Notes and News

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION. COMMISSION FOR CLIMATOLOGY AND SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY

The First Session of the Commission for Climatology which is one of the eight Technical Commissions of the World Meteorological Organisation, was held at Washington from 12 to 25 March 1953. Items on the agenda of the session included a discussion of the recent scientific developments in climatology, observational and recording procedures, processing and publication of data, application of climatological data and the preparation of Technical Regulations relating to the field of the Commission.

Following the Session of the Commission for Climatology, the First Session for the Commission for Synoptic Meteorology was also held at Washington from 2 to 29 April 1953. The principal subjects discussed at this session were the various meteorological codes and specifications, symbols for plotting weather charts, times and frequency of meteorological observations, network of observatories, ocean weather stations, problems relating to meteorological telecommunications and the preparation of Technical Regulations relating to the field of this Commission.

Mr. P. R. Pisharoty of the India Meteorological Department attended both the sessions as India's Delegate.

CENTRAL BOARD OF GEOPHYSICS

A meeting of the Central Board of Geophysics was held at Delhi on 30 March 1953. S. C. Roy and S.K. Pramanik attended the meeting from the India Meteorological Department. The principal subjects discussed at the meeting were (*a*) Establishment of a Central Geophysical Institute, (*b*) Collection of hydrological data relating to the rivers of Assam and (*c*) The Geophysical activities of the various departments.

LUNAR HALO AND CORONA

Vessel: S. S. Jalaganga Captain F. G. I. Mathews

Voyage: Calcutta to Bassein

Observers: J. C. Thomas, 2nd Officer
Ved Sharma, 3rd Officer

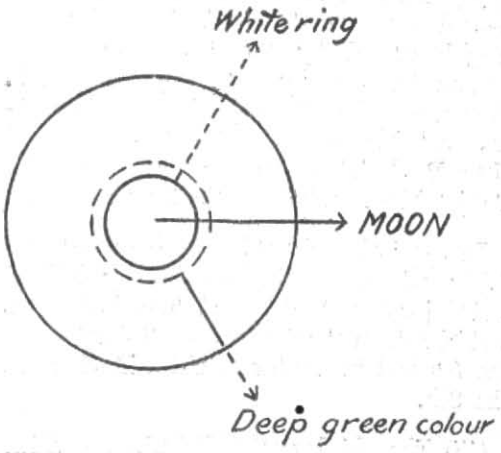
27 November 1952 1145 GMT
(D. R. Pos. 17° 09′ N, 92° 38′ E)

Dry Bulb 77° Wet Bulb 70°
Barometer 1010·0 mb

Just after sunset a lunar halo was observed with a radius of 24 degrees. Sky covered with dense cirrus clouds. Altitude of moon when halo was first observed 50°.

1630 GMT. Lunar halo disappeared due to cloud development. Sky covered 7/8. Radius of halo 22° 53′.

29 November 1952 1045 GMT. Bassein River (Burma). Lunar corona 2½ to 5° showing the whole spectrum. Altitude of moon 55°. Wind NE 2. Dry Bulb 80°. Wet Bulb 71°. Clouds —Low 0, Medium 0 High Cc. Phenomena recurving gradually changing in deep green colour with a white ring in between (see sketch below).



WEATHER, WINTER SEASON (JANUARY—FEBRUARY 1953)

The chief features of the weather during the season were as follows—

(*i*) A number of active western disturbances during the first half of January, (*ii*) Comparative inactivity of western disturbances in February, and consequently warmer weather than usual over northwest India, Uttar Pradesh and the central parts of the country and (*iii*) A depression in the Bay of Bengal in the last week of January.

Nine western disturbances in January and eight in February, moved across the northern parts of the country during the season under review. Out of these only the first five, whose history is given below, were active.

(*i*) The first western disturbance appeared over north Rajasthan and neighbourhood on 31 December 1952. Moving in a northeasterly direction across the Punjab (P), it passed away over the western Himalayas by 2 January.

This western disturbance was responsible for widespread thundershowers in the Punjab (I) and west Rajasthan on the 1st, in west Uttar Pradesh on the 1st and 2nd and in east Uttar Pradesh on the 2nd. Locally heavy to very heavy rain or snow was also reported from the Punjab-Kumaon hills on 1 and 2 January.

(*ii*) The second western disturbance appeared over northeast Arabian Sea and neighbourhood by the 4th evening, and remained practically stationary till the 6th. It then moved northeastwards across Saurashtra and Kutch, east Rajasthan and west Uttar Pradesh before passing away across the Punjab-Kumaon hills on the 9th morning.

In association with this western disturbance fairly widespread rain fell in Madhya Bharat and Gujarat on the 6th and 7th, in Saurashtra and Kutch on the 6th, in east Rajasthan on the 7th and in northwest Uttar Pradesh on the 8th.

(*iii*) The third western disturbance, which was an active secondary, formed over Rajasthan and neighbourhood on the 11th evening. It moved to Madhya Bharat by the 12th and became unimportant on the 13th. Although it was shortlived, the western disturbance caused fairly widespread thundershowers in southwest Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat on the 12th, and in Vindhya Pradesh and northwest Madhya Pradesh on the 12th and 13th.

(*iv*) and (*v*) The fourth western disturbance appeared over northwest Rajasthan and adjoining areas of the Punjab (P) by the 14th, and moved away across the Punjab hills by the 16th. It induced a secondary ' low ' over north Madhya Bharat on the 15th, which moved in an eastnortheasterly direction across sub-Himalayan West Bengal by the 17th.

