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The 2026 southwest monsoon

Official dates from IMD's 2026 press releases, kept in order. A forecast is not a declaration.

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Official date	Official wording
15 May 2026, a forecast	"This year, the southwest monsoon is likely to set in over Kerala on 26th May with a model error of ± 4 days." Operational onset forecasts have been issued from 2005, and were proved correct except in 2015.
16 May 2026, the Andamans	The 30 September briefing: an early advance over the Andaman Sea and adjoining areas on 16 May, nearly six days earlier than the normal schedule. That official date is not the Kerala onset.
4 June 2026, declared over Kerala	"Southwest Monsoon has set in over Kerala, today the 4th June, 2026," three days after the 1 June normal. Features that day included lower-level westerlies of about 20–25 knots. The later briefing called the 26 May forecast 8-day early.
9 July 2026, the whole country	The monsoon "covered the entire country by 9 July 2026 against the normal date of 8th July," in the 30 September briefing. The criteria page still says the normal is around 15 July. Both official sentences are kept.
19 September 2026, withdrawal begins	"The monsoon withdrawal began from west Rajasthan on 19 September, delayed by 2 days." Withdrawal criteria adopted in 2006 are considered only after 1 September.

A short quiz

1. What date did the 15 May 2026 forecast name for onset over Kerala?
2. On which date was onset over Kerala declared?
3. On which date, in the 30 September briefing, did the monsoon cover the entire country?

Answers. 26 May, ± 4 days. 4 June. 9 July.

Wording from IMD press releases of 15 May, 4 June and 30 September 2026, re-checked 18 November 2026, and from FAQ question 35. monsoons.climates.im is independent of IMD and is not a forecast. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.