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# Monsoon's northern advance to slow down

ET Bureau | Jun 12, 2018, 10.08 AM IST

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Monsoon showers lashed parts of the west coast last week with many parts of Mumbai and Nashik getting waterlogged.

NEW DELHI: The southwest monsoon's advance towards northern India will be stalled for a week from Wednesday as the vital weather system's current will weaken after it progresses further into eastern India in the next two days, the weather office said on Monday.

Having covered the west coast last week since its arrival in Kerala on May 29, the monsoon is likely to arrive in more parts of Odisha, northeast states, some parts of West Bengal and Sikkim by Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

"How the monsoon surges ahead and at what speed depends upon the strength of the monsoon current, the intensity of which may not always be the same," said K Sathi Devi, head of national weather forecasting centre at IMD.

While the weakening of the monsoon current may not drastically impact its advance into other parts of the country, rainfall in the regions where the onset has already been declared will reduce.

"Once it (monsoon current) picks up again, if it has very strong intensity, it may surge ahead further. There is no one-to-one relation," Devi said.

Increased rainfall in northeastern states, Odisha, West Bengal and Sikkim is likely till Wednesday, while northeastern states will continue to receive heavy showers for three more days, the weather office said.

Monsoon showers lashed parts of the west coast last week with many parts of Mumbai and Nashik getting waterlogged.

IMD said the ongoing heavy rainfall along the west coast was likely to reduce. "Now, if the flow itself is becoming weak, then rainfall activity will also be affected. You may be getting rain but it may not be heavy or extremely heavy," Devi said.

The delay in monsoon's progress, however, is not a matter of worry unless the period extends beyond a week, experts said.

"Normally June is critical from the point of view of sowing. So it depends whether people have already sowed the seeds by now, and if the monsoon doesn't arrive, if they have access to alternate forms of irrigation," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at CARE Ratings.

Sowing in Madhya Pradesh where monsoon has not yet arrived may be slightly delayed by a couple of weeks given this slow pace of advancement of monsoon, but it should not impact the overall agricultural production, Sabnavis add

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