomato, and deteriorate cole crops, thereby lowering yield and market value.
- Horticultural crops such as mango, citrus, banana, and grapes may experience early flowering, uneven fruit set and increased fruit drop. Above-normal temperatures may also reduce chilling accumulation in temperate fruits like apple, pear and peach, leading to irregular flowering and poor fruit development.
- Livestock and poultry may experience heat stress, resulting in reduced feed intake, decline in milk yield and egg production, and increased susceptibility to diseases if adequate cooling and hydration measures are not adopted.

8. Agromet Advisories for February 2026

- Provide light and frequent irrigation to standing crops at critical growth stages like flowering, grain filling, and tuber development to mitigate heat stress and maintain optimum soil moisture.
- Apply mulching to conserve soil moisture, suppress weeds around the crop root zone.
- Apply foliar spray of potassium nitrate or other anti-transpirants to help crops to manage heat stress.
- Regularly monitor crops for increased incidence of insect-pests such as aphids, thrips and whiteflies.
- Ensure adequate drinking water, shade, and proper ventilation for livestock.

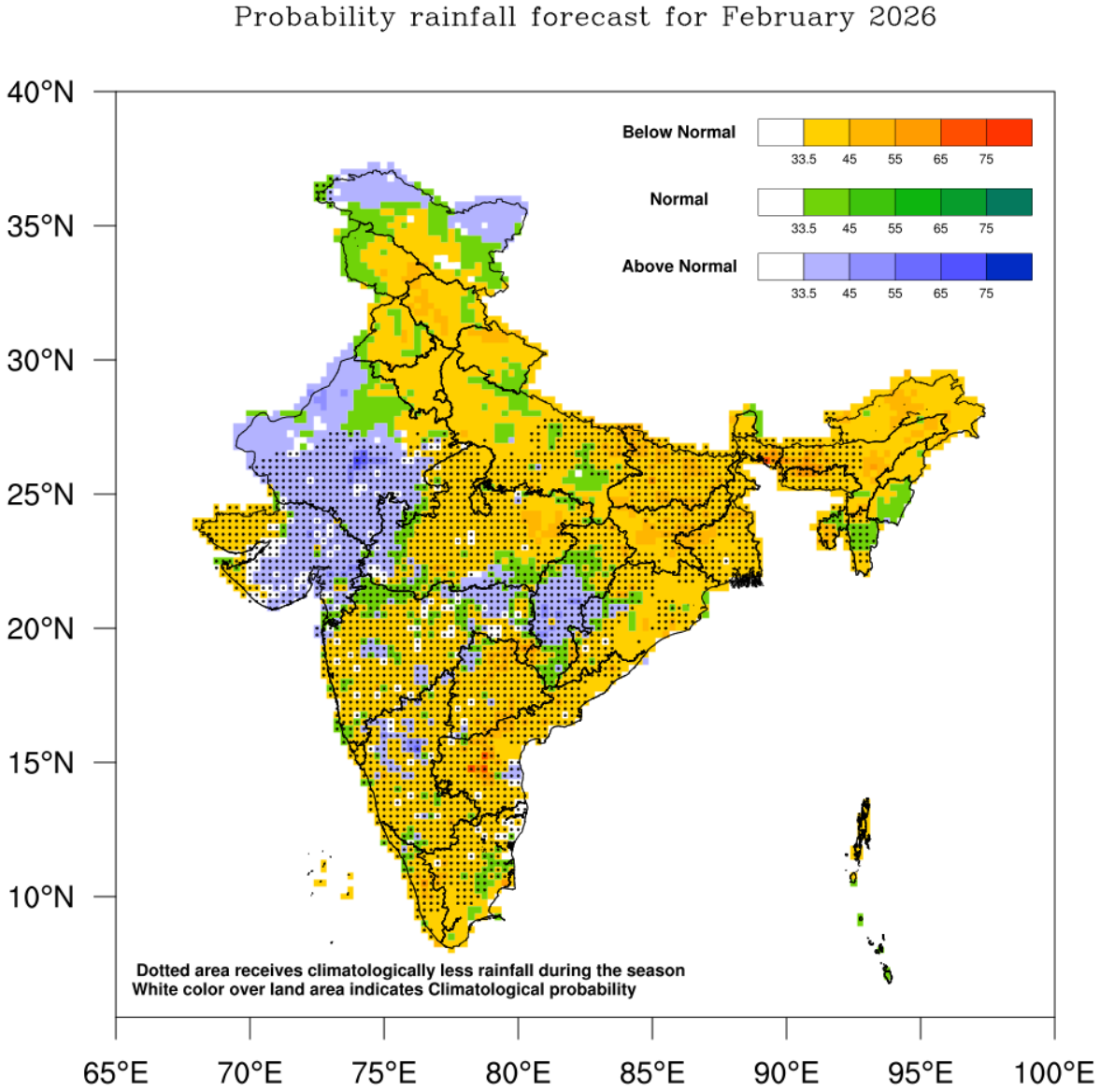

Fig.1. Probability forecast of tercile categories* (below normal, normal, and above normal) for the rainfall over India during February 2026. The figure illustrates the most likely categories as well as their probabilities. The dotted area shown in the map climatologically receives very less rainfall during February and the white-shaded areas within the land areas represent no signal from the model (*Tercile categories have equal climatological probabilities, of 33.33% each).

