

1 **Spring tropical cyclones modulate near-surface isotopic compositions of**
2 **atmospheric water vapour at Kathmandu, Nepal**

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12
13 **Abstract**

14 While westerlies are recognized as a significant moisture transport in Nepal during the
15 pre-monsoon season, precipitation is also attributed to moisture from cyclones originating in the
16 Bay of Bengal (BoB) or the Arabian Sea (AS). Tropical cyclones exhibit negative isotopic values
17 in both precipitation and atmospheric water vapour; however, the factors influencing isotopic
18 fractionation during tropical cyclones remain poorly understood.~~The Arabian Sea (AS) and the~~
19 ~~Bay of Bengal (BoB) are the major part of the Indian Ocean where cyclonic activities prevail~~
20 ~~each year, resulting in extreme precipitation events, particularly during the pre-monsoon season.~~
21 ~~Despite the significance of cyclones in Nepal, no studies have investigated their impact on the~~
22 ~~isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{v}}$, $\delta\text{D}_{\text{v}}$ and d -excess_v). Here, ~~W~~we~~

23 present the results of continuous measurements of the isotopic composition of atmospheric water
24 vapour at Kathmandu from 7 May to 7 June 2021 during two pre-monsoon cyclone events;
25 ~~namely~~ cyclone Tauktae formed over the Arabian Sea, and cyclone Yaas formed over the Bay of
26 Bengal. Our study reveals that tropical cyclones originating from the BoB and the AS during the
27 pre-monsoon season modulate isotopic signals of near-surface atmospheric water vapour in
28 Nepal. Comparing conditions before and after, We observed a significant depletion of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$
29 and δD_v during both cyclone ~~events compared to before and after the cyclone events which was~~
30 attributed to changes in moisture sources (local vs. marine) ~~as inferred from backward moisture~~
31 ~~trajectories. The outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) and regional precipitation during cyclone~~
32 ~~events together with the observed correlation between vertical velocity and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ showed high~~
33 ~~moisture convergence and heavy convection at and around the measurement site which caused~~
34 ~~unusually depleted $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ during that period. Moisture convergence and convection were stronger~~
35 ~~during cyclone Yaas which resulted in higher (lower) d-excess ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$), compared to Tauktae,~~
36 ~~possibly due to strong downdrafts during the cyclone related rain events which can transport~~
37 ~~vapour with higher (lower) d-excess ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$) toward the surface. Our study reveals that tropical~~
38 ~~cyclones that originated from the BoB and the AS modulate isotopic signals of near-surface~~
39 ~~atmospheric water vapour considerably in Nepal. Hence caution should be made while~~
40 ~~interpreting the isotopic variability during the non-monsoon season and the effect of cyclones on~~
41 ~~the isotopic composition of precipitation and atmospheric water vapour~~ Convective activity plays
42 a pivotal role in the variability of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v during both cyclones, confirmed by the spatial
43 variations of outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) and regional precipitation during both
44 cyclones. We also found a significant negative correlation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and rainfall
45 amount along the trajectories during cyclone Tauktae, probably resulting from integrated

46 upstream processes linked to the earlier Rayleigh distillation of water vapour via rainfall, rather
47 than local rainfall. The decrease in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ during cyclone Yaas is associated with the
48 intensified convection and moisture convergence at the measurement site, while the lower cloud
49 top temperatures (CTT) and lower cloud top pressure (CTP) during intense convection contribute
50 to higher d-excess values at the final stage of cyclone Yaas. This characteristic is missing during
51 cyclone Tauktae. Our results shed light on key processes governing the isotopic composition of
52 atmospheric water vapour at Kathmandu and may have implications for the paleoclimate
53 reconstruction of tropical cyclone activity.

54 Keywords: Cyclones; ~~Bay of Bengal; Arabian Sea~~; Isotopic composition of atmospheric water
55 vapour; Convection; Moisture convergence; Kathmandu

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60 **1 Introduction**

61 Although the Indian summer monsoon accounts for more than 80 % of annual rainfall in
62 Nepal, agricultural activities also ~~erucially~~ rely on precipitation in the ~~spring season (also known~~
63 ~~as the pre-monsoon season)~~. Pre-monsoonal rainfall in Nepal is often associated with cyclonic
64 events that provide ~~_sufficient moisture for_~~ precipitation to support the timely planting of
65 monsoonal crops. ~~Every year, cyclonic events over the North Indian Ocean result in extreme~~
66 ~~precipitation events, particularly during the pre monsoon season with less extreme events during~~
67 ~~the post monsoon season (Li et al., 2013).~~ Previous studies have suggested that extreme

68 precipitation in Nepal is mostly fuelled by moisture from the Arabian Sea (AS) and the Bay of
69 Bengal (BoB) (Bohlinger et al., 2017; Boschi and Lucarini, 2019). High sea surface temperatures
70 and the westward movement of tropical cyclones formed over the Western Pacific result in
71 cyclones being formed over the BoB and AS (Mohapatra et al., 2016). The number of cyclones
72 in the AS has ~~dramatically~~ increased ~~recently in recent years~~ compared to the number of cyclones
73 in the BoB (Pandya et al., 2021). According to the International Best Track Archive for Climate
74 Stewardship (IBTrACS) project, in 2019 three cyclones originated in the BoB ~~and while~~ five
75 cyclones originated in the AS. ~~This increase in cyclone frequency in the AS may be due to a~~
76 ~~rise in sea surface temperature, which also lengthenings~~ the cyclone decay period (Li and
77 Chakraborty, 2020). Usually, the impact of cyclones formed over the AS is restricted to the
78 nearest coastal regions. However, in recent years this appears to have changed as cyclones are
79 forming back-to-back over the AS and affecting the entire Indian subcontinent including
80 surrounding regions, ~~likely due to AS warming leading to cyclone intensification~~ (Li and
81 Chakraborty, 2020). Cyclone Tauktae ~~has~~ affected the livelihoods of people both near the coast
82 and further inland during the pre-monsoon season of 2021 (Pandya et al., 2021). The impacts of
83 cyclone Yaas after cyclone Tauktae were also felt in Nepal, where it triggered flooding and
84 landslides in several parts of the country (<https://floodlist.com/asia/nepal-flood-landslide-may-2021/>). As both cyclones hit in short succession, this led to severe agricultural damage in several
85 parts of India at a critical time when farmers were preparing to sow their rice paddies ahead of
86 the monsoon season (<https://reliefweb.int/organization/acaps>). In Nepal, ~~most of~~ the damage due
87 to Yaas was mostly limited to the Terai regions which experienced intense and continuous
88 rainfall (<https://kathmandupost.com/>). ~~At the same time, some hilly regions benefited from these~~
89 ~~cyclone induced rains, as they created favourable conditions for farmers preparing their~~

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91 | ~~monsoonal crops~~. Moisture flux associated with cyclones generally extends over a large area and
92 | causes moderate to heavy precipitation along the cyclone path and on the nearest land mass
93 | (Chan et al., 2022; Rajeev and Mishra, 2022). ~~Thus, It~~ is ~~therefore~~ essential to understand the
94 | ~~the moisture transport processes of these extreme rainfall events on atmospheric water~~
95 | ~~vapour influence of these extreme rainfall events on atmospheric water vapour, which are in turn~~
96 | ~~related to local clouds and surface energy budgets, determining the amount of moisture available~~
97 | ~~to plants.~~

98 | ~~Atmospheric water vapour is an important constituent of the hydrological cycle and~~
99 | ~~climate system (Saranya et al., 2017), mainly because of its impacts on solar radiation~~
100 | ~~absorption, cloud formation, and atmospheric heating (Noone, 2012).~~ With ~~climate change~~ global
101 | ~~warming~~, the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere is also expected to increase. ~~This has~~
102 | ~~created~~ creating scientific interest in ~~a variety of fields to elucidate~~ the impact of atmospheric
103 | water vapour on changing moisture patterns (Hoffmann et al., 2005).

104 | The isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v , and d-excess,) contains comprehensive information about ~~the hydrological cycle and~~ the history of moisture
105 | exchange (Noone, 2012; Payne et al., 2007; Risi et al., 2008; Worden et al., 2007). Several
106 | studies have shown that the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour is an effective
107 | indicator of cyclone activity (Munksgaard et al., 2015; Sun et al., 2022) including cyclone
108 | evolution and structure (Lawrence et al., 2002). The atmospheric water vapour and precipitation
109 | associated with tropical cyclones tend to have extremely depleted isotopic compositions
110 | compared to monsoonal rain (Chen et al., 2021; Jackisch et al., 2022; Munksgaard et al., 2015;
111 | Sánchez-Murillo et al., 2019), which may be due to the high condensation efficiency and
112 | substantial fractionation associated with cyclones. A few studies found a systematic depletion of
113 |

114 heavy isotopes towards the cyclone eye (Lawrence et al., 2002, 1998; Lawrence and Gedzelman,
115 1996; Sun et al., 2022; Xu et al., 2019). For ~~exampleinstance, studying the~~ cyclone
116 ~~Shanshan, on Ishigaki Island, southwest of Japan,~~ Fudeyasu (2008) observed that isotopic
117 depletion in precipitation and water vapour increased radially inward in the cyclone's outer
118 region, likely due to a rainout effect, ~~associated with condensation efficiency and the isotopic~~
119 ~~exchange between precipitation and water vapour.~~ A study conducted in north-eastern Australia
120 during cyclone Ita in April 2014 ~~underlined~~highlighted the role of synoptic-scale meteorological
121 settings in determining the isotopic variability of atmospheric water vapour (Munksgaard et al.,
122 2015). In Fuzhou, China, Xu et al., (2019) reported a significant depletion in typhoon rain $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
123 ~~which was~~ related to the combined effect of large-scale convection, high condensation
124 efficiency, and recycling of isotopically depleted vapour in the rain shield area. Sánchez-Murillo
125 et al., (2019) highlighted the role of convective and stratiform activity as well as precipitation
126 type and amount, ~~as the main controlling factors of precipitation stable isotopes associated with~~
127 ~~tropical cyclones.~~ The impact of high stratiform fractions and deep convection on isotopic
128 depletion in precipitation during typhoon Lekima was confirmed by Han et al., (2021). ~~These~~
129 ~~findings clearly demonstrate that the processes that contribute to high frequency shifts in the~~
130 ~~isotopic composition of precipitation and atmospheric water vapour during tropical cyclones are~~
131 ~~still a matter of debate.~~

132 Although several studies have examined the isotopic variation of event-based
133 precipitation in Nepal (Acharya et al., 2020; Adhikari et al., 2020; Chhetri et al., 2014), there
134 remains a knowledge gap regarding the isotopic response of atmospheric water vapour during
135 cyclone events. ~~Here,~~ We present for the first time the evolution of the isotopic composition of
136 atmospheric water vapour ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v , and d-excess_v) in Kathmandu during two pre-monsoon

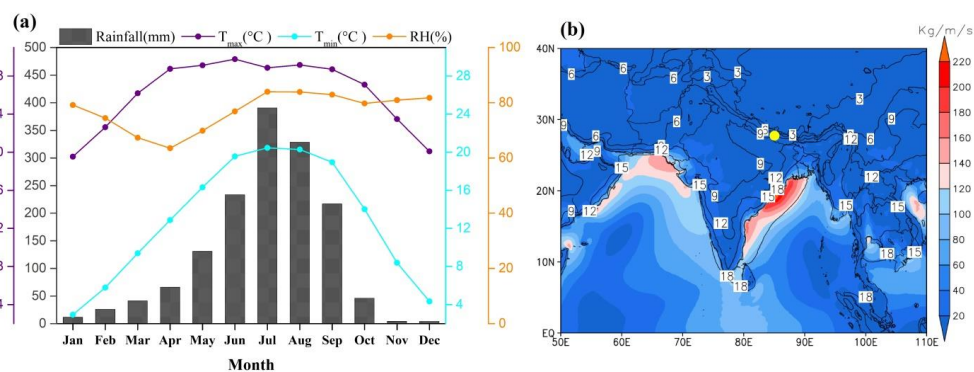
137 cyclone events. Isotopic data were ~~collected~~provided in 2021, ~~stretching~~ from one week before to
138 one week after the cyclone~~s~~-events. Although neither cyclone passed directly over Kathmandu,
139 their remnant vapour produced several days of rainfall ~~that allowed over Kathmandu which~~
140 ~~enabled~~ us to observe changes in the isotopic composition ~~of atmospheric water vapour~~ at high
141 temporal resolutions and ~~to~~ evaluate the cause of such changes at ~~daily and~~ diurnal scales.

142 2 Data and methods

143 2.1 Site description

144 The Kathmandu station lies on the southern slope of the Himalayas (27°42' N, 85°20' E)
145 at an average altitude of about 1400 m above sea level. Based on an 18-year-long record ~~from the~~
146 ~~Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Government of Nepal (from 2001 to 2018)~~-(Figure
147 ~~1)~~, this region has an average annual temperature of ~~about~~ 19° C and ~~average annual~~ precipitation
148 ~~amount~~ of 1500 mm, with ~~~78% of the annual~~~~most of the~~ rainfall occurring in the monsoon
149 season ~~from~~ (June to September) (Adhikari et al., 2020). About 16 % of total annual rainfall in
150 Kathmandu occurs in the pre-monsoon season (March to May) with ~~a corresponding mean~~
151 ~~maximum (minimum)~~ air temperature ~~ranges from 13 to~~ 28° C (~~13° C~~) and ~~averaged~~ relative
152 humidity (RH) of 67 %. ~~Advection of the southern branch of westerlies and evaporation from~~
153 ~~nearby water bodies are the main contributors to pre-monsoonal precipitation (Yu et al., 2015;~~
154 ~~Chhetri et al., 2014). These arid westerlies, resulted in diminished temperature and relative~~
155 ~~humidity (RH) within the region while a substantial presence of moisture was observed over~~
156 ~~extensive areas encompassing the BoB, the AS, India, and surrounding regions including our~~
157 ~~sampling site during our study period. Figure 1 shows the elevated specific humidity levels~~
158 ~~averaged between 1000 hPa and 850 hPa throughout the duration of our study period. The total~~

159 moisture flux (sum of zonal and meridional fluxes) during the pre-monsoon season is low (<60
 160 kg/m/s) as is specific humidity ($\sim 6 \text{ g/kg}$), which is associated with transport by westerlies. The
 161 region receives about 78 % of its annual rainfall during the monsoon season with associated
 162 mean maximum (minimum) air temperature of 29°C (20°C) and RH of about 82 %. Most of the
 163 precipitation over Kathmandu during the monsoon period is due to the influx of humid air
 164 masses from the BoB. Average post monsoon (October and November) and winter (December to
 165 February) RH is about 80 % and 78 %, respectively, with similar rainfall contributions (3 %)
 166 during both seasons. The mean post monsoon and winter mean maximum (minimum) air
 167 temperature is about 25°C (11°C) and 21°C (4°C), respectively.



168 **Figure 1 (a) Long-term (2001-2018) average monthly maximum temperatures (T_{max}),**
 169 **minimum temperature (T_{min}), relative humidity (RH), and precipitation amount (P) at**
 170 **Kathmandu. (b) Spatial distribution of long-term (1990-2021) average specific humidity (in**
 171 **g/Kg) (contour lines) and mean vertically integrated moisture flux (colour) during the pre-**
 172 **monsoon season. The yellow dot shows the location of the Kathmandu site.**

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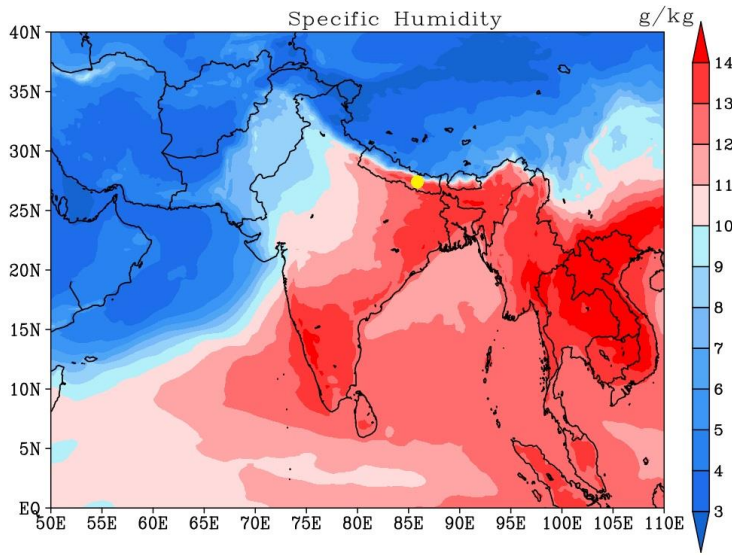


Figure 1 Spatial distribution of specific humidity averaged over 1000 hPa to 850 hPa (in g/Kg) during the period of study. The yellow dot shows the location of Kathmandu.

2.2 The evolution of cyclones Tauktae and Yaas and weather conditions at Kathmandu

Cyclone Tauktae developed as a tropical disturbance on 13 May 2021 over the AS, ~~and had~~ evolved into a deep depression by 14 May, ~~mov~~ moving north, ~~ward~~ and gradually intensifying ~~over the warm coastal water~~ before turning into a cyclonic storm with wind speeds reaching 75 km/h on that same day (Pandya et al., 2021). ~~Even A~~ After making landfall in the Gir-Somnath district of Gujarat, Tauktae continued to strengthen and was classified as an extremely severe cyclonic storm on 17 May reaching maximum wind speeds of 220 km/h ~~as per the Indian Meteorological Department's Tropical Cyclone Intensity Scale~~ (Verma and Gupta, 2021; Pandya et al., 2021). Cyclone weakened into a low depression on 18 May 2021 at 17:00 h Indian Local

190 Time (ILT) and finally dissipated one day later. Due to its large convective area, it brought heavy
191 rainfall to different regions of India and Nepal.

192 The signal of cyclone Tauktae was first detected at the Kathmandu site on 19 May at
193 approximately 03:00 local time (LT), followed by light drizzle. The recorded air temperature was
194 about 22°C, and the relative humidity (RH) was approximately 72%. Within 16 hours, the RH
195 increased from 72% to 91%, while the temperature dropped from 22°C to around 19°C. The
196 maximum RH and minimum temperature were observed on 21 May around 04:00 h LT, reaching
197 92% and 17°C, respectively.

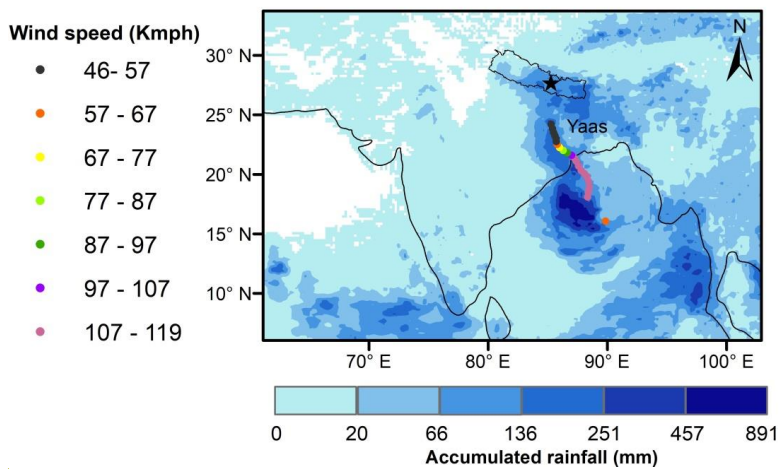
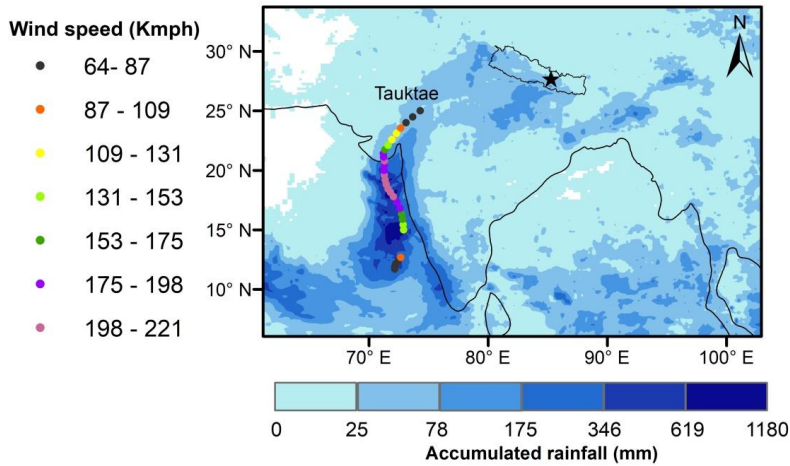
198
199 Cyclone Yaas started out as a depression over the BoB on 22 May 2021 at 08:30 h ILT
200 and gradually intensified into a deep depression before turning into a cyclonic storm on 24 May
201 at around 00:00 h ILT as it moved northeast (Paul and Chowdhury, 2021). The corresponding
202 wind speed and central pressure were recorded as ~~about~~ 65 km/h and 990 hPa, respectively. On
203 24 May ~~at~~ around 18:00 h ILT, it intensified into a severe cyclonic storm with wind speeds
204 ranging from 89 to 117 km/h before becoming a very severe cyclonic storm on 25 May at 12:00
205 h ILT with wind speeds from ~~about~~ 119 km/h to 165 km/h. It made landfall north of Odisha on
206 26 May with maximum sustained wind speeds of 130 km/h to 140 km/h and progressively
207 weakened into a depression on 27 May ~~before~~and dissipatinged over northern India on 28 May.

208 The Kathmandu weather station recorded a total of 59.6 mm of precipitation during
209 cyclone Yaas. Intermittent small patches of rainfall commenced on 25 May at 11:00h LT. The
210 main cyclone event occurred from 26 May at 01:00h LT to 29 May at 01:00h LT. Throughout
211 this period, the ground-level RH fluctuated between 84% and 93%, while surface temperature

212 varied between 18°C and 22°C. Notably, all RH values exceeded 80% from 25 May around
213 22:00 h LT to 29 May at 10:00 h LT.

214 Wind speeds, pressure, and cyclone eye location information (3-hour resolution) were
215 taken from datasets of the International Best Track Archive for Climate Stewardship (IBTrACS)
216 project (Knapp et al., 2010), <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/>. The latter was used to
217 calculate the spatial distance between the cyclone’s eye and our measurement location. Figure 2
218 illustrates the intensity and cumulative rainfall along the paths of the cyclones. A characteristic
219 of both cyclones is the occurrence of rainout along their trajectories, persisting as they move
220 inland.

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222 **Figure 2 The intensity and track of cyclone Tauktae (Upper panel) and Yaas (Bottom**
223 **panel) along with accumulated rainfall during their occurrence.**

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225 | **2.3 Isotope measurements and meteorological data**

226 | Near-surface $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v were measured continuously using a Picarro L2130-i
227 | analyser based on wavelength-scanned cavity ring-down spectroscopy (WS-CRDS) (Brand et al.,
228 | 2009), located at the Kathmandu Centre for Research and Education (KCRE), ~~established by the~~
229 | ~~Chinese Academy of Sciences with the collaboration of Tribhuvan University,~~ Nepal. The
230 | sampling inlet consisting of a heated copper tube mounted 7 m above the ground protected with a
231 | plastic hood and a 10 L min⁻¹ pump transported the sample from the inlet to the analyser.~~An inlet~~
232 | ~~of water vapour was placed 7 m above the grass-covered ground. The copper tube is heated using~~
233 | ~~a self-regulating heat trace isolated with armaflex. To prevent rain from being sucked into the~~
234 | ~~tube, the head of the inlet was covered with a plastic hood. A 10 L min⁻¹ pump quickly~~
235 | ~~transported the vapour from the inlet to the analyser.~~ The automated standard delivery module
236 | (SDM) was used for ~~standard calibration, with each calibration made using two reference~~
237 | ~~standards calibrated against Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (VSMOW), covering the~~
238 | ~~isotopic ranges of ambient water vapour at Kathmandu.~~~~Each calibration was made with two~~
239 | ~~reference standards that had been calibrated against Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water~~
240 | ~~(VSMOW) covering the isotopic ranges of ambient water vapour at Kathmandu.~~ Each reference
241 | standard was measured continuously for a total of 75 min each day at three different humidity
242 | levels (25 min per level). The dry air passed through DrieriteTM desiccant (Merck, Germany) and
243 | was delivered to the Picarro analyser for standard measurements.~~The evaporated standard was~~
244 | ~~then mixed with dry air obtained via DrieriteTM desiccant (Merck, Germany) and finally~~
245 | ~~delivered to the Picarro analyser for isotopic measurements.~~ The isotopic composition of
246 | atmospheric water vapour is reported as parts per thousand (‰) relative to VSMOW using

247 |
$$\delta^* = (R_A / R_S - 1) \times 1000 \text{ [‰]}, \quad (1)$$

248 |

249 where δ^* represents either δD_v or $\delta^{18}O_v$, and R_A and R_S denote the ratios of heavy to light
250 isotopes ($^{18}O/^{16}O$ or D/H) in the sample and standard, respectively (Kendall & Caldwell, 1998;
251 Yoshimura, 2015). As suggested by Dansgaard, (1964), deuterium excess ($d\text{-excess}_v = \delta D_v - 8 \times \delta^{18}O_v$)
252 is used as a tracer for moisture source conditions (Liu et al., 2008; Tian et al., 2001). We
253 ~~examined~~presented the hourly isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour between 7 May
254 and 7 June 2021, covering the Tauktae and Yaas cyclone ~~events (see previous section)~~ including
255 ~~one~~+ week on either side ~~of the events. An automated weather station (AWS) continuously~~
256 ~~measured air temperature, relative humidity, dew point temperature, wind speed and direction,~~
257 ~~rainfall amount, surface pressure, etc. at a sampling rate of 1 min⁻¹.~~

258 ~~2.4~~ **Cyclone track data**

259 ~~The International Best Track Archive for Climate Stewardship (IBTrACS) project~~
260 ~~containing best track datasets of recent and historical tropical cyclones was used to obtain the~~
261 ~~cyclone track data for this study (Knapp et al., 2010). We downloaded wind speeds, pressure,~~
262 ~~and cyclone eye location information (3 hour resolution) from~~
263 ~~<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/>. The latter was used to calculate the spatial distance~~
264 ~~between the cyclone's eye and our measurement location.~~

265 ~~2.5.2.4~~ **Meteorological data**~~Satellite precipitation and Outgoing Longwave~~

266 **Radiation data**

267 ~~An automated weather station (AWS, Davis Vantage Pro2) continuously measured air~~
268 ~~temperature, relative humidity, dew point temperature, wind speed and direction, rainfall~~
269 ~~amount, surface pressure, etc. at one-minute intervals from 7 May to 7 June 2021.~~

270 We used Integrated Multi-satellite Retrievals for GPM (IMERG) from the Global
271 Precipitation Measurement (GPM) program with a spatial resolution of 0.1° latitude and
272 longitude ([Huffman et al., 2017](#)) to analyse the regional rainfall intensity before, during, and
273 after the cyclone events, ~~following a previously reported method (Huffman et al., 2017)~~. These
274 high-resolution ~~IMERG~~ data allow for the identification of convective rainfall areas and the
275 passage of tropical cyclones (Jackisch et al., 2022). ~~They~~ ~~and~~ have been used previously to depict
276 cyclone tracks and associated rainfall intensities (Gaona et al., 2018; Jackisch et al., 2022;
277 Villarini et al., 2011).

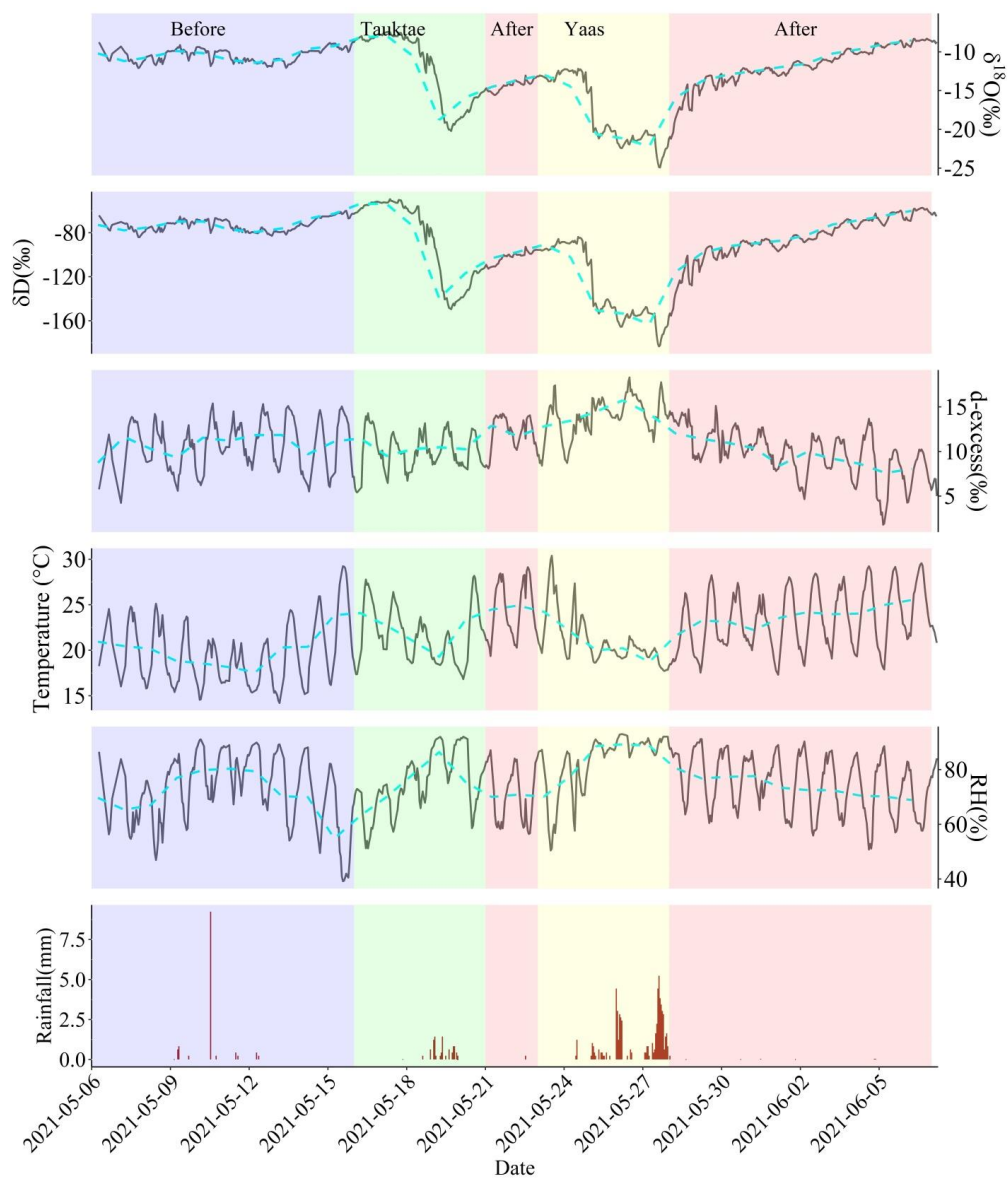
278 ~~We further obtained~~ ~~For~~ outgoing longwave radiation (OLR), ~~zonal and meridional wind,~~
279 ~~specific humidity, vertical velocity, pressure, and distribution of relative humidity and~~
280 ~~temperature data from ERA5 datasets (Herbath et al., 2020) with a spatial resolution of 0.25°~~
281 ~~from longitude-latitude grids (<https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/>). Additionally, we used cloud-~~
282 ~~top pressure (CTP) and cloud-top temperature (CTT) data from MERRA-2 Reanalysis datasets~~
283 ~~retrieved from <https://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/>, with a spatial resolution of 0.5°×0.625°, as~~
284 ~~indicators of convective intensity.~~

285 ~~we used the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) daily reanalysis of~~
286 ~~datasets, with a spatial precision of 2.5° from longitude-latitude grids (available at~~
287 ~~<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/> (Kleist et al., 2009). OLR data has already been used as an index~~
288 ~~of tropical convection (Liebmann and Smith, 1996). We further obtained zonal and meridional~~
289 ~~wind, specific humidity, vertical velocity, vertical pressure, and vertical distribution of relative~~
290 ~~humidity and temperature data from ERA5 datasets with a spatial resolution of 0.25° from~~
291 ~~longitude latitude grids (<https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/>).~~

292 **2.6.2.5 Moisture backward trajectory analysis**

293 To assess the influence of moisture transport history on the isotopic composition of
294 atmospheric water vapour before, during, and after the cyclone events, we analysed ~~five~~5-day
295 moisture backward trajectories that terminated at the sampling site using the Hybrid Single-
296 Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model (Draxler and Hess, 1997). The
297 Global Data Assimilation System (GDAS) with a spatial resolution of 1° (Kleist et al., 2009) was
298 used to provide the meteorological forcing for the HYSPLIT model. Variations in specific
299 humidity along the moisture trajectories were also calculated. Considering the variation in
300 boundary layer height at Kathmandu during the study period, ranging from approximately 100 m
301 to 1170 m, and with the majority of the data falling below 600 m, we set the initial starting
302 height for the moisture backward trajectories to 500 m above ground.~~Since most of the~~
303 ~~atmospheric vapour is contained within the bottom 2 km, we set the initial starting height for the~~
304 ~~moisture backward trajectories to 500 m above ground. Additionally, using ERA5 datasets, we~~
305 ~~determined the average boundary layer height at Kathmandu during the study period as about~~
306 ~~620 m, which confirms 500 m as an appropriate choice for the initial starting height to derive the~~
307 ~~moisture trajectories.~~

3 Results and discussion

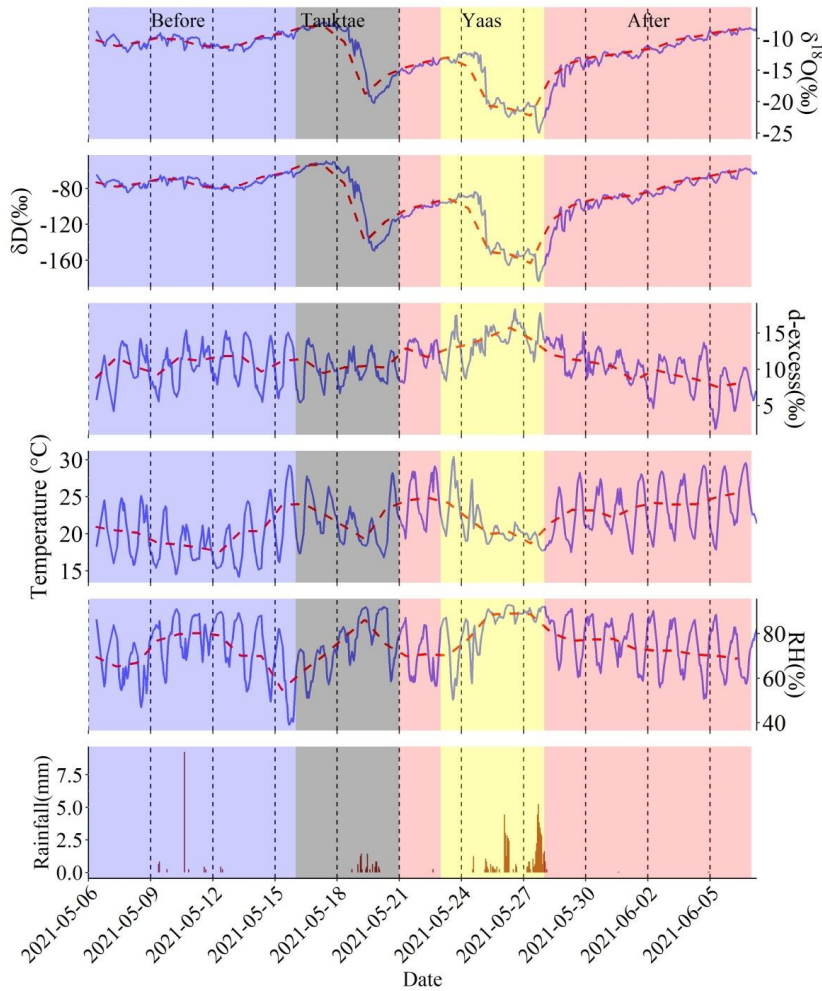


309

310 **Figure 3 Water vapour isotopic evolution (hourly averages) before, during, and after the**

311 Tauktae and Yaas cyclone events along with associated surface air temperature, relative
312 humidity (RH), and rainfall amount. The cyan dashed line represents daily variations.

313 **3.1—Water vapour isotope evolution before, during, and after cyclone events**



314 **Figure 2 Water vapour isotopic evolution (hourly averages) before, during, and after the**
315 **Tauktae and Yaas cyclone events along with associated surface air temperature, relative**
316 **humidity (RH), and rainfall amount. The cyan dashed line represents daily variations.**

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317 ~~humidity (RH), and rainfall amount. The red dashed line in the figure represents daily~~
318 ~~variations.~~

319 Significant variability was observed in isotopic composition before, during, and after the
320 cyclones at Kathmandu station (and Table 1). $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v showed a sudden depletion in the
321 final stages of both cyclones, coinciding with RH reaching maximum values. The depletion was
322 more pronounced during cyclone Yaas compared to cyclone Tauktae.

323 ~~The isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour surrounding the two cyclone~~
324 ~~events shows significant variability at Kathmandu station (Figure 2, Table 1). $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v~~
325 ~~showed a sudden depletion in the final stages of both cyclones, which coincides with RH~~
326 ~~reaching its maximum values. The depletion was more pronounced during cyclone Yaas~~
327 ~~compared to cyclone Tauktae. Before the cyclone Tauktae, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) varied from -7.40 ‰ (-~~
328 ~~49.53 ‰) to -12.10 ‰ (-84.15 ‰) with an average of -10.04 ‰ (-69.51 ‰) and d-excess_v ranged~~
329 ~~from 4.24 ‰ to 15.38 ‰ with an average of 10.84 ‰. Before the cyclone Tauktae, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v)~~
330 ~~varied from -8.38 ‰ (-60.10 ‰) to -12.10 ‰ (-84.15 ‰) with an average of -10.52 ‰ (-73.22~~
331 ~~‰) and d-excess_v ranged from 4.24 ‰ to 15.28 ‰ with an average of 10.94 ‰. The highest~~
332 ~~$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ value of -7.40 ‰ was observed before the cyclone Tauktae, whereas the lowest $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$~~
333 ~~value of -24.92 ‰ was observed during the final stages of cyclone Yaas. Clearly, the isotopic~~
334 ~~composition of atmospheric water vapour clearly shows a downward trend as the remnant of~~
335 ~~cyclones passed over Kathmandu. $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ decreased by over 12 ‰ from 14 May to 20 May~~
336 ~~(Tauktae) and again between 24 May and 29 May (Yaas), reaching minima for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) of -~~
337 ~~20.21 ‰ (-149.49 ‰) and -24.92 ‰ (-183.34 ‰), respectively. During Tauktae, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v)~~
338 ~~varied from -8.20‰ (-56.06‰) to -20.21‰ (-149.49‰) with an average of -14.73‰ (-106.76‰)~~
339 ~~and during Yaas $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) ranges from -12.17‰ (-83.85‰) to -24.92‰ (-183.34‰) with an~~

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340 average of -17.87‰ (-129.18‰). Similarly, d-excess_v during Tauktae varied from 7.97 ‰ to
341 14.24 ‰ with an average of 11.06 ‰ while during Yaas it varied from 8.71 ‰ to 18.29 ‰ with
342 an average of 13.77 ‰. After both cyclones had dissipated, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (and δD_v) started to recover
343 pre-cyclone values of -8.29 ‰ to -14.94 ‰ (-57.40 ‰ to -109.31 ‰), with an average of -11.09
344 ‰ (-79.38 ‰), and d-excess ranged between 1.80 ‰ and 15.11 ‰ with an average of 9.37 ‰.
345 During Tauktae, d-excess_v varied from 6.47 ‰ to 18.79 ‰ with an average of 10.87 ‰ while
346 during Yaas it varied from 8.71 ‰ to 18.29 ‰ with an average of 13.77 ‰. After both cyclones
347 had dissipated, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (and δD_v) started to recover pre-cyclone values of -8.29 ‰ to -14.94 ‰ (-
348 57.40 ‰ to -109.31 ‰), with an average of -11.09 ‰ (-79.38 ‰). During that period, d-excess
349 ranged between 1.80 ‰ and 15.11 ‰ with an average of 9.37 ‰. Notably, the isotopic
350 composition of atmospheric water vapour before the commencement of rainfall by Tauktae
351 remained enriched, suggesting that the isotopic composition of atmospheric vapour during that
352 period was representative of surface layer inflow (Munksgaard et al., 2015). However, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and
353 δD_v at the earlier stage of cyclone Yaas were significantly lower as compared to the earlier stage
354 of cyclone Tauktae. These discrepancies might be due to the timing of their occurrence or the
355 convective strength.

356 The remnants of cyclone Tauktae caused light rain at Kathmandu, with a significant
357 depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) by ~8 ‰ (~66 ‰) on 20 May compared to the previous day. From the
358 formation of a depression over the AS on 14 May 2021 until the dissipation inland on 19 May
359 (Fig. S3), no significant variation in the isotopic composition in atmospheric water vapour at
360 Kathmandu was observed (Fig. 3). After the dissipation, when the residual Tauktae vapour
361 passed the Kathmandu site producing light rains, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v began to decrease independently
362 of the rainfall amount, starting on 19 May around 11:00 h Local Time (LT), from -8.34 ‰ for

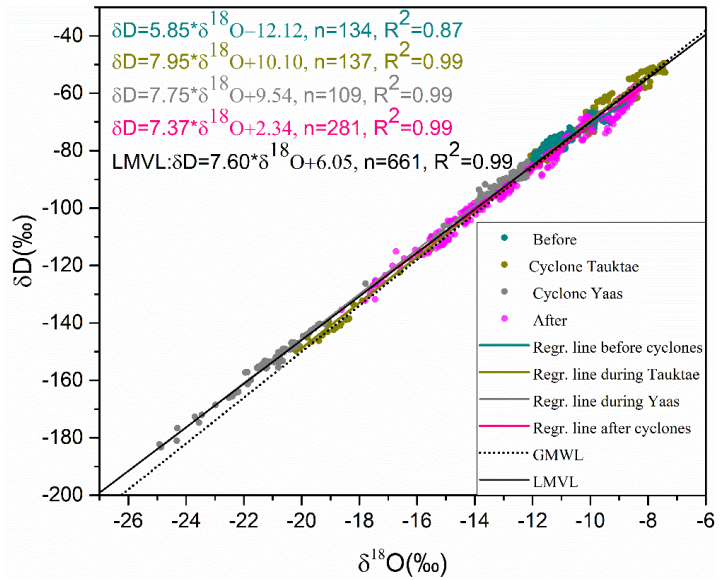
363 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and -56.06‰ for δD_v and decreasing in one hour to -10.12‰ and -68.41‰ respectively.
364 This decrease continued for 24 hours reaching a minimum of -20.21‰ and -149.49‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$
365 and δD_v respectively on 20 May at 12:00 h LT. However, $d\text{-excess}_v$ did not show notable
366 variations during the passage of cyclone Tauktae. $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v remained depleted from 20 to
367 22 May.

368 On 24 May, cyclone Yaas formed over the BoB and followed a trajectory through north-
369 eastern India (Fig. S4). The effect of cyclone Yaas on $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v at Kathmandu was observed
370 on 25 May with $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) dropping rapidly from -12.62‰ (-88.71‰) on 25 May at 20:00 h
371 LT to -15.07‰ (-106.22‰) just one hour later. At the same time, $d\text{-excess}_v$ increased from
372 12.30‰ to 14.34‰ . The depletion continued until 28 May with a minimum of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) by $-$
373 24.92‰ (-182.35‰) at 16:00 h LT. Yaas had already weakened into a low-pressure area over
374 Bihar in south-eastern Uttar Pradesh, India. $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v started to increase by about 10‰ on
375 29 May at 16:00 h LT after Yaas had dissipated. From 25 to 29 May, $d\text{-excess}_v$ gradually
376 increased as opposed to $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v , resulting in a negative correlation with $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v of $-$
377 0.60 and -0.55 respectively.

378 The passage of cyclones that had formed over the AS (Tauktae) and BoB (Yaas) caused
379 significant depletion in the isotopic composition of atmospheric ~~water vapour~~ and led to
380 cumulative rainfall of 9.2 mm (Tauktae) between 14 May and 20 May 2021 and 59.6 mm (Yaas)
381 between 25 May and 28 May 2021 at our site. ~~This depletion is due to. This is in agreement with~~
382 ~~previous studies which documented similar depletion in isotope ratios due to~~ cyclone-associated
383 intense rainfall and agrees with previous studies (Krishnamurthy and Shukla, 2007; Rahul et al.,
384 2016). ~~It is noteworthy that~~Note the above $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ minimum observed during cyclone Yaas is
385 similar to the minimum observed in Bangalore, India ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v = -22.5\text{‰}$) (Rahul et al., 2016) and

386 Roorkee, India ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v = -25.35 \text{ ‰}$) (Saranya et al., 2018) when cyclones evolved over the BoB,
387 ~~were closest to passed near~~ their sampling sites. These results indicate a similar oceanic source of
388 moisture during cyclones. We discuss the influence of moisture sources in Sect. 4.1. indicate the
389 significant impact of oceanic moisture on the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour
390 over the continental during the time of cyclones. We will discuss the influence of moisture
391 sources in Sect. 3.3 in more detail.

392 The relation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v varies for the periods before, during, and after the
393 cyclones, showing different slopes and intercepts with the Local Meteoric Vapour Line (LMVL)
394 (Fig. 4~~Figure 3~~). Before the first ~~eyelone~~ event, both the slope (5.85) and intercept (-12.12) are
395 significantly lower ~~(slope=5.85 and intercept= -12.12)~~, indicating the strong influence of non-
396 equilibrium processes such as evaporation. During both cyclones ~~events~~, both the slopes and
397 intercepts resemble ~~the slope and intercept~~those of the global meteoric water line (GMWL:
398 $\delta\text{D}=8\times\delta^{18}\text{O}+10$) (Figure ~~Figure 3~~). After the cyclone ~~events~~, the slope and intercept decreased to
399 7.37 and to 2.34, respectively, ~~which imply~~ingies a change of moisture sources and evaporation
400 becoming dominant once again.



