

Monsoon covers India 9 days early, fastest in 5 years

June rainfall to be 'above normal': IMD

PHOTO: PTI



Rain report

Yearwise data of monsoon coverage and actual rainfall

Year	Dates when monsoon covered entire India	Actual rainfall (%)*
2015	June 26	-12.7
2016	July 3	-0.3
2017	July 19	-2.6
2018	June 29	-7.4
2019	July 19	11.8
2020	June 26	10.5
2021	July 13	0.4
2022	July 02	6.5
2023	July 02	-6
2024	July 02	8
2025	June 29	NA

Note: The normal date for monsoon coverage for all India is July 8. *% Departure from the long-period average (LPA) for June to September monsoon months. The LPA for the June to September rains is 880 millimetres

Source: IMD

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

New Delhi, 29 June

With rains lashing the remaining parts of North India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that the southwest monsoon covered the entire country on Sunday — nine days ahead of its scheduled date.

The southwest monsoon normally covers the entire country by July 8. 2025 has seen the quickest nationwide coverage of the monsoon since 2020.

In 2020, the monsoon had covered the entire country by June 26. That year, cumulative monsoon rainfall from June to September was 10.5 per cent above normal, IMD data showed.

This year, too, the IMD — in its second-stage forecast released in May — revised its monsoon projection for 2025 to 106 per cent of the long-period average (LPA), up from 105 per cent predicted in April.

It also said that June rainfall would be "above normal" at over 108 per cent of the LPA.

The forecast for seasonal rainfall

from June to September comes with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 per cent. The LPA for all-India seasonal rainfall during 1971–2020 is 87 centimetres.

The Met department had also said that the monsoon in almost all homogeneous regions of the country — except the Northeast and parts of Bihar — would be normal to above normal this year.

From June 1 to June 28, monsoon rainfall was 9 per cent above normal.

An early onset of the southwest monsoon is expected to spur kharif crop sowing and aid in a healthy initial plant growth. Data showed that as of June 20, kharif crops had been sown in around 10 per cent more area than in 2024, covering roughly 13.74 million hectares (mha).

Among all crops, paddy — the main foodgrain grown during the kharif season — had been planted in around 1.32 mha by June 20, which is almost 60 per cent more than the area covered during the same period last year. Only oilseed sowing was lagging at that point but was expected to pick up as the monsoon strengthened over Central India.

Railways considers waiving clerkage charge on waitlisted ticket refund

DHRUVAKSH SAHA
New Delhi, 29 June

The Ministry of Railways is deliberating the possibility of waiving clerkage charge while refunding the amount for waitlisted tickets upon cancellation or after the passenger chart is prepared, officials aware of the matter said. If the proposal goes through, passengers will see a reduction in cancellation charges.

According to current regulations — formed in 2015 — a clerkage charge of ₹60 is applicable on all reserved classes and that of ₹30 is levied on second class unreserved tickets. In the event of a cancellation or waitlisted/reservation against cancellation (RAC) ticket, this clerkage, along with a convenience fee, is not refunded to the passenger.

"There are multiple discussions ongoing. Clerkage charge is what the railways levies for creating and operating the infrastructure and facilities of the ticketing system — this is a functional expenditure for the system, which is working even if a ticket does not get confirmed. The discussions are also looking at whether a partial waive off or a full refund should be looked at," a senior official said.

The amount forms a large sum for the railways, which sees millions of ticket cancellations every year.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha in December 2024, the Ministry of Railways said that it does not keep a separate record of revenue generated from cancellation of waitlisted tickets.

"The amount credited on account of cancellation of tickets is not maintained separately. The revenue generated from all sources, including cancellation, forms part of total receipts which are utilised for working expenses relating to maintenance and operations under revenue expenditure, and capital expenditure for renewal/replacement of assets, customer amenities and other unremunerative development

works," the ministry said in its response. Waitlisted tickets are issued to avoid berths going vacant against cancellation of confirmed/RAC tickets during advance reservation period. Further, waitlisted ticket passengers have the option to update under the upgradation scheme or shift to alternate

trains under the Vikalp scheme, it had informed the parliament.

In a response to a Right to Information (RTI) application in 2024, the railways had said that it generated revenue of ₹1,230 crore between 2021 and 2024 through ticket cancellations.

