Relative contribution of synoptic systems to monsoon rainfall over Orissa

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ABSTRACT. The low/depression over northwest (NW) Bay of Bengal is the largest contributor to seasonal monsoon rainfall over all stations in Orissa and Orissa as a whole. The Low Pressure Systems (LPS) and cyclonic circulation (cycir) extending upto 500 hPa level over NW Bay of Bengal alone contribute about 22% to the seasonal monsoon rainfall through about 12 days. The monsoon trough without any significant embedded systems over Orissa and adjoining regions contributes about 28% to seasonal rainfall through about 55 days. All types of LPS including low, depression and cyclonic storm yield maximum rainfall in their left forward (southwest) sectors. The maximum rainfall belt lies more southward due to a depression compared to that due to a low. The spatial distribution of rainfall due to cycir is less systematic. The interaction due to Eastern Ghat plays a significant role in spatial distribution of rainfall over western and eastern sides of the Eastern Ghat due to monsoon lows and depressions over Orissa and adjoining Bay and land regions. The orographic interaction due to Eastern Ghat with the cycirs over Orissa and adjoining Bay and land regions is significantly less leading to no significant difference in spatial distribution of rainfall over eastern and western sides of the Eastern Ghat.

Key words – Monsoon, Variability, Orissa.

1. Introduction

The southwest summer monsoon rainfall over India is dominated by the semi-permanent monsoon trough which extends from west Pakistan to north Bay of Bengal and the synoptic disturbances like low pressure area (low), depression, cyclonic storm and cyclonic circulation (cycir) extending upto 500 hPa level which develop frequently over north Bay of Bengal and move in a west-northwesterly/northwesterly direction across Orissa or Gangetic West Bengal along the monsoon trough. As per criteria of India Meteorological Department (IMD), a low pressure system (LPS) is a low, if the wind speed associated with the system is <17 knots (kt), a depression, if the wind speed is 17-27 kt, a deep depression, if the wind speed is 28-33 kt, a cyclonic storm, if the wind speed is more than or equal to 34 kt. Over the sea, wind strength belt lies more southward due to a depression compared to that due to a low. The spatial distribution of rainfall due to cycir is less systematic. The interaction due to Eastern Ghat plays a significant role in spatial distribution of rainfall over western and eastern sides of the Eastern Ghat due to monsoon lows and depressions over Orissa and adjoining Bay and land regions. The orographic interaction due to Eastern Ghat with the cycirs over Orissa and adjoining Bay and land regions is significantly less leading to no significant difference in spatial distribution of rainfall over eastern and western sides of the Eastern Ghat.
Figs. 1(a&b). (a) Mean sea level isobaric pattern (hPa) and mean wind (knots) at 0.9 km, plotted according to WMO code over Indian region and (b) physiography of Orissa:


- Southwest hilly region,
- Coastal plain,
- Axis of Eastern Ghat
- Northern upland,
- Central river basin,
- Hill peaks

Figs. 1(a&b). (a) Mean sea level isobaric pattern (hPa) and mean wind (knots) at 0.9 km, plotted according to WMO code over Indian region and (b) physiography of Orissa.
According to Rao (1976), the monsoon activity is significantly controlled by the monsoon trough. While studying index of activity of the monsoon trough over India, Mooley and Shukla (1989a) have observed that a majority of days (about 56%) during the monsoon season, the seasonal monsoon trough is the only synoptic scale system contributing to rainfall over Indian region. Mooley and Shukla (1989b) have found that LPS adds largely to the activity of the monsoon trough. Kumar and Dash (1989b) have found that LPS adds largely to the activity of the monsoon trough.

Orissa State, a meteorological subdivision of India, lies on the east coast, adjacent to north Bay of Bengal and also close to the south of the eastern end of normal position of the monsoon trough over Indian main land [Fig. 1(a)]. Fig. 1(a) describes the surface isobaric pattern, basic monsoon flow at 0.9 km asl over Indian region, location of the mean position of the monsoon trough and the regions of rainfall maxima and minima with respect to the monsoon trough during the representative month of July. The basic flow in the lower levels extending upto about 6 km above mean sea level is westerly over the region south of the monsoon trough. The westerly winds are relatively dry continental over Orissa because of the long path over the land mass from west coast to Orissa, and hence are less rain bearing. Hence, Orissa does not get any appreciable amount of rainfall in the absence of any synoptic scale monsoon disturbances over north Bay.

