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வளிமண்டலவியல் திணைக்களம்
DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY
ශ්‍රී ලංකාව இலங்கை SRI LANKA

Consensus Seasonal Weather Outlook
October, November and December (OND) 2026
Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature for Sri Lanka

These forecasts are prepared using

- The prevailing global climate conditions.
- Forecasts from different climate models from around the world.
- Statistical downscaling of GCM output using CPT

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1. Prevailing global climate conditions

During the last four weeks, above-average SSTs were prevalent over most of the global oceans. Equatorial SSTs were near average around Indonesia. Equatorial SSTs were above average in the Indian Ocean and part of the Atlantic Ocean. In the equatorial Pacific, above-average SSTs were amplified east of the Date Line. (source-CPC-NOAA).

1.1 El Nino and La Nina update

El Niño is present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average across the east central and eastern Pacific Ocean. The atmospheric circulation anomalies over the equatorial Pacific Ocean are consistent with El Niño. During September-November through November-January 2026-27, there is a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño (source-CPC-NOAA).

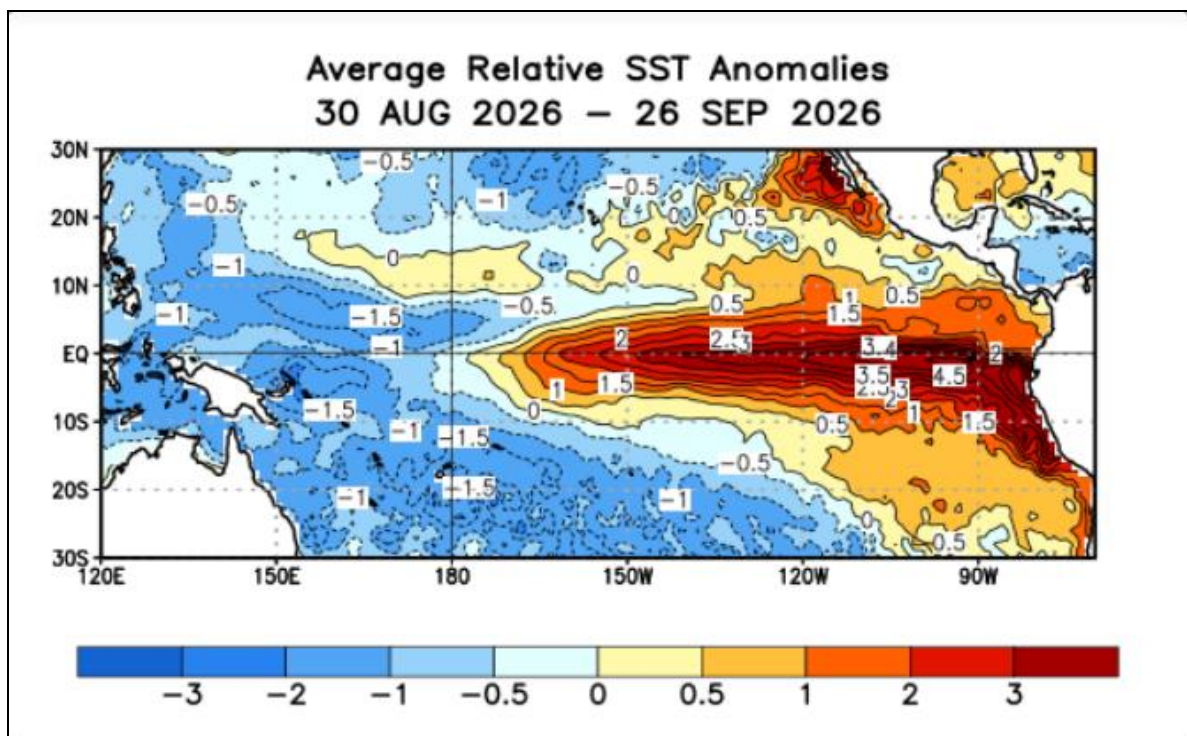


Fig 1: Observed Average Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C)

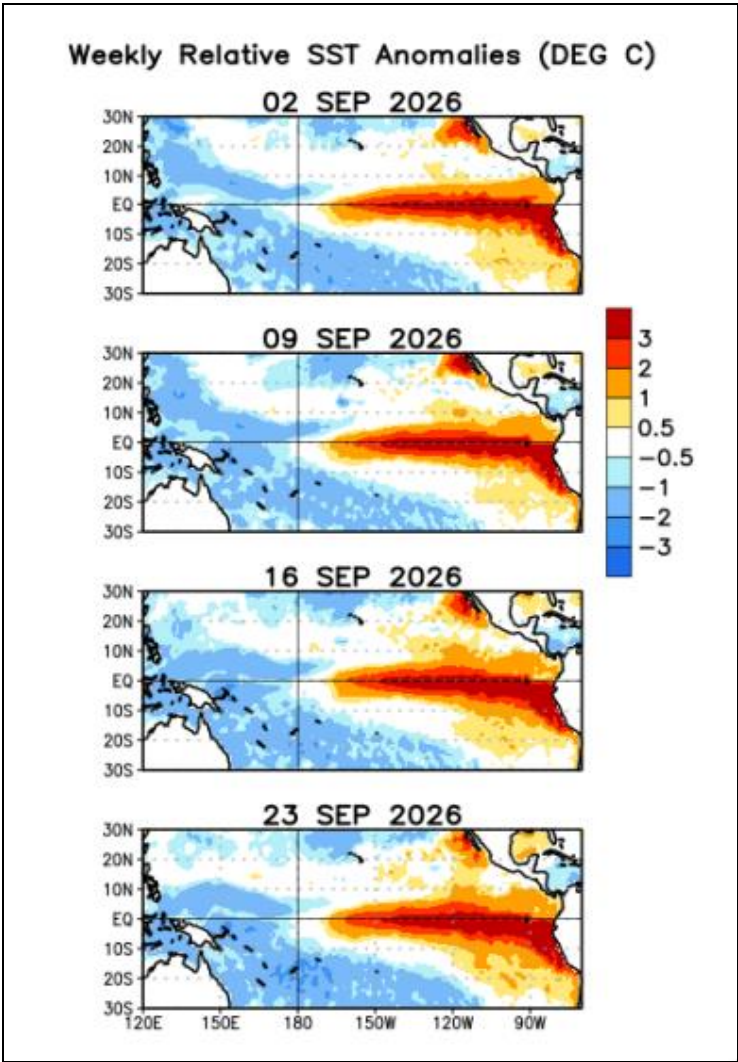


Fig 2: Weekly Observed Average Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C)