401

402 **Figure 3-4 Relationships between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v before, during, and after the cyclone**
 403 **events. The regression lines for each period are presented along with GMWL for**
 404 **comparison.**

405 **Table 1 Descriptive statistics of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v , and d-excess_v measured before, during, and**
 406 **after the cyclone events.**

<u>Period</u>	<u>$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ [‰]</u>			<u>δD_v [‰]</u>			<u>d-excess_v [‰]</u>		
	<u>min</u>	<u>max</u>	<u>avg</u>	<u>min</u>	<u>max</u>	<u>avg</u>	<u>min</u>	<u>max</u>	<u>avg</u>
<u>Before</u>	<u>-12.10</u>	<u>-7.40</u>	<u>-10.04</u>	<u>-84.15</u>	<u>-49.53</u>	<u>-69.51</u>	<u>4.24</u>	<u>15.38</u>	<u>10.84</u>
<u>Cyclone Tauktae</u>	<u>-20.21</u>	<u>-8.20</u>	<u>-14.73</u>	<u>-149.49</u>	<u>-56.06</u>	<u>-106.76</u>	<u>7.97</u>	<u>14.24</u>	<u>11.06</u>
<u>Cyclone Yaas</u>	<u>-24.92</u>	<u>-12.17</u>	<u>-17.87</u>	<u>-183.34</u>	<u>-83.85</u>	<u>-129.18</u>	<u>8.71</u>	<u>18.29</u>	<u>13.77</u>
<u>After</u>	<u>-14.94</u>	<u>-8.29</u>	<u>-11.09</u>	<u>-109.31</u>	<u>-57.40</u>	<u>-79.38</u>	<u>1.80</u>	<u>15.11</u>	<u>9.37</u>

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408 To assess the meteorological influence on the isotopic composition at Kathmandu, we
409 examined the linear correlations between the isotopic composition ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v , and d-excess_v),
410 and air temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), precipitation amount (P), wind speed (WS), and
411 dew point temperature (T_d) before, during, and after the cyclones (Table 2). Before the cyclones,
412 both $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v showed a positive correlation with air temperature (i.e., temperature effect)
413 and dew point temperature but no correlations with other meteorological variables (Table 2). The
414 correlation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and surface air temperature and RH became weaker during the
415 cyclone Tauktae while much stronger ($r=0.60$ for temperature and $r=-0.68$ for RH) during Yaas.
416 During Tauktae, we did not observe any effect of precipitation amount on the isotopic
417 composition, while during Yaas there was a negative correlation ($r=-0.56$). D-excess_v was
418 positively correlated with local air temperature (negatively correlated with local RH) before,
419 during, and after Tauktae, whilst no correlations were observed during Yaas (Table 2).

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428 **Table 2 Linear correlations between the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour**
 429 **($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v , and d-excess_v) and air temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), precipitation**
 430 **amount (P), wind speed (WS), and dew point temperature (T_d) before, during, and after the**
 431 **cyclone events. ***, **, and * indicate correlation significance levels of 0.001, 0.01, and 0.05**
 432 **respectively.**

	Before				
	T	RH	P	WS	T_d
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$	<u>0.24</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.03</u>	<u>-0.41</u>	<u>-0.10</u>	<u>0.51</u> ^{***}
δD_v	<u>0.44</u> ^{***}	<u>0.21</u> ^{**}	<u>-0.37</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>0.63</u> ^{***}
d-excess _v	<u>0.66</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.64</u> ^{***}	<u>0.35</u>	<u>0.68</u> ^{***}	<u>0.28</u> ^{***}
	Cyclone Tauktae				
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$	<u>0.15</u>	<u>-0.19</u>	<u>0.11</u>	<u>-0.004</u>	<u>0.07</u>
δD_v	<u>0.21</u> [*]	<u>-0.25</u> ^{**}	<u>0.10</u>	<u>0.05</u>	<u>0.11</u>
d-excess _v	<u>0.77</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.82</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.22</u>	<u>0.61</u> ^{***}	<u>0.51</u> ^{***}
	Cyclone Yaas				
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$	<u>0.60</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.68</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.56</u> ^{***}	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.23</u> ^{**}
δD_v	<u>0.63</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.70</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.56</u> ^{***}	<u>0.05</u>	<u>0.26</u> ^{**}
d-excess _v	<u>0.10</u>	<u>-0.006</u>	<u>0.19</u>	<u>0.32</u> ^{**}	<u>0.26</u> [*]
	After				
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$	<u>0.17</u> [*]	<u>-0.19</u> [*]	=	<u>0.19</u> [*]	<u>0.09</u>
δD_v	<u>0.30</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.31</u> ^{***}	=	<u>0.30</u> ^{***}	<u>0.20</u> [*]
d-excess _v	<u>0.62</u> ^{***}	<u>-0.58</u> ^{***}	=	<u>0.52</u> ^{***}	<u>0.55</u> ^{***}

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434

435 **3.2 Day-to-day and diurnal variations during cyclones events**

436 To understand the depletions in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v during the Tauktae and Yaas cyclone
 437 events, we analysed the regional wind fields and specific humidity over the Northern Indian
 438 Ocean during the respective periods. Fig. S3 shows the genesis, development, movement, and
 439 dissipation of cyclone Tauktae together with changes in specific humidity along the transport
 440 path. The remnants of cyclone Tauktae caused light rain at Kathmandu, with a significant
 441 depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) by -8% (-66%) on 20 May as compared to the previous day. From

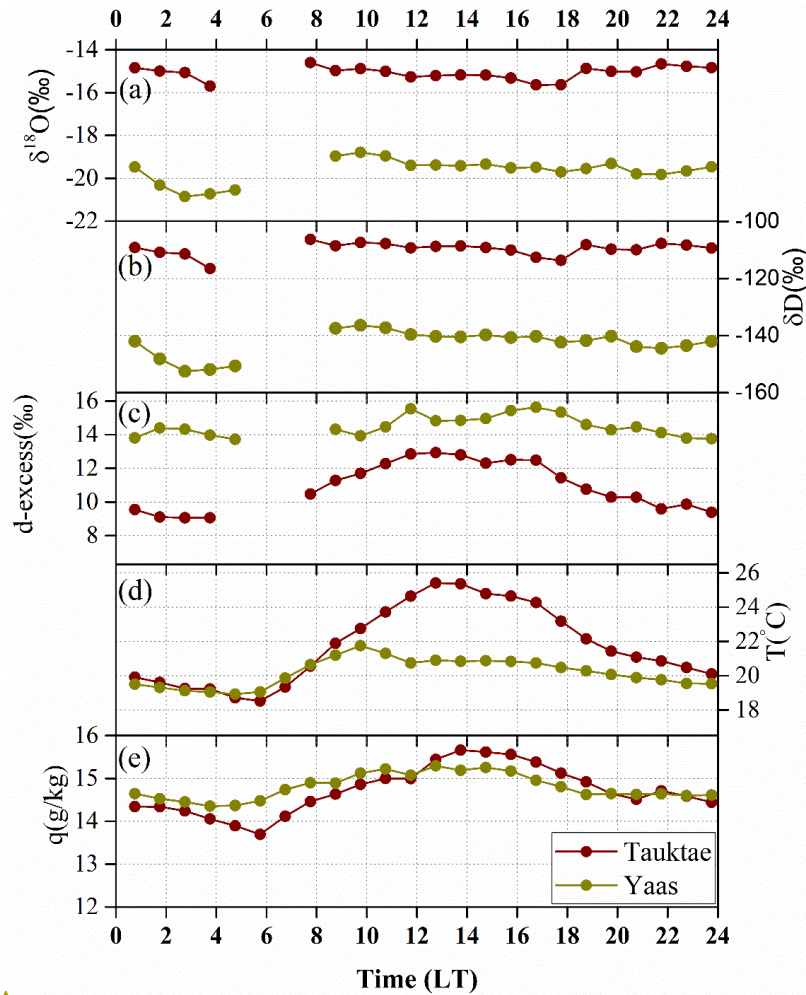
442 the formation of a depression over the AS on 14 May 2021 until the commencing dissipation
443 inland on 19 May, no significant variation in the isotopic composition of atmospheric water
444 vapour was observed (Fig. 2). After the dissipation, when the residual Tauktae vapour passed the
445 Kathmandu producing light rains, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v began to decrease independently of the rainfall
446 amount, starting on 19 May at around 11:00 h Local Time (LT) from -8.34‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and
447 -56.06‰ for δD_v and dropping in just one hour to -10.12‰ and -68.41‰ respectively. This
448 decrease continued for another day, reaching a minimum of -20.21‰ and -149.49‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$
449 and δD_v respectively on 20 May at around 12:00 h LT. However, $d\text{ excess}_v$ did not show notable
450 variations during the passage of cyclone Tauktae. $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v remained anomalously depleted
451 from 20 to 22 May due to the presence of a remnant of cyclone Tauktae.

452 On 24 May, cyclone Yaas formed over the BoB and started along a northward trajectory
453 through north eastern India (Fig. S4). The high specific humidity over India and surrounding
454 regions during the days of cyclone formation indicates that Yaas had lifted a large amount of
455 water vapour from the BoB, which subsequently produced intense rainfall along its path. The
456 effect of cyclone Yaas on $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v at Kathmandu was first captured on 25 May with $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$
457 (δD_v) dropping rapidly from -12.62‰ (-88.71‰) on 25 May at 20:00 h LT to -15.07‰ ($-$
458 -106.22‰) just one hour later. At the same time, $d\text{ excess}_v$ was increased from 12.30‰ to 14.34
459 ‰ . The depletion continued until 28 May with a minimum of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) by -24.92‰ (-182.35
460 ‰) at 16:00 h LT. At that time, Yaas had already weakened into a low pressure area over Bihar
461 in south eastern Uttar Pradesh, India. $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v started to increase after Yaas had dissipated,
462 reaching -14.64‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and -103.97‰ for δD_v on 29 May at 16:00 h LT. From 25 to 29
463 May, $d\text{ excess}_v$ gradually increased, resulting in a strong negative association with $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and
464 δD_v , with correlation coefficients of -0.60 and -0.55 respectively. Such strong isotopic depletion

465 during cyclone events might be associated with high condensation efficiencies within the
466 cyclones leading to extensive fractionation (Rahul et al., 2016).

467 To further elucidate the processes affecting the diurnal variability of the isotopic
468 composition of atmospheric water vapour, we investigated the mean diurnal cycles of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v ,
469 d -excess_v, surface temperature, and specific humidity during the cyclone events, focussing on the
470 last 4 days of each cyclone (19 May to 22 May for Tauktae and 25 May to 28 May for Yaas)
471 when the measurement site received the first precipitation caused by cyclones. Surprisingly, we
472 observed very weak diurnal signals in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v during either cyclone event (Figure 4), with
473 amplitudes of diurnal variations in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) of 1.10 ‰ (10.21 ‰) during cyclone Tauktae and
474 2.06 ‰ (16.07 ‰) during cyclone Yaas. The surface temperature and specific humidity showed
475 an average peak to peak variability of about 7 °C and 2 g/kg, respectively, during the cyclone
476 Tauktae. In contrast, these values were considerably lower during Yaas with respective peak to
477 peak variabilities of about 3 °C and 0.94 g/kg. Unlike $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v , d -excess_v showed a clear
478 diurnal pattern consisting of a gradual increase from early morning till about midday, followed
479 by about 4:00 h during which d -excess remained at a high level, before starting to gradually
480 decrease from about 16:00 h onward (Figure 4). This diurnal variation in d -excess_v seems to have
481 been more prominent during cyclone Tauktae with a peak to peak variability of 3.87 ‰ (vs 1.90
482 ‰ during cyclone Yaas). The d -excess_v diurnal cycle during Tauktae was strongly synchronized
483 with surface temperature and specific humidity with respective correlation coefficients (R^2) of
484 0.96 and 0.81. During Yaas, the synchronicity was considerably weaker exhibiting correlation
485 coefficients (R^2) of 0.27 and 0.35 with temperature and specific humidity, respectively.
486 Considering that rather smaller precipitation amount during Tauktae compared to Yaas, neither
487 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ nor δD_v showed any notable diurnal signal during these events, indicating that any diurnal

488 ~~variation in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ or δD_v during the cyclones events was independent of the day-night variation~~
489 ~~in local weather parameters and the Rayleigh fractionation processes they underwent during their~~
490 ~~northward movement (see Sect. 3.3 for a more detailed discussion); whereas local weather~~
491 ~~parameters may play pronounced roles on δ excess, diurnal variations depending on rainfall~~
492 ~~strength.~~



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Figure 4 Diurnal cycles of (a) $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{v,s}$, (b) $\delta\text{D}_{v,s}$, (c) d-excess $_{v,s}$, (d) temperature (T), and (e) specific humidity (q) averaged from 19 to 22 May during Tauktae and from 25 to 28 May during Yaas. The units of Time “LT” indicates Local Time.

499 **4 Discussions**

500 To investigate the underlying factors behind the isotopic variations, we focused on the
501 impact of moisture sources, by calculating five-day back trajectories for each day before, during,
502 and after the cyclone events and changes of corresponding specific humidity. In addition, we
503 explored the effects of convective activity, moisture convergence, and total rainfall along the
504 back trajectories on water vapour isotopic depletion.

505

506 **4.1 Influence of Moisture source**

507 **3.3 Isotopic response to regional climate**

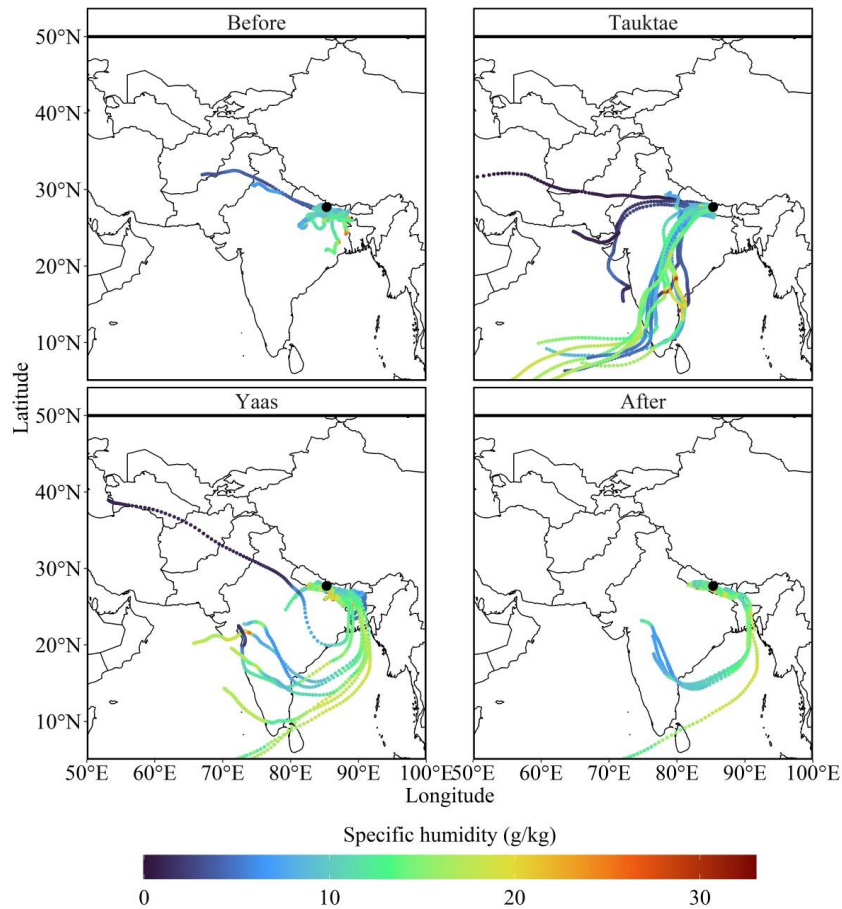
508 Previous studies suggested that Kathmandu is predominantly impacted by local moisture
509 sources with short and long-range transport of westerlies before the onset of summer monsoon,
510 which is generally dry and characterized by sporadic rainfall with enriched $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in
511 precipitation (Adhikari et al., 2020; Chhetri et al., 2014; Yu et al., 2016). We now probe the
512 underlying reasons for these isotopic variations in more detail. For this purpose, we analysed the
513 influence of moisture sources on the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour by
514 calculating 5 day backward trajectories for each day before, during, and after the cyclone events.
515 We also calculated the associated specific humidity along the cyclone trajectories to estimate
516 moisture uptake and identify possible rainfall regions (Figure 5).

