Thirty-Second Session of South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-32) and Climate Services User Forum (CSUF)
25 September 2025 and 3 October 2025 (held online)

SASCOF-32 Outlook for the 2025 October to December Season Rainfall and Temperature over South Asia

Summary

Above-normal rainfall is likely across much of central, eastern, and southern South Asia. However, normal to below-normal rainfall is expected over most of the northwestern parts of the region, certain areas in the south—including the island nations—and a few isolated pockets in the eastern part of the South Asia.

During the season, most parts of South Asia are expected to experience normal to above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures. However, some central and southeastern regions may likely to have normal to below-normal maximum temperature.

This consensus climate outlook for the 2025 OND season over South Asia has been prepared by the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) through an expert assessment of the prevailing global climate conditions influencing the South Asian climate and seasonal forecasts from different climate models around the world. Currently, neutral ENSO conditions and weak negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are observed over the equatorial Pacific and Indian Ocean respectively. These external forcings are known to influence seasonal climate patterns over South Asia, including the upcoming OND season. Latest forecasts from a wide range of global climate models indicate an enhanced probability of development of the La Niña conditions and a continuation of negative IOD conditions during the next OND season. Careful consideration is also given to other regional and global factors, as well as the intra-seasonal variability of the region that can affect the rainfall and temperature patterns over the region. For more information and further updates on the seasonal climate outlook on national scale, the respective National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) may be consulted.

Introduction:

The southern parts of South Asia receive significant amount of rainfall during the October to December (OND) season, which is critical for agricultural operations. The re-establishment of a northeasterly trade-wind regime over South Asia associated with the southward movement of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) ushers in the Northeast monsoon, bringing much-needed rainfall to the southern parts of India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. The October to November period in Sri Lanka is known as the second Inter Monsoon (SIM) season. It has been recognized that there is a moderate seasonal predictability for the northeast monsoon circulation over the region as the seasonal variability is strongly influenced by the slowly varying boundary forcings, such as sea surface temperatures. However, the predictability is somewhat limited due to the strong day-to-day atmospheric variability caused by the passage of the synoptic scale weather systems such as easterly waves, lows, depressions, cyclones, etc. The seasonal predictability of the northeast monsoon over the region is also influenced by the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), which represents the major global scale intra-seasonal variability pattern.

The climate outlook for the 2025 October to December season was finalized during the thirty-second session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-32) held on 25 September 2025 and 3rd October 2025 via video conferencing. The session was attended by experts representing the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of all nine South Asian countries as well as those representing several global and regional climate agencies, including World Meteorological Organization (WMO), WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC) Pune, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO), International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early-warning System (RIMES), WMO Global Producing Centres for Seasonal Prediction (GPCs-SP) such as Met Office (UKMO), Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), Climate Prediction Center(CPC), WMO LC-SPMME, etc. The online forum deliberated on various observed and emerging climate forcings that are known to influence the climate variability of the region such as the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions over the equatorial Pacific, Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions over the Indian Ocean, etc. The key features of these climate forcings are briefly discussed below.

Conditions over the Pacific Ocean

The ENSO is one of the global scale climate forgings that significantly influences the year-to-year variability of the northeast monsoon rainfall and the surface temperatures over South Asia. At present, the sea surface temperatures are near to below average across most of Pacific Ocean. Currently, neutral ENSO conditions are observed over the equatorial Pacific. Latest forecasts from many climate models, including the consolidated WMO El Niña/La Niña Update, indicate an enhanced probability of La Niña conditions during the upcoming OND season.

Conditions over the Indian Ocean

In addition to ENSO conditions over the Pacific, other factors, such as Indian Ocean sea surface temperatures, influence the region's climate variability. At present, weak negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over the Indian Ocean. The latest forecast from MMCFS and the global climate model indicates that the negative IOD conditions are likely to continue for post-monsoon season.