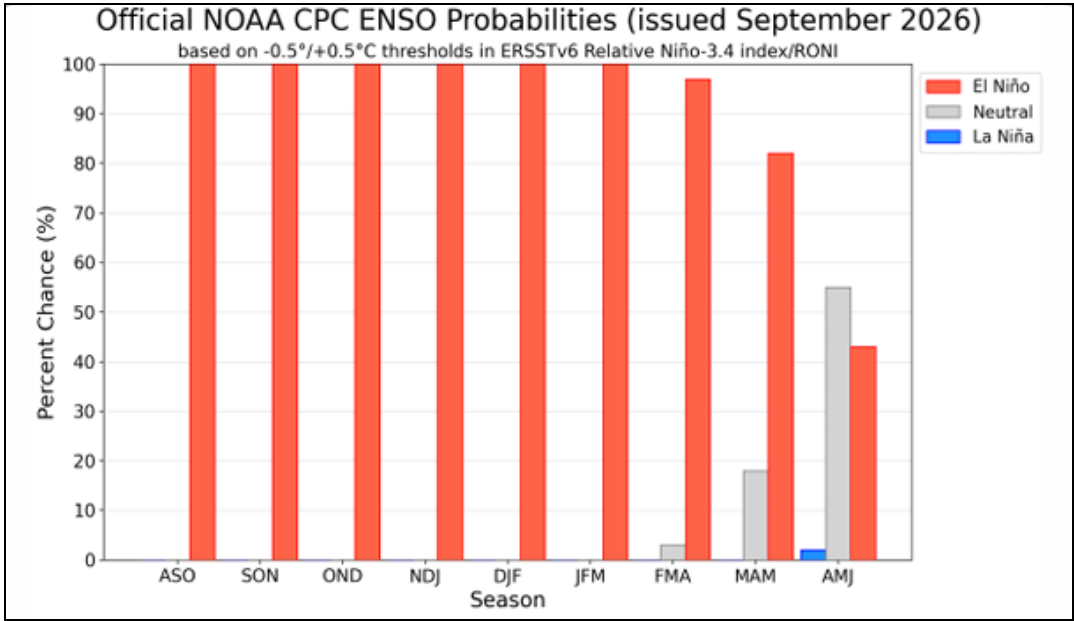


Fig 3a: ENSO forecast from Climate Prediction Center (CPC)/ IRI Forecast

1.2 CPC Probabilistic ENSO Strength Outlook

During September-November through November-January 2026-27, there is a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño. During the October-December 2026 season, there is a 75% chance of a historic event that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950.

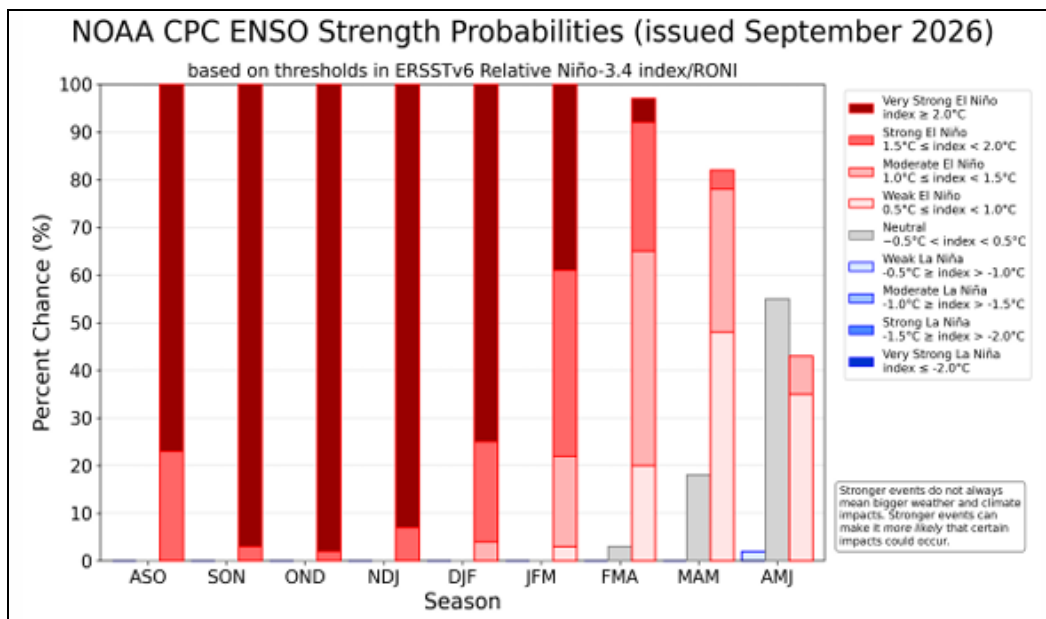


Fig 3b: ENSO strength Probabilities (CPC-NOAA)

1.3 Impacts of El-Nino on monthly rainfall anomaly during October, November and December

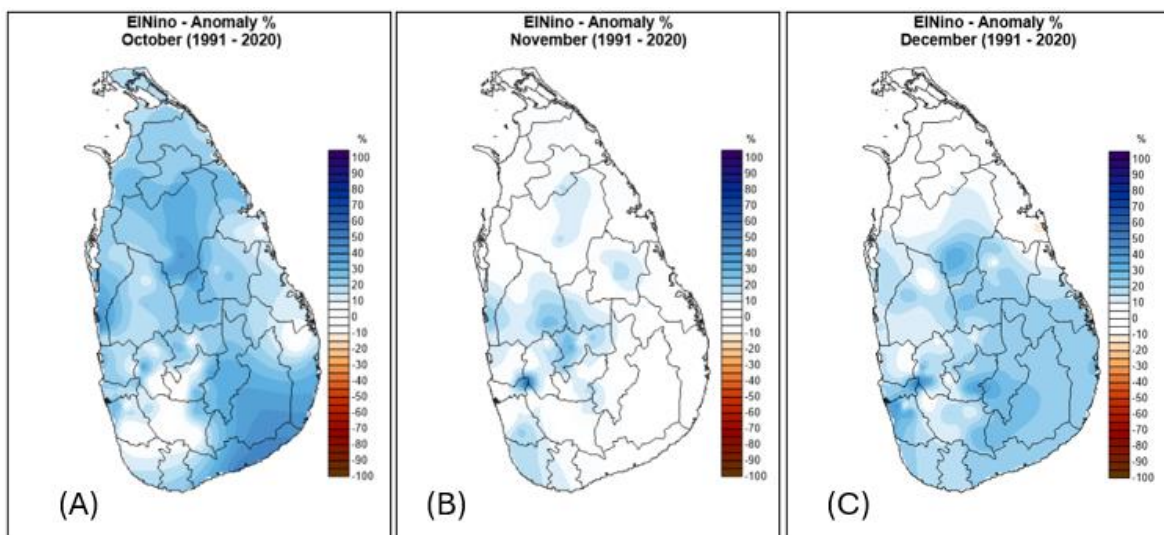


Fig 3c: Monthly Rainfall Anomaly maps of the months of October(A), November (B) and December (C) during El-Nino years (Department of Meteorology)

Research conducted by the Department of Meteorology, it has been found that, above normal rainfall was received in most parts of the country and some areas in Rathnapura, Kegalle and Kalutara it was reported near normal rainfall during the month of October. During the month of November near to slightly above normal rainfall was received over most parts of the country.