These two western disturbances caused widespread rain in Uttar Pradesh and the Punjab (I) on the 15th, over the region extending from Assam and Gangetic West Bengal to the Punjab (I) on the 16th and over the whole of northeast India outside Orissa on the 17th. During this period there was heavy snowfall in the Punjab-Kumaon hills which disrupted land communications and caused considerable damage to property in the Nainital area. In the rear of the fourth and fifth western disturbances, cold northerly air swept over the country causing a large fall in night temperatures over north India, the central parts of the country and the adjoining parts of the peninsula between 16 and 19 January. A few cases of death due to severe cold were reported from east Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat during this period.

The remaining western disturbances of the season were generally feeble. There was, however, a brief spell of local or fairly widespread rain on 6 and 7 February in Bihar, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and upper Assam. This was caused by a secondary western disturbance which moved away from Vindhya Pradesh to the Eastern Himalayas during this period.

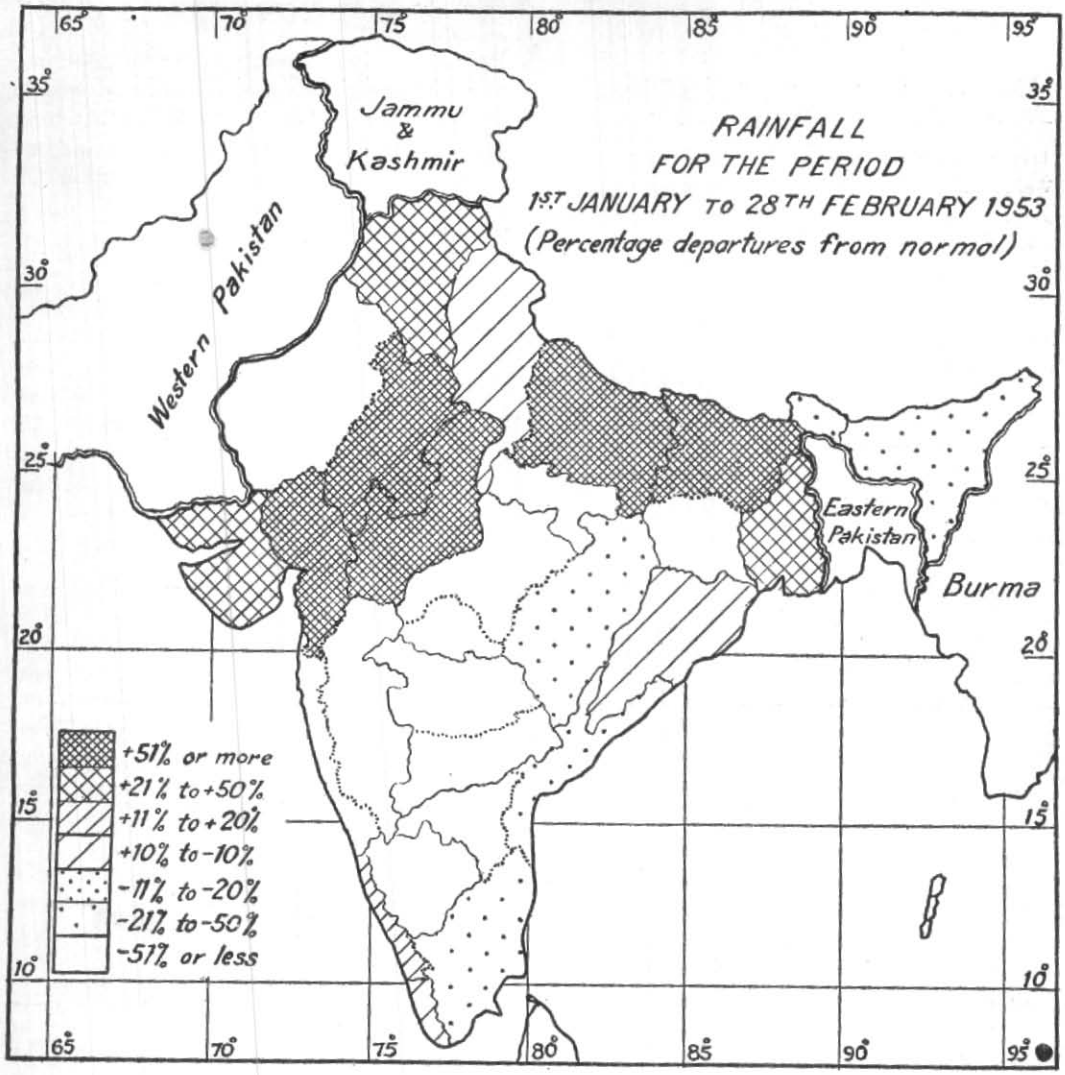


Fig. 1

In association with the passage of low pressure waves from the east, there was also local or fairly widespread rain in the extreme south of the peninsula on 8, 9, 24 and 25 January and from 21 to 23 February. A well-marked low pressure wave concentrated into a depression in the south Andaman Sea near Lat. 9°N, Long. 96°E on 28 January. It moved in a northnortheasterly direction and crossed the coast of Burma between Rangoon and Moulmein by the 30th evening and rapidly weakened.

The winter was generally mild over the country during the last three weeks of February. In northwest India, Uttar Pradesh, the central parts of the country and the adjoining parts of the peninsula, both day and night temperatures were appreciably to markedly above normal during this period.

Rainfall distribution over the country during the season is given in Fig 1.