

**A STUDY OF THUNDERSTORMS IN THE
HIMALAYAN RANGE OF NEPAL**

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**BEING THE DISSERTATION WORK SUBMITTED TO THE
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THE
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr. Sunil Acharya has prepared the dissertation entitled "**A Study of Thunderstorms in the Himalayan Range of Nepal**" to fulfil the partial requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Meteorology. It is the record of the candidate's own work, carried out by him under my supervision and guidance.

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We hereby recommend that the dissertation prepared by Mr. Sunil Acharya entitled "**A Study of Thunderstorms in the Himalayan Range of Nepal**" has been accepted as partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Master of Science in Meteorology.

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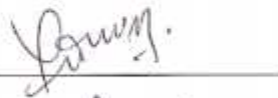
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Abstract

Nepal has experienced series of thunderstorm during the pre-monsoon season (April-May). Due to this natural phenomenon, considerable numbers of human lives, livestock as well as physical properties have been lost every year throughout the country.

Due to the cause of intense heating of land masses during the pre-monsoon period, there is an instability of atmosphere which results to the thunderstorms during this period. Lightning is a major threat during a thunderstorm.

The station of Tribhuvan University, Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology at Lukla is the major source of the meteorological data such as temperature, pressure, humidity, rainfall, solar radiation, wind speed and direction etc. These data were taken for the study, which was received in 4 minutes interval of time. In this study, five days were chosen for the possible Yes/ No thunderstorm days. Among the selected five days for the study, two days were observed as the severe thunderstorm days and the rest three were not.

In order to predict the thunderstorm potential for a particular day we found that the range of temperature and dew point temperature become high before the period of thunderstorm.

Convective Available Potential Energy (CAPE) values was calculated by using ROAB programme taking the upper air sounding of Siliguri. The CAPE comparison isolated 1, 11 and 12 May with the values of 3, 689 and 93 Joules/ Kg respectively from the non thunderstorm days. CAPE values for the days of 26 April and 13 May were 1436 and 1388 Joule/ Kg respectively. It shows that the greater the CAPE values, the greater potentiality for the occurrence of thunderstorm.

The two thunderstorm days shared what appeared to be identical cloud base heights, 800 m AGL, plus clear morning. Cloud base heights of the non-thunderstorm days were higher and ranged from 1200 to 1800 m AGL. It shows that the lower the cloud base heights, the higher potentiality for the occurrence of thunderstorm. Along this, the clear morning is the mechanism for the prediction of thunderstorm.

Table of Content

CONTENT	PAGE
Chapter 1: Introduction	1-24
1.1. Physiographic division of Nepal	1
1.2. General Climatic Feature	4
1.3. General Seasons in Nepal	4
1.4. Four factors that determine climate	5
1.4.1. Latitude	5
1.4.2. Altitude	6
1.4.3. Continentality	8
1.4.4. Regional Circulations	8
1.5. Diurnal Mountain Winds	9
1.5.1. The daily cycle of slope and along-valley winds and temperature structure	10
1.5.1.1. Evening Transition Period	11
1.5.1.2. Decoupled Period (Night Time)	12
1.5.1.3. Morning Transition Period	12
1.5.1.4. Coupled Period (Daytime Period)	12
1.5.2. The four components of mountain wind system	12
1.5.2.1. Slope wind system	12
1.5.2.2. Along- valley wind system	13
1.5.2.3. Cross-valley winds	15
1.5.2.4. Mountain-plain wind system	15
1.6. Cumulonimbus clouds (Cb)	15
1.6.1 Formation	15
1.6.2 Appearance	16
1.6.3 Effects	16

1.7. Thunderstorm	18
1.7.1 Life cycle of thunderstorms	20
1.7.2 Lightning	22
1.7.3 Formation of hail	24
Objectives of the study	24
Chapter 2: Database and Methodology	25
Chapter 3: Result and Discussion	26-37
Chapter 4: Conclusion	38
Recommendation	38
References	39

List of Tables

- Table 1.1: US Forest Service guide to lightning activity level (LAL).
- Table 3.1: Convective Available Potential Energy (CAPE) Values.
- Table 3.2: Cloud Cover and occurrence of thunderstorms on different days.

List of figures

Fig. 1.1: Physiographic Division of Nepal

Fig. 1.2: Wind systems over mountainous terrain

Fig. 1.3: Temperature and wind structure evolution over a valley cross section during the course of a day.

Fig. 1.4: Typical profile of wind and temperature as a function of height above a slope during (a) night time (b) day time

Fig. 1.5: Pressure difference developed between a valley and the adjacent plain

Fig. 1.6: Cumulonimbus cloud at various locations

Fig. 1.7: An environmental conducive to severe thunderstorm

Fig. 1.8: Thunderstorm picture from the space

Fig. 1.9: Three stages of life cycle of thunderstorm

Fig.1.10: Cumulus stage of thunderstorm

Fig.1.11: Mature stage of thunderstorm

Fig.1.12: Dissipating stage of thunderstorm

Fig.2.1: Location of the weather station

Fig. 3.1: Variation of temperature and dew temperature with time

Fig. 3.2: Variation of solar radiation with time

Fig. 3.3: Variation of pressure with time

Fig. 3.4: Variation of wind speed and direction with time

Fig.3.5: Variation of rainfall intensity with time

Fig. 3.6: Rainfall hyetograph

Fig. 3.9: A taxi damaged by hailstone during thunderstorm on 18 May 2005 at Pokhara