During the month of December near normal rainfall was reported in Northern province and some areas in Trincomalee and Anuradhapura districts and above normal rainfall was received over remaining parts of the country while the El-Nino conditions were prevailed. (Fig 3c).

1.4 The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) update

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral although the IOD index value for the week ending 27 September 2026 is +0.76 °C. Models suggest a positive IOD is likely to develop during the southern hemisphere spring, although there is still uncertainty in the strength and duration of the event. (source- BOM, Australia).

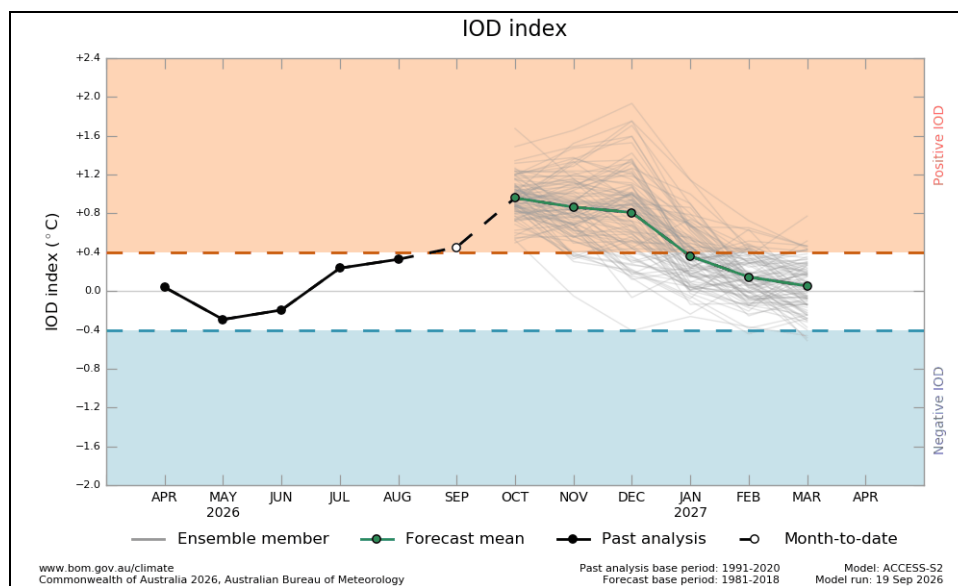


Figure 4a: IOD forecast from Australian Bureau of Meteorology

2. Forecasts from different climate models from around the world

2.1 October to December (OND) 2026 season

Figure 5 shows the probabilistic multi model ensemble forecast which prepared by using dynamical models from 12 Global Producing Centers (GPC) for OND season. According to that it can be expected above normal rainfall over the country during the OND 2026 season

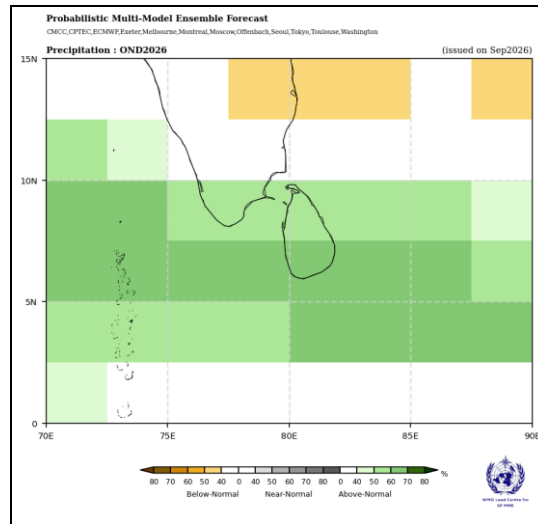


Fig 5: Probabilistic multi model ensemble forecast for OND using dynamical models from 12 WMO global producing centers (GPC).