In addition to above, there is orographic interaction due to Eastern Ghat and other hill peaks in Orissa. The physiography of Orissa is given in Fig. 1(b). Physiographically, Orissa consists of broadly four regions. (i) coastal plain; (ii) southwest hilly region of Eastern Ghat; (iii) northern upland and (iv) central river basin.

The monsoon rainfall over Orissa, compared to the ISMR, is more significantly dependent on the interaction of basic monsoon flow with the synoptic disturbances like LPSC developing over Bay of Bengal and moving along the monsoon trough. Due to significant variation in characteristics like, frequency of formation, region of occurrence and intensity of the synoptic systems and varied physiography of Orissa, there is significant spatial variation in the seasonal rainfall over Orissa. So, a detailed study is undertaken to find out the contribution of different synoptic scale systems to the variability of monsoon rainfall over Orissa. For this purpose, the percentage contribution of different synoptic systems to the monsoon rainfall over Orissa are calculated and analysed. This study will help in further analysis and development of models for prediction of monsoon rainfall over Orissa.

2. Data and methodology

On real time basis, daily rainfall is received from about 60 stations in Orissa. However, continuous record of daily rainfall during monsoon season for the period of 20 years (1980-1999) is not available for all these stations. So, 31 stations, which are almost uniformly distributed in Orissa, have been selected for this study [Fig. 2(a)]. The necessary quality control of the data has been carried out and the missing data, though very few in number for these 31 stations, have been filled up considering the rainfall at surrounding stations. The correlation between the daily average rainfall over Orissa based on real time data and the daily average rainfall over Orissa based on the data of 31 selected representative stations in Orissa is found to be
Figs. 2(a&b). (a) Selected rain gauge stations in Orissa and (b) Regions of occurrence of LPS under consideration

(a)

1. Balasore       17. Jharasuguda
2. Chandabali     18. Sambal pur
3. Baripada       19. Ambobhona
4. Udala          20. Puri
6. Paradeep       22. Phulbani
7. Cuttack        23. Bolangir
11. Champua       27. Paralakhemundi
13. Pallahara     29. Gudri
15. Rajkishorenagar 31. Nawarangapur
16. Panposh

(b)

1. Northeast Bay  
2. Northwest Bay  
3. West central Bay
4. North coastal Andhra Pradesh
5. Orissa
6. East Madhya Pradesh and Chattishgarh
7. Jharkhand
8. Gangetic West Bengal
9. Bangladesh
TABLE 1
Average frequency of days of different synoptic systems during monsoon season (June-September)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synoptic system</th>
<th>Region of occurrence of synoptic system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPSC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

L : Low pressure area (low), D : Depression/deep depression, CS : Cyclonic storm, Cycir : Upper air cyclonic circulation extending up to mod-tropospheric level, LPS : L/D/CS, LPSC : LPS/cycir

- : Data insufficient

The four largest frequencies for each type of synoptic system are shown in bold figures

0.93 which is highly significant. Hence the daily rainfall over Orissa can be well represented by these 31 stations.

The data on day of occurrence, region of occurrence and intensity etc. of the synoptic disturbances like LPSC and the position of the monsoon trough are collected from various daily weather reports published by IMD. The depression and deep depression are considered together without any differentiation. A day is considered as an LPSC day over a region, if the system is detected over the same region in the synoptic weather chart based on 0830 hrs (IST) observation. In addition, the first day of formation of the LPSC over any region is considered as an LPSC day for that region if the system is detected either at 0830 hrs (IST) or 1730 hrs (IST) observation. The regions of occurrence of LPSC under consideration in this study are shown in Fig. 2(b). These regions are west central (WC) Bay of Bengal off north coastal Andhra Pradesh (NCAP), northwest (NW) Bay, northeast (NE) Bay, Orissa (ORS), Gangetic West Bengal (GWB), Bangladesh (BDS), Jharkhand (JKD), east Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh (EMPC) and NCAP. The simultaneous occurrence of the LPSC over any two different regions under consideration e.g., LPSC over NW Bay and LPSC over EMPC, though rare cases, is taken care by giving preference to the LPSC over Bay of Bengal region and neighbourhood, as the system over these regions contribute significantly more rainfall than the systems over other land regions. The contributions from the systems over the above mentioned regions are only considered, as the contributions from the systems over other regions are very less. For many days during the season, the monsoon trough without any significant embedded LPSC over the regions under consideration contributes to the rainfall over Orissa. The contribution of the monsoon trough to the seasonal rainfall over Orissa is hence considered.