517 We found significant proportions of moisture trajectories prior to cyclone Tauktae either
518 originated locally or by westerlies, characterized by low specific humidity (Fig. 5, upper left
519 panel). These moisture trajectories were traced back to the Gangetic plain before cyclone
520 Tauktae. The associated $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v values for these moisture sources exhibited enrichment,

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521 with average values of -10.04‰ and -69.51‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v , respectively. A similar slope
522 (5.85) and intercept (-12.12) of the local meteoric vapour line before Tauktae to the surface
523 water line calculated in the Gangetic plain (Hassenruck - Gudipati et al., 2023) which provided
524 corroboration for the impact of local evaporation on the isotopic composition. Before the cyclone
525 events, the majority of moisture trajectories associated with high $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v originated either
526 locally or were brought in by westerlies with low specific humidity along their paths. During
527 Tauktae, most trajectories originate in the AS. During Yaas, most trajectories point to the BoB as
528 the sole vapour source contributing to the moisture at the sampling site (Figure 5).

529 As cyclone Tauktae approached the continent, the primary moisture source at Kathmandu
530 transitioned from local origins to majority AS vapour (Fig. 5, upper right panel). The specific
531 humidity along these trajectories exhibited higher levels over the oceans, diminishing as they
532 traversed over land through precipitation (Fig. 5, upper right panel). During this phase, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and
533 δD_v were significantly lower (on average over 4.5‰ and 37‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v respectively)
534 than measurements preceding the cyclone. Such depletion can be attributed to the progressive
535 rainout along the moisture transport path, wherein heavy isotopes are removed during successive
536 condensation (Xu et al., 2019). Notably, the isotopic composition before the Tauktae-induced
537 rainfall remained enriched, reflecting inflow from the surface layer (Munksgaard et al., 2015).
538 Furthermore, the d-excess_v variation at Kathmandu during Tauktae may have been influenced by
539 local moisture recycling processes.



540

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Figure 4 Five-day backward moisture trajectories reaching the sampling site before,

542

during, and after the cyclone events. Colours denote specific humidity (q in g/kg).

543

During cyclone Yaas, only the BoB vapour contributed to moisture at Kathmandu and

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specific humidity along the trajectories over the ocean was high (Fig. 5, bottom left panel). The

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high specific humidity over India and surrounding regions during cyclone formation suggest that

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Yaas lifted a substantial amount of water vapour from the BoB yielding intense rainfall along its

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path. The isotopic composition during Yaas was more depleted than that of Tuaktae with

548 averages of -17.87‰ and -129.18‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v respectively. The difference could stem
549 from varied moisture sources, rainout histories, and the respective strengths of each cyclone.
550 Moreover, the high isotopic depletion during cyclone Yaas might be attributed to the disparity of
551 sea surface water $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ between the AS and BoB. The surface water $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in the BoB is relatively
552 depleted compared to the AS (Lekshmy et al., 2014), which results from a substantial influx of
553 freshwater from rain and runoff originating from the Ganga Brahmaputra river basin
554 (Breitenbach et al., 2010; Singh et al., 2010).

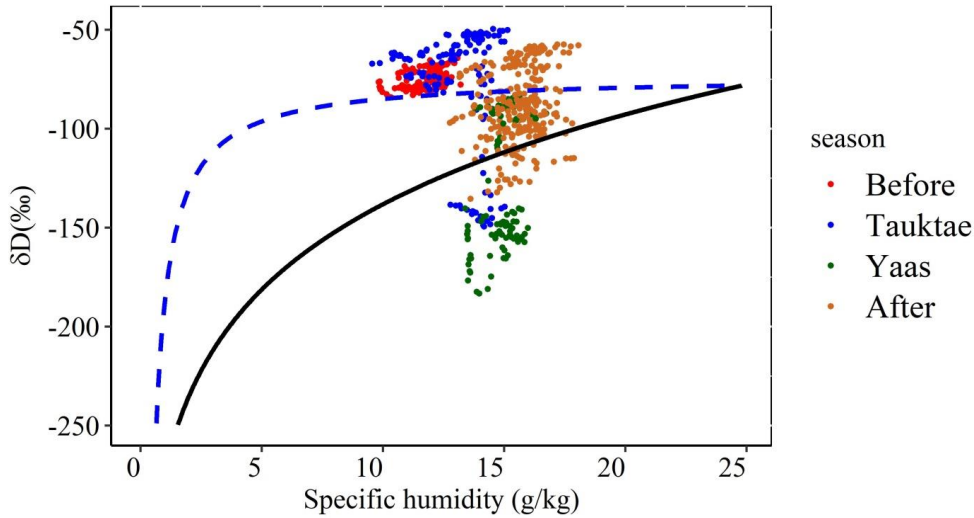
555 Although, the progressive increment was seen in the time series of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v after
556 the dissipation of Tauktae (Fig. 3), $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v in the earlier stage of Yaas were significantly
557 lower compared to Tauktae because there was not enough time for recovery. There was a strong
558 association between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ /or δD_v and local meteorological conditions during cyclone Yaas
559 associated with high relative humidity from the remote ocean (Chen et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2019).
560 Furthermore, the negative correlation of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ vs. RH and the fact that $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ was
561 depleted highlight the influence of humid moisture sources (Yu et al., 2008), which was also
562 confirmed by our moisture back trajectory analysis (Fig. 5, bottom left panel). A similar
563 correlation was also observed in mid-tropospheric water vapour over the western Pacific
564 associated with intense convective activity (Noone, 2012).

565 In contrast to cyclone Tauktae, the lack of correlation of d-excess_v with RH and local air
566 temperature during cyclone Yaas implies that local moisture recycling processes are not
567 significant in determining d-excess_v variation and RH might not be a reliable predictor of kinetic
568 fractionation during evaporation. Previous research conducted in the Indian Ocean (e.g., Midhun
569 et al., 2013; Uemura et al., 2008) suggested that the high relative humidity (i.e. >80%) at the
570 sampling sites weakens the correlation between d-excess_v and RH. Our observed data also

571 satisfied that condition during Yaas because the majority of isotopic measurements (about 75%)
572 were associated with high relative humidity (>80%), while this fraction was only 25% during
573 Tauktae.

574 Following the dissipation of the cyclones, some moisture at Kathmandu was provided by
575 BoB vapour together with local evaporation (Fig. 5, bottom right panel). However, the isotopic
576 composition reverted to the original (enriched) levels ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v = -11.09 \text{ ‰}$, $\delta\text{D}_v = -79.38 \text{ ‰}$, and $d\text{-}$
577 excess_v = 9.37 ‰). The diminished correlation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and temperature following the
578 cyclones is attributed to the admixture of vapour originating from plant transpiration during that
579 period (Delattre et al., 2015).

580 We used the vapour δD_v - q plot combined with the Rayleigh distillation and mixing curve
581 to assess the moisture mixing (Fig. 6). Before the development of cyclone Tauktae and during its
582 early stages, the data points lie well above the mixing curve, indicating that the isotopic
583 variability was mainly dominated by vapour from local evapotranspiration. In contrast, during
584 the latter stage of cyclone Tauktae, δD_v was significantly depleted to levels well below the
585 Rayleigh curve. During the early stage of cyclone Yaas, there are only a few data points between
586 the mixing and Rayleigh curves with the majority well below the Rayleigh curve, particularly
587 during the later stage. During both events, Kathmandu was dominated by deep convection
588 leading to a strong convergence of moisture from both the AS (Tauktae) and the BoB (Yaas).
589 This points towards the influence of convective processes (see Section 4.2) (Galewsky and
590 Samuels-Crow, 2015). After Yaas had dissipated, δD_v gradually increased again with half of the
591 data points clustered between the mixing and Rayleigh curves. The remaining data points were
592 well above the mixing curve, indicating the influence of locally evaporated vapour also
593 evidenced by the moisture back trajectories (bottom right panel).



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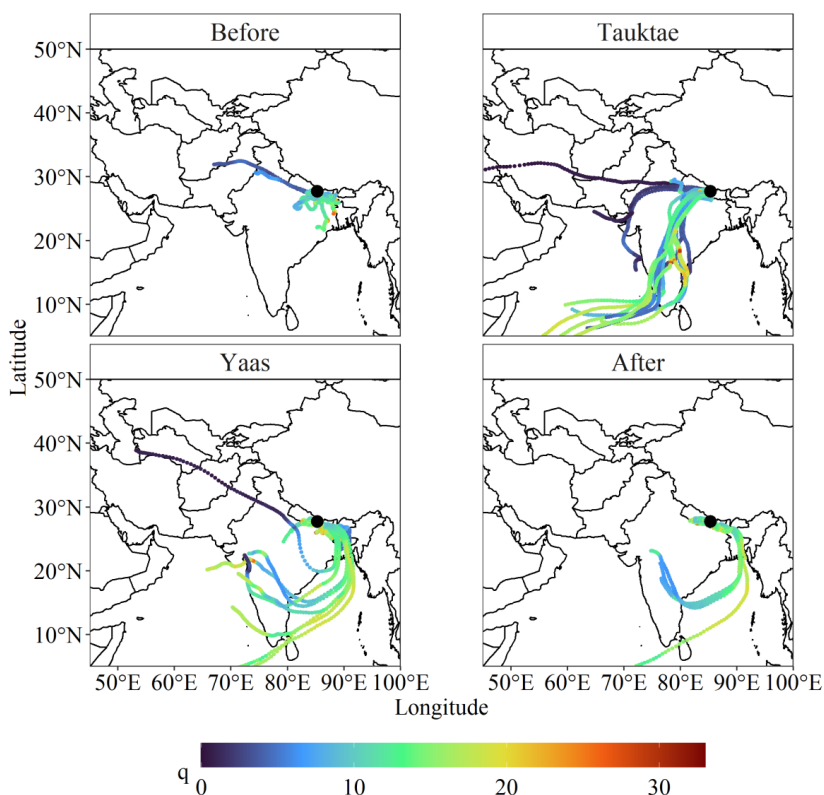
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Figure 5 Scatter plot of hourly averaged δD_v vs. specific humidity (q). The solid black curve represents the Rayleigh distillation curve calculated for the initial condition of $\delta D_v = -78.20$ ‰, BoB-averaged δD_v (Lekshmy et al., 2022), SST of 30° C, and RH of 90 %. The dashed blue curve represents the mixing line, calculated based on dry continental air ($q = 0.5$ g/kg and $\delta D_v = -300$ ‰ (Wang et al., 2021)) and the wet source, which corresponds to the initial conditions used to calculate the theoretical Rayleigh curve.

~~Both cyclone events have in common that the specific humidity tends to be high while they are over oceans and the air becomes drier while crossing over land, as moisture is removed through precipitation. We found that the association between both $\delta^{18}O_v$ and δD_v and Temperature/Relative humidity was much stronger during the cyclone events compared to before or after the events (Table 2). This might be linked to the cyclones transporting large amounts of moisture from remote oceans (Chen et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2019). After the cyclones had~~

608 ~~dissipated, the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour reverted to the original~~
609 ~~(enriched) levels ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v = -14.64\%$, $\delta\text{D}_v = -103.97\%$, and $d\text{-excess}_v = 13.20\%$).~~



610
611 **Figure 5** ~~Five-day backward moisture trajectories reaching the sampling site before,~~
612 ~~during, and after the cyclone events. Colours denote specific humidity (q in g/kg) along the~~
613 ~~trajectories.~~

614 **4.2 Influence of deep convection associated with cyclones**

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615 One of the ~~most~~ likely causes for large isotopic depletion during cyclones ~~events~~ might
616 be the associated convecti~~ve~~on processes. ~~Several~~ studies have demonstrated that convective

617 | processes within tropical cyclones can cause the ~~unusually~~ depleted isotopic composition of
618 | precipitation and atmospheric water vapour (Fudeyasu et al., 2008; Jackisch et al., 2022;
619 | Munksgaard et al., 2015) due to a combination of strong cyclonic circulation, intense large-scale
620 | convection, heavy precipitation, and high wind speeds (Chen et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2019). ~~Here~~
621 | ~~We analysed~~ the relationship between the isotopic composition ~~of atmospheric water vapour~~
622 | and convective processes ~~during two cyclone events~~, using ~~outgoing longwave radiation (OLR)~~
623 | and vertical velocity as a proxy for convection. Due to the frequent co-occurrence of intense
624 | convection and significant mid-tropospheric convergence of moist air, the vertical velocities can
625 | also serve as a proxy for convective activity (Lekshmy et al., 2014).

626 | Fig. S53 and Fig. S46 depict the prevalence of strong convective processes associated
627 | with both cyclones throughout their ~~entire~~ lifespans. During the initial days of cyclone formation,
628 | OLR exceeded 260 Wm^{-2} in the area of the sampling site (~~Figs. S5 and S6~~) and ~~had rather~~
629 | decreased rapidly to below 200 Wm^{-2} in the final stages of both cyclones when ~~they were~~
630 | approaching the ~~sampling~~ site. Although the amount of precipitation associated with Tauktae
631 | (9.2 mm) was much lower than ~~with~~ Yaas (59.6 mm), $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ depleted by up to 12 ‰ during both
632 | cyclones ~~events~~. ~~Importantly, during both cyclones events, T~~the progressive rainout was evident
633 | along the entire cyclone track, and the spatial distribution of precipitation was highly correlated
634 | with the convective process ~~as indicated by low OLR~~ (Figs. S57 and S68), suggesting ~~that~~
635 | rainfall occurred from the deep convective cloud rather than ~~from~~ local evaporation. This
636 | ~~interpretation~~ was confirmed by ~~comparing the regional~~ precipitation ~~variations to in situ~~
637 | ~~measurements~~. ~~According to Fig. S7 and Fig. S8, the~~The measurement site received its first
638 | rainfall on 19 May during cyclone Tauktae and on 25 May during cyclone Yaas, as shown in
639 | Figure S5 and Figure S6, which we can confirm with our observation data. *In situ* observations

640 ~~confirms~~ that during the days leading up to cyclone Tauktae, the sampling site received a
641 total of 12.2 ~~mm (from 7 May to 14 May)~~ of precipitation with maximum rainfall of 9.2 mm/h
642 recorded on 11 May at 13:00 h LT, ~~which is~~ equal to the total accumulated rainfall during the
643 entire cyclone Tauktae. Although the pre ~~and Tauktae and~~ during-Tauktae rainfall amounts are
644 similar, pre-cyclone $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v were significantly more enriched (averages: $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v = -$
645 ~~10.04-8.3~~ ‰ and $\delta\text{D}_v = -69.51-80.30$ ‰) than ~~during during~~ Tauktae (averages: $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v = -14.73$
646 ~~‰ and $\delta\text{D}_v = -106.76$ ‰)~~ the cyclone event (averages: $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v = -13.59$ ‰ and $\delta\text{D}_v = -149.49$ ‰).
647 We compared the values of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v , and d-excess_v during both events and also examined
648 them in comparison with the isotopic composition at the beginning of the summer monsoon
649 (June 2021). This initial period of intense and continuous rainfall at our sampling site (Fig. S7) is
650 regulated by the monsoon system originating in the BoB. Consequently, our focus centered on
651 the isotopic distinctions between water vapour on typical rainy days and that associated with
652 cyclone Yaas.

