



INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

AHMEDABAD CHAPTER

Issue: April- June

MEGHA

2008

From Chairman's Desk

As the monsoon clouds gather over the Ahmedabad sky, the June issue of *MEGHA* pops up on your desktop. You will find news and views, satellite updates and even a photo gallery. The seasonal forecasts of 2008, as given by different groups will be keenly followed. As the monsoon drama unfolds, the march of rainfall pattern will dominate the attention of analysts. While IMSA will organize the customary Monsoon-2008 review after the season, another major activity on our board is *Prof. Satish Dhawan Lecture* by an eminent scientist. So keep checking your mail. Dr. Abhijit Sarkar <sarkar.abhi@gmail.com>

Secretary's Report

The highlights of recent events of the IMSA activities are:

✧ IMSA in association with Gujarat Science City celebrated the World Meteorological Day (WM Day) on March 23, 2008 with great joy and excitement. Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Director, INCOIS, delivered a lecture on *Ocean Observation for Societal Benefit*. About 80 scientists from PRL, SAC, IPR and IMD actively participated in the programme and interacted with school children and teachers on the theme *Observing Our Planet for a Better Future*. In addition, an exhibition was conducted displaying met. instruments with activities on weather and climate. A special film titled *Blue Planet* was also screened.

✧ Lecture on Astro-Meteorological monsoon forecast was given by Shri Dhansukh Shah, Astro-meteorologist, Pune on May 30, 2008.

✧ MEGHA- IMSA bulletin with focus on 'Earth's polar regions' and quarterly Newsletter *e-MEGHA* were released by Director, SAC on WM day.

✧ 28th AGBM of IMSA was held on June 19, 2008 at SAC-Bopal Campus. 31 IMSA members attended the meeting.

Dr. Baby Simon <babysimon@gmail.com>

News / Events

✧ This quarterly newsletter of IMSA in electronic form (previously *e-MEGHA*) will henceforth be called as *MEGHA* as decided by AGBM.

✧ Dr. Edward N. Lorenz, Father of Chaos Theory, passed away at the age of 90.

✧ An ISRO-NOAA-SSEC Workshop on *Atmospheric Remote Sensing from Geostationary Platform* was held during April 7-12, 2008 at the SAC Bopal Campus, Ahmedabad.

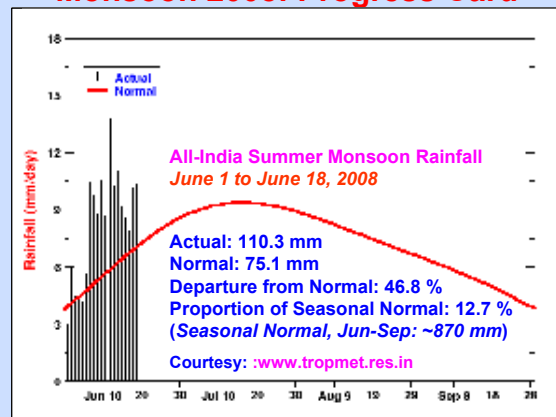
✧ New website of IMS is <http://www.indianmetsoc.com>. The new email id of IMS is <imetsociety@gmail.com>.

✧ *International Conference on Challenges and Opportunities in Agrometeorology (INTROMET 2009)* organized by IMS will be held in New Delhi during 23-25 February, 2009.

✧ *International Conference on Megha Tropiques Science & Applications* will be held during January 21-23, 2009 at SAC. <http://www.mosdac.gov.in>

✧ *XXVIII INCA International Congress on Collaborative Mapping & Space Technology* will be held during November 4-6, 2008 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. <http://www.cmap.org.in>

Monsoon 2008: Progress Card



Feedbacks

✧ Dr. M S Narayanan appreciated the e-newsletter of IMSA and termed it as a 'good start'.

✧ Dr. S M Bhandari pointed out a major typographical error in the previous issue. The mistake is highly regretted and has been rectified.

