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New Normal Dates of Onset/Progress and Withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon over India during 2020

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India on 15 April 2020 came out with new reference dates for onset and withdrawal of monsoon across the country. The normal dates of onset are revised based on data during 1961-2019 and normal dates of withdrawal are revised based on data during 1971-2019.

The onset date of monsoon remains the same in Kerala, that is, 1 June. However, in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar, the advance dates of monsoon and parts of Uttar Pradesh are delayed by 3-7 days compared to the current normal dates. Over extreme Northwest India, the monsoon arrives now a little earlier, on 8th July compared to the existing date of 15th July. There are however appreciable changes in the monsoon withdrawal dates, especially over Northwest and Central India. Monsoon withdraws from NW India almost 7-14 days later from the existing dates. There is no change in the final withdrawal date over south India (15th October).

The new dates indicate whether the monsoon would be longer or shorter by a few days or even a week in the state, but the bigger and more reassuring message was that rainfall is likely to be 100 per cent of the long-period average.

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