SASCOF Outlook for the 2025 October to December Season Rainfall over South Asia:

A consensus outlook for October to December season rainfall over South Asia has been prepared under the auspices of SASCOF based on the expert assessment of prevailing large-scale global climate indicators mentioned above and experimental as well as operational long-range forecasts based on statistical and dynamical models generated by various operational and research centers of the world. There is unanimity among the experts that the La Niña conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean are likely to develop during the upcoming OND season, and the weak negative Indian Ocean Dipole conditions over the Indian Ocean are likely to continue during the October to December season. The relative impact of all these parameters needs to be considered to determine the expected state of the climate over the region during the season.

The outlook for the 2025 October to December season rainfall over South Asia is shown in **Fig.1a**. The figure illustrates the most likely tercile category[1] as well as its probability for each of the 1° latitude x 1° longitude spatial grid boxes over the region. The dotted area shown in the map climatologically receives very low rainfall and experiences dry weather during the OND season. The box-wise tercile probabilities were derived using an objective approach from an initial set of

gridded forecasts from multiple global climate models and other sources and consolidated through a consensus-building discussion among climate experts.

The outlook suggests that during the 2025 October to December (OND) season, above-normal rainfall is likely across much of central, eastern, and southern South Asia. However, normal to below-normal rainfall is expected over most of the northwestern parts of the region, certain areas in the south—including the island nations—and a few isolated pockets in the eastern part of the South Asia. There remain a few isolated areas with no clear indication of reliable outlook, where climatological probability for seasonal rainfall may provide better guidance.

