

Fig. 1. Frequency of occurrence of thunderstorms over Safdarjung during October to April 1954-1962

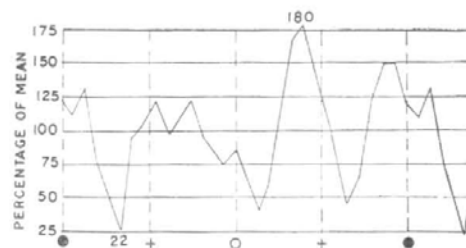


Fig. 2. Frequency of occurrence of thunderstorms over Safdarjung during May to September 1954-1962

551.594(545)

#### THUNDERSTORMS AT DELHI *vis-a-vis* THE LUNAR PHASE

Visvanathan (see Ref.) studied the distribution of heavy rainfall of India in relation to the phase of the Moon and concluded that heavy rain tends to be more frequent during some periods of the lunar month than on others.

It was decided to examine whether any such effect is noticeable in the occurrence of thunderstorms over Delhi. The data relating to the occurrence of thunderstorms were taken from the records of the Delhi observatory and were analysed in a manner similar to the one adopted in the study of heavy rainfall referred to above. The thunderstorms which occurred during the months October to April and those which occurred during the months May to September were grouped separately. Two curves were drawn for thunderstorms in the two groups and are shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Thunderstorm is a very important phenomenon for aviation and any aid to its forecasting will be of considerable interest to the meteorologist. It would appear from the curves in Figs. 1 and 2 that the thunderstorms at Delhi are more likely on some days of the lunar month than on others.

The smallness of the sample on which the curves are based do not justify any conclusions as to the nature of the periodicity. However, it is apparent that thunderstorms are more frequent during the week following the full moon, than during the other weeks.

M. M. NYASTHANI  
T. R. VISVANATHAN

*Meteorological Office,  
New Delhi  
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#### REFERENCE

- Visvanathan, T. R. *Indian J. Met. Geophys.*,  
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