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**SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR SOUTH ASIA  
(November 2024 to February 2025)**

**Highlights**

- The sea surface temperatures are below average in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Currently, neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are observed over the equatorial Pacific. The probability forecast indicates a highest probability of La Niña conditions during the NDJ and DJF seasons.
- Above-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are currently seen across most of the Indian Ocean. Currently, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are observed over the Indian Ocean. The latest MMCFS forecast indicates that the neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue for the next several months
- The probability forecast for precipitation for NDJ season indicate that enhanced probability of above normal precipitation is likely in extreme south peninsular India, northeast and southeast of South Asia and enhanced probability of below normal precipitation is likely over northwest, north along the plains of Himalayas, west and central parts of South Asia. The same for DJF season indicates that enhanced probability of above normal precipitation is likely in most parts of central, south peninsular, northeast and south east of South Asia and enhanced probability of below normal precipitation in northwest, west and north along the plains of Himalayas.
- In November, the country averaged monthly precipitation is likely to be normal to above normal for all the South Asian countries except Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan where it is likely to be below normal. In December, the country averaged monthly precipitation is likely to be normal to above normal for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Myanmar and below normal for Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan. In January, it is likely to be normal to below normal in all the south Asian countries except Sri Lanka where it is likely to be above normal. In February, the country averaged monthly precipitation is likely to be normal to above normal for all the South Asian countries.
- Temperature probability forecast for NDJ and DJF seasons indicate that enhanced probability of above normal temperatures is likely over most parts of South Asia.
- The country averaged monthly temperatures during November, December, January and February are likely to be normal to above normal for all South Asian countries.

**DISCLAIMER:**

- (1) The long-range forecasts presented here are currently experimental and are produced using techniques that have not been validated.
- (2) The content is only for general information and its use is not intended to address particular requirements.
- (3) The geographical boundaries shown in this report do not necessarily correspond to the political boundaries.

# 1. Important Global Climate Factors

## 1.1 Sea Surface Temperatures over the Pacific Ocean

In October 2024, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the eastern Pacific Ocean were below average, while they were average to above average in the western and adjoining central Pacific (Fig.1a). Warmer than average SSTs were observed over some parts of the northern extra-tropical Pacific region with anomalies more than 2°C. Cool SSTs were observed over parts of the south of the extra-tropical Pacific region. Compared to September 2024, negative SST anomalies were seen over the central and western equatorial Pacific Ocean. Positive SST anomalies were seen over some region of the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Warming of SSTs is observed over some region of the higher latitudes of central North Pacific Ocean (Fig.1b). The probability forecast indicates a highest probability of La Niña conditions during the NDJ and DJF seasons. (Fig.2)

## 1.2 Sea Surface Temperatures over Indian Ocean

In October 2024, normal to above-normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were observed across most of the Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea (Fig. 1a). Compared to September 2024, cooler SSTs were observed in the western and central equatorial Indian Ocean in September 2024. In contrast, warmer SSTs were observed in the Bay of Bengal and eastern equatorial Indian Ocean, as well as in parts of the Arabian Sea in September 2024 (Fig. 1b). The latest MMCFS forecast indicates that the neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue for the next several months. (Fig.3).