The All India Break Monsoon (AIBM)/weak monsoon conditions, is one of the major causes for the variability of the monsoon rainfall. Hence, the contribution of AIBM days to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa is analysed. The detailed synoptic situations associated with this AIBM condition are summarised by Ramamurthy (1969). Based on these synoptic conditions, the AIBM days in different years have been found out by Ramamurthy (1969) and De et al. (1998). The data on AIBM days during 1980-1997 are taken from De et al. (1998). The AIBM conditions, as defined by Ramamurthy (1969), are used to find out AIBM days during 1998 and 1999. As per the criteria, the period with AIBM condition existing for more than two days is considered as the period of AIBM days.

The average frequencies of days associated with different synoptic systems in the monsoon season are found out and analysed. The movement of cyclonic storms and depressions during the season is analysed by considering the tracks of these systems. As the centre of monsoon low is not well defined unlike that of cyclonic storms/depressions, the frequencies of the lows developing over different areas of Bay of Bengal and crossing different coastal regions under consideration are analysed. The percentage contributions of the synoptic systems like low, depression, cyclonic storm and cycir over and around Orissa, monsoon trough without any significant embedded systems over and around Orissa and
AIBM period to the seasonal (June-September) monsoon rainfall over different stations in Orissa and to the average seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa as a whole are calculated based on daily rainfall recorded at 0830 hrs (IST) of the day over 31 almost uniformly distributed rain gauge stations in Orissa and the synoptic system on the previous day during the period of 20 years (1980-1999). The percentage contribution of a system e.g., low over NW Bay of Bengal to the seasonal rainfall over a station is taken as the percentage ratio of the total rainfall over that station due to all the days of low over NW Bay of Bengal during monsoon season over the period of 1980-1999 to the total rainfall over that station during monsoon season over the same period. The spatial variability of percentage contribution to the seasonal monsoon rainfall by different synoptic systems are analysed considering the region of occurrence and intensity of the system.

3. Results and discussion

The average frequencies of days associated with different synoptic systems in the monsoon season based on the data of 1980-1999 are given in Table 1. The average frequency of days is maximum over NW Bay of
TABLE 2 (a)
The frequency distribution of monsoon lows developing over Bay of Bengal and crossing different coastal regions under consideration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Region of formation</th>
<th>Subsequent regions of occurrence over Bay</th>
<th>Coastal region crossed by the system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NE and adjoining NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NW and adjoining NE Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NW and adjoining NE Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NW and adjoining NE Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NW and adjoining WC Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WC and adjoining NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>WC and adjoining NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WC Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>WC Bay of Bengal off NCAP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NW and adjoining NE Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 2 (b)
The frequency distribution of monsoon depressions/ cyclonic storms developing over Bay of Bengal and crossing different coastal regions under consideration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Region of formation</th>
<th>Subsequent regions of occurrence over Bay</th>
<th>Coastal region crossed by the system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NE and adjoining NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NW and adjoining NE Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NW and adjoining WC Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>WC and adjoining NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>WC Bay of Bengal off NCAP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>EC Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>NW Bay of Bengal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WC Bay of Bengal off NCAP</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bengal followed by EMPC, GWB and Orissa in case of low, maximum over NW Bay of Bengal followed by EMPC, Orissa and GWB in case of depression and maximum over GWB followed by NW Bay of Bengal, Orissa and JKD in case of cycir. It may be due to the fact that most of the synoptic disturbances develop over NW Bay of Bengal and move northwestwards, as the monsoon trough runs normally from NW Bay of Bengal to NW
India. To ascertain this, the tracks of cyclonic storms and depressions developing over Bay of Bengal during the monsoon season over the period of 1980-1999 are shown in Fig. 3. It indicates that most of the depressions/cyclonic storms develop over NW Bay of Bengal and cross Orissa coast followed by West Bengal coast during monsoon season. The frequencies of monsoon lows developing over Bay of Bengal and crossing different coastal regions under consideration are given in Table 2. Most of the lows also develop over NW Bay of Bengal and move across Orissa followed by GWB and NCAP. However, only about 50% of total monsoon lows developing over Bay of Bengal cross Orissa coast, while about 69% of total monsoon depressions developing over Bay of Bengal cross Orissa coast during the monsoon season.

