MONSOONS.CLIMATES.IM

When does it arrive?

Official IMD dates, kept side by side. This sheet explains the tests. It does not declare the monsoon.

Typographic only. No photographs inside.

Official desk	Official wording
The normal date	The 15 May 2026 press release: “Southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on 1 st June with a standard deviation of about 7 days.” The criteria page and FAQ question 34 say “around 1st June.”
The three tests, after 10 May	Criteria adopted in 2016. If 60% of 14 stations report 2.5 mm or more for two consecutive days, onset is declared on the second day, provided the wind and OLR tests also agree. Westerlies maintained up to 600 hPa, zonal wind of the order of 15–20 knots at 925 hPa, INSAT OLR below 200 W/m², each in a published box.
What 2026 declared	On 4 June 2026, IMD said the southwest monsoon had set in over Kerala that day, “3 days after the normal date.” A 15 May forecast had pointed to 26 May, ± 4 days. The later briefing called that forecast 8-day early.
Covering the country	FAQ question 34 and the 30 September 2026 briefing: around 8 July (in 2026, covered by 9 July). The criteria page still says around 15 July. Both official sentences are kept, and are not averaged.

A short quiz

1. What is the official normal onset date over Kerala?
2. In 2026, on which date did IMD declare onset over Kerala?
3. Which July date does the FAQ use for covering the whole country, and which date does the criteria page still use?

Answers. 1 June, with a standard deviation of about 7 days. 4 June. Around 8 July in the FAQ; around 15 July on the criteria page.

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