

Monsoon begins withdrawal from parts of Rajasthan

From June 1 to September 23, rainfall has been 5% more than normal across India, but 3% less in September and 15% excess in August

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The southwest monsoon has begun withdrawing from Rajasthan, a week later than its scheduled date.

Though withdrawal has begun from west Rajasthan and Kutch, the monsoon is expected to recede from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat during the next 24 hours, says a bulletin from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The year, on the whole, has seen a very active spell of rainfall. From June 1 to September 23, the monsoon rainfall has been 5% more than normal. For September, so far the rainfall is 3% less than normal for the month. This is contrary to the IMD's expectations.

In its outlook for September, the agency said on August 31 that monsoon rainfall was likely to be 9% above normal for the month (16.8 cm).

This was premised on a La Nina, or a cooling of the central Pacific, expected to



Bountiful rain: A view of the Amer Fort area after heavy rain in Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital, on Thursday. ANI

firmly take root this month. La Nina usually corresponds to above average rainfall in India.

The rainfall in August turned out to be much more than what the IMD had anticipated at the beginning of the month. August – the second rainiest of the monsoon months – was projected to receive 6% more than normal rainfall, but India ended up getting 15% more.

This was largely due to multiple active moisture-laden incursions from the

Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, called “depressions”, that contributed to the heavy rainfall.

Though the withdrawal of the monsoon has begun, it will be at least until mid-October before the southwest monsoon fully withdraws and is replaced by the northeast monsoon which brings heavy rain to a few southern States, such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and parts of Andhra Pradesh. However, all rainfall after September 30 is not counted as monsoon rainfall.