653 Following the initiation of the summer monsoon, both $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v exhibited a
654 progressive depletion, coinciding with a decline in air temperature, an increase in relative
655 humidity (RH), and amplified rainfall amounts (Fig. S7). Despite the daily accumulated rainfall
656 and RH being significantly higher during the normal monsoon period, both $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v were
657 markedly lower during cyclone Yaas (on average by over 2.5‰ and 26‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v
658 respectively) compared to typical rainy days. A progressive reduction in d-excess_v was also
659 evident as the summer monsoon unfolded; a trend typically observed in precipitation d-excess
660 (e.g., Hussain et al., 2015; Acharya et al., 2020; Adhikari et al., 2020) and water vapour d-excess
661 (Tian et al., 2020; Yao et al., 2018; He and Richards, 2016; Wei et al., 2016) in Asian monsoon
662 regions, in contrast to our observations during cyclone Yaas.

663 Given that d-excess has long served as a diagnostic tool for understanding moisture
664 source conditions (Tian et al., 2001; Liu et al., 2008), the distinct behaviour of d-excess_v between
665 cyclone Yaas and the normal monsoon phase suggests that cyclone-related information may be
666 discerned through the isotopic composition recorded at our site. This confirms our previously
667 stated hypothesis that ~~the~~ rainfall associated with cyclones causes significantly lower isotope
668 values in vapour due to intense convective systems (Gedzelman et al., 2003; Kurita, 2013),
669 ~~which is~~ absent in localized rain events and ~~on~~ days without precipitation (Lekshmy et al., 2022).

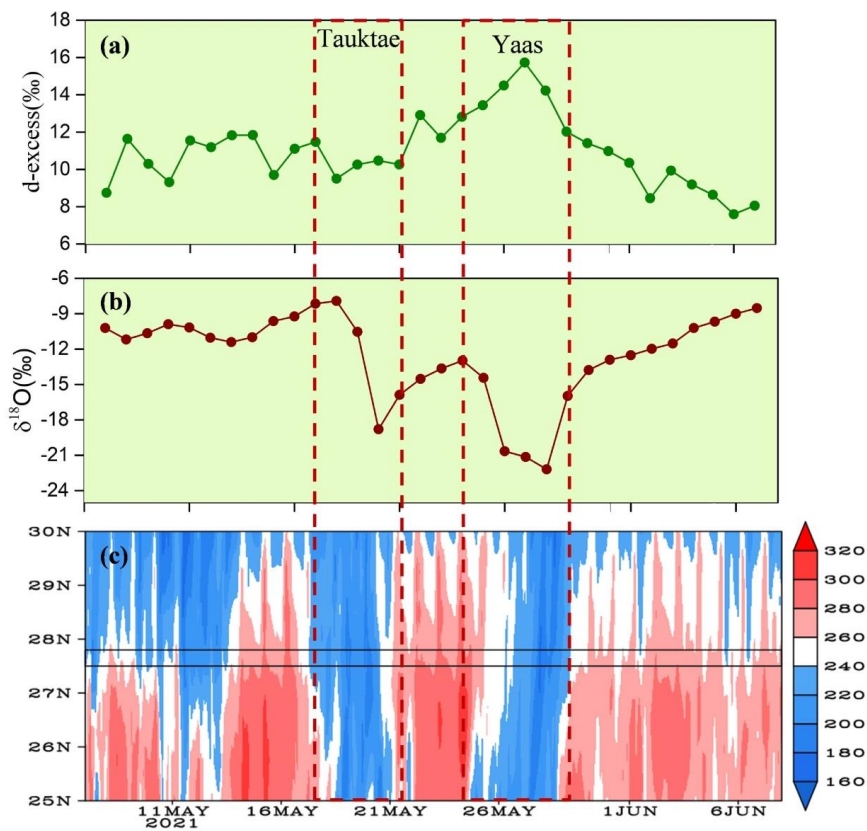
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670 The influence of convective processes on water vapor isotopic variations at Kathmandu
671 Our hypothesis that isotopic variations during cyclone events at Kathmandu are mainly driven by
672 convective processes is further supported by the Hovmöller diagram of OLR averaged over 80-
673 90° E (Figure 6), which clearly shows that $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ depletion coincides with the presence of clouds
674 (Figure 6 Time series of daily averaged d-excess_v (top panel), $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (middle panel), and
675 Hovmöller diagram of OLR (W/m^2) averaged over 80° E-90° E (bottom panel) The solid parallel
676 lines in the bottom panel depict the latitude range of sampling site.

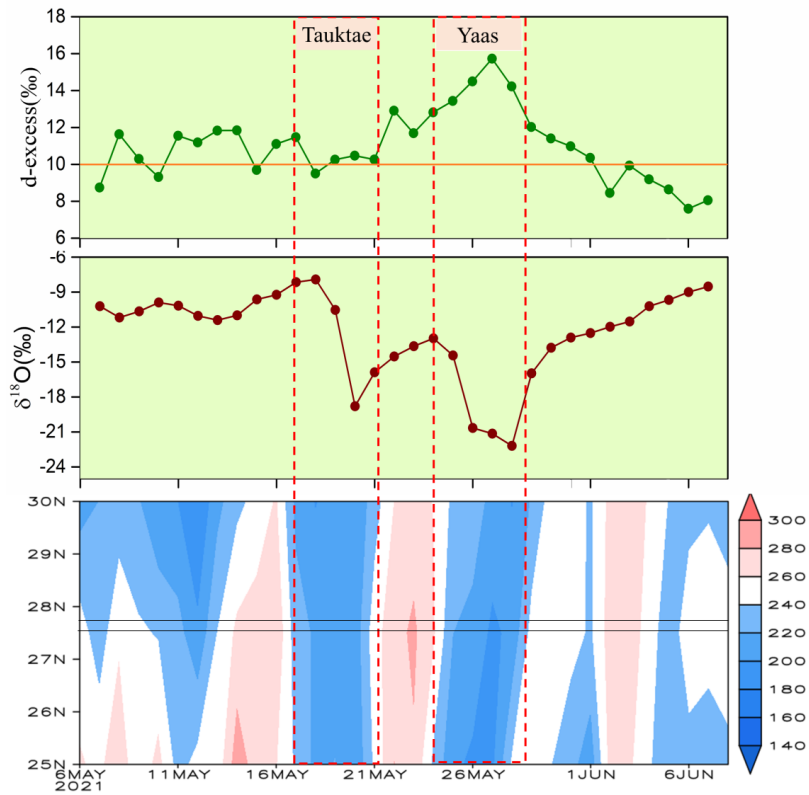
677 7a and c). In contrast, d-excess_v showed ~~rather~~ dissimilar variations between both
678 cyclones ~~events~~. Before ~~the arrival of~~ cyclone Tauktae, the daily averaged d-excess_v was above
679 the global average of 10 ‰ (Fig. ~~7a6, horizontal orange line~~). Once Tauktae ~~approached our~~ ~~was~~
680 ~~approaching the~~ sampling site, d-excess_v decreased from around 12 ‰ to 10 ‰ and continued to
681 oscillate about 10 ‰ until Tauktae had dissipated. As cyclone Yaas approached the measurement
682 site with intense rainfall (Fig. ~~32~~), d-excess_v (~~$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$~~) gradually increased (~~decreased~~) while RH
683 increased and air temperature decreased (Fig. ~~32~~). ~~More s~~Specifically, d-excess_v on 24 May was
684 recorded as 12.82 ‰ when surface air temperature and surface RH was about 24 °C and 70 %
685 respectively. On 27 May, we not~~iced~~ ~~about~~ a 3 ‰ rise in d-excess_v when the surface
686 temperature was reduced by 4 °C and the surface RH was increased by 19 %. The combination of

687 increasing d-excess and decreasing $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ ~~has also been observed during the active convective~~
688 ~~phase of Madden-Julian oscillations (MJO) in the tropical atmosphere which~~ highlights the role
689 of vapour recycling due to the subsidence of air masses from stratiform clouds (Kurita et al.,
690 2011). In addition, a large increase in d-excess_v was also recorded in atmospheric vapour during
691 cyclone Ita in 2014 and was attributed to downward moisture transport above the boundary layer
692 (Munksgaard et al., 2015). ~~In our case, W~~we did not find any statistically significant correlation
693 during cyclone Yaas between d-excess_v and RH/Temperature, although RH is **generally**
694 considered an important parameter for interpreting d-excess values in atmospheric vapour and
695 precipitation (Pfahl and Sodemann, 2014; Steen-Larsen et al., 2014). The observed co-
696 occurrence of higher d-excess_v, lower temperatures, and high relative humidity (Fig. 32) points
697 to kinetic fractionation processes either at a larger scale or in association with downdrafts
698 (Conroy et al., 2016). Rain re-evaporation under the condition of high saturation deficit is one of
699 the causes of low $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and high d-excess_v. This is due to the addition of re-evaporated vapour
700 during precipitation events, which results in depleted cloud vapour and high d-excess_v (Conroy et
701 al., 2016; Lekshmy et al., 2014).~~This relationship also highlights the role played by the~~
702 ~~convective process with regard to the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour. Low~~
703 ~~$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ in combination with high d-excess_v are known to be associated with rain re-evaporation~~
704 ~~under conditions of high saturation deficit because the addition of re-evaporated vapour to the~~
705 ~~atmosphere during precipitation events produces depleted cloud vapour and high d-excess~~
706 ~~(Conroy et al., 2016; Lekshmy et al., 2014).~~ On normal days ~~(without cyclones)~~, high d-excess_v
707 values were generally accompanied by low RH (~~Figure Figure-78~~) and vice versa. However, high
708 relative humidities of the surface air together with near saturation conditions vertically (~~Figure~~
709 ~~Figure-89b, middle panel~~) during cyclone Yaas, rule out any effect of re-evaporation on

710 increased (decreased) d-excess_v ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v) values. Such high d-excess_v values may hence,
711 ~~we surmise that the higher d-excess_v values during cyclone Yaas might~~ be associated with
712 ~~downrafts during convective rain events, which can transporting~~ isotopically depleted vapour
713 with higher d-excess_v values from the boundary layer to the surface (Kurita, 2013; Midhun et al.,
714 2013).



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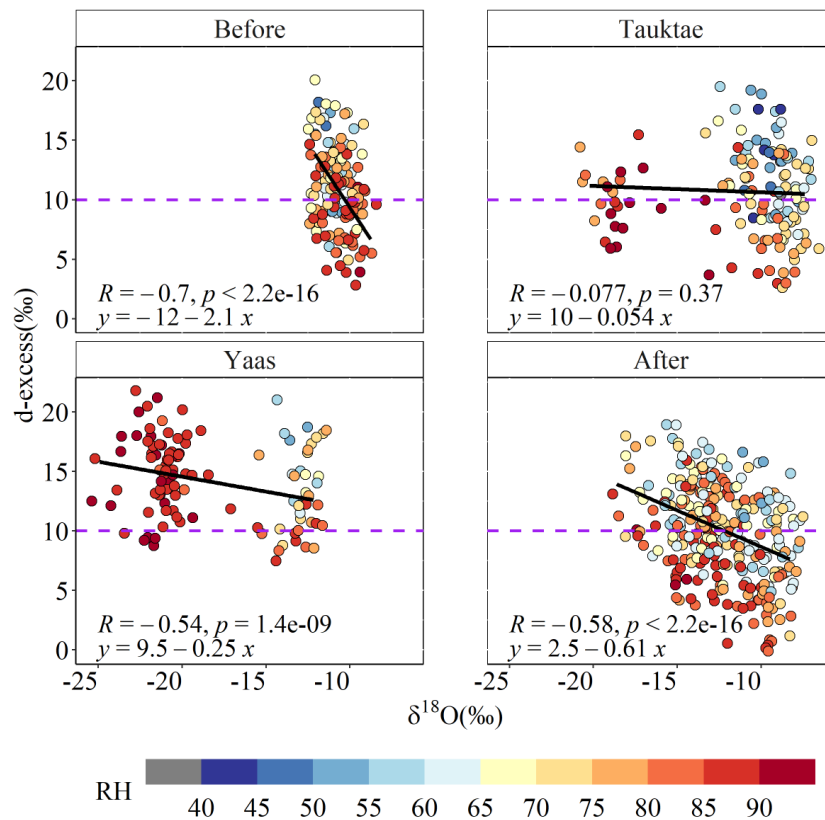
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Figure 6 Time series of daily averaged d-excess_v (top panel), $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (middle panel), and Hovmöller diagram of OLR (W/m^2) averaged over 80°E - 90°E (bottom panel) The solid parallel lines in the bottom panel depict the latitude range of sampling site.

Figure 6 Time series of daily averaged d-excess_v (top panel), $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (middle panel), and Hovmöller diagram of NOAA interpolated OLR (W/m^2) averaged over 80°E - 90°E (bottom panel) The orange horizontal line in the top panel represents the global average d-excess value (i.e. 10 ‰) and solid parallel lines in bottom panel depict the latitude range of sampling site.



725

726 | **Figure 7-8** Scatter plots of d-excess_v vs. $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ before, during, and after the cyclone events.