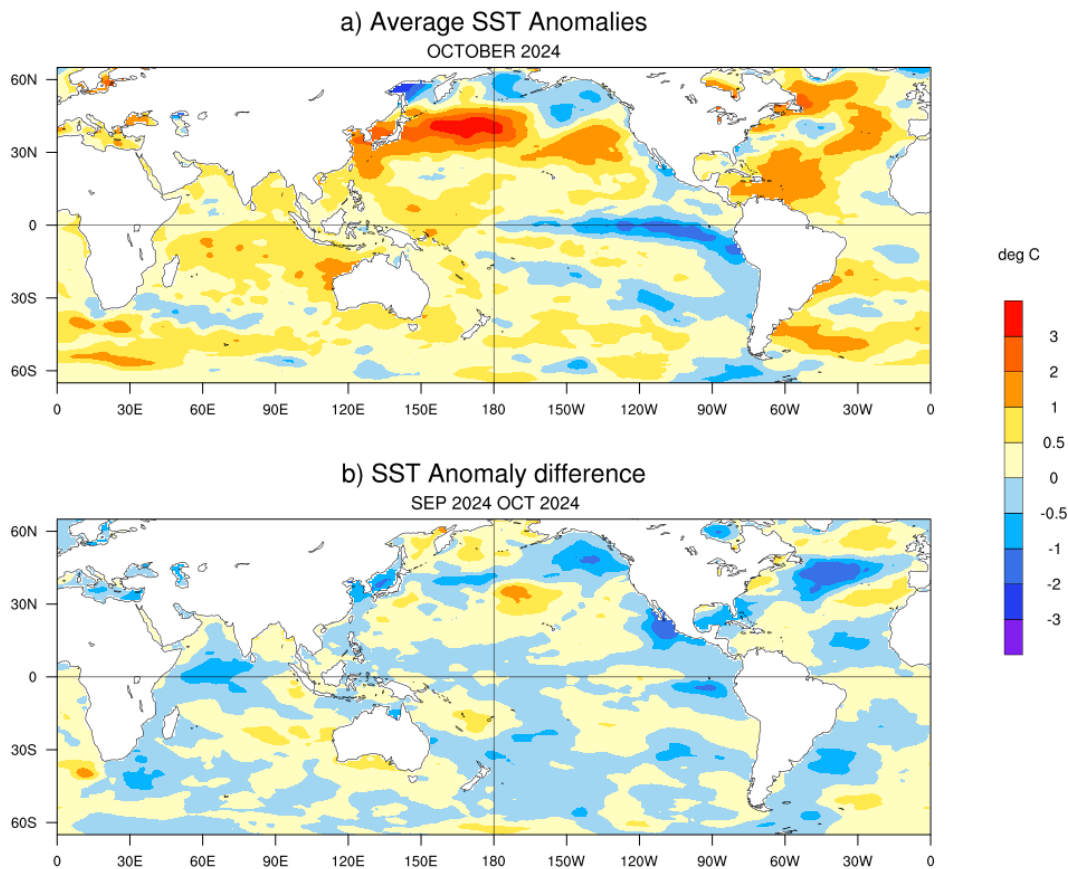
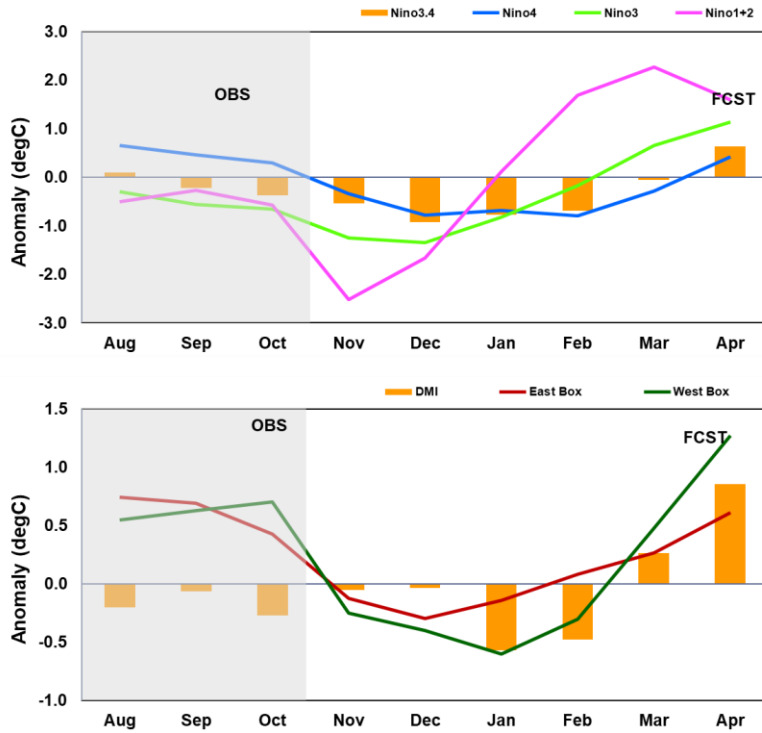


Fig.1: (a) Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) during October 2024 and (b) changes in the SST anomalies (°C) from September to October 2024. SSTs are based on the COBE-SST 2, from NOAA, and anomalies are computed with respect to 30-year (1991-2020) long term mean.