Most of the lows developing over WC Bay of Bengal or WC Bay of Bengal and adjoining NW Bay move across NCAP [Table 2(a)]. Similarly, most of the lows developing over NW and adjoining WC Bay or NW Bay move across Orissa. While most of the lows developing over NE and adjoining NW Bay move across Bangladesh/GWB, those developing over NW and adjoining NE Bay mostly move across GWB followed by Orissa. Most of the depressions developing over WC Bay cross NCAP like the lows [Table 2(b)]. However, most of the depressions developing over WC and adjoining NW Bay cross Orissa coast. Similarly, most of the depressions developing over NW and adjoining WC Bay, NW Bay and NW and adjoining NE Bay cross Orissa coast and the depressions developing over NE and adjoining NW Bay mostly cross GWB.

The seasonal monsoon rainfall distribution over Orissa based on the data of 1980-1999 is given in Fig. 4. On the average, Orissa gets about 9mm of rainfall per day during monsoon season, which is about 0.8% of seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa. The central region extending from CTK-PRI towards SNG gets more rainfall. It may be due to the fact that most of the LPS develop over NW Bay of Bengal and move northwestwards along the monsoon trough. The monsoon trough in association with the LPS over NW Bay passes through north Orissa. The region, a little south (about 2° south over Orissa longitudes) of the monsoon trough gets higher rainfall (Raghavan, 1973; Pathan, 1993). However, there is a secondary region of higher rainfall over northeast Orissa covering northern parts of BLS and MBJ, as this region lies to the south of the normal position of monsoon trough (about 2° south) in the absence of any embedded LPS. With the LPS over NW Bay, the basic monsoon flow in lower tropospheric level over the Eastern Ghat region of Orissa becomes northwesterly. Hence, the western side of Eastern Ghat becomes windward side and gets more rainfall. The eastern side of Eastern Ghat gets relatively less rainfall as it lies on the lee side [Fig. 1(b)] for the systems developing over NW Bay.

The total percentage contributions of different systems to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa are given in Table 3. The total lows, depressions, cyclonic...
TABLE 4

Average rainfall per day by different synoptic systems expressed as percentage of the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synoptic system</th>
<th>Region of occurrence of synoptic system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>0.9 1.6 1.9 1.4 1.0 0.9 1.0 0.5 1.1 1.2 0.6 0.7 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>4.0 4.0 3.2 2.0 1.0 1.6 - 0.4 1.7 1.8 0.5 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>- - 1.5 - - 2.5 - - 1.0 - - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyir</td>
<td>0.7 0.7 1.1 0.8 0.5 0.5 0.3 0.5 0.7 0.9 0.7 0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

L : Low pressure area (low), D : Depression/deep depression, CS : Cyclonic storm, Cyir : Upper air cyclonic circulation extending up to mid-tropospheric level

1. NE and adjoining NW Bay, 2. NW and adjoining NE Bay, 3. NW Bay, 4. NW and adjoining WC Bay, 5. WC and adjoining NW Bay, 6. WC Bay off NCAP, 7. NCAP, 8. EMPC, 9. Orissa, 10. GWB, 11. JKD, 12. Bangladesh

- : Data insufficient
The highest three values for each category of synoptic systems are shown in bold figures.

storms and cycirs over different regions under consideration contribute about 42%, 12%, 1% and 15% to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa through about 36, 6, 0.6 and 19 days of occurrence during the season respectively. The total LPSC over NW Bay alone contributes about 22% to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa through about 12 days.

3.1. Contribution of low to seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa

The average rainfall occurrences per day in association with different synoptic systems as expressed in Table 4. Considering lows over different geographical locations, Orissa as a whole gets maximum rainfall due to low over the NW Bay followed by low over NW and adjoining NE Bay and low over NW and adjoining WC Bay. Most parts of Orissa lie on the left forward sector or southwest sector of these westward moving systems. The southwest sector of westward moving depression gets maximum rainfall due to maximum low level convergence and upward vertical motion (Rao and Rajamani, 1970, 1975 and Rajamani and Rao, 1981). The rainfall over Orissa as a whole is minimum due to low over EMPC as most parts of Orissa lie in the rear sector (sector of minimum convergence) away from the system centre.