727 | The colour represents RH (in %) and the horizontal dashed purple lines represent the

728 | **global average d-excess value (10 %).**

729 | To ~~further elucidate~~clarify the impact of convection on the isotopic composition ~~of~~

730 | ~~atmospheric water vapour~~, we analysed the vertical distribution of vertical velocity, relative

731 | humidity, and air temperature averaged over a box between 25° N-28° N and 83° E-87° E

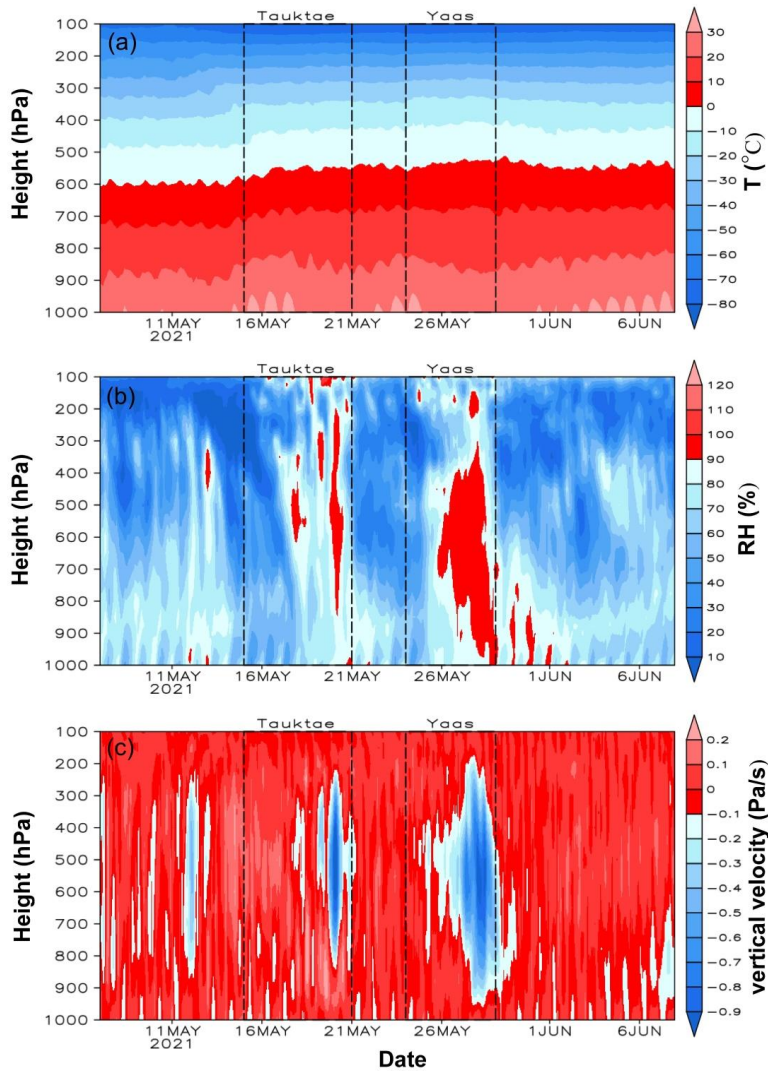
732 | ~~with~~hich ~~has~~ our measurement site near its center (Fig. 98). Our results show that strong shifts

733 | in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v , and d-excess_v during the cyclone events were strongly associated with vertical air

734 motions (~~Figure 8~~Fig. 9c). We observed a general downward movement of air before the rain
735 started with Tauktae before the commencement of rainfall by Tauktae (i.e., from 7 May to around
736 18 May). The high depletion of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v during the final stages of Tauktae (~~Figure 2~~Fig. 3)
737 was accompanied by strong upward air movement extending from 800 hPa to about 200 hPa
738 (~~Figure 8~~Fig. 9c). This upward motion was even stronger during cyclone Yaas and already
739 became evident near the measurement site once Yaas made landfall at the BoB coast on 26 May.
740 Interestingly, variations in RH at different pressure levels strongly coincided with changes in
741 vertical velocity while the lower troposphere remained near saturation (RH= ~100 %) during the
742 late stages of both cyclones (Fig. 9b). While the ~~vertical~~ air temperature showed the expected
743 ~~progressive~~ decline with altitude (Fig. 9a), there were no significant temporal variations in
744 temperature during the entire period, despite the high variation in RH. ~~This implies that the high~~
745 ~~RH in the lower troposphere during both cyclone events was independent of temperature and~~
746 ~~hence the result of deep convection and the widespread development of clouds.~~ The strong
747 convective updraft added additional moisture from the warm ocean below, before passing over
748 our measurement site (Lekshmy et al., 2014). Convective updrafts cause moisture to condense
749 quickly and this high-efficiency condensation of heavy rain can result in more depleted $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$
750 and δD_v (Lawrence and Gedzelman, 1996). In addition, we found a strong positive correlation
751 between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and average vertical velocity ($r=0.57$) during Yaas at pressure levels between 300
752 hPa and 600 hPa (Fig. S8a) in the area surrounding our study site_ (cf., Lekshmy et al., 2014);
753 ~~During Tauktae, t~~This correlation was weaker but still significant (r=0.30) (Fig. S9) during
754 Tauktae. The distinctive relationship between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and vertical velocity implies that convective
755 processes play a more significant role during Yaas than Tauktae. This result was further
756 supported by the spatial distribution of correlation coefficient between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and vertical velocity

757 ~~(Fig. S8b, c). During cyclone Tauktae, a significant negative correlation was observed between~~
758 ~~$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and vertical velocity around the sampling site, while positive correlation areas were~~
759 ~~identified in western Nepal, certain parts of central India, and the coastal region of the Bay of~~
760 ~~Bengal (BoB) (Fig. S8b). A comparison with back trajectories unveiled positive correlation only~~
761 ~~in specific sections along the moisture transport path, suggesting that convective processes may~~
762 ~~not be the primary driver of isotopic depletion during cyclone Tauktae. Conversely, a positive~~
763 ~~correlation was evident in the coastal BoB, extending north toward the sampling site during~~
764 ~~cyclone Yaas (Fig. S8c). The positive correlation areas were considerably larger compared to~~
765 ~~Tauktae, and these areas closely aligned with the moisture transport path. Hence, higher~~
766 ~~depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v during Yaas, relative to Tauktae, may be attributed to the stronger~~
767 ~~convection associated with BoB vapour compared to the AS vapour. This result suggests that the~~
768 ~~higher depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v during cyclone Yaas relative to Tauktae may be due to the~~
769 ~~stronger convection associated with the BoB vapour compared to the AS vapour.~~ The BoB is a
770 convectively active region, and previous studies reported greater depletions in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v in
771 precipitations ~~with moisture from the BoB compared to the AS~~, irrespective of the season
772 (Breitenbach et al., 2010; Lekshmy et al., 2015; Midhun et al., 2018). Another reason ~~why~~ we
773 observed different levels of isotope depletion between both cyclones may be related to
774 differences in their ~~closest~~ proximity to the sampling site. While Yaas came as close as 400 km
775 to our ~~study~~-site, Tauktae was ~~still~~ 1100 km away when it dissipated (Fig. S9+10). The ~~closer~~
776 proximity of Yaas may explain the stronger rainfall during that event which enhanced the
777 isotopic fractionation ~~which~~ in turn ~~leading~~d to stronger isotopic depletion (Jackisch et al., 2022).
778 Similar results ~~during the cyclone events~~ have ~~already~~ been documented for precipitation stable
779 isotopes (e.g., Fudeyasu et al., 2008; Jackisch et al., 2022; Munksgaard et al., 2015; Xu et al.,

780 2019) and water vapour stable isotopes (e.g., Munksgaard et al., 2015; Rahul et al., 2016;
781 Saranya et al., 2018). Even after both cyclones had dissipated, progressive rainfall continued at
782 our sampling site due to the presence of residual moisture from the cyclones. Once these residual
783 effects had diminished and rainfall intensity weakened, ~~did both~~ $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v started to
784 increase again (Fig. 32), likely due to evaporative effects (Munksgaard et al., 2015; Xu et al.,
785 2019; Jackisch et al., 2022).



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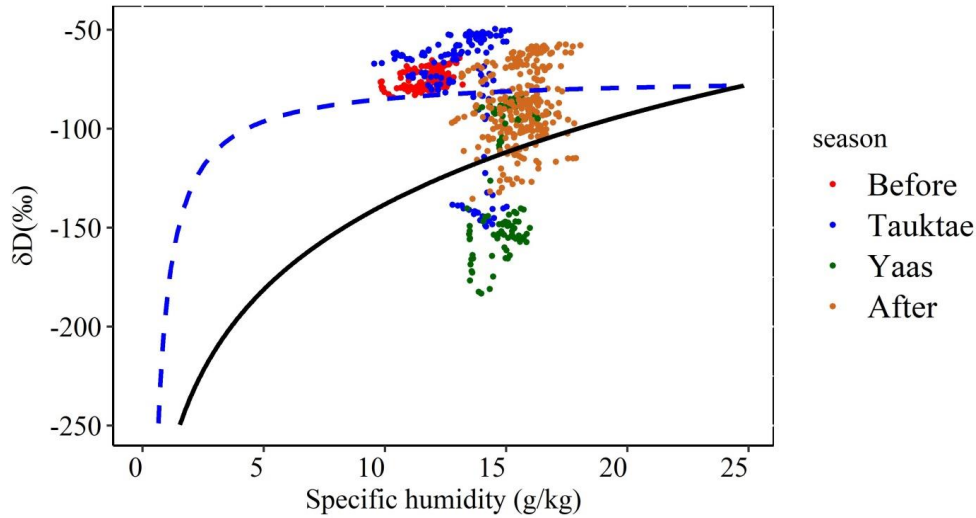
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Figure 8-9 Time series of the vertical distribution of air temperature (a), RH (b), and vertical velocity (c) averaged over 25° N-28° N and 83° E-87° E with Kathmandu approximately at the centre. Negative (positive) vertical velocities indicate ascending (descending) winds. Time-series of the vertical distribution of air temperature (top), RH

791 ~~(middle), and vertical velocity (bottom) averaged over 25° N–28° N and 83° E–87° E with~~
792 ~~Kathmandu approximately at the centre. Negative (positive) vertical velocities indicate~~
793 ~~ascending (descending) winds.~~

794 Examining a plot of δD_v vs specific humidity, combined with the Rayleigh distillation
795 and mixing curves, we can assess the mixing conditions during the study period (Figure 9).
796 Before the development of cyclone Tauktae and during its early stages, the data points lie well
797 above the mixing curve, suggesting a significant contribution of vapour from local
798 evapotranspiration. In contrast, during the later stages of Tauktae, δD_v was significantly depleted
799 to levels well below the Rayleigh curve. Similarly, during the early stage of cyclone Yaas, there
800 are only a few data points between the mixing and Rayleigh curves with the majority well below
801 the Rayleigh curve, particularly during the late stage of Yaas. These results indicate the
802 influences of mixing processes and re evaporation below clouds as described previously
803 (Galewsky and Samuels Crow, 2015). After Yaas had dissipated, δD_v gradually increased again
804 with about half of the data points clustered between the mixing and Rayleigh curves and the
805 remaining data points well above the mixing curve, indicating a strong influence of mixing
806 processes and locally evaporated vapour, which is also evidenced by the moisture backward
807 trajectories (Figure 5 lower right panel).



808

809 **Figure 9** Scatter plot of hourly-averaged δD_v vs. specific humidity (q). The solid black curve
 810 represents the Rayleigh distillation curve calculated for the initial condition of $\delta D_v = -78.20$
 811 ‰, BoB-averaged δD_v (Lekshmy et al., 2022), SST of 30°C , and RH of 90 %. The dashed
 812 blue curve represents the mixing line, calculated based on dry continental air ($q = 0.5\text{ g/kg}$
 813 and $\delta D_v = -300\text{ ‰}$ (Wang et al., 2021)) and the wet source, which corresponds to the initial
 814 conditions used to calculate the theoretical Rayleigh curve.

815 **3.4— Relationships between local weather parameters and vapour $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, δD ,**
 816 **and d-excess**

817 Besides regional influences, we also analyzed whether changes in local meteorological
 818 conditions impact the variations in the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour.
 819 Before the cyclone events, both $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v showed significant negative correlations with
 820 local air temperature and wind speed and significant positive correlations with relative humidity
 821 (Table 2). This correlation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta D_v$ and relative humidity became negative during the

822 ~~two cyclone events, with a significant temperature effect also present. We hypothesize that the~~
823 ~~progressive rainout during the cyclone events followed a temperature decrease (Figure 2), which~~
824 ~~would result in this $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ correlation with temperature (Delattre et al., 2015). However, the~~
825 ~~strength of the correlations between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and local meteorological parameters varied~~
826 ~~significantly throughout the lifetimes of both cyclones. For instance, the effects of temperature~~
827 ~~and relative humidity on $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ were stronger ($r=0.68$ for temperature and $r=0.74$ for RH) during~~
828 ~~Yaas compared to Tauktae ($r=0.34$ for temperature and $r=0.49$ for relative humidity). The~~
829 ~~weaker relationship during Tauktae is likely due to the significantly lower rainfall amounts~~
830 ~~relative to Yaas. The cooling of surface air during rainfall and the associated isotopic equilibrium~~
831 ~~of vapour with raindrops cause a positive correlation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and temperature~~
832 ~~(Midhun et al., 2013). This process was more favourable during Yaas with its stronger and more~~
833 ~~continuous rainfall (Fig. 2). During Tauktae, we did not observe any effect of precipitation~~
834 ~~amount on the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour, while during Yaas there was a~~
835 ~~strong negative correlation ($r=0.56$) between them. Recent studies have suggested that the~~
836 ~~impact of rainfall amount is not a purely local phenomenon (Galewsky et al., 2016) but~~
837 ~~modulated by convective and large scale properties such as downdraft moisture recycling (Risi et~~
838 ~~al., 2008), large-scale organized convection and associated stratiform rain (Kurita, 2013), and~~
839 ~~regional circulation and shifting moisture source regions (Lawrence et al., 2004). During cyclone~~
840 ~~Yaas, our measurements showed the presence of an intense convective system over our study site~~
841 ~~which indicates that the observed rainfall amount effect may have been controlled by moisture~~
842 ~~convergence (Chakraborty et al., 2016). Subsequent rainfall from the convective system over a~~
843 ~~region with depleted isotope values resulted in a negative association between precipitation~~
844 ~~amount and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ (Kurita, 2013). Furthermore, the negative correlation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$~~

845 and RH together with the fact that $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ was depleted during both cyclone events highlight
846 the influence of humid moisture sources on the isotopic composition of atmospheric water
847 vapour (Yu et al., 2008), which was also confirmed by our moisture backward trajectory analysis
848 (Fig. 5). A strong negative correlation between δD_v and RH was also observed in mid-
849 tropospheric water vapour over the western Pacific associated with intense convective activity
850 (Noone, 2012). It is noteworthy that the relationship between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and temperature before
851 and after the cyclone events degraded significantly, which might be due to the admixture of
852 vapour originating from plant transpiration during that period (Delattre et al., 2015).

853 As discussed above, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v were strongly associated with air temperature and RH
854 during cyclone Yaas but less so during cyclone Tauktae. In contrast, $d\text{-excess}_v$ was positively
855 (negatively) correlated with local air temperature (local RH) before, during Tauktae, and after
856 both cyclone events, whilst no significant correlations were seen during cyclone Yaas (Table 2).
857 This indicates that local moisture recycling may have played a crucial role at our sampling site,
858 while the absence of any correlation of $d\text{-excess}_v$ with RH during Yaas implies that RH might
859 not be a reliable predictor of kinetic fractionation during evaporation at our site. In addition,
860 while about 75% of RH measurements during Yaas yielded high values (i.e., $\text{RH} > 80\%$), this
861 fraction was only 25% during Tauktae. Previous studies (e.g., Midhun et al., 2013; Uemura et al.,
862 2008) highlighted that the relation between $d\text{-excess}_v$ and RH weakens above $\text{RH}=80\%$, which
863 may explain the weaker relation of $d\text{-excess}_v$ and RH during Yaas.

