

# IMD dispels talk of downgrade to 88% monsoon forecast

*The Indian Meteorological Department has not downgraded its June-September monsoon forecast from the 88 percent of long-period average (LPA) it had put out recently, its Director DS Pai told CNBC-TV18.*

**T**he Indian Meteorological Department has not downgraded its June-September monsoon forecast from the 88 percent of long-period average (LPA) it had put out recently, its Director DS Pai told CNBC-TV18.

Pai's confirmation came after a few stock market related websites ran with news that the Met had downgraded its forecast from 88 percent earlier to 82 percent -- something that traders said was partly responsible for exacerbating the market's fall today.

"We are not revising our forecast of 88 percentage of LPA, plus or minus 4 percent. That still holds intact," Pai told CNBC-TV18.

He added that while monsoons were near normal in the east and north east, north west was amongst the hit, at 14 percent, with sub-regions like Punjab and Haryana witnessing a deficit about 30-40 percent.

He maintained that the worst-hit regions had relatively better irrigation facilities and that the government had prepared well, given that the Met had made the deficient-monsoon call as early as April.

"There has been proper mitigation action. So I think the impact on agriculture will be limited," according to Pai.