

# Weather

## HOT WEATHER SEASON (MARCH—MAY 1960)

*Chief features*—(1) Heat wave in parts of northeast India during the last week of April and during the first fortnight of May, (2) Development of a severe cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea and a cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal, and (3) Early establishment of the monsoon over the south Peninsula and its temporary advance into Gangetic West Bengal and Assam.

The broad features of the weather month by month are given below.

*March*—Active western disturbances accounted for abundant rainfall and sub-normal day temperatures over large parts of the country.

Five western disturbances moved across the country and induced a good incursion of moist air from the Bay of Bengal into the interior of the country. Bihar Plains, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha and Telangana recorded over twice their normal rainfall during the month of March.

From about 10 March onwards, day temperatures were below normal over most of the country, being appreciably to markedly so over Uttar Pradesh and Bihar on 12th and 13th and over most of north India between 19th and 25th.

*April*—This was a month of feeble western disturbances and of deficient rainfall. There were abnormal day temperatures in parts of northeast India. As many as five western disturbances moved across north India during this month but only one was active.

An upper air trough developed and persisted over the south Peninsula during the first ten days of the month. It was responsible

for appreciable thunderstorm activity in the States of Madras and Kerala and also in south Interior Mysore during this period.

In northeast India, rainfall was deficient. This contributed towards a general rise of the day temperatures which became appreciably to markedly above normal in Assam on most days and also in West Bengal and Bihar on a few days during this month. The temperatures were as much as 8 to 10°C above normal in upper Assam after 25th.

*May*—This was the most active month of the season with two cyclonic storms—one in the Arabian Sea and the other in the Bay of Bengal.

The tracks of the two storms are shown in Fig. 1. While the Arabian Sea storm attained severe intensity and had a comparatively longer life, the Bay storm was only of slight or moderate intensity and dissipated rather rapidly.

In association with the development of the Arabian Sea storm, fairly widespread pre-monsoon thundershowers with some heavy to very heavy falls occurred in Kerala between 3rd and 7th and in the Arabian Sea Islands on 9th and 10th. Monsoon proper, however, advanced into Kerala on 14th about a fortnight earlier than usual. Fairly widespread thundershowers also occurred in Mysore State, particularly in coastal Mysore between 11th and 17th. A few noteworthy amounts of rainfall were—Minicoy 19 cm on 9th and Cochin 19 cm and Alleppey 15 cm on 17th.

The monsoon current which had arrived so early over the extreme south Peninsula steadily progressed northwards, both over

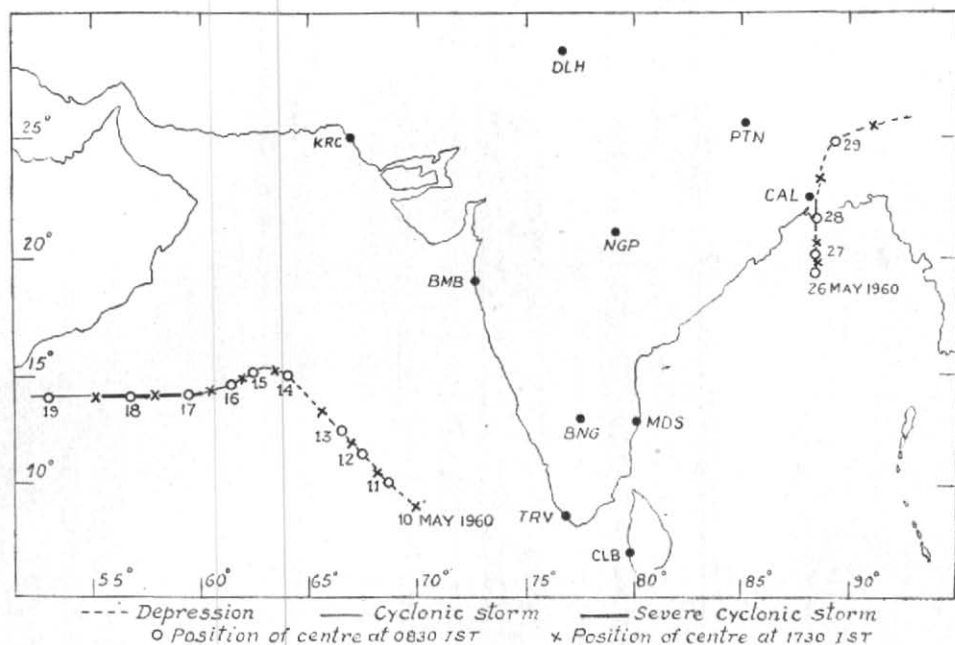


Fig. 1. Tracks of two storms in May 1960

sea and land. The Bay branch of the monsoon advanced into the south Bay Islands on 19th and the north Bay Islands on 21st. The Arabian Sea branch advanced into south coastal Mysore on 22nd and into north coastal Mysore on 23rd. Then, a rapid northward extension of the monsoon took place over the Bay of Bengal in association with the development of the Bay cyclonic storm referred to above. The monsoon advanced, although temporarily, into Gange-

