

Tropical Cyclone 05B

Tropical Cyclone (TC) 05B was one of the most significant tropical cyclones on record to affect India, and the worst since 1971. News reports indicate approximately 10,000 fatalities and record flooding as TC 05B made landfall near Bhubaneswan, India around 290500Z October, with maximum winds of 135 kt. Of note, this same region was affected by TC 04B just two weeks earlier as a 120 kt tropical cyclone.

TC 05B developed from a disturbance that originated in the South China Sea and tracked through the Gulf of Thailand and across the Malay peninsula before developing in the Andaman Sea. JTWC issued a TCFA for this South China Sea disturbance on 230200Z October. The disturbance didn't develop and the TCFA was cancelled. Subsequently, JTWC monitored this weak disturbance as it moved into the Andaman Sea, where the convection began to consolidate. A TCFA was issued on 251930Z October and the first warning was issued at 260300Z October as the disturbance developed into a 35 kt cyclone.

TC 05B tracked northwestward and intensified across the Bay of Bengal under the steering influence of the subtropical ridge to the north. The intensification was at a greater than climatological rate, peaking at 281800Z October at 140 kt intensity. TC 05B made landfall 11 hours later as a 135 kt system about 35nm south-southeast of Cuttack and 30 nm southeast of Bhubaneswan, India. Subsequently, TC 05B maintained 100 kt intensity for 12 hours as it dumped torrential rains and battered the coastal areas, then slowly turned southward and moved back over the Bay of Bengal as a 40 kt tropical cyclone. TC 05B continued to drift southward and dissipate over water. JTWC issued the 13th and final warning at 2010300Z November.

News reports indicated this was the worst tropical cyclone to hit India since 1971. MSNBC reported Asim Kumar Vaishan, Chief Administrator of Baleshwar, stated "this is the worst flooding in 100 years. I would say it's the worst in India's history." The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Situation Report #11 for 26 November stated "... the death toll now stands at 9,803, with Jagatsinghpur district recording 8,119 victims. Forty persons are still missing and 3,312 have been injured. A total of 1.711 million hectares of crops have been affected. The number of livestock to have perished is 406,000."

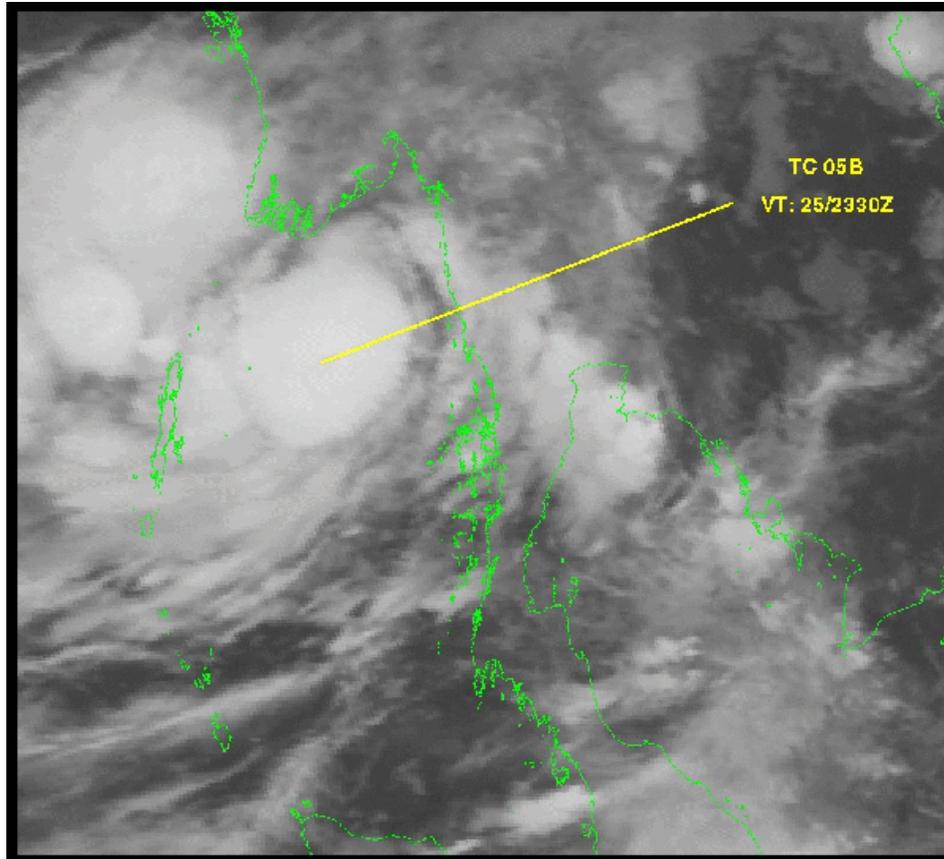


Figure 1-05B-1. 252330Z October GMS-5 infrared image of TC 05B at the initial warning. Intensity was 35 kt.

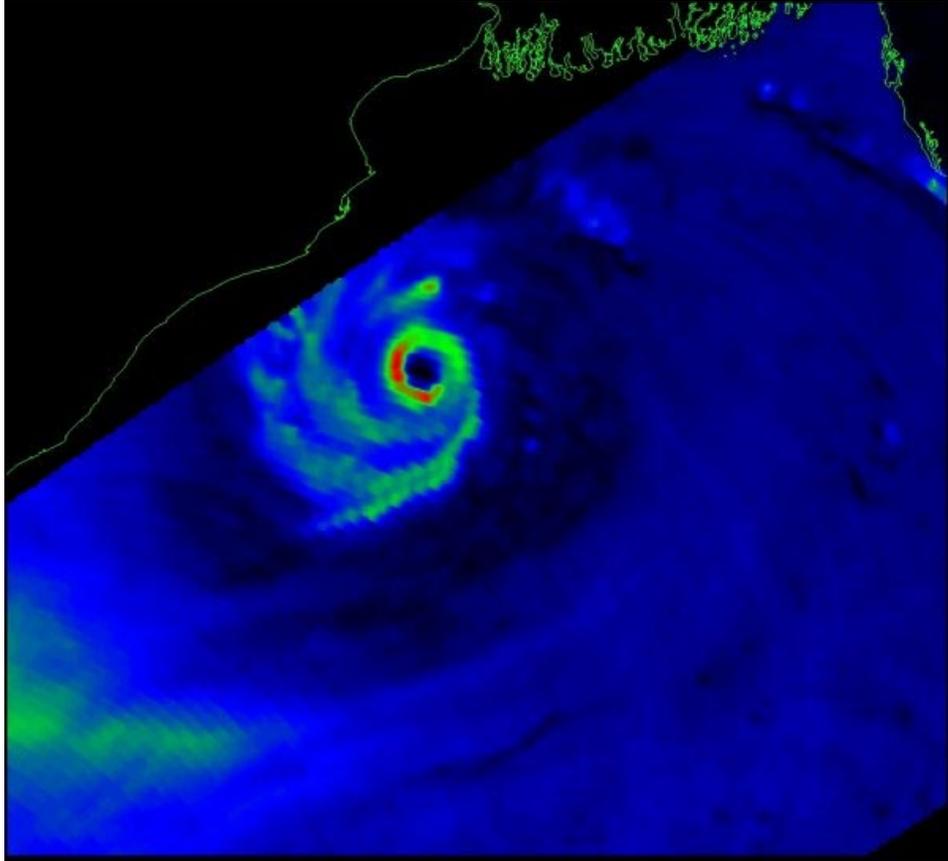


Figure 1-05B-2. 281543Z October Tropical Rainfall Measurement Mission pass of TC 05B. Intensity was 135 kt. TC 05B peaked three hours later at 140 kt.

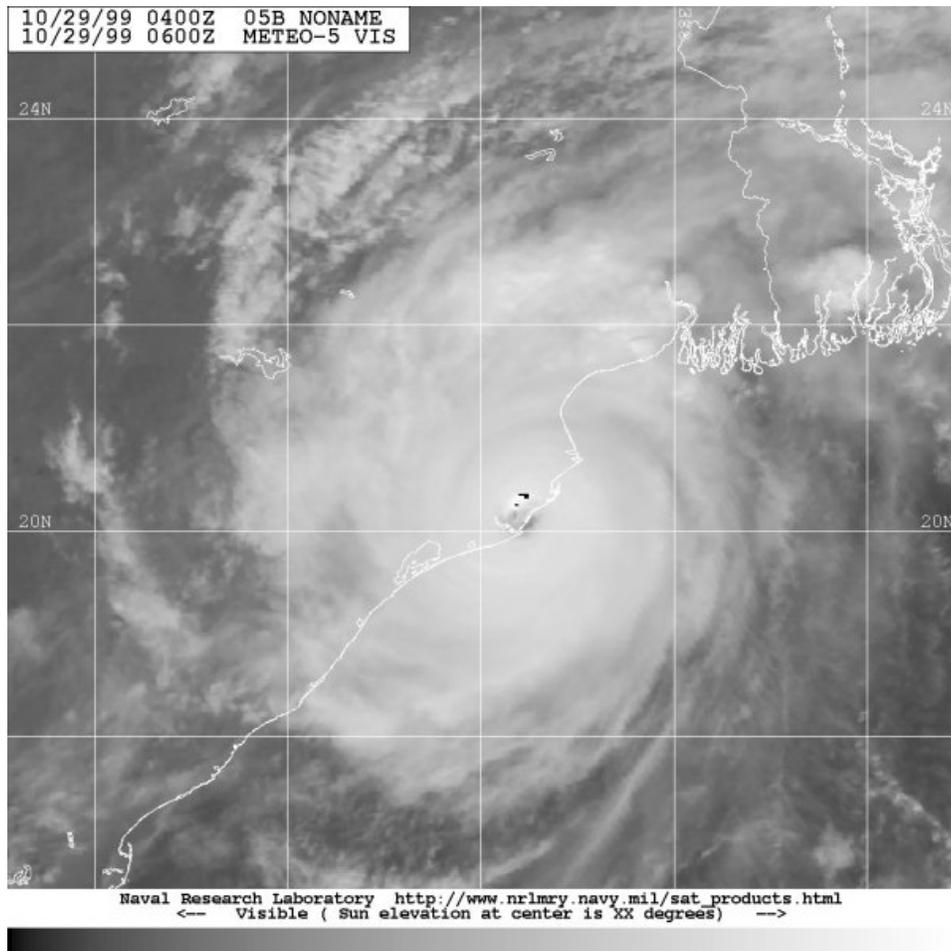


Figure 1-05B-3. 290600Z October METEOSAT-5 visible image of TC 05B. The center of TC 05B made landfall at 0500Z with an intensity of 135 kt.