The spatial distributions of percentage contributions of the monsoon lows over different regions to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa are shown in Figs. 5(a-k). The percentage contribution to total seasonal rainfall over Orissa as a whole is maximum from the low over NW Bay followed by NW and adjoining NE Bay, GWB, Orissa and NW and adjoining WC Bay among the lows over different regions under consideration. The low over NW Bay is also the largest contributor to rainfall over all individual stations. The spatial distributions of the percentage contribution of the lows over NE and adjoining NW Bay, NW and adjoining NE Bay, NW Bay, NW and adjoining WC Bay, Orissa, GWB, JKD and Bangladesh to the seasonal rainfall (Fig. 5), confirms that the left forward sector of the low (southwest sector) gets more rainfall than other sectors. Due to the interaction of basic monsoon flow and the low, the low level convergence and vertical motion and hence the rainfall are maximum in the southwest sector. The region with higher percentage contribution over the southwest sector is oriented from east to west with the lows over NE and adjoining NW Bay, NW and adjoining NE Bay, NW Bay, NW and adjoining WC Bay, EMPC, Orissa, GWB, JKD and Bangladesh, as the monsoon trough extends from northwest India to the centre of these systems and the region, a little south of the monsoon trough gets more rainfall.

The eastern side of Eastern Ghat gets less contribution to the seasonal rainfall than the western side of Eastern Ghat from the low over NW Bay, Orissa, GWB, JKD and Bangladesh as the basic monsoon flow is mainly westerly over the Eastern Ghat region of Orissa and western and eastern sides of Eastern Ghat become windward and lee side respectively for these lows. While, the percentage contributions from the lows over NE and adjoining NW Bay and NW and adjoining WC Bay to the seasonal rainfall do not show any significant difference in
The figure (%) in the left corner indicates percentage contribution of the system to average seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa.

Figs. 5(a-k). The percentage contribution of low over different regions to seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa.
Figs. 6(a-j). The percentage contribution of depression over different regions to seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa

D: Depression
The subscript in D indicates region of occurrence of depression as shown in Table 1.
1: NE and adjoining NW Bay, 2: NW and adjoining NE Bay, 3: NW Bay, 4: NW and adjoining WC Bay, 5: WC and adjoining NW Bay, 6: WC Bay off NCAP, 8: EMPC, 9: Orissa, 10: GWB and 11: JKD

The figure (%) in the left corner indicates percentage contribution of the system to average seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa

Spatial distributions on western and eastern sides of Eastern Ghat, those from the lows over NW and adjoining NE Bay and EMPC show higher contribution to the seasonal rainfall over the region along the axis of the Eastern Ghat and adjacent regions on the western side. As the basic monsoon flow becomes easterly over the Ghat...
The eastern side of Eastern Ghat is associated with higher percentage contribution than the western side from the depressions over WC Bay off NCAP and less contributions from depressions over NW Bay, NW and adjoining NE Bay, NW Bay, GWB, Orissa and JKD. However, unlike the low over GWB, the western part of
Figs. 8(a-k). The percentage contribution of cycir over different regions to seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa.

C: Cycir (cyclonic circulation extending upto 500 hPa level)

The subscript in C indicates region of occurrence of cycir as shown in Table 1.

1: NE and adjoining NW Bay, 2: NW and adjoining NE Bay, 3: NW Bay, 4: NW and adjoining WC Bay,
5: WC and adjoining NW Bay, 6: WC Bay off NCAP, 8: EMPC, 9: Orissa,
10: GWB, 11: JKD and 12: Bangladesh

The figure (%) in the left corner indicates percentage contribution of the system to average seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa

Figs. 8(a-k). The percentage contribution of cycir over different regions to seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa.
KRP and adjoining areas of KLH, which lie on western side of Eastern Ghat, also get less rainfall like eastern side of Eastern Ghat due to depression over GWB. The percentage contributions from the depression over NE and adjoining NW Bay, NW and adjoining WC Bay and EMPC do not show significant difference in spatial distributions on eastern and western sides of Eastern Ghat.