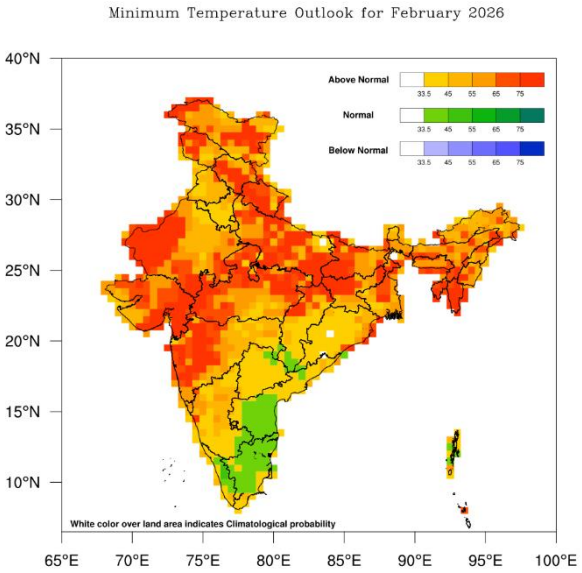

Fig 2. Probability forecast of Minimum Temperature for February 2026.

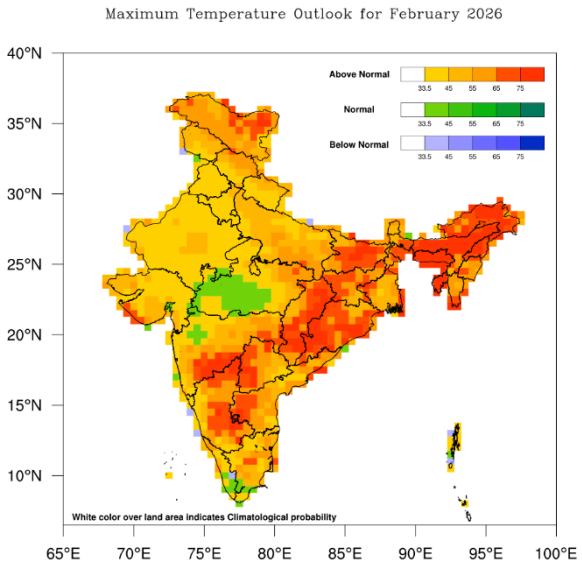

Fig 3. Probability forecast of Maximum Temperature for February 2026.

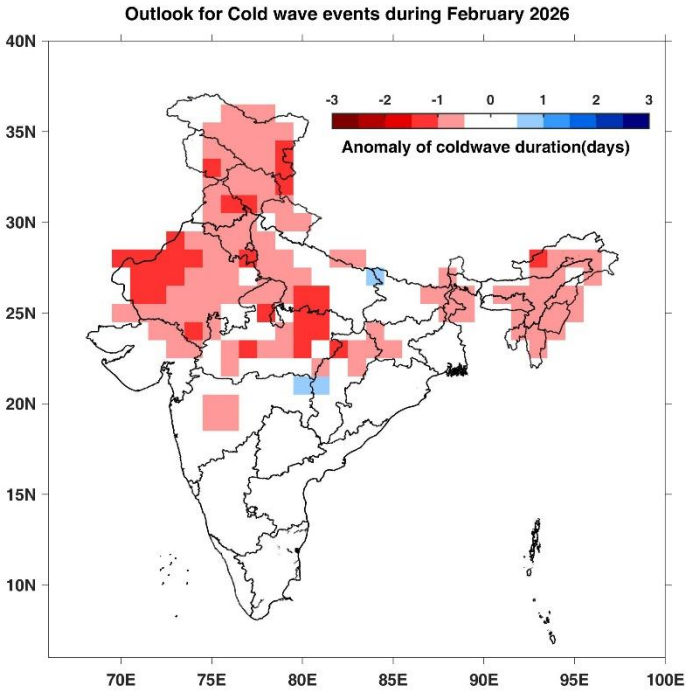

Fig 4. Anomaly (deviation from normal) of Cold Wave days for the month of February 2026.