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Delhi Monsoon 29% In Excess But Distribution Quite Uneven

Three Districts In 'Large Excess' Range; North-East In Deficit

Photo: Sanjeev Rast

Priyangi Agarwal
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New Delhi: The capital woke up to the third consecutive morning of rain, with moderate showers taking the September rainfall total to 229.8mm till 8.30am on Thursday. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, this is almost twice the monthly normal mark of 125.1mm, with September recording two consecutive days of "heavy rainfall".

Rain is expected to continue this week, with IMD forecasting light rain on Friday. The last time Delhi received more rain in September was in 2010 — 332.9mm, but through the month.

IMD has placed Delhi's overall rainfall this monsoon in the "excess" category at +29%. However, the distribution has been quite uneven, with North and Central districts having touched the "large excess" category at 112% and 75%, respectively, while neighbouring North East being the only district with a 37% deficit. New Delhi district is also in the "large excess" range.

North East district has so far received 368.8mm rainfall as opposed to the normal 582.3mm. North, which has fared the best, recorded 963.3mm rainfall — 112% excess. Central Delhi has received 1,020.9mm rainfall as against the usual 582.3mm.



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Delhi has so far received **229.8mm** of rainfall in September till 8.30am on Thursday, almost twice the monthly normal mark of **125.1mm**

► September has recorded two consecutive days of "heavy rainfall" with Safdarjung receiving 112.1mm on Wednesday and 117.1mm till 8.30am on Thursday



► Last September, Delhi had only received **20.9mm** of rainfall
► The last time Delhi received more monthly rainfall in September was in **2010** when it was recorded at 332.9mm

"The distribution of rainfall may vary from place to place. More showers are expected in September," said R K Jenamani, senior scientist at National Weather Forecasting Centre. The normal withdrawal date for the monsoon is September 25.

IMD classifies rainfall in deficit when it is more than -19%. Between -19% and 19% is considered "normal" and 20-59% "excess". "Large excess" is when rainfall is 60% more than normal.

The capital has received 625.4mm rainfall between

June 1 and September 2 as against the normal 484.3mm. While North West and South West districts are in the "excess" category at 49% and 48%, respectively, East, South and West are "normal".

This monsoon, Delhi has recorded six "heavy rainfall" days. IMD classifies rainfall as "heavy" when it exceeds 64.4mm in a 24-hour period and "very heavy" when it exceeds 115.5mm.

"Such heavy-to-very heavy rainfall is unusual for September, but has been seen in the

past," a Met official said. "Safdarjung has already received over 200mm in two days and if light-to-moderate showers continue, it could pass the mark by September-end. While Saturday may see a break, showers are expected to continue from Sunday, until Tuesday."

Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 32.3 degrees Celsius — two notches below normal. The air quality, meanwhile, stayed in the lower half of the "satisfactory" category with the air quality index at