tic West Bengal on 28th and into Assam on 29th. Fairly widespread rain with some heavy to very heavy falls occurred in coastal West Bengal on 28th and in Assam on 29th and 30th, Contai reporting 30 cm on 28th and Cherrapunji 31 cm on 30th.

The day temperatures which had remained above normal over northeast India towards the end of April continued to remain so during the first fortnight of May also, some

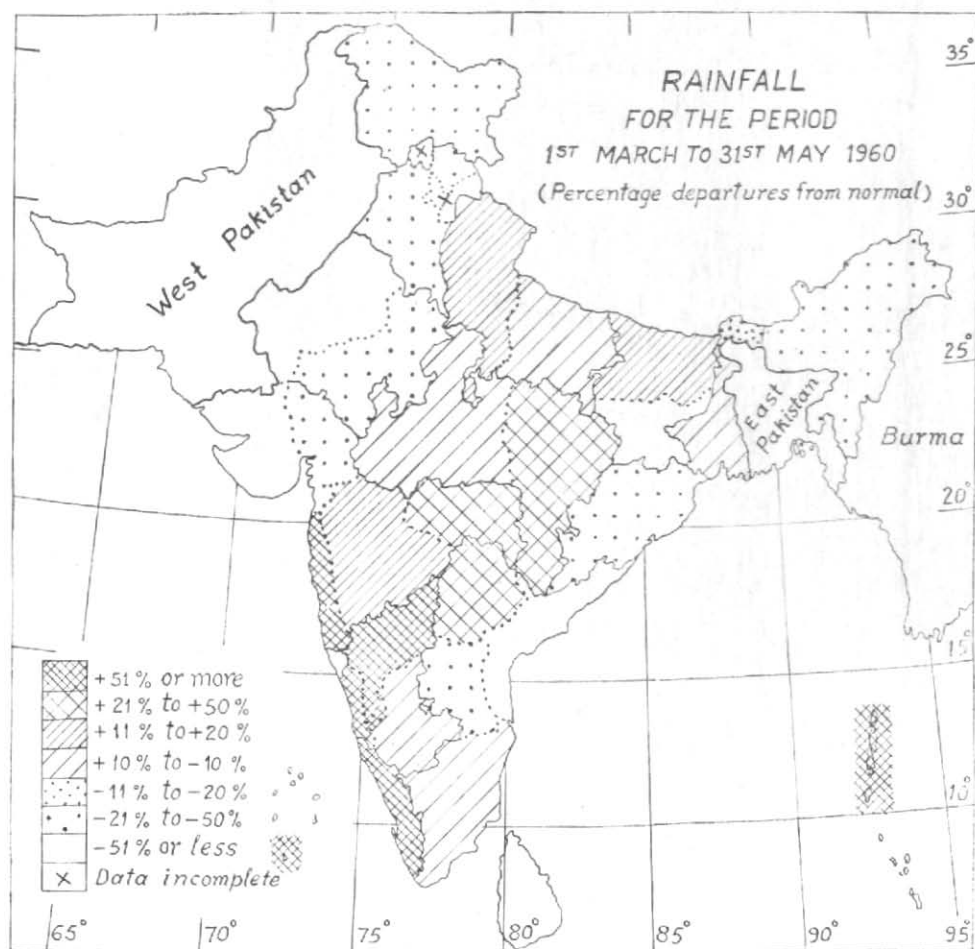


Fig. 2

parts of northeast India being in the grip of a heat wave, with day temperatures 8 to 10°C above normal during the first week of this month. Subsequently, the day temperatures became 4 to 6°C above normal over

Uttar Pradesh from 12th to 14th and over east Ma'lhya Pradesh from 21st to 24th.

The season's rainfall in terms of its departure from the normal is shown in Fig. 2.