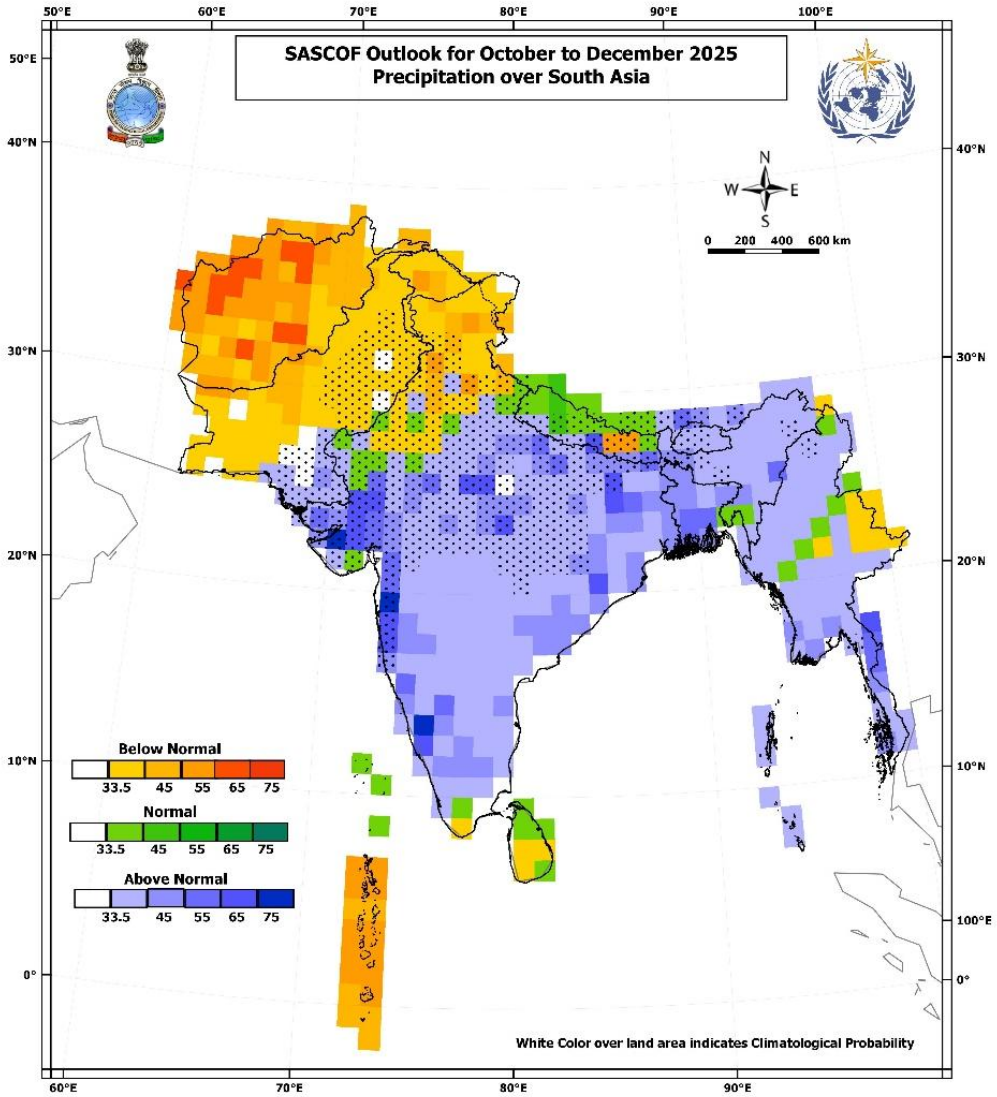

Fig.1a. Outlook for 2025 October to December season Rainfall over South Asia. The dotted area shown in the map climatologically receives very low rainfall and experiences dry weather during the OND season.

Tercile categories have equal climatological probabilities of 33.33% each

The consensus outlook for the 2025 OND maximum and minimum temperature over South Asia is shown in **Fig.1b and 1c**. During the season, most parts of South Asia are expected to experience normal to above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures. However, some central and southeastern regions may likely to have normal to below-normal maximum temperature.

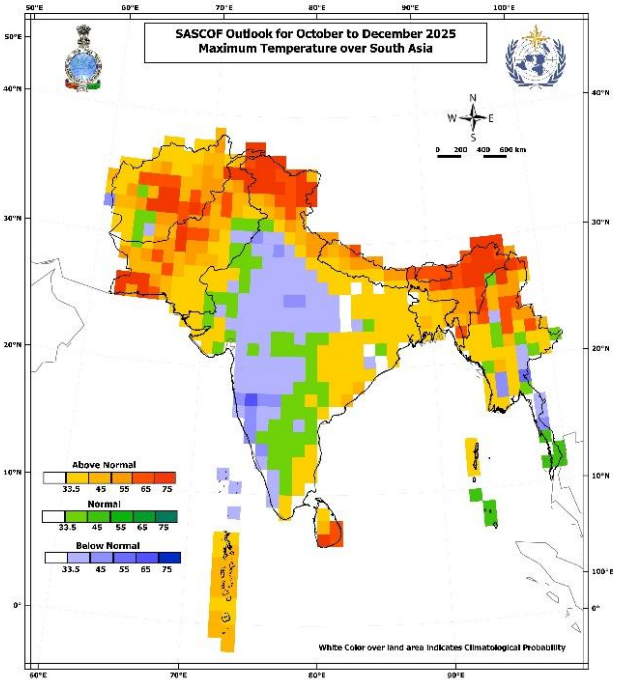

Fig.1b. Outlook of the probability of the most likely category for the 2025 October to December season maximum temperature over South Asia.

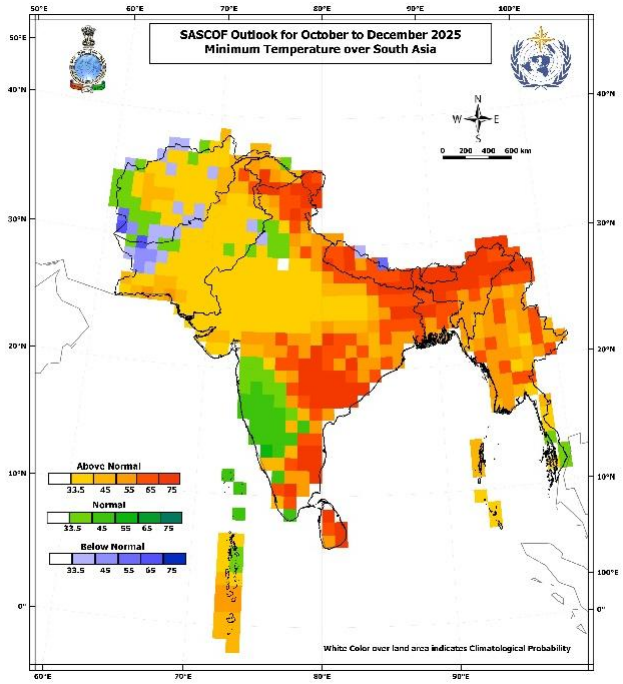

Fig.1c. Outlook of the probability of the most likely category for the 2025 October to December season minimum temperature over South Asia.