Monsoon Long Range Forecast

◆ The long range rainfall forecast for the 2008 southwest monsoon season (June- September) generated by different scientific groups are given below.

1. IMD - 99% of Long Period Average (LPA) [based on 8 predictors].
2. SAC – 103% of LPA [based on genetic algorithm]
3. IITM -
 - ◆ 94% of LPA [based on 4 global predictors]
 - ◆ 103% of LPA [based on Global SST predictors]
 - ◆ 104% of LPA [based on Numerical Model]
4. CMMACS – Above normal over central and Northwest India
5. IISc - Above normal rainfall
6. NCMRWF - Normal to below normal rainfall

◆ Monsoon onset: IMD had predicted that the southwest monsoon might arrive at the Kerala coast on May 29 (± 4 days). The actual onset took place over Kerala on May 31.

Lecture on Astro-Meteorological Monsoon Forecast

On May 30, 2008 Shri Dhansukh Shah, an Astro-meteorologist from Pune gave an interesting talk on a very innovative technique of forecasting daily trend of S W monsoon, well in advance. On the basis of ancient literature, he attempted to correlate astronomical indications like the longitudinal movement of Sun, Mars, Venus and Mercury to the incidence of rainfall. Over the Saurashtra region, he forecasted the possibility of good rainfall during June 15-22, 2008 and heavy rain during August 10-17, 2008. He also predicted less rainfall in the months of July and September.

Cyclone Nargis

On May 2, 2008, Cyclone Nargis, caused the deadliest natural disaster in the recorded history of Myanmar, causing catastrophic destruction and at least 80,000 fatalities with a further 56,000 people still missing. In the last week of April 2008, an area of deep convection persisted near a low-level circulation in the Bay of Bengal. With good outflow and low wind shear, the system slowly organized as a cyclone. On May 1, Cyclone Nargis began rapidly intensifying, due to greatly improved outflow in association with an approaching upper-level trough. A well-defined eye with a diameter of 19 km developed early on May 2. IMD estimated the peak speed of 165 kmh^{-1} as it approached Myanmar coast. On the same day, at around 1200 UTC it made landfall in the Ayeyarwady Division.

New Indian Satellites

In its 13th flight conducted from SDSC, Sriharikota, on April 28, 2008, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C9, successfully launched the 690 kg Indian remote sensing satellite Cartosat-2A, the 83 kg Indian Mini Satellite (IMS-1) and eight nanosatellites for international customers into a 637 km polar Sun Synchronous Orbit.

◆ **Cartosat-2A:** It carries a Panchromatic camera, provides imagery with better than 1-metre spatial resolution. Data from the Cartosat-2A can be used for cartographic applications, urban and rural infrastructure development and management.

◆ **IMS-1:** It carries two remote sensing payloads - A Multi-spectral camera (Mx Payload) and a Hyper-spectral camera (HySI Payload), operating in the visible and near infrared regions.

Photo Gallery (WM Day Celebrations)



Gujarat Science City Auditorium:
Dignitaries at the dais

Question/Answer Session:
Dr. Pranav Desai asks questions to the speaker



IMSA Executive Committee (2007-2009)

Chairman	Dr. Abhijit Sarkar
Vice-Chairman	Dr. M. S. Tomar
Secretary	Dr. Baby Simon
Joint-secretary	Dr. R. D. Deshpande
Treasurer	Dr. V. Sathiyamoorthy
Members	

Dr. S. M. Bhandari
Dr. R. M. Gairola
Dr. V. K. Jain
Shri. N. S. Pillai
Dr. A. S. Rajawat
Shri. Som Kumar Sharma
Dr. N. Sahoo

Editorial Board

Dr. I.M. Bahuguna (imbahuguna@sac.isro.gov.in)
Dr. Rashmi Sharma (rashmi@sac.isro.gov.in)
Dr. V. Sathiyamoorthy (sathya@sac.isro.gov.in)
Shri. Som Kumar Sharma (somkumar@pri.res.in)
Dr. Bipasha Paul Shukla (bipasha@sac.isro.gov.in)