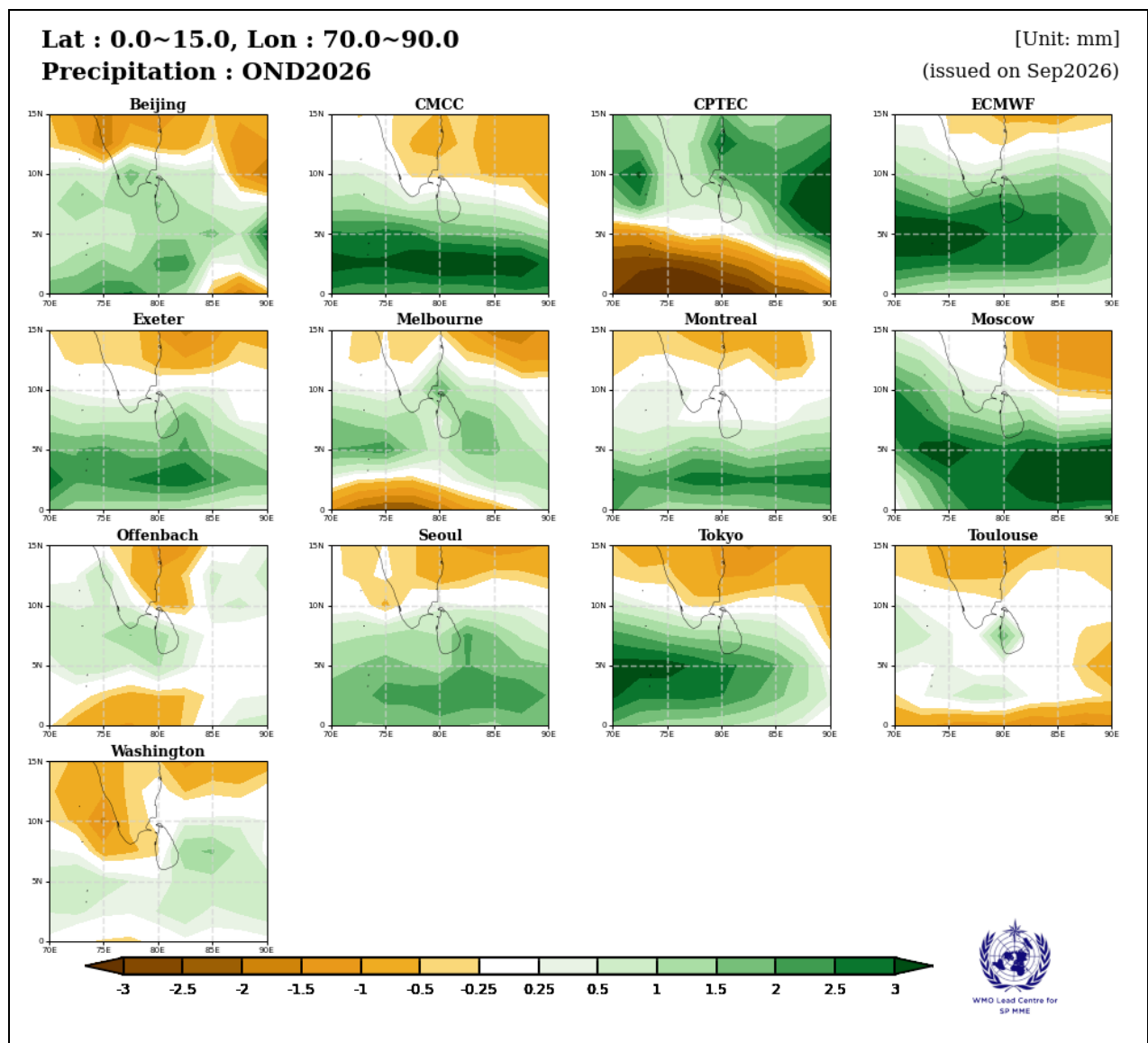


Fig 6: Individual forecasts for OND 2026 season by dynamical models from 13 WMO global producing centers (GPC).

Figure 6 depicts individual forecasts provided by same GPC centers for the OND season. Out of 13 GPC individual models, 10 GPC models predicted above normal rainfall over the country. Accordingly, above normal rainfall is likely over the country during the OND 2026 season

2.2 Monthly Forecast for October, November and December 2026

Figure 7 shows the probabilistic multi model ensemble forecasts, which are prepared by using dynamical models from 12 global producing centers (GPC), for the months of October, November and December 2026. According to that, during the month of October and November above normal rainfalls are likely over the country. During the month of December above normal rainfall conditions are likely over Western, Southern, Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces and Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Ampara districts. There is no clear signal indicate over remaining areas of the country. Equal chances exist of receiving below, about or above normal rainfall over no signal areas of the country during the period.

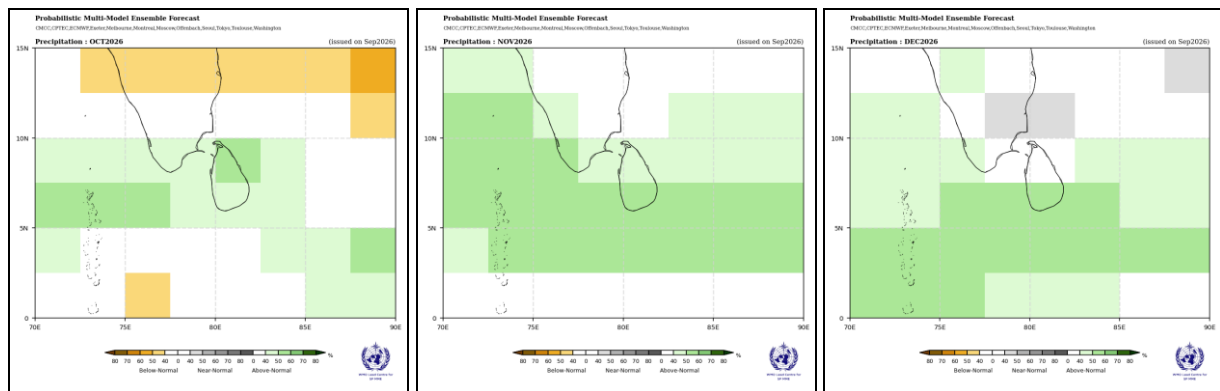


Fig 7: Probabilistic multi model ensemble forecast for October (left), November (middle) and December (right) 2026 using dynamical models from 12 WMO global producing centers (GPC).

