

MONTHLY
RAINFALL
OF
INDIA

FOR
1920

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THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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PREFACE.

THE present volume contains the monthly and annual statements of rainfall published by the various Local Governments for the year 1920, and gives the data of the monthly and annual rainfall of about 3,000 stations in India. Symon's rain-gauges were in use at the great majority of stations during the whole of the year, the only important exception being the Mysore rain-gauge stations, which are provided with rain-gauges of local construction. The rainfall is measured at all stations daily at 8 A.M.

It may be noted that these statements are prepared in most cases by local officers appointed by the Provincial Governments, and that they are published in the first place in the Provincial Gazettes. Copies are sent to the India Meteorological Office, Calcutta, which arranges through the India Government Press for their combination into volumes and for their issue to the recipients. The India Meteorological Office is hence not responsible for the accuracy of the data. Great attention is, however, now paid to the correct registration of rainfall in India by the Provincial Governments, and it is believed that the returns are as a whole accurate and reliable.

The tables are arranged according to months and the provinces are arranged in the order adopted in the India Daily Weather Report and the other publications of the Meteorological Department.

They are drawn up in a form which as far as possible explains itself. It should be carefully noted that, although the rainfall is measured to hundredths of an inch, a "rainy day" is assumed to be that on which a tenth of an inch or upwards has fallen, and the figures in the column "Total number of rainy days" and "Normal total number of rainy days" are calculated on this assumption.

It may be noted that the available rainfall data of India were originally collected and tabulated in the Meteorological Office, Calcutta, in the year 1888, and that the average monthly rainfall and number of rainy days in each month were calculated from this tabulated information for all stations for which at least five years' rainfall statistics were available. These averages were used in the tables of volumes I to XI of this "Rainfall of India." In 1901 the additional data for the period from 1889 to 1900 were utilised and fresh normals based on the whole of the available data up to the year 1900 were prepared; in the great majority of cases the normals depended on the records of 30 to 40 years. The preparation of averages based on records as far as 1910 was begun in 1911, and from October 1911 inclusive these new normals were used in the returns of Assam and Eastern Bengal. The normals revised up to 1910 for the whole of India were published in 1913 in Volume XXII, Parts I and II of the Memoirs of the Indian Meteorological Department and were brought into general use from January 1914. A further revision of the rainfall normals from all the available records up to 1915 was effected in 1917 and the new normals were introduced from January 1918. In the returns of Bihar and Orissa revised normals of number of rainy days were used from August 1918 and in those of Bengal from December, while in the other returns the normals of 1910 were employed throughout the year.

G. T. WALKER,

Director-General of Observatories.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE,
ALIPORE (CALCUTTA),
The 1st April 1921.

Table of Contents for the Rainfall Volume for 1920.

1. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN BURMA FOR 1920 . . .
2. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT 125 RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF ASSAM FOR 1920
3. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN BENGAL FOR 1920 . . .
4. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA FOR 1920
5. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT STATIONS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES OF AGRA AND OUDEH FOR 1920
6. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT 192 RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN THE PUNJAB FOR 1920
7. ERRATA TO THE TABLE SHOWING THE MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL OF 192 RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN THE PUNJAB FOR 1920
8. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT 39 RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN KASHMIR FOR 1920 . . .
9. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT 33 RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE FOR 1920
10. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT 85 RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF BALUCHISTAN FOR 1920
11. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT 182 RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN RAJPUTANA FOR 1920 . . .
12. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT 126 RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN CENTRAL INDIA FOR 1920
13. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR 1920
14. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY FOR 1920
15. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN HIS EXALTED HIGHNESS THE NIZAM'S TERRITORY FOR 1920
16. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL AT RAINFALL-RECORDING STATIONS IN THE MYSORE STATE FOR 1920
17. MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY FOR THE YEAR 1920