

figure 1(c). The shaded parts represent the areas of SST more than 29° C, the WP. There was a rapid migration of the WP to the eastern Pacific Ocean during 1982 ENSO which continued till the early months of 1983. This was followed by westward migration during the later part of 1983. Since then, the WP was slowly spreading eastward, especially during the summer monsoon seasons. The Indian rainfall was below normal during all the 3 years when the WP was spreading eastward.

The performance of the Indian summer monsoon seems to depend on the location and spread of the Pacific Ocean WP during the season. When the WP moves to the western Pacific Ocean and gets concentrated there, the seasonal summer rainfall over India tends to increase. On the other hand, if the WP moves or spreads eastward, then the rainfall decreases. The largest decrease occurs during the ENSO years, when the Pacific Ocean WP migrates eastward towards the date line or spreads beyond it. The effect of 1982 ENSO extended to the first half of the 1983 season. The Indian rainfall failed during the second half of the 1986 season, much before the reported 1987 ENSO and it may influence the early part of 1988 season. In either case, the effect extends beyond a season. In the circumstances, the mean summer monsoon rainfall for the entire season gives only a partial picture of the influence of the Pacific Ocean SST on the rainfall. A more complete

picture can be obtained by considering the behaviour of the monthly rainfalls not only during the year of pronounced monsoon abnormality but also during the preceding and following years.

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