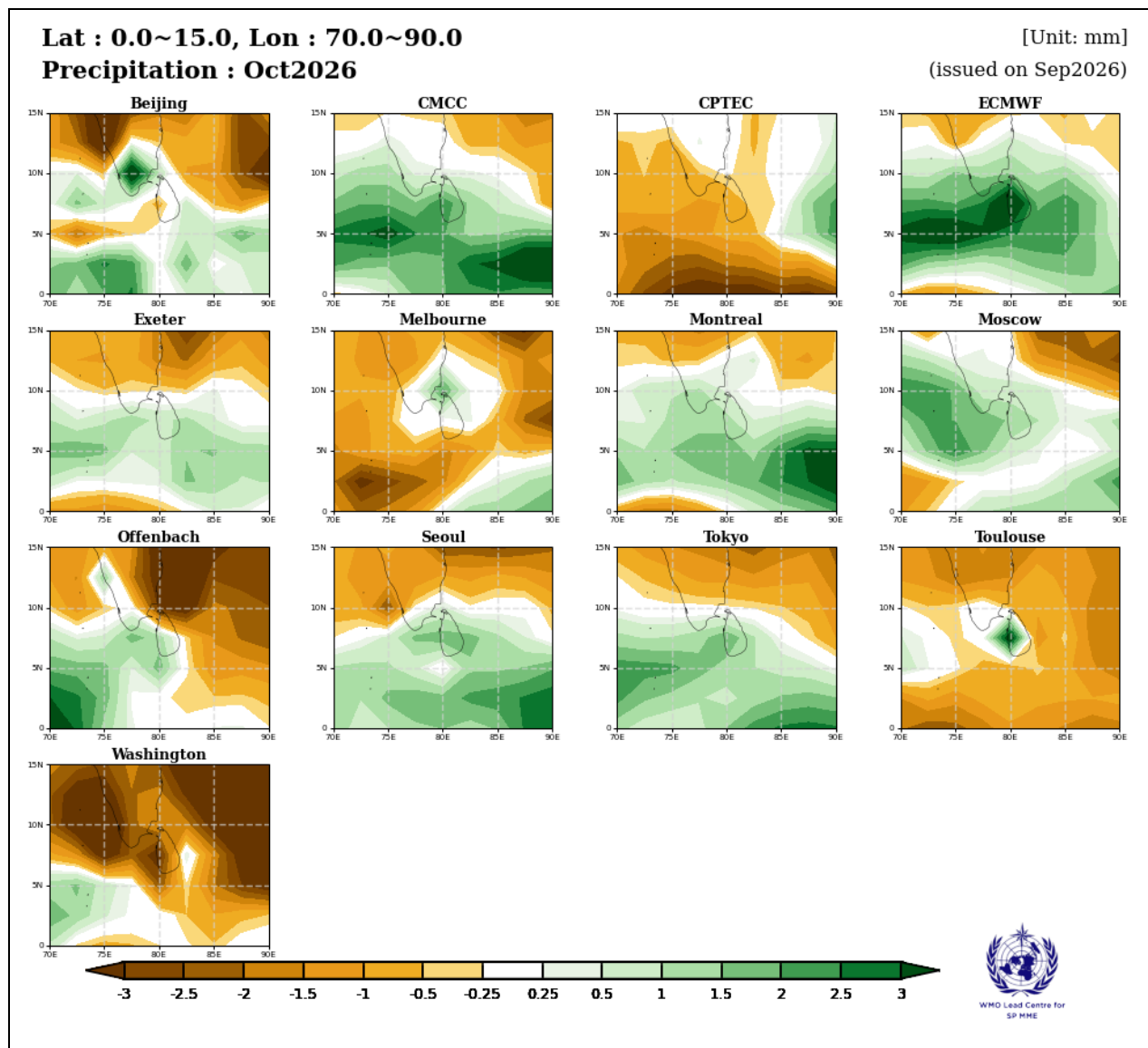


Fig 8: Individual forecast for October 2026 by dynamical models from 13 WMO global producing centers (GPC).

Figure 8, shows the monthly forecasts from individual global producing centers (GPC) for October 2026. Out of 13 GPC forecasts, 7 GPC models predicted above normal rainfalls over most parts of the country except Northern province, where no clear signal is indicated. There is 2 GPC models predicted below normal rainfall. Accordingly, most parts of the country are likely to experience above-normal rainfall during October 2026, while the Northern province is expected to receive below or about or above normal rainfall.

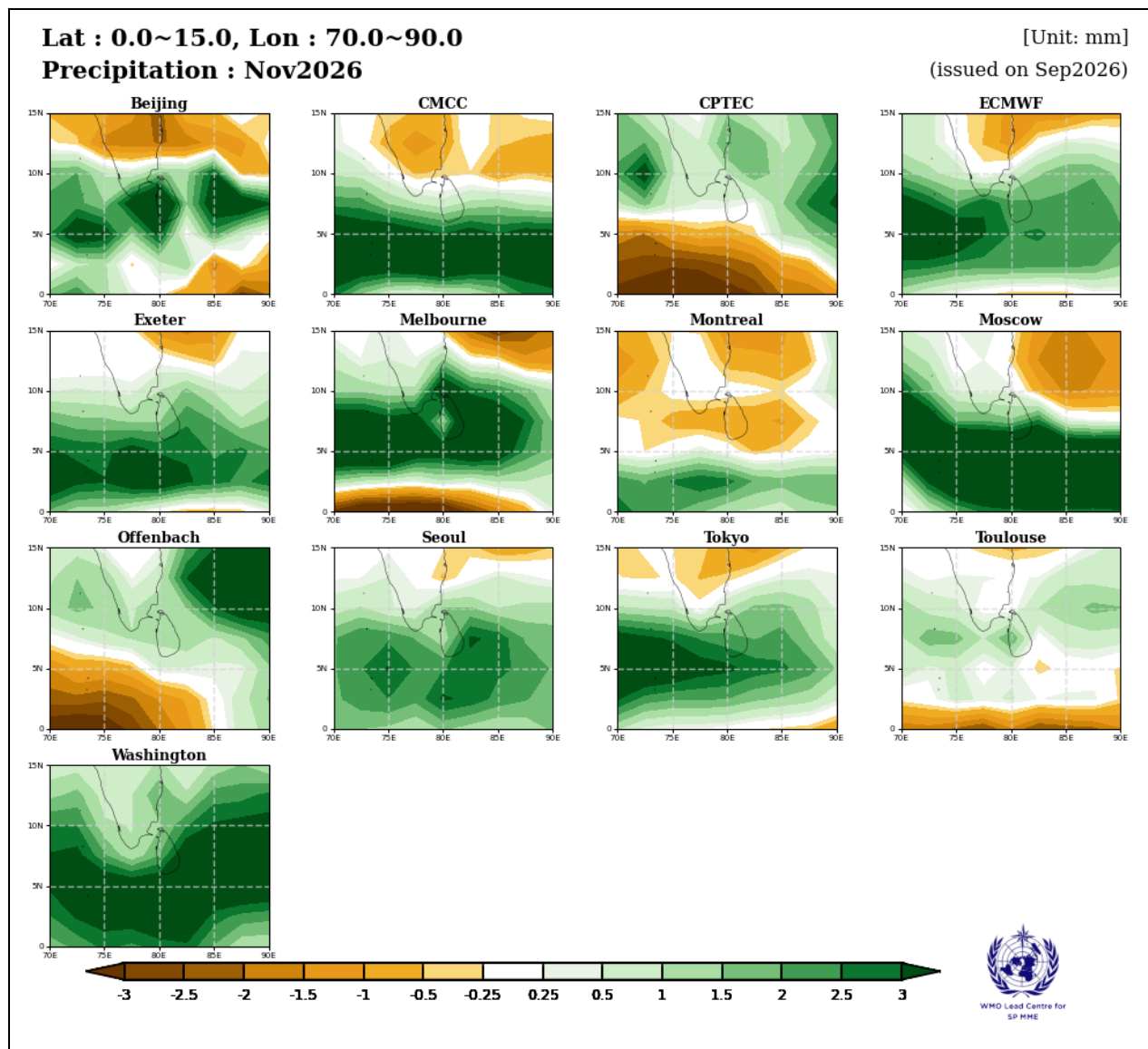


Fig 9: Individual forecast for November 2026 by dynamical models from 13 WMO global producing centers (GPC).

Figure 9 shows the monthly forecasts from individual global producing centers (GPC) for November 2026. Out of 13 GPC forecasts, 10 GPC models predicted above normal rainfall over the country. There is no clear signal indicated in 03 GPC models. Accordingly, above normal rainfalls are likely to experience over most parts of the country during the month of November 2026.