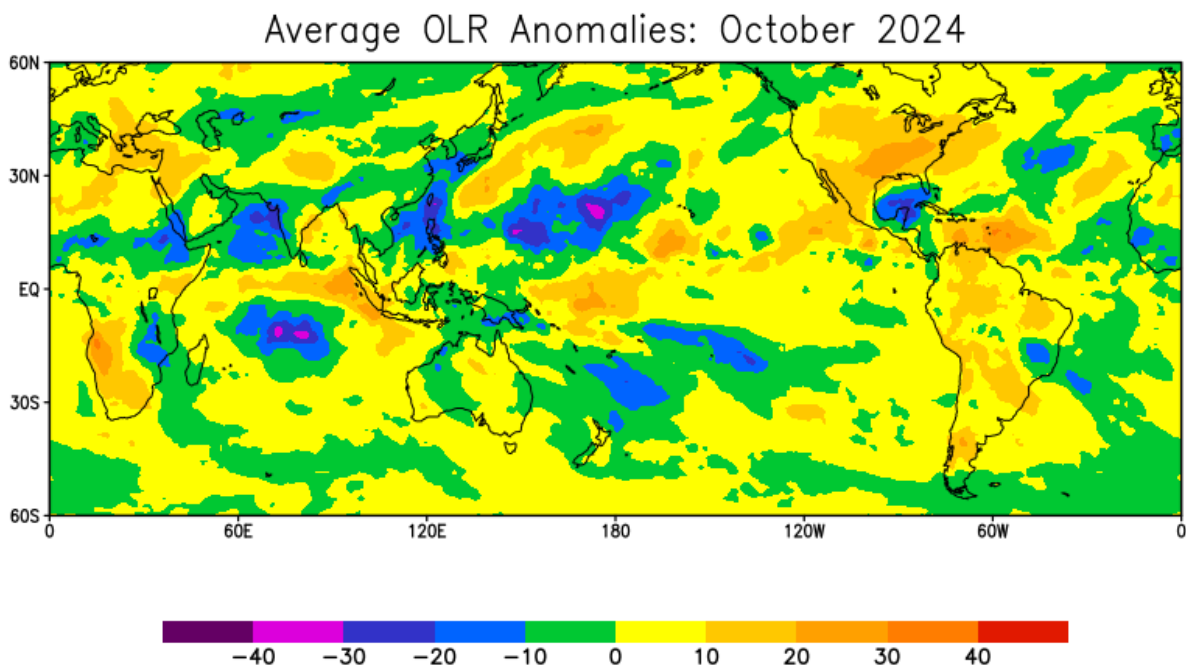


**Fig.2:** Time series of monthly area-averaged SST anomalies ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in the 4 Niño regions. ERSSTv5 observed anomaly for the last 3 months and MMCFS model PDF corrected anomaly forecast for the next 6 months.

**Fig.3:** The time series of the monthly area-averaged SST anomaly Indices ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) over west equatorial Indian Ocean (WEI) & east equatorial Indian Ocean (EEI) along with Dipole Mode Index (DMI=WEI-EEI) representing Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). ERSSTv5 observed anomaly for the last 3 months and MMCFS model PDF corrected anomaly forecast for the next 6 months.

