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SOME FEATURES OF THE KAKINADA
STORM, MAY 1955

On the 1730 IST chart of 5 May 1955 a depression could be located, with centre near Lat. 12°N , Long. 84°E . It moved north-northwest and intensified into a cyclonic storm of small extent during the 6th night and crossed coast just to the south of Kakinada about 0700 IST of 7th. The surface winds at Masulipatam, Kakinada and Visakhapatnam and upper winds of Masulipatam and Visakhapatnam at 2000 and 5000 feet are shown in Figs. 1(a) and (b). The rainfall recorded at Masulipatam, Kakinada and Visakhapatnam at some selected hours of 5 to 7 May 1955 is given in Table 1. The pressure changes at Kakinada, both as read and corrected for diurnal variation, as obtained from the record of the weekly barograph maintained there are shown in Fig. 2. The district average rainfall on each of the days 5th to 8th, total rainfall in the 4-day spell and the highest rainfalls on the 7th, 8th and in the 4-day spell at any single station, using data of all State raingauge stations available so far, are given in Table 2. The distribution of total rain in the 4 days, 5th to 8th, in the districts of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and parts of East Godavari is shown in Fig. 3. The track of the storm is shown in Fig. 4.

The pressure departures along the Circars coast, which on the evening of 6th were of the order of +1 to +4 mb fell to -2 to -6 mb by next morning. At Kakinada, it fell from +1 to -6 mb. Fig. 2 also shows a fall of the order of 7 to 8 mb.

It is seen from the anemogram that wind at Visakhapatnam reached a speed, in a gust,

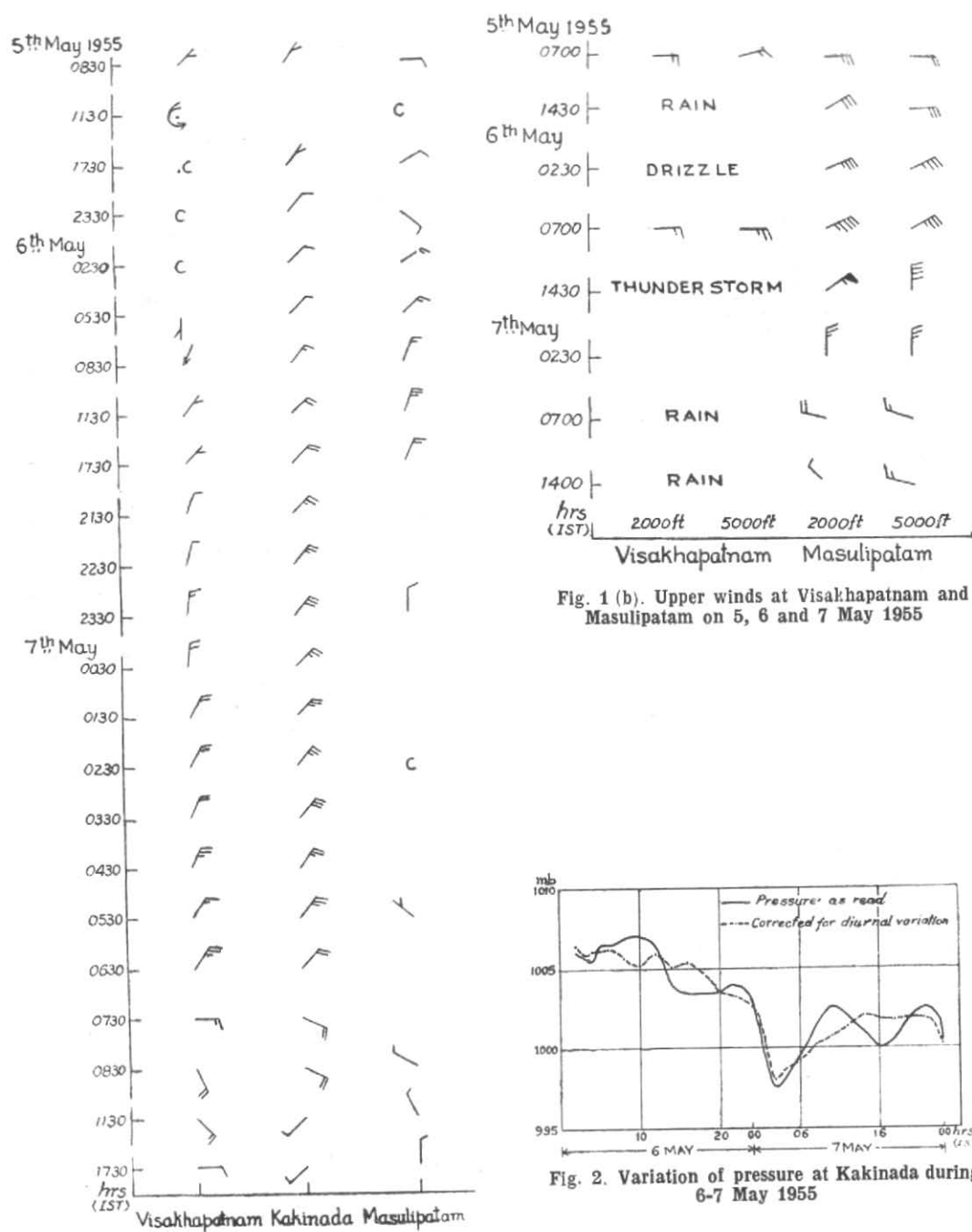


Fig. 1 (a). Surface winds at Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Masulipatam on 5, 6 and 7 May 1955