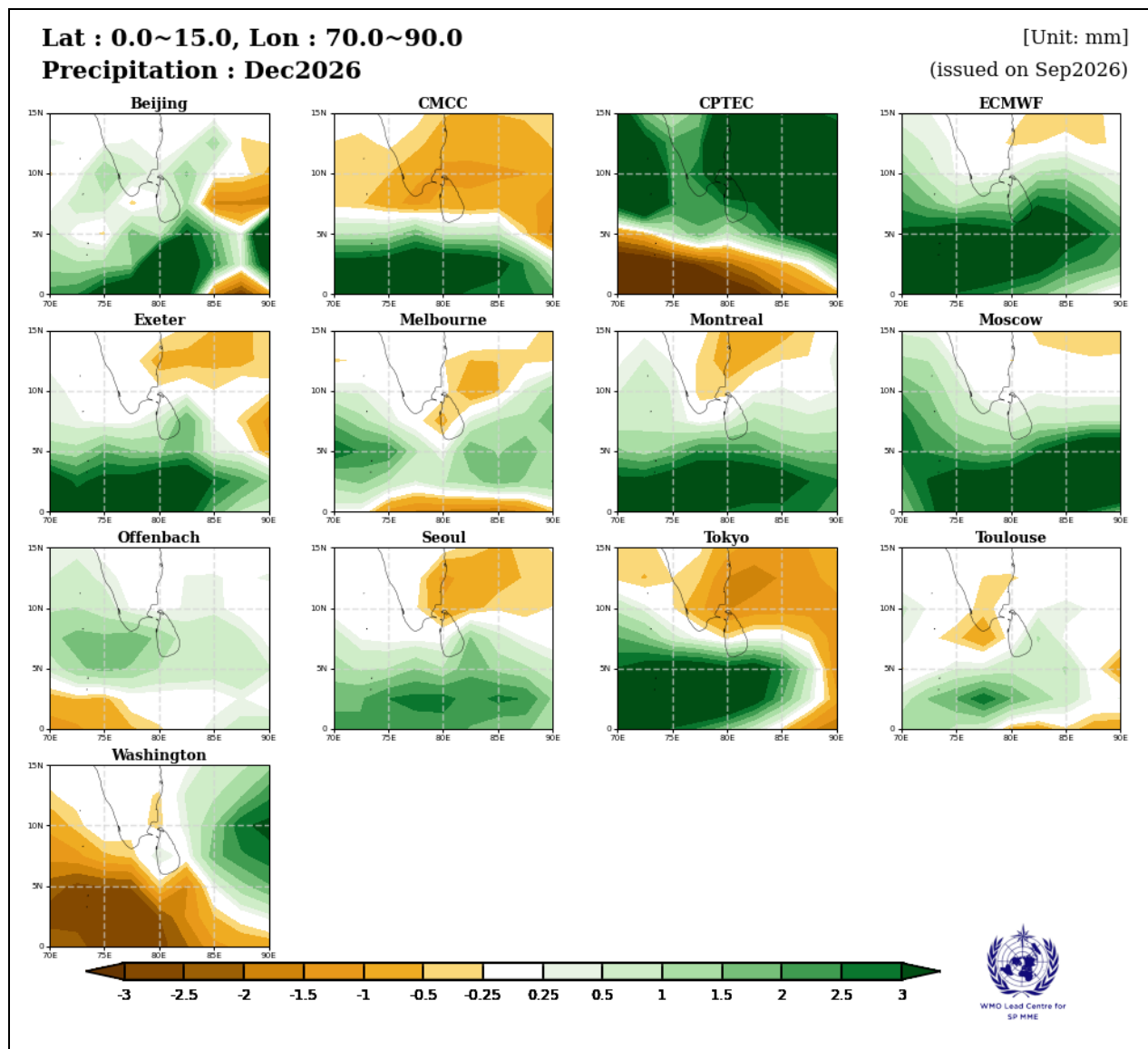


Fig 10: Individual forecast for December 2026 by dynamical models from 13 WMO global producing centers (GPC).

Figure 10 shows the monthly forecasts from 13 individual global producing centers (GPC) for December 2026. Out of 13 GPC forecasts, 08 GPC models indicate above normal rainfall over the country except Northern province and 05 GPC models indicated no clear signal over the country. Accordingly, most parts of the country are likely to experience above-normal rainfall during December 2026.

3.1 Probabilistic rainfall forecast for OND season 2026 using Climate Predictability tool (CPT)

The following probabilistic rainfall forecasts for the season of OND 2026 have been prepared with using Climate Predictability tool of the FOCUS-X, which has been prepared by RIMES (Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System). Figures 11 and 12 present the Multi-Model

Ensemble (MME) products generated from the CMCC, DWD, ECCC, ECMWF, and Météo-France climate models for the OND season and the individual months, respectively.

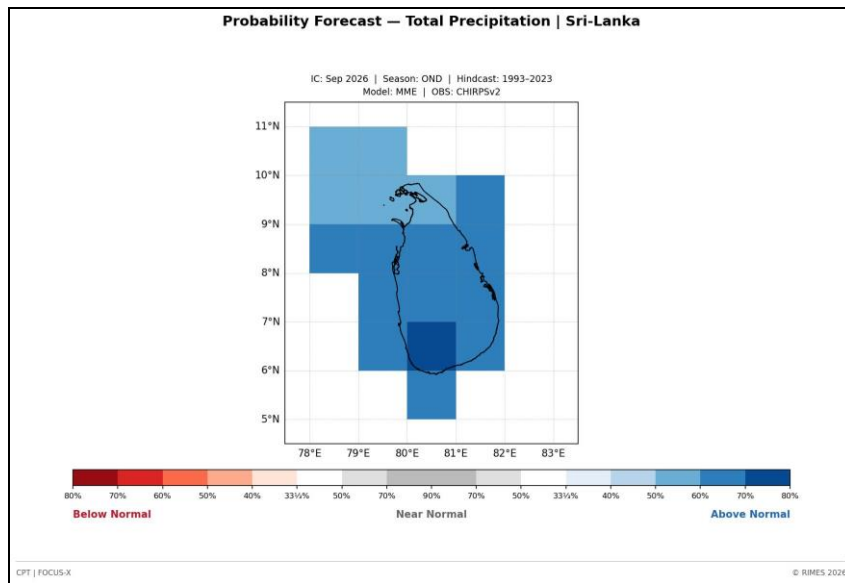


Fig 11: Probabilistic rainfall forecast for October–December 2026 using CPT

According to the CPT (Fig 11), rainfall is expected to be above normal over most parts of the country during the OND 2026 season.