### 1.3 Convection (OLR Anomaly) Pattern over the Asia Pacific Region

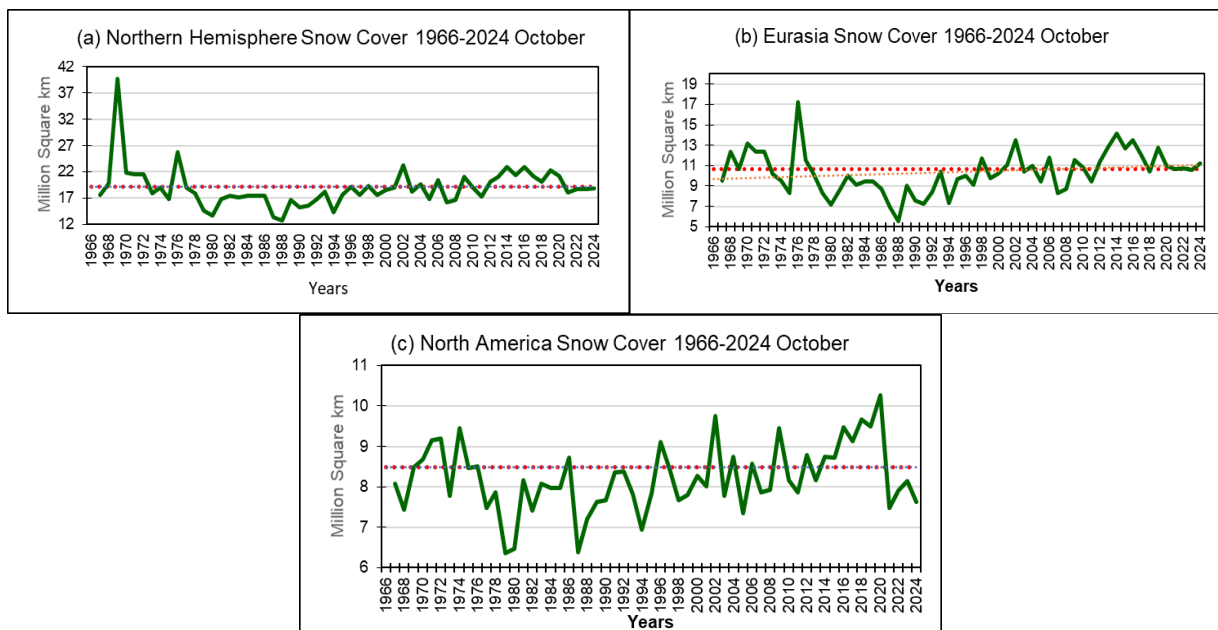
The Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) anomaly during October 2024 is shown in (Fig.4). Negative OLR anomalies (enhanced convection, blue shading) were observed over most parts of Arabian Sea, south Indian Ocean, south China Sea and western tropical Pacific Ocean. Negative OLR anomalies were also observed over west coast of India and Philippines. Positive OLR anomalies (suppressed convection, orange/red shading) were observed over eastern Indian Ocean and central equatorial Pacific Ocean. Positive OLR anomalies were also observed over north and south America and some parts of Africa.



**Fig.4:** Outgoing Long Wave Radiation (OLR) Anomaly ( $\text{W/m}^2$ ) for October 2024 (Data source: NCEP-NOAA)

### 1.4 Snow Cover Area over the Northern Hemisphere (NH)

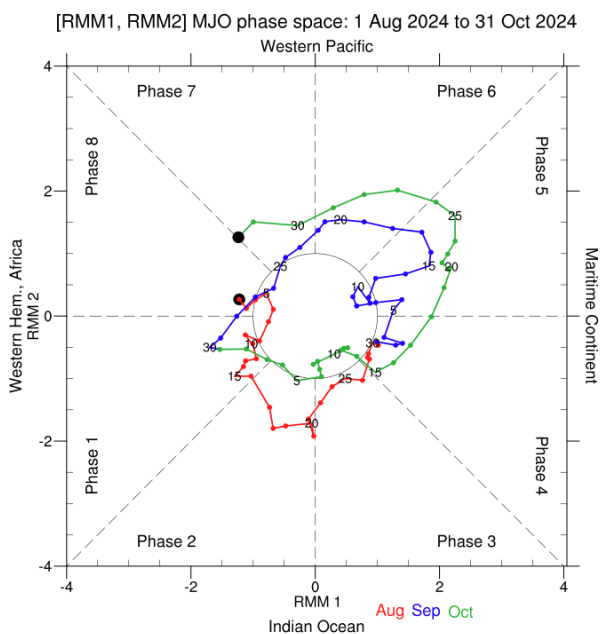
During October 2024, the NH snow cover area (18.88 million Sq. km) was less than the 1991-2020 normal by 0.28 million Sq. km (Fig. 5). Eurasian Snow cover area (11.27 million Sq. km) was 0.58 million Sq. km more than the 1991-2020 normal. North America snow cover area of 7.62 million sq. km was less by 0.86 million Sq. Km with respect to 1991-2020 normal.



**Fig.5.** Snow cover area (million Sq. km) for the month of October during the period 1966-2024 (green solid lines) and normal value (1991-2020) (red dotted line) for (a) Northern Hemisphere (b) Eurasia and (c) North America. (Data Source: Rutgers University Snow Lab).

### 1.5 Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO)

During the first week of October 2024, MJO moved from phase 1 (Western Hemisphere and Africa) to phase 2 (Indian Ocean) with moderate strength. It then moved eastwards to phase 3 (Indian Ocean) with reduced strength in the second week. In the second fortnight, it moved further eastwards and reached phase 7 (Western Pacific) with increased strength by the end of the month. The MJO phase diagram illustrates the progression of the MJO through different phases, which generally coincide with locations along the equator around the globe.



