

Pre-monsoon rain deficiency hits states

Hindustan Times, New Delhi, Dated : April 13, 2021

The pre-monsoon season (March, April and May) has remained dry in several parts of the country with many states recording deficient rainfall, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has said.

While northwest India reported a rain deficiency of 43% between March 1 and April 12, Uttarakhand recorded a deficiency of 78%.

Likewise, western and eastern Uttar Pradesh registered a deficiency of 93% while Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi reported a shortage of 68% during the same period, the weather body noted.

"It hasn't rained at all in the plains during this season. There was light rain and thunderstorm activity in the first week of April but it was very light. Even though four western disturbances have affected the Western Himalayan region this month, their impact has been limited to the upper reaches. It has been so dry that the relative humidity in Delhi yesterday was only 31% in the morning when it is supposed to be the highest and only 17% in the evening," Kuldeep Shrivastava, head, regional weather forecasting centre, said.

IMD Pune's Standard Precipitation Index for March and the first week of April suggested that almost the entire northwest India and Indo-Gangetic Plains region remained mildly to moderately dry between April 1 and 7.

The country as a whole recorded a rain deficiency of 42% between March 1 and April 12 with 54% rain deficiency over the southern peninsula, 30% over the central region and 39% over northeast and east India.

It is this rain deficiency that has led to several forest fires in Uttarakhand and high dust and particulate matter (PM) levels over the northern plains.

At least, 8,550 forest fires have been recorded in Uttarakhand alone between April 1 and 12, according to data provided by Forest Survey of India's Fire Alert System.

However, a fresh disturbance is likely to affect the Western Himalayan region between April 14 and 17. It is likely to cause scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with thunderstorm and gusty winds over the Western Himalayan region during this period and isolated light rainfall over the adjoining plains between April 15 and 17.