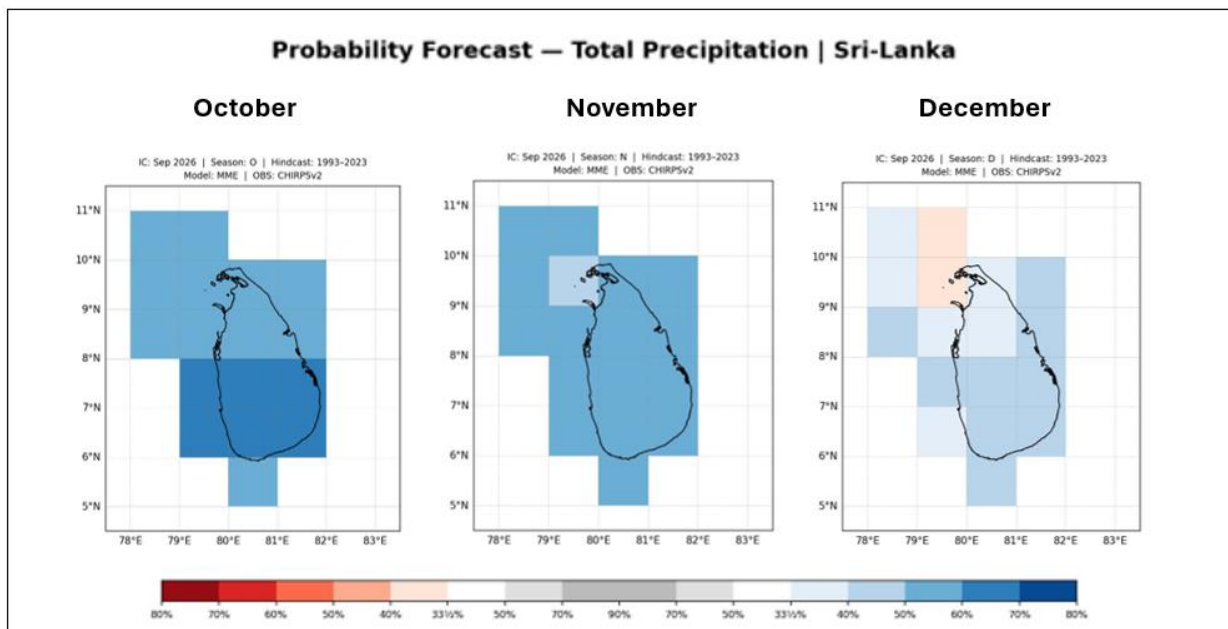


Fig 12: Probabilistic rainfall forecast for October, November and December months in 2026 using CPT

According to Fig 12 during the month of October, November and December indicated above normal rainfall over most parts of the country.

3.2 XCAST-Climate forecasting Toolkit- Ensemble Forecast (CMCC, ECCC and ECMWF) October-December (OND) 2026

XCast is a Python Climate Forecasting toolkit - It is a set of flexible functions and classes that implement any forecasting workflow. It uses Xarray and Dask Parallelism to apply statistical and machine learning methods to any kind of gridded climate data quickly and efficiently.

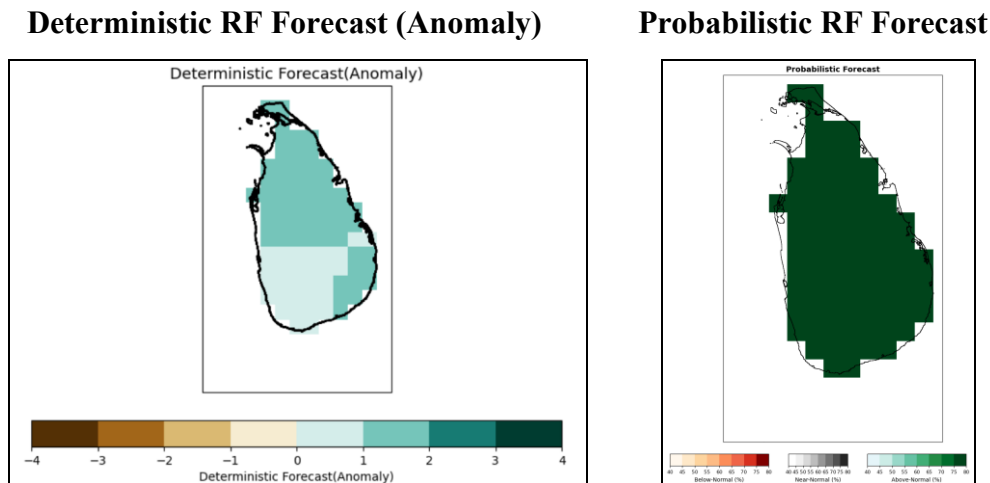


Fig 13. Deterministic rainfall Forecast (Anomaly)-(left) and Probabilistic Rainfall Forecast (right) for October-December 2026 using XCAST Tool

1. Deterministic Forecast (Anomaly) — October-December 2026

The deterministic rainfall anomaly forecast indicates that most parts of Sri Lanka are expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the forecast period.

2. Probabilistic Forecast — October-December 2026

The probabilistic rainfall forecast indicates a high likelihood of above-normal rainfall across most parts of Sri Lanka during the forecast period.

4. SUMMARY:

SUMMARY of MODEL FORECAST for OND 2026 season for SRI LANKA					
SEASON	WMO LC MME	WMO GPC	CPT	Impact of Global conditions	Final Rainfall Forecast
OND season 2026	AN	AN	AN	El Niño is expected to be continued. Positive IOD is likely to develop.	NN-Northern province AN-elsewhere
October 2026	AN	AN	AN		NN-Northern province AN-elsewhere
November 2026	AN	AN	AN		AN
December 2026	AN-Western, Southern, Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces and Kandy, Nuwar Eliya and Ampara districts. No Signal- Elsewhere	AN	AN		NN-Northern province AN-elsewhere

Table 1: Summery of Model Forecasts for OND season 2026

BN: Below Normal NN: Near Normal AN: Above Normal CP: Climatological Probability

4.1 Summery of prevailing global climate conditions

El Niño is present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average across the east central and eastern Pacific Ocean. The atmospheric circulation anomalies over the equatorial Pacific Ocean are consistent with El Niño. During September–November through November–January 2026–27, there is a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. Models suggest a positive IOD will develop during the southern hemisphere winter and persist into spring, although there remains some uncertainty in its timing and strength.

5. Consensus Seasonal outlook for October, November and December 2026

Considering the prevailing global climate conditions, forecasts from different global climate models and statistical downscaling of GCM output using CPT and Xcast, consensus forecasts for October to December 2026 season is concluded as follows.

5.1 Rainfall forecast for the three months' period during October–November–December (OND) 2026

Most parts of Sri Lanka are expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the OND (October–November–December) 2026, while the Northern Province is likely to experience near-normal rainfall conditions (Fig. 14).

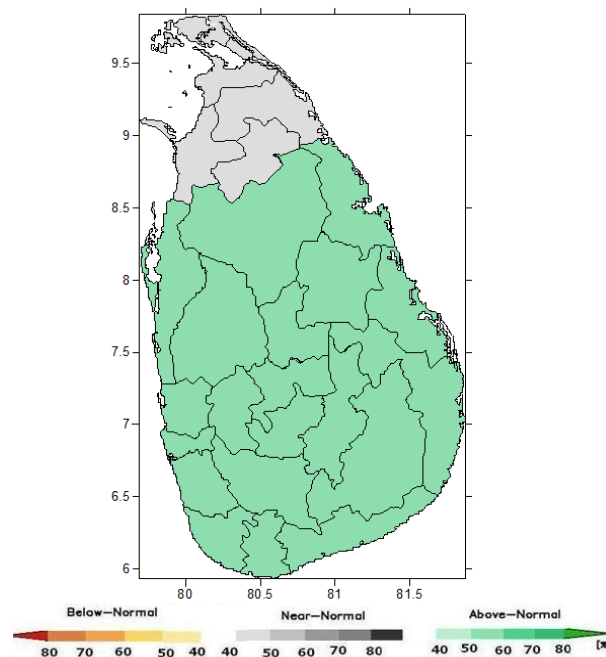


Fig 14. Consensus Probabilistic rainfall forecast for October–December 2026

5.2 Rainfall forecast for October 2026

There is a higher probability of slightly above-normal rainfall across most parts of the country, while near-normal rainfall is expected in the Northern Province during October 2026.