**Fig.6.** RMM phase diagram for Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) for the period August to October 2024. (Data Source: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/mjo/>).

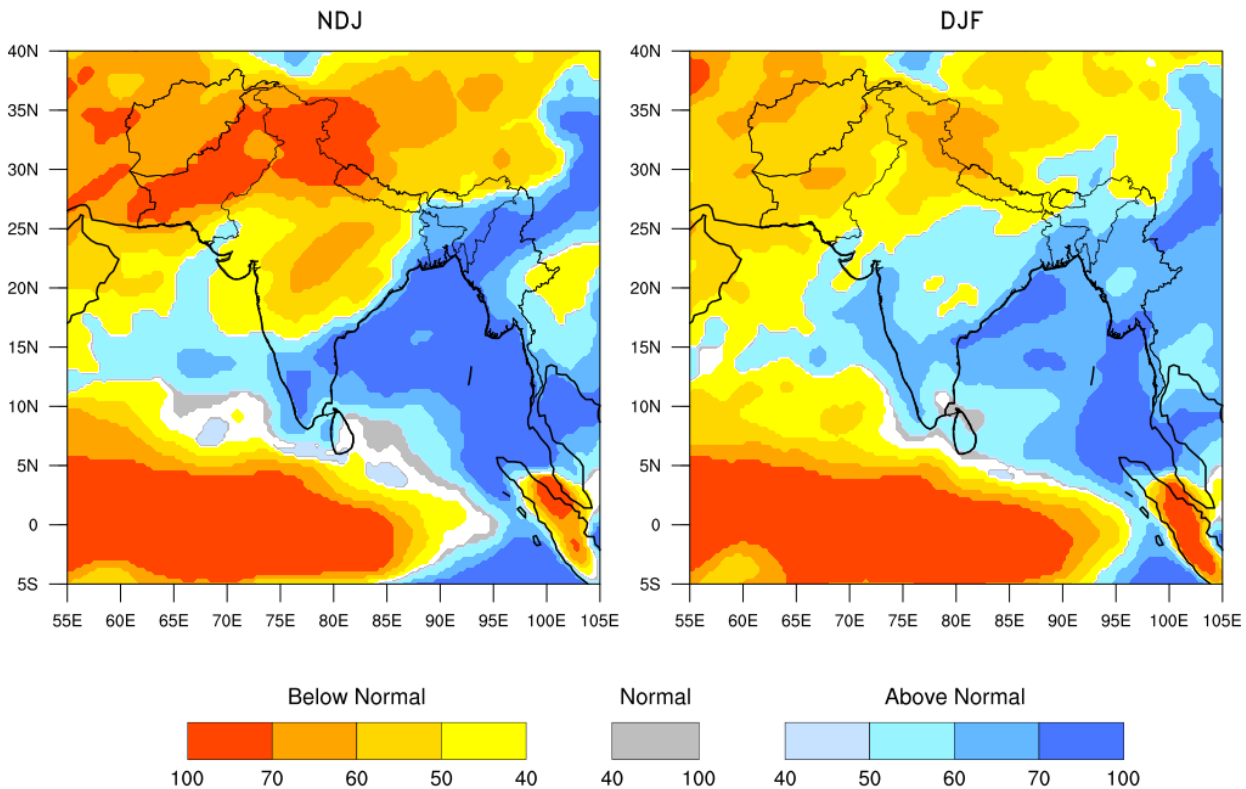
## 2. Seasonal Outlook for South Asia

The seasonal outlook was prepared based on the forecast from Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System (MMCFS). The model is a fully coupled ocean-atmosphere-land model. The atmospheric component of CFSv2 is Global Forecast System (GFS) with spectral resolution of T382 (approximately 38 km) and 64 hybrid vertical levels and the ocean component is Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) Flexible Modelling System (FMS) Modular Ocean Model version.

