

## HIGHEST RAINFALL DURING 24 HOURS IN INDIA

1. In July 1993, Hashimara, in West Bengal recorded 996 mm of rainfall during 24 hours from 0530 IST of 20 July 1993 to 0530 IST next day. According to the standard practice of measuring rainfall at 0830 hrs. a smaller value of 928.1 mm was recorded at Hashimara during the 24 hours. A question was, however, raised whether this is the highest rainfall for the Indian stations. Original records of other Indian observatories were scrutinised to check the highest rainfall during 24 hours in India keeping in view that Cherrapunji, in Assam, has been known since long as the rainiest place in the world.

The highest rainfall recorded at Cherrapunji (Police Station) during 24 hours, which occurred on 14 June 1876, was 1036.3 mm. (40.8"). Another heavy spell, which was close to the extreme value, was reported at Cherrapunji on 12 July 1910 with the rainfall of 997.7 mm. The heaviest rainfall during the 24 hours recorded at another Cherrapunji observatory (Post Office) under India Meteorological Department has, however, recorded lesser rainfall during the period of normals published for the periods 1906-1940 and 1931-1960 as 924.4 (21 June 1934) and 973.8 (5 June 1956) respectively. Higher values of 985.5 mm have been recorded on 13 September 1974 at the same observatory.

2. In most of the publications of India Meteorological Department highest rainfall during

24 hours as 40.8 inches (1036.3 mm) has been maintained (for example, Rao 1958 and Das 1952 Editor's foot note). However, in an earlier publication, Mausam (1992), V. Thapliyal and S.M. Kulshrestha (1992) have reported the following:

3. 'It is interesting to note that the highest 24 hours rainfall record for India is also held by Mawsynram which received 989.6 mm rainfall during the 24 hours ending at 0830 IST (0300 UTC) on 10 July 1952'. Thus, while maintaining the world record of Cherrapunji for 12 months, 11 months, 6 months, 1 month and 15 days as the highest record for Cherrapunji, these authors have taken Mawsynram for the highest 24 hours rainfall in the country. In view of the fact that the 24 hours rainfall at Mawsynram has not exceeded the highest rainfall recorded at Cherrapunji during 1876, which has been extensively quoted in authentic publications of

India Meteorological Department, the historical record of Cherrapunji cannot be ignored.

#### References

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