Verification of consensus outlook for the 2024 October to December season

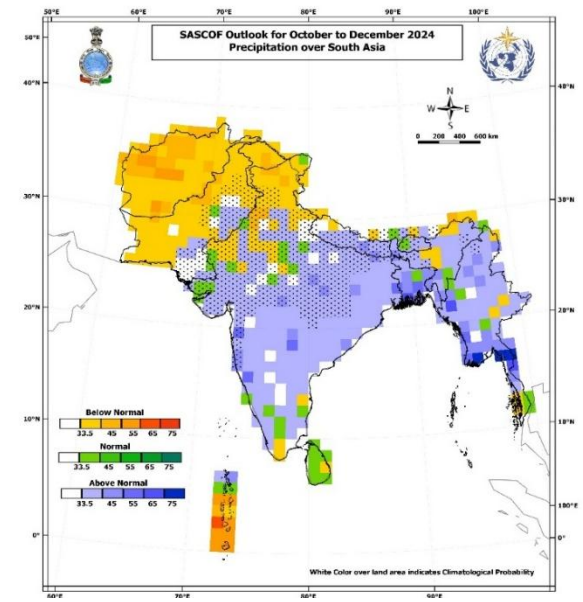

Fig 2. Consensus outlook map of SASCOF-26 for 2024 October to December Rainfall over South Asia

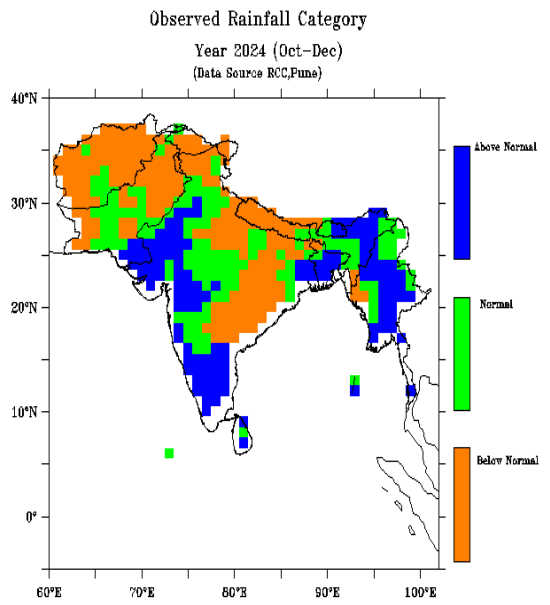

Fig 3. Observed rainfall distribution during 2024 October to December Season over South Asia expressed as grid point rainfall tercile categories.

Data Source: RCC, IMD, Pune

The consensus outlook map (Fig.2) for the 2024 October to December season showed normal to above-normal rainfall over most parts of South Asia, particularly covering the south and eastern parts as well as a few isolated pockets over northwestern parts. Below-normal rainfall was predicted over the northwestern and northern parts of South Asia as well as over the small islands in the southwestern parts of South Asia. The remaining part of the region was marked by either normal rainfall forecast or lack of reliable forecast, necessitating recourse to climatological probabilities.

Fig. 3 shows the observed rainfall distribution during the 2024 October to December Season expressed in terms of tercile categories. Most of the northwestern and eastern-central parts of the South Asia region received normal to below-normal rainfall during the 2024 October to December season. However, normal to above normal rainfall received over southern and eastern parts and western central South Asia. The islands in southern South Asia also received normal to above-normal rainfall during the season.

From the above Figures 2 and 3, It can be seen that the SASCOF-29 outlook matches very well with observation in most regions of South Asia. However, model could not indicate the below normal rainfall over Foot Hills of Himalaya and some parts of eastern-central South Asia.