### 2.1. Precipitation Probability Forecast:

The probability forecasts for precipitation for the seasons November 2024 to January 2025 (NDJ) and December 2024 to February 2025 (DJF) are given in the Figures 7a and 7b respectively. The forecast is prepared based on the October initial conditions. The probability forecast for precipitation for NDJ season indicate that enhanced probability of above normal precipitation is likely in extreme south peninsular India, northeast and southeast of South Asia and enhanced probability of below normal precipitation is likely over northwest, north along the plains of Himalayas, west and central parts of South Asia. The same for DJF season indicates that enhanced probability of above normal precipitation is likely in most parts of central, south peninsular, northeast and south east of South Asia and enhanced probability of below normal precipitation in northwest, west and north along the plains of Himalayas.

MMCFS Rainfall % Probability Forecast: Oct1C2024



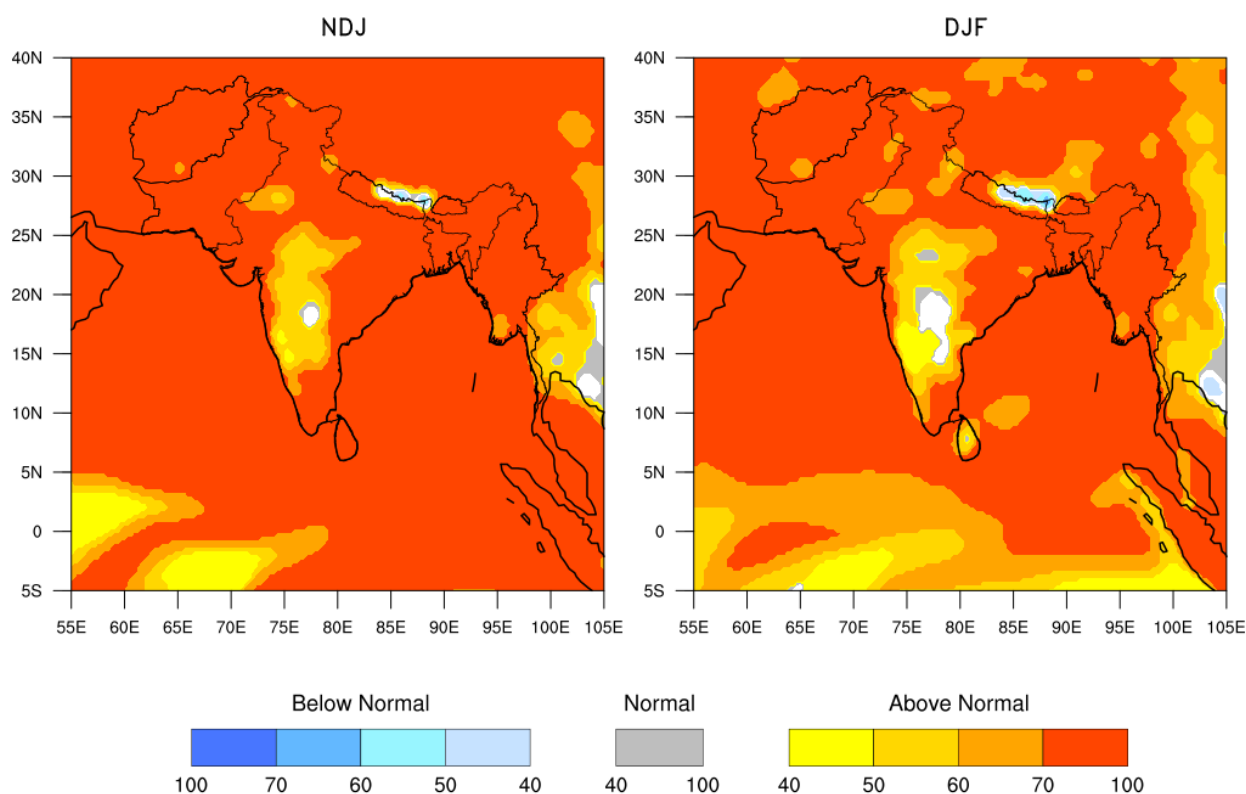
**Fig.7:** Seasonal probability (%) forecasts of precipitation for (a) NDJ 2024-25 (left) and (b) DJF 2024-25 (right) based on initial conditions of October 2024. The white colour indicates climatological probability.

### 2.2. Temperature Probability Forecast:

The probability forecasts for temperature for the season November 2024 to January 2025 (NDJ) and December 2024 to February 2025 (DJF) are given in the Figures 8a and 8b respectively. The forecast is prepared based on the October initial conditions. Temperature probability forecast for NDJ and DJF seasons indicate that enhanced probability of above normal temperatures is likely over most parts of South Asia.