3.3. Contribution of cyclonic storms to seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa

The contribution of cyclonic storm to seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa is very less as the frequency of cyclonic storms and cyclonic storm days during the monsoon season are very less during the period under study (Fig. 3 and Table 1). As the frequency is very less, only the cyclonic storm days over three significant regions viz., NW Bay, WC Bay off NCAP and Orissa are analysed.

The spatial distributions of the percentage contributions of cyclonic storms for all the days of occurrence taken together over different regions under consideration to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa are shown in Figs. 7(a-c). The contributions from cyclonic storm over NW Bay are higher over central parts of coastal Orissa and adjoining areas [Fig. 7(a)]. The contributions from cyclonic storm over WC Bay off NCAP are higher over coastal Orissa [Fig. 7(b)]. The south coastal Orissa gets more contribution than north coastal Orissa, as it lies in the vicinity of the system. Also the south coastal Orissa lies on the windward side of the Eastern Ghat, as the winds over the Eastern Ghat region in lower tropospheric level are generally easterly with the cyclonic storm over WC Bay off NCAP. The contributions from cyclonic storm over Orissa are higher over south Orissa and adjoining areas being maximum over western side of Eastern Ghat [Fig. 7(c)]. Thus the left forward sector of the cyclonic storm over NW Bay/Orissa also gets more intense rainfall like that of a low and depression. While, the orientation of the region with higher contribution extending from east to west to a little south of the monsoon trough, is observed more prominently with the low/depression over NW Bay, it is comparatively less significant with the cyclonic storm over NW Bay, as the intense rainfall is more confined to the coastal region adjacent to the centre of the storm. The above analysis has got the limitations as it is based on the small sample data.

3.4. Contribution of cycir to seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa

The average rainfall per day to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa is maximum due to cycir over NW Bay followed by GWB and NW and adjoining WC Bay (Table 4). It may be due to the fact that the cycirs over these locations mainly move westwards and most parts of Orissa lie in the southwest sector of the system. There is maximum rainfall in the southwest sector due to maximum low level convergence and upward vertical motion.

The spatial distributions of the percentage contributions of cycirs over different regions under consideration to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa are shown in Figs. 8(a-k). The percentage contribution to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa as a whole is maximum from the cycir over GWB followed by that over NW Bay and Orissa. The cycir over NW Bay is the largest contributor for most parts of coastal Orissa and that over GWB is the largest contributor for the most parts of interior Orissa (not shown) among the cycirs over different regions under consideration. The spatial distributions of percentage contributions to seasonal rainfall from the cycirs over different regions are less systematic compared to those in case of lows over the corresponding regions. Considering the cycirs over NW Bay and Orissa etc., the higher contribution to seasonal rainfall is also observed in other sectors in addition to southwest sector of the cycir. The east-west orientation in higher percentage contribution to the seasonal monsoon rainfall, though not well defined, is observed in case of the cycir over NW Bay, GWB, Orissa, JKD and EMPC.

The orographic interaction due to Eastern Ghat and other hill peaks with the basic monsoon flow and the cycir over any region under consideration is significantly less. There is no significant difference in spatial distributions of percentage contributions on western and eastern sides of Eastern Ghat for cycirs over different regions.

3.5. Contribution of monsoon trough without any significant embedded systems

Orissa as a whole gets about 28% of it’s seasonal rainfall during monsoon season due to monsoon trough without any significant embedded systems over any region under consideration. The percentage contribution of this monsoon trough to seasonal rainfall is higher over eastern side of Eastern Ghat (Fig. 9). It is less (< 25%) over some parts of coastal Orissa, some areas on western side of Eastern Ghat and adjoining areas of central river basin. The less contribution over western side Eastern Ghat may be attributed to the fact that in the absence of any embedded system over Orissa and adjoining regions like north Bay, the interaction of orography with the basic monsoon flow is very less and hence there is no significant enhancement of rainfall over western side of Eastern Ghat. The eastern side of Eastern Ghat at the same
time gets comparatively more rainfall, which may be due to thunderstorm activity in association with low level north-south trough over the region. Comparing the Fig. 4 and Fig. 9, the spatial patterns are almost opposite to each other, which indicates that the region, getting normally higher rainfall, gets less rainfall and vice versa due to monsoon trough without any significant embedded system. Though, the percentage contribution of the monsoon trough without any embedded system to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa is very high (about 28%), the mean daily rainfall contribution by this system to the seasonal monsoon rainfall is very less (about 0.5% against the daily normal rainfall of 0.8% of seasonal monsoon rainfall), as this system prevails for about 55 days in a season, according to the data of 1980-1999. Hence, the monsoon trough without any significant embedded system over any region under consideration causes in general deficient rainfall over Orissa.