5.3 Rainfall forecasts for November 2026

There is an increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall across most parts of the country, during November 2026.

5.4 Rainfall forecasts for December 2026

There is a higher probability of slightly above-normal rainfall across most parts of the country, while near-normal rainfall is expected in the Northern Province during December 2026.

****Remarks-:** The predictability is also limited due to strong day-to-day atmospheric variability caused by the passage of the synoptic scale systems such as lows and depressions. Intraseasonal Oscillations such as Madden Julian Oscillations (MJO) is also another atmospheric phenomenon which can't be underestimated.

5.5 Probabilistic Temperature Forecast from October to December 2026 (OND)

The probabilistic Temperature forecast for October, November and December season (OND) 2026 for Sri Lanka as given below.

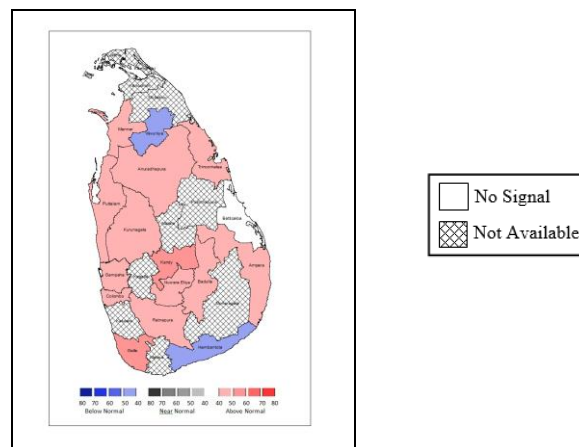


Fig 15: Probabilistic forecast for Maximum Temperatures for OND season 2026

Fig 15 and Table 2 show the probabilistic forecast for Maximum Temperatures during OND season 2026.

There is a higher chance of experiencing slightly above the normal Maximum Temperatures in Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Gampaha, Colombo, Galle, Rathnapura, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Badulla, Ampara, Mannar and Trincomalee districts and below the normal Maximum Temperatures in Vavuniya and Hambantota districts for the OND season 2026.

The district wise average Maximum Temperatures are given in the column 2 of the table 2 and the chance (probability) of receiving below/about/above averages are given in the columns 3, 4, and 5 respectively.

District	Average Maximum Temperature (°C) – (1981-2010)-(OND)	Probability %		
		Below	Normal	Above
Anuradhapura	31.1	30	20	50
Badulla	27.3	30	20	50
Batticaloa	30.0	35	30	35
Colombo	30.6	25	25	50
Galle	29.7	10	30	60
Hambantota	30.6	50	25	25
Katugastota	28.6	10	30	60
Katunayake	30.8	25	25	50
Mannar	29.9	25	25	50
Maha Illuppallama	30.5	20	30	50
NuwaraEliya	19.6	10	30	50
Pottuvil	31.1	25	25	50
Puttalam	30.7	20	30	50
Ratnapura	31.4	20	30	50
Ratmalana	31.2	20	30	50
Trincomalee	30.3	30	20	50
Vavuniya	30.9	50	20	30
Kurunegala	31.0	25	25	50
Bandarawela	23.8	20	30	50

Table 2: probabilistic forecast for Maximum Temperature for OND season 2026

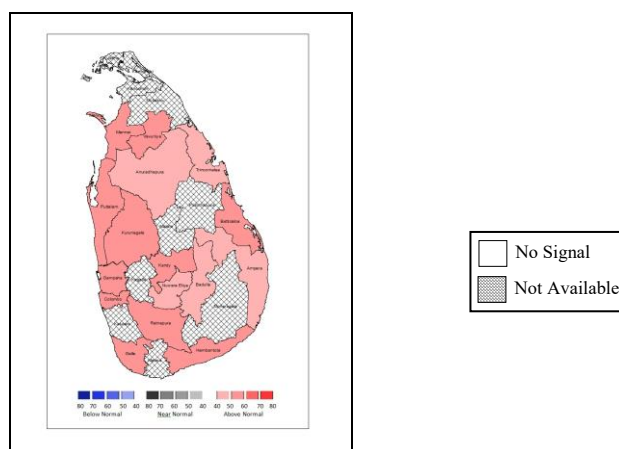


Fig 16: Probabilistic forecast for Minimum Temperatures for OND season 2026

Fig 16 and Table 3 provide the probabilistic forecast for Minimum Temperatures during OND season 2026.

Accordingly, there is a higher chance of experiencing slightly above the normal Minimum Temperatures Mannar, Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Gampaha, Colombo, Galle, Rathnapura, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Badulla, Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Hambanthota districts during OND season 2026.

The district wise average Maximum Temperatures are given in the column 2 of the table 3 and the chance (probability) of receiving below/about/above averages are given in the columns 3, 4, and 5 respectively.

District	Average Minimum Temperature (°C) – (1981-2010)- (OND)	Probability %		
		Below	Normal	Above
Anuradhapura	23.3	10	40	50
Badulla	18.8	20	30	50
Batticaloa	24.3	10	30	60
Colombo	24.1	10	30	60
Galle	24.2	10	30	60
Hambantota	24.2	10	30	60
Katugastota	20.3	10	30	60
Katunayake	23.5	10	30	60
Mannar	24.8	10	30	60
MahaIlluppallama	22.6	10	30	60
NuwaraEliya	12.1	20	30	50
Pottuvil	23.3	20	30	50
Puttalam	23.6	10	30	60
Ratnapura	22.7	10	30	60
Ratmalana	24.0	10	30	60
Trincomalee	24.1	20	30	50
Vavuniya	22.7	10	30	60
Kurunegala	22.6	10	30	60
Bandarawela	16.3	10	30	60

Table 3: Probabilistic forecast for Minimum Temperatures for OND season 2026

Note- Temperature forecasts are not available in **Matara, Kegalle, Kalutara, Monaragala, Polonnaruwa, Jaffna, Killinochchi, Mullativu and Mathale** districts due to unavailability of Climate data.