The long-term historical patterns of the rainfall over South Asia during the October to December Season (Figs. 4 a and b), characterized by remarkable spatial variability, provide the general reference points at the respective locations for the rainfall anomalies indicated in the outlook.

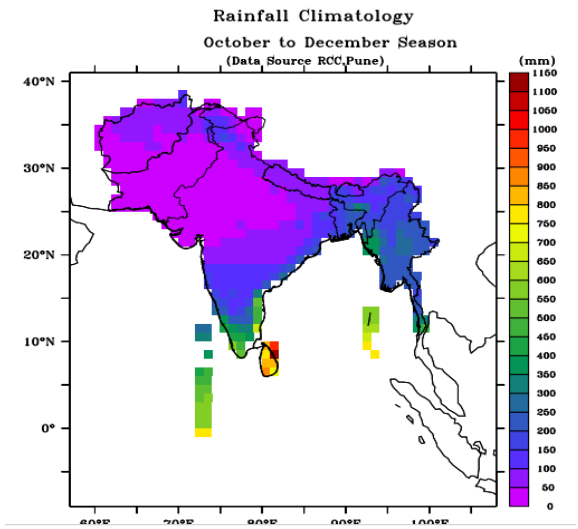

Fig.4 (a) Rainfall climatology for the period 1982-2020 for October to December Season over South Asia

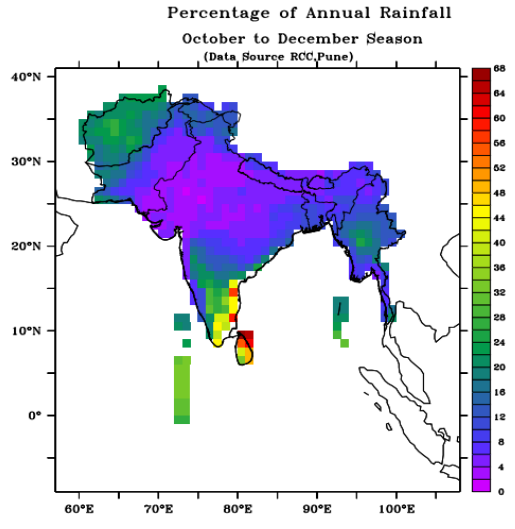

Fig.4 (b) Percentage of annual rainfall for October to December Season over South Asia.

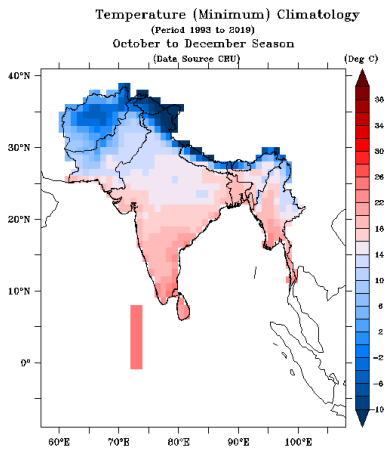

Fig.5 (a) Minimum Temperature climatology for the period 1990-2020 for October to December Season over South Asia

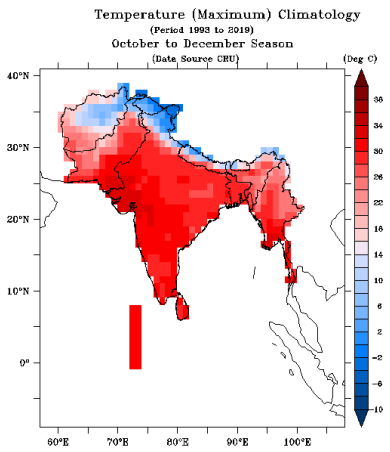

Fig.5 (b) Maximum Temperature climatology for the period 1990-2020 for October to December Season over South Asia

The long-term historical patterns of the Temperature (Minimum and Maximum) over South Asia during October to December (Fig.5 a and b), characterized by large spatial variability, provide the general reference points at the respective locations for the temperature anomalies indicated in the outlook.