3.6. Contribution of All India Break Monsoon (AIBM) days to seasonal rainfall over Orissa

The spatial distribution of percentage contributions of all AIBM days taken together to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa is shown in Fig. 10. Orissa as a whole gets about 2.7% of it's seasonal monsoon rainfall during AIBM days. The higher percentage contribution of AIBM days to seasonal rainfall over the eastern side of Eastern Ghat and adjoining south coastal plain than over the western side may be due to thunderstorm activity over the region in association with low level north-south trough extending from Bihar/sub-Himalayan West Bengal to north coastal Andhra Pradesh/south Orissa coast which may develop during AIBM days. The percentage contributions to the seasonal rainfall over central part of coastal Orissa, central river basin and western side of Eastern Ghat are comparatively less, as rainfall over these regions depend significantly on the synoptic disturbances like LPSC over NW Bay and neighbourhood with the monsoon trough from the system extending west-northwestwards and their interaction with basic monsoon flow and orography. Though parts of KNJ and western part of SBP get normally less rainfall compared to their surroundings like the eastern side of Eastern Ghat (Fig. 4), the percentage contributions over these regions are not higher than those over their surroundings from the days with AIBM conditions. As AIBM conditions generally prevail for about 5 days per season, based on the data of 1980-1999, the average rainfall per day due to this condition is about 0.5% of seasonal monsoon rainfall, against the daily normal rainfall of 0.8% of seasonal monsoon rainfall. Hence, the AIBM conditions lead to deficient rainfall over Orissa. Comparing Fig. 9 and Fig. 10, the eastern side of Eastern Ghat gets higher percentage contribution due to both the AIBM condition and the monsoon trough without any significant embedded system.

4. Conclusions

(i) The lows, depressions and cyclonic circulations over the regions under consideration contribute about 42%, 12% and 15% to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over Orissa through about 36, 6 and 19 days respectively. Among the lows/depressions over different regions, the lows/depressions over NW Bay of Bengal are the largest contributors to the seasonal monsoon rainfall over all the stations in Orissa and Orissa as a whole. The LPSCs over NW Bay alone contribute about 22% to the seasonal monsoon rainfall through about 12 days.
(ii) Most of the monsoon lows and depressions develop over NW Bay of Bengal and move west-northwestwards/northwestwards across Orissa. However, the depressions have more affinity towards Orissa coast than the lows during monsoon season.

(iii) The monsoon trough without any significant embedded systems over Orissa and adjoining regions and AIBM days contribute about 28% and 2.7% to seasonal rainfall through about 55 and 5 days and hence cause deficient monsoon rainfall over Orissa. The eastern side of the Eastern Ghat gets comparatively higher rainfall due to both AIBM conditions and the monsoon trough without any significant embedded systems.

(iv) All types of LPSC yield maximum rainfall in their left forward (southwest) sectors. However, the spatial distribution of percentage contribution due to the cycir is less systematic. The maximum rainfall belt in the southwest sector lies more southward due to a depression compared to that due to a low.

(v) The eastern side of the Eastern Ghat gets more rainfall than western side due to lows/depressions over WC Bay & WC and adjoining NW Bay. It gets less rainfall than the western side due to lows/depressions over NW Bay, Orissa, GWB, JKD and Bangladesh. While, there is no significant difference in rainfall on western and eastern sides due to low/depression over NE and adjoining NW Bay and NW and adjoining WC Bay and depression over EMPC, the region along Eastern Ghat gets more rainfall than eastern/western sides due to low over EMPC and NW and adjoining NE Bay. The orographic interaction is very less in case of cycir over all the regions leading to no significant difference in spatial distributions of rainfall over eastern and western sides of the Eastern Ghat.

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