## MMCFS Temperature % Probability Forecast : OctIC 2024



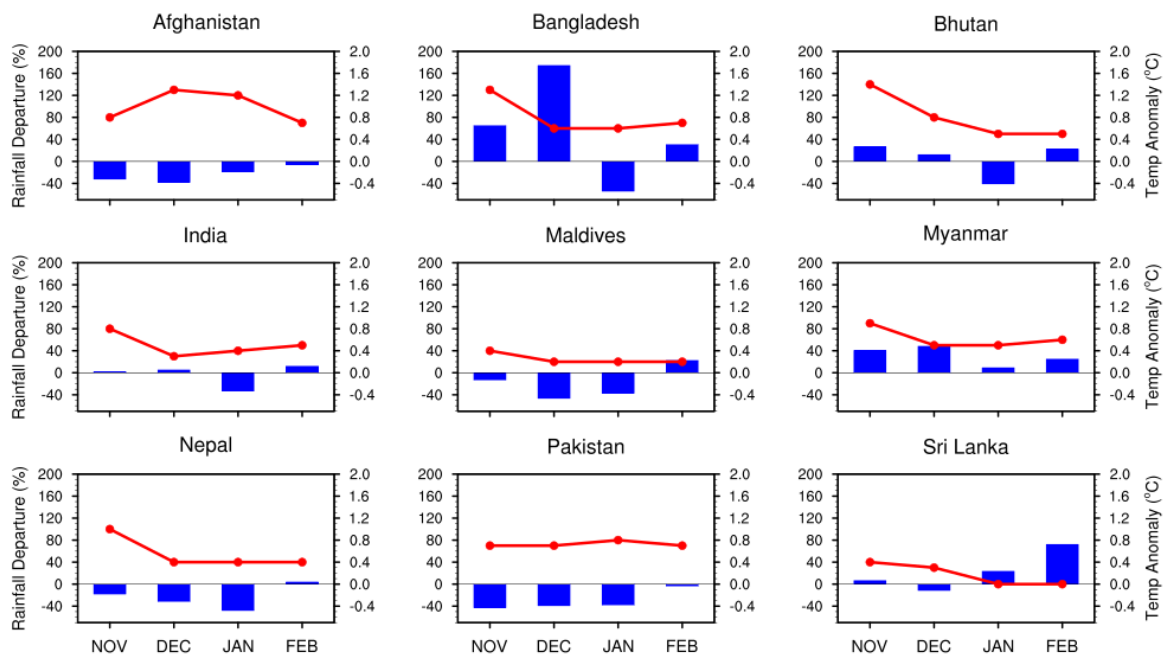
**Fig. 8:** Probability (%) forecast for the seasonal mean temperature for (a) NDJ 2024-25 (left) and (b) DJF 2024-25 (right) based on initial conditions of October 2024. The white colour indicates climatological probability.

### 3. Forecast Outlook for the Country Averaged Monthly Precipitation and Temperature

The MMCFS model forecast for monthly precipitation and temperature for the next four months (from November 2024 to February 2025) averaged over the 9 south Asian countries viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were shown in the Figures 9. The monthly rainfall anomaly is expressed as percentage departure from Long Period Model Average (LPMA) and monthly temperature anomaly is expressed in degree Celsius.

In November, the country averaged monthly precipitation is likely to be normal to above normal for all the South Asian countries except Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan where it is likely to be below normal. In December, the country averaged monthly precipitation is likely to be normal to above normal for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Myanmar and below normal for Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan. In January, it is likely to be normal to below normal in all the south Asian countries except Sri Lanka where it is likely to be above normal. In February, the country averaged monthly precipitation is likely to be normal to above normal for all the South Asian countries.

The country averaged monthly temperatures during November, December, January and February are likely to be normal to above normal for all South Asian countries.



**Fig. 9:** Monthly country averaged rainfall forecast expressed as percentage departures (%) and Monthly country averaged temperature anomaly (°C) forecast during November 2024 to February 2025. Here, the normal range for country averaged monthly precipitation is taken as -10% to +10% (Left Vertical Axis Scale for Precipitation indicated in blue shaded bars) and the normal range for country averaged monthly temperature is taken -0.25°C to +0.25°C (Right Vertical Axis Scale for Temperature indicated in red coloured lines).