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Now, reservation charts 8 hrs before departure

The Railways will publish the passenger reservation chart 8 hours before the train's departure, it announced on Sunday. "Currently, the reservation chart is prepared four hours before the departure of the train. This creates uncertainty for the passengers. Wherever passengers are coming from a nearby area to catch the train, this uncertainty can cause serious problems," the railways said. To remove

this uncertainty, the board has proposed preparing the reservation chart eight hours before the departure.

"For trains departing before 1400 hours, the chart will be prepared the previous day at 2100 hrs itself. The railway minister agreed with this proposal and directed the board to start implementing this in phases so that there is no disruption," it said.

DHRUVAKSH SAHA

Tagore's letters go under hammer for ₹5.9 cr

ISHITA AYAN DUTT
Kolkata, 29 June

A set of 35 handwritten letters by Rabindranath Tagore, along with 14 envelopes, was sold for ₹5.9 crore in a recent auction, underscoring the Nobel Laureate's undying allure.

The AstaGuru's auction — *Collectors' Choice* — was held on June 26-27. The letters auctioned were penned by Tagore to sociologist,

musicologist and confidant Dhurjati Prasad Mukerji between 1927 and 1936.

Twelve of these letters were written on different letterheads — from Visva-Bharati, his Uttarayan residence, Glen Eden in Darjeeling, and aboard his houseboat, Padma.

AstaGuru said that auction was especially significant considering the lot was not a visual artwork but a manuscript-based archive and yet became the sec-

ond-highest price ever achieved for a Rabindranath creation at an auction. This is not just a literary artefact, it's a self-portrait of the Nobel Laureate in his own words, Manoj Mansukhani, chief marketing officer (CMO), AstaGuru, said.

"Their correspondence captures everything from philosophical musings and literary self-defense to aesthetic theory and emotional vulnerability."

According to Mansukhani, Tagore's letters are rare even though individual letters surface.

But a set as extensive, intellectually rich, and emotionally candid as this, comprising 35 handwritten letters and 14 envelopes, is exceptionally uncommon, he pointed out. "Also, most of Tagore's important correspondence is held in institutional archives. So offerings like this in the public domain are few and far between."

The letters are from a private collection. The provenance has been carefully documented, and several of the letters have been published in major journals and books over the years, the AstaGuru CMO noted.

Besides the trove of letters, the only known sculpture by Rabindranath Tagore, *The Heart*, also went under the virtual hammer at the auction.

Believed to be dedicated to Kadambari Devi, the wife of Tagore's brother Jyotirindranath, the quartzite piece was sold for around ₹1.04 crore. It goes back to 1883 during a retreat in Karwar, Karnataka. Tagore was 22 years of age at the time.

Tagore's letters and *The Heart* were among a total of 77 lots offered at the auction. While the letters fetched the highest price, the second highest went for a work by M F Husain from his Mother Teresa series. The painting was sold for around ₹3.8 crore.



Rabindranath Tagore's letters and *The Heart* (left) — the only known sculpture by Tagore — were among a total of 77 lots offered at the AstaGuru auction

PHOTOS: ASTAGURU

Public Notice for 13th Round of E-Auction – Punj Lloyd Limited (-in Liquidation)

Sale of the Company on a going concern basis and in alternate various Set of Assets of the Company pursuant to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

Announcing the 13th round of e-auction for sale of various 'Set of Assets' of Punj Lloyd Limited in Liquidation ("the Company"), including the sale of the Company on a going concern basis and sale of certain assets of the Company on collective basis, as per details mentioned in the table below, through public e-auction process. The Company is undergoing liquidation pursuant to the Order dated 27 May 2022, of Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi. The Company is incorporated in 1988, is a well-diversified business conglomerate, engaged in the business of Engineering, Procurement and Construction with geographic presence across India and Middle East Countries offering services in Energy, Road and Infrastructure along with manufacturing capabilities in the Defence sector.

Interested applicants may refer to the detailed 'Asset Sale Process Memorandum for 13th round of e-auction' ("ASPM") uploaded on website of the Company <https://www.punjllloydgroup.com/liquidation> and also on E-Auction website <https://banknet.com/>.

The Auction Sale will be done through the E-Auction platform: <https://banknet.com/>.

