

11:17 AM   19 APR <b>MARKET STATS</b> ▼	SENSEX <b>29,347</b> ▲ 28.02	NIFTY 50 <b>9,112</b> ▲ 6.75	GOLD (MCX) (Rs/10g.) <b>29,348</b> ▼ -166.00	USD/INR <b>64.53</b> ▼ -0.10	<b>CREATE PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Download ET MARKETS APP</b>	CHOOSE LANGUAGE ENG
--	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------

# Normal Monsoon rains likely: IMD

By Nishtha Saluja, ET Bureau | Apr 18, 2017, 11:40 PM IST

[Post a Comment](#)

NEW DELHI: India will get normal rainfall this [monsoon](#) season, the weather office has said, somewhat allaying fears that an El Nino phenomenon may disrupt the weather system that's the lifeline for the country's rural [economy](#).

The June-September monsoon rainfall this year is expected to be 96% of the long-term average with a 5% error margin, the [India Meteorological Department](#) (IMD) said on Tuesday, bringing relief to millions of farmers in the country.

IMD will update the forecast in early June, by when a clear picture would emerge about El Nino phenomenon that disrupts global flow of winds after the warming of the equatorial Pacific.

Monsoon delivers three-fourths of the country's annual rainfall, and is crucial to an economy where more than half the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood, and where monetary policy is linked to food inflation.

Analysts said good monsoon rainfall would help keep food prices in check and create conditions for cut in interest rates.

"In case there is a normal monsoon this year and food inflation is avoided, RBI could consider a rate cut," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Care Ratings.

Most farmers in the country depend entirely on rainfall due to poor irrigation facilities. So, good monsoon is essential for the rural economy.

Also, with a majority of people still living in rural areas, higher income in the hinterlands would boost overall sales of gold, cars, motorcycles, tractors and consumer goods.

"This year the monsoon will contribute similarly as last year to Indian agriculture...and there was good contribution from agriculture to the economy. So favourable conditions for agriculture and economy are expected this year as well," IMD chief KJ Ramesh said.

Some global forecasters had raised an alarm that El Nino may disrupt the Indian monsoon, but IMD said the worries were premature. Another phenomenon called the Indian Ocean Dipole, also referred to as the Indian Nino, could counter El Nino because of favourable temperature changes in the Indian Ocean, meteorologists said.

Ashok Gulati, agricultural economist and former chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, said the weather office's forecast augured well for India. "Policy makers and peasants, both can heave a sigh of relief," he said.

IMD deems the monsoon to be normal if June-September rainfall is between 96% to 102% of the long period average (LPA) monsoon rainfall between 1951 to 2000.

The weather office said there is a 38% chance of rainfall being closer to 100% of the average or more. It said there is a 50% chance of a weak El Nino forming towards August- September.

This concurs to the global estimates of El Nino developing in the later part of this year.



India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General K J Ramesh said there would be good distribution of rainfall across the country.

**Big Change:**  
The end of Five-Year Plans: All you need to know

The El Nino phenomenon refers to the warming of the equatorial Pacific, releasing heat and moisture in the air and affecting global wind flows, which in turn often weakens the monsoon rain. Last year, the reverse phenomenon called La Nina prevailed although it was weak.

D S Pai, director for long range forecast at IMD, said, "Globally, La Nina conditions are still persisting in the Pacific. Sea surface temperatures are showing warming conditions, but atmosphere still hasn't changed. It will take time for El Nino to establish. So El Nino to occur even in the later part of monsoon is less probable compared to earlier."

**Stay on top of business news with The Economic Times App. [Download it Now!](#)**

Live Market	News	Portfolio	Mobile	Live TV	Newsletter	Commodities	Speed	QnA	Blogs	Alerts	RSS
<b>Other Times Group news sites</b>		<b>Living and entertainment</b>		<b>Hot on the Web</b>		<b>Services</b>					
Times of India   इकनॉमिक टाइम्स ઇકોનોમિક ટાઇમ્સ   Mumbai Mirror Times Now   Indiatimes नवभारत टाइम्स   महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स વેબ ટાઇમ્સ   Lifehacker Gizmodo   Eisamay   IGN India NavGujarat Samay		Timescity   iDiva   Zoom   Luxpresso   Gaana   Happytrips   Cricbuzz   Get Smartapp		BSE Sensex   RCB vs GL Gold rate today   Sensex IPL 2017   Income Tax Slabs RBI Policy		ads2book   Gadgetsnow   Free Business Listings Simplymarry   Astrospeak   Timesjobs   Magicbricks   Zigwheels   Timesdeal   dineout   Filmipop   Remit2india   Gaana   Greetzap   Techradar   Alivear   Google Play					
		<b>Networking</b>									
		itimes   MensXP.com									

[About us](#) / [Advertise with us](#) / [Terms of Use & Grievance Redressal](#) / [Privacy Policy](#) / [Feedback](#) / [Sitemap](#) / [Code of Ethics](#) / / [Disclaimer](#) Copyright © 2017 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved.