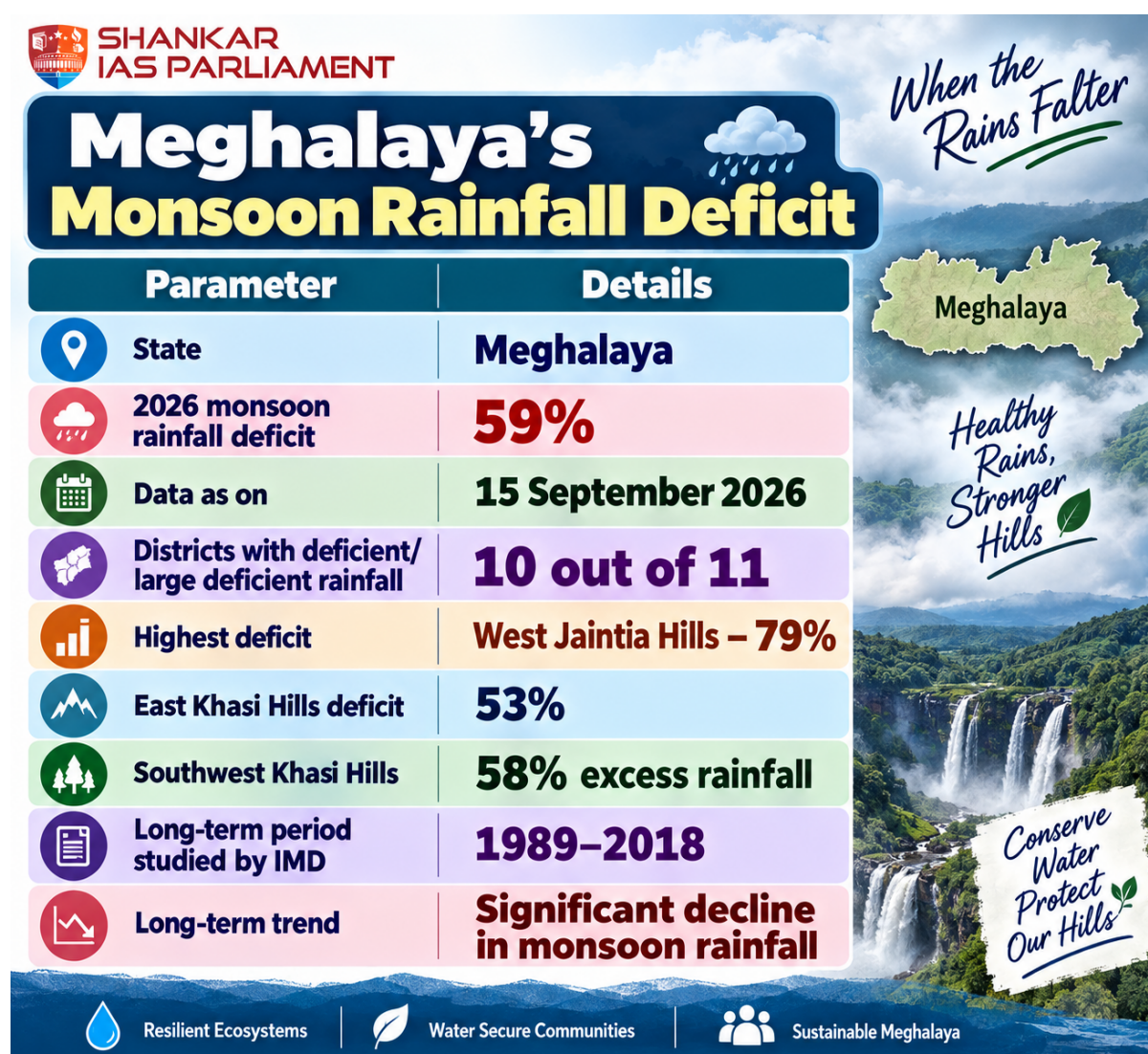


Meghalaya's Monsoon Rainfall Deficit

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Geography

Why in News?

Meghalaya, one of India's wettest states, recorded the highest rainfall deficit in India during the 2026 southwest monsoon.



- **Mawsynram and Cherrapunji**

- Located in **Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills**.
- They are recognized as some of the **rainiest places on Earth**.
- However, the East Khasi Hills district experienced a **53% rainfall deficit** during the 2026 monsoon season.

- **West Jaintia Hills** - This district recorded the highest rainfall deficit at the district level, amounting to **79%**.
- **Southwest Khasi Hills** - The **only district** with excess rainfall:
As of 15 September, rainfall was 58% above normal levels.
- **Primary Vulnerability** - Agriculture in Meghalaya largely depends on rainfall, which sustains streams and springs that provide irrigation and support crop production.
- **Springs** - Approximately **80% of villages** depend on springs as their primary sources of **drinking water and irrigation**.
- **Human activities such as:**
 - Mining,
 - Unsustainable agricultural practices, and
 - Forest resource extraction.
- These activities have contributed to the drying or reduced discharge of approximately **50% of springs**, as reported in the cited MBDA conference paper.
- **Significance**
- Approximately **77% of Meghalaya's working population** is engaged in agricultural activities.
- Agriculture accounts for approximately **21%** of the state's **gross domestic product**.
- The total cropped area constitutes **15.28%** of the state's geographical area.
- The approximate cropped area is 343,000 hectares.
- The net irrigated area is limited to 31,796 hectares.
- **IMD study** - A 30-year analysis (1989-2018) found a significant decreasing trend in monsoon rainfall in Meghalaya.
- The 2026 rainfall deficit is significant both as a single-season anomaly and as part of an ongoing long-term decline in rainfall.

Meghalaya State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC)

- **Published in** - 2025.
- **Period** - 2023-2030
- Agriculture and related sectors are among the **8 priority areas** identified for climate change mitigation and adaptation planning.

Reference

[Down To Earth | Meghalaya's Rain Deficit](#)