The details of the assets of the Company proposed to be sold in the 13th round of e-auction are as follows:

Set of Asset	Asset Description	Manner of sale	Date and time of E-Auction	Reserve Price (in INR)	EMD Amount (in INR) & Submission deadline
Category A					
Asset Set 1	Sale of Punj Lloyd Limited as a whole (excluding certain assets as provided in the 'ASPM')	On a Going Concern Basis	24 July 2025 from 10:00 hours IST to 12:00 hours IST	308.00 Crore	10.00 Crore On or before 21 July 2025
Category C*					
Asset Set 2	Sale of Arbitration Assets of Punj Lloyd Limited	On Collective Basis	25 July 2025 from 10:00 hours IST to 12:00 hours IST	159.00 Crore	10.00 Crore On or before 22 July 2025
Category D*					
Asset Set 3	Sale of Leasehold Land, Building and Plant & Machinery at Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh	On Collective Basis	25 July 2025 from 10:00 hours IST to 12:00 hours IST	63.50 Crore	6.35 Crore On or before 22 July 2025
Asset Set 4	Sale of Land at Sidhudurg District, Maharashtra	On Standalone Basis	25 July 2025 from 10:00 hours IST to 12:00 hours IST	10.20 Crore	1.02 Crore On or before 22 July 2025
Asset Set 5	Sale of Land at Mehasana, Gujarat	On Standalone Basis	25 July 2025 from 10:00 hours IST to 12:00 hours IST	81.00 Lakh	8.10 Lakh On or before 22 July 2025
Asset Set 6	Sale of Plant & Machinery at RSRP site at Chhattisgarh	On Collective Basis	25 July 2025 from 10:00 hours IST to 12:00 hours IST	24.00 Crore	2.40 Crore On or before 22 July 2025

* It is clarified that if a Highest Bidder is declared for Asset Set 1 under Category A, i.e., Sale of the Company on a going concern basis, the Liquidator reserves the right to cancel e-auction of all Asset Sets under Category C and D. Further, the Liquidator also reserves the right to cancel e-auction of any or all Category(ies) and/or Set of Asset(s) being sold under 13th round of e-auction.

Further, as per the provisions of the IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016, as amended, all interested bidders for the respective Category(ies) and/or Set of Asset(s) are required to submit an Affidavit that they do not suffer from any ineligibility under section 29A of the IBC to the extent applicable and if found ineligible at any stage, the earnest money along with any amount deposited by interested bidders shall be forfeited by the Liquidator. The format of the 29A Eligibility Affidavit is provided in the ASPM.

The Liquidator reserves the right to amend the key terms of the sale process including timelines for any or all Category(ies) and/or Set of Asset(s) being sold in the 13th round of e-auction, to the extent permissible under the applicable laws and regulations. Any information about amendments /extension of any of the timelines with respect to the sale process timelines for any or all Category(ies) and/or Set of Asset(s) will be available on the Company's website and communicated to the Eligible/Qualified/ Successful Bidder(s). The Liquidator in consultation with the SCC also reserves the right to cancel the 13th E-auction round, without providing any reason for the same.

Please scan the QR code below for accessing short videos containing information and credentials regarding Asset Set 1 & 3:



(Asset Set 1)



(Asset Set 3)

Please scan the QR code below for sale teasers regarding Asset Set 1 & 3:



(Asset Set 1)



(Asset Set 3)

Nothing contained herein shall constitute a binding offer or a commitment for sale of assets of the Company including sale of the Company as a whole, on a going concern basis.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Ashwini Mehra at LQ.PUNJ@in.gt.com or Mehra.ashwini@gmail.com or Mr. Surendra Raj Gang at Surendra.raj@in.gt.com (representative of GT Restructuring Services LLP, IPE appointed as professional advisors to the Liquidator) in case any further clarification is required.

Sd/-

Ashwini Mehra

Liquidator

(Regn No: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00388/2017-18/10706)

Punj Lloyd Limited - in Liquidation

Authorization for Assignment valid till -28 April 2025

Correspondence Address:

Mr. Ashwini Mehra, Liquidator

Punj Lloyd Limited

C/O Mr. Surendra Raj Gang

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Date: 30 June 2025

Place: New Delhi