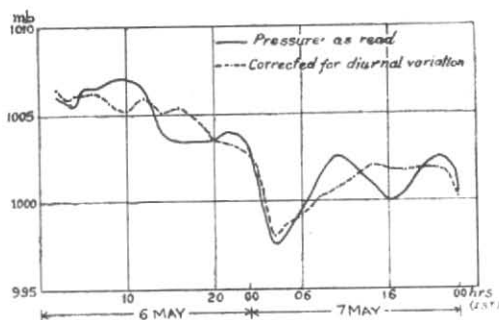


Fig. 2. Variation of pressure at Kakinada during 6-7 May 1955

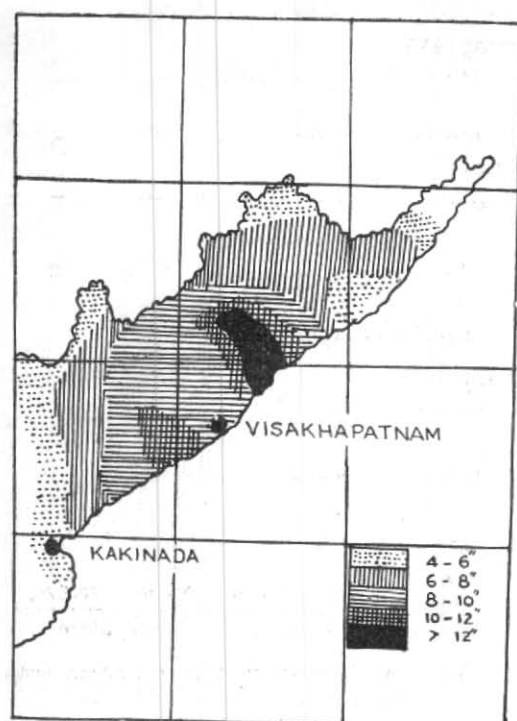


Fig. 3. Rainfall in the 4 days, 5 to 8 May 1955

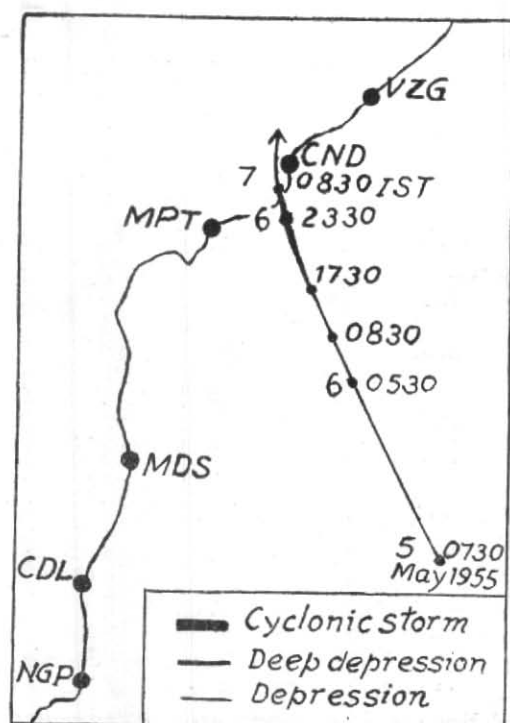


Fig. 4. Track of Kakinada storm

TABLE 1
Rainfall (inches) recorded since last observation

Date and time	Masulipatam	Kakinada	Visakhapatnam	Date and time	Masulipatam	Kakinada	Visakhapatnam
<i>5 May 1955</i>				<i>7 May 1955</i>			
0830	0.00	0.00	0.00	0030	0.00	0.20	0.07
1130	0.00	—	0.00	0130	0.00	0.14	0.34
1730	0.00	0.20	0.42	0230	0.00	0.14	0.56
2330	0.00	0.00	0.00	0330	0.00	0.22	0.39
<i>6 May 1955</i>				0430	0.00	0.14	0.53
0230	0.00	0.06	0.00	0530	0.00	0.12	0.71
0530	0.00	0.13	0.58	0630	0.00	0.12	0.50
0830	Traces	0.07	0.01	0730	0.00	0.30	0.90
1130	0.00	0.30	0.05	0830	0.00	0.50	0.12
1730	0.00	0.60	0.39	1130	0.00	0.27	0.06
2130	0.00	0.40	0.62	1730	0.00	0.23	0.11
2230	0.00	0.30	0.17				
2330	0.00	0.28	0.36				

TABLE 2

District	No. of stations in district	Mean rainfall					Highest rainfall at a single station		
		5-5-55	6-5-55	7-5-55	8-5-55	Total	7-5-55	8-5-55	5-5-55 to 8-5-55
Srikakulam	11	0.2	0.3	1.9	3.2	5.6	3.0	6.27	6.98
Visakhapatnam	12	0.3	1.1	6.1	3.5	11.0	9.5	8.33	15.02
East Godavari	6*	0.0	0.4	2.4	1.0	3.8	4.1	3.00	8.45
West Godavari	9	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.10	1.47
Krishna	13	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.00	0.75

* Data of 8 more stations were not available at the time of writing this note

of 47 mph at 0415 IST of 7th. Of all the available data on the evening of 6 May, it was the 55-knot wind at such a low height as 2000 feet at Masulipatam, which gave a clue to the possible intensity of the disturbance. Table 2 and Fig. 3 show how scanty the rainfall was to the left of the track (in the districts of Krishna, West Godavari and adjoining parts of East Godavari) in contrast to the heavy rain to the right of the track.

The storm, with its heavy rain, caused widespread and considerable damage to

irrigation installation, houses, and to some extent to standing crops in the districts of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari.

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