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866 **Table 2 Linear correlations between the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapor**
 867 **($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$, δD_v , and d-excess_v) and air temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), precipitation**
 868 **amount (P), wind speed (WS), and dew point temperature (T_d) before, during, and after the**
 869 **eyclone events. ***, **, and * indicate correlation significance levels of 0.001, 0.01, and 0.05**
 870 **respectively.**

	Before				
	T	RH	P	WS	T _d
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$	-0.34 ^{***}	0.45 ^{***}	-0.41	-0.45 ^{***}	0.16
δD_v	-0.1	0.28 ^{***}	-0.37	-0.28 ^{***}	0.41 ^{***}
d-excess _v	0.68 ^{***}	-0.61 ^{***}	0.35	0.59 ^{***}	0.40 ^{***}
	Cyclone Tauktae				
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$	0.34 ^{***}	-0.49 ^{***}	0.11	0.20 [*]	-0.22 ^{**}
δD_v	0.41 ^{***}	-0.55 ^{***}	0.10	0.26 ^{**}	-0.20 ^{**}
d-excess _v	0.79 ^{***}	-0.67 ^{***}	-0.22	0.75 ^{***}	0.19 [*]
	Cyclone Yaas				
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$	0.68 ^{***}	-0.74 ^{***}	-0.56 ^{***}	0.05	0.28 ^{**}
δD_v	0.70 ^{***}	-0.76 ^{***}	-0.56 ^{***}	0.06	0.30 ^{**}
d-excess _v	-0.003	0.1	0.19	0.27 ^{**}	0.19 [*]
	After				
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$	0.13 [*]	-0.13 [*]	-	0.14 [*]	0.10
δD_v	0.22 ^{***}	-0.22 ^{***}	-	0.21 ^{***}	0.18 ^{**}
d-excess _v	0.56 ^{***}	-0.54 ^{***}	-	0.47 ^{***}	0.47 ^{***}

871

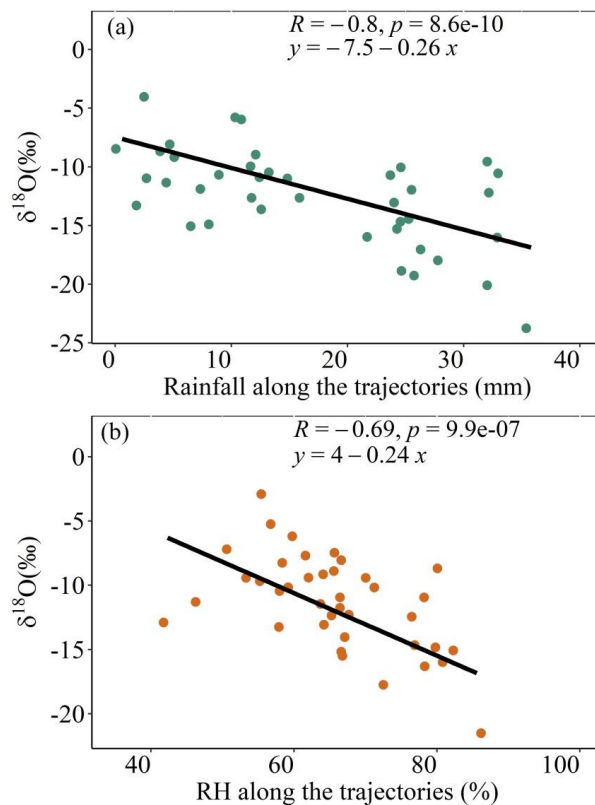
872 **4.3 Influence of rainfall**

873 The back trajectories reveal the impact of separate air masses during cyclones Tauktae
 874 and Yaas, specifically between the AS and BoB. We studied the meteorological conditions along
 875 the 5-day moisture back trajectories, focusing on the upstream rainout on observed isotopic
 876 depletion. During cyclone Tauktae, both $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v display a strong negative correlation ($r = -$
 877 0.80 and $r = -0.79$ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v , respectively, Fig. 10) with total precipitation along the
 878 moisture trajectories (i.e., upstream rainout). Moreover, a negative correlation emerges between
 879 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and average relative humidity (RH) along the trajectories ($r = -0.69$ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and -0.68

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880 for δD_v), suggesting increased upstream rainout corresponds to lower isotope ratios during
881 cyclone Tauktae.

882 In addition, modelled back trajectories indicate that air masses during cyclone Tauktae
883 had a longer transport time when continuous rainout could have enhanced the isotopic depletion
884 of the residual vapour (Fig. 5b). The upstream rainfall control could also account for the delayed
885 return of $\delta^{18}O_v$ and δD_v to more positive values following dissipation.



886 Figure 7 (a) Scatter plots of $\delta^{18}O_v$ vs upstream rainout and (b) average relative humidity
887 (RH) along the moisture trajectories during the cyclone Tauktae.

888 (RH) along the moisture trajectories during the cyclone Tauktae.

889 Similar observations have been documented in other regions; for example, the Chinese
890 Typhoons Haitang, Megi, and Soudelor (Xu et al., 2019), the Central American Hurricanes Irma
891 and Otto (Sánchez-Murillo et al., 2019), and Central Texas Hurricane Harvey (Sun et al., 2022)
892 all demonstrate significant negative correlations between upstream rainout and precipitation
893 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$. This suggests that upstream rainout could serve as a widely applicable control on the
894 spatiotemporal variability in tropical cyclones (Sun et al., 2022).

895 In contrast to cyclone Tauktae, neither the total rainfall nor the relative humidity (RH)
896 along the trajectories appears to exert influence on isotopic variation during cyclone Yaas.
897 Instead, a negative correlation was observed between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and local rainfall amount, air
898 temperature, and RH (Table 2). This suggests that the observed isotopic depletion during cyclone
899 Yaas cannot be adequately explained by upstream rainout processes. We assume that sudden
900 changes in local meteorological conditions are a consequence of synoptic processes during the
901 cyclones. The progressive rainout during the cyclone events followed a temperature decrease ()
902 which would result in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ correlation with temperature (Delattre et al., 2015). The
903 cooling of surface air during rainfall, coupled with the isotopic equilibrium of vapour with
904 raindrops, establishes a positive correlation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ and temperature (Midhun et al.,
905 2013). These conditions were favourable during cyclone Yaas because the sampling site
906 experienced consistent rainfall, along with a noticeable increase in relative humidity and a
907 decrease in temperature. This might be one of the reasons for the weaker correlation of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$
908 with local meteorological variables during Tauktae.

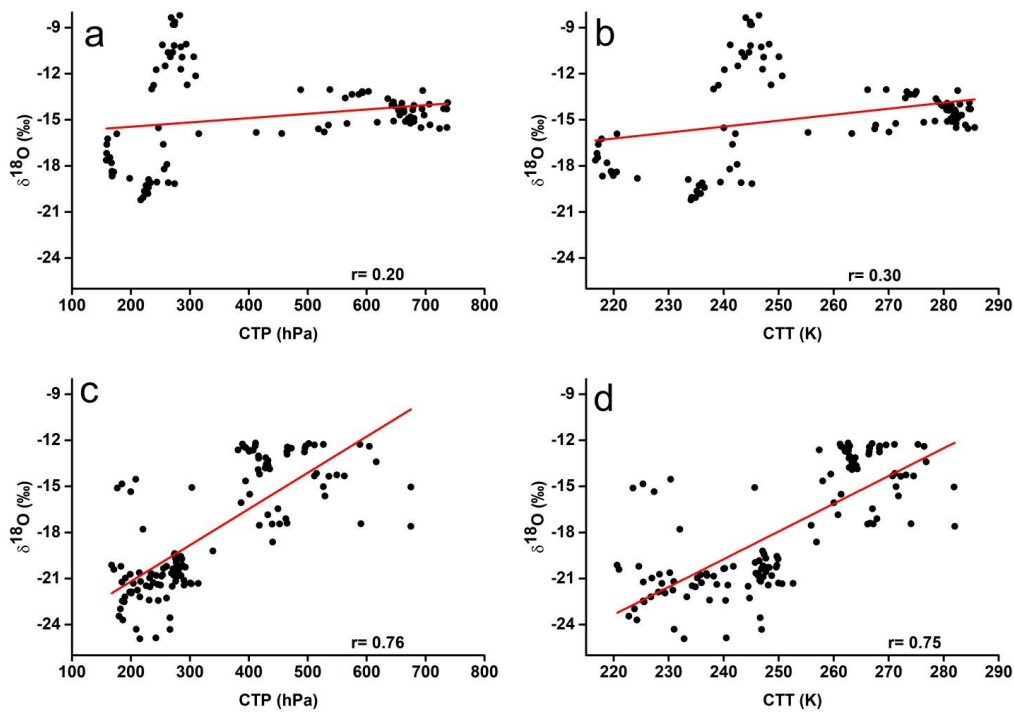
909 Studies have speculated that the impact of precipitation amount is not confined to a
910 strictly local context (Galewsky et al., 2016), but is subject to modulation by convective and
911 large-scale atmospheric properties including downdraft moisture recycling (Risi et al., 2008),

912 large-scale organized convection and associated stratiform rain (Kurita, 2013), as well as
913 regional circulation and shifting moisture sources (Lawrence et al., 2004). Our measurements
914 during cyclone Yaas revealed the presence of an intense convective system over our study site,
915 indicating that the observed effect of rainfall amount may have been governed by moisture
916 convergence (Chakraborty et al., 2016). The subsequent rainfall originating from the convective
917 system, occurring over a region characterized by depleted isotope values, resulted in a negative
918 association between precipitation amount and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ (Kurita, 2013). The ^{18}O -depleted water
919 vapour reaching the sub-cloud layer, accompanied by the intense convective downdrafts,
920 subsequently ascended back to the cloud level with the updrafts, in a feedback mechanism
921 proposed by Lekshmy et al., (2014).

922 Given that CTT and CTP are reliable indicators of both moisture convergence and
923 convective strength in prior studies (Cai et al., 2018; Cai and Tian, 2016), we investigate the
924 linear correlation between CTT/CTP (averaged over the 27°N-28°N latitude and 85°E-86°E
925 longitude range, with our site located at the center) and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (Fig. 11). The results demonstrate a
926 weak positive correlation between CTT/CTP and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ during cyclone Tauktae, and a robust
927 positive correlation during cyclone Yaas. These correlations exhibit greater strength compared to
928 the correlation observed with local rainfall. Previous research has highlighted positive
929 correlations between $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and CTT/CTP in the East Asian Monsoon suggesting that intense
930 convection and moisture convergence lead to an increase in cloud-top height and a decrease in
931 CTT, causing a reduction in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Cai and Tian, 2016). The decrease in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ during cyclone
932 Yaas coupled with a decrease in CTT and CTP (i.e. increase in cloud-top height), shows the
933 influence of intensified convective activities and moisture convergence, while the isotopic
934 depletion during cyclone Tauktae is attributed to upstream rainout processes. Furthermore, a

935 negative correlation is evident between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and CTT/CTP, with $r = -0.52$ and $r = -0.60$
936 during cyclone Yaas. Conversely, a weak positive correlation is observed during cyclone
937 Tauktae, with $r = 0.32$ for both CTT and CTP. This relationship implies that lower CTT and CTP
938 during intense convection relate to increased $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ values during the final stage of cyclone
939 Yaas.

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942 **Figure 8 Relationship between hourly $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and (a) CTT during Tauktae, (b) CTP during**
943 **Tauktae, (c) CTT during Yaas, and (d) CTP during Yaas.**

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945 **45 Conclusion**

946 This study presented the results of continuous measurements of the isotopic composition
947 of atmospheric water vapour over Kathmandu between 7 May and 7 June 2021 covering two
948 cyclone events; ~~namely~~ cyclone Tauktae formed over the Arabian Sea, and cyclone Yaas formed
949 over the Bay of Bengal. ~~$\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) during Tauktae varied from -8.20‰ (-56.06‰) to -20.21‰~~
950 ~~(-149.49‰) with an average of -14.73‰ (-106.76‰) and during Yaas $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ (δD_v) ranges from -~~
951 ~~12.17‰ (-83.85‰) to -24.92‰ (-183.34‰) with an average of -17.87‰ (-129.18‰). Similarly,~~
952 ~~d-excess_v during Tauktae varied from 7.97 ‰ to 14.24 ‰ with an average of 11.06 ‰ while~~
953 ~~during Yaas it varied from 8.71 ‰ to 18.29 ‰ with an average of 13.77 ‰. Both cyclones~~
954 ~~events~~ led to significant depletion of $-\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v , with $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ decreasing by over 12 ‰
955 ~~between May 14 and May 20 (during Tauktae) as well as between May 24 and May 29 (during~~
956 ~~Yaas). We could~~ attribute ~~these~~ rapid depletions to changes in moisture sources (local vs.
957 marine) ~~that were~~ inferred from backward moisture trajectories. ~~Similar slopes and intercepts of~~
958 ~~meteoric vapour line with GMWL during both cyclone events indicate the occurrence of surface~~
959 ~~recharge following convective conditions.~~ The lower intercepts ~~of the local meteoric vapour line~~
960 before and after the ~~eyelone~~ events highlight the influence of non-equilibrium processes such as
961 evaporation on the isotopic composition ~~of atmospheric water vapour.~~

962 ~~Despite significant diurnal fluctuations in temperature and specific humidity during both~~
963 ~~eyelone events, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v exhibit weak diurnal signals which rule out any impact of day-~~
964 ~~night variations in local weather parameters. Instead, these discrepancies might reflect different~~
965 ~~eyelone sources and convection processes they underwent along their northward trajectories.~~ The
966 ~~spatial distribution of OLR, vertical velocity, and regional precipitation during both cyclonic~~
967 events ~~together with the observed correlation between vertical velocity and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ indicated~~

968 ~~significant~~ showed high moisture convergence and heavy-intense convection at and around the
969 measurement site, which caused unusually This resulted in depleted $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ and δD_v , with cyclone
970 Yaas exhibiting stronger moisture convergence and convection, leading to lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$ values
971 compared to cyclone Tauktae, during that period. ~~Moisture convergence and convection were~~
972 ~~stronger during cyclone Yaas which resulted in higher (lower) d-excess_v ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$) values during~~
973 ~~Yaas, compared to Tauktae, possibly due~~ This difference may be attributed to strong robust
974 downdrafts during the ~~eyelone~~ Yaas-related convective rain events, which can potentially
975 transport vapour with higher (lower) d-excess_v and lower ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_v$) values toward the surface.
976 The observed isotopic depletion during cyclone Tauktae can be explained by upstream rainout
977 processes, unlike during Yaas. During the cyclone events, and in contrast to immediately before
978 and after these events, there was a strong linear association between the isotopic compositions of
979 atmospheric water vapour and local meteorological parameters, which led us to conclude that the
980 progressive rainout during the cyclone events followed a temperature decrease and RH increase,
981 which would, in turn, produce a $\delta^{18}\text{O}_v/\delta\text{D}_v$ correlation with temperature and RH. This type of
982 association may visible in the cyclones' moisture characteristics as each cyclone transported high
983 RH from a remote ocean inland, which suggested that their specific water vapour stable isotopic
984 signatures could still be observed as far north as Kathmandu.

985 Overall, our results showed that tropical cyclones that originated in the BoB and the
986 AS during the pre-monsoon season transported large amounts of isotopically depleted vapour
987 and produced moderate to heavy rainfall over a sizeable region in Nepal. The isotopic
988 composition of atmospheric water vapour and precipitation during the dry season should
989 therefore Hence the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour and precipitation during
990 the dry season should be interpreted with caution and the effects of cyclones should not be

991 | underestimated. ~~Additionally~~In addition, our results ~~further~~ underline the need for simultaneous
992 | measurements of the isotopic composition of both atmospheric water vapour and precipitation to
993 | better understand post-condensation exchanges between falling raindrops and boundary layer
994 | vapour over Kathmandu.

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1006 | **Data Availability**

1007 | [The data used in this study will be available in the Zenodo repository.](#)

1008 | ~~Data will be available upon request from the corresponding author.~~

1009 **Competing interests**

1010 The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

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1016 **Author contributions**

1017 **Niranjan Adhikari**: Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing - Original draft preparation.
1018 **Jing Gao**: Data curation, Conceptualization, Methodology, Supervision, Writing - Review and
1019 Editing, Funding acquisition. **Aibin Zhao**: measuring assistance, Writing – Editing. **Tianli Xu**,
1020 **Manli Chen**, and **Xiaowei Niu**: measuring assistance. **Tandong Yao**: Supervision, Funding
1021 acquisition.

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