



INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

AHMEDABAD CHAPTER

Issue: January- March

e-MEGHA

2008

From Chairman's Desk

IMSA Newsletter *e-MEGHA*, in the present form, is being introduced from this year. It is expected to be short and compact so that it can be transmitted over emails as well. It is proposed that *e-MEGHA* is brought out at a quarterly interval. It is designed to carry news items of our society's interest, highlights of recent events and announcements related to the Chapter. I am sure that the editorial board of *e-MEGHA* will be happy to carry feedback from members to improve the future editions. IMSA, with active participation of its members, has plans to have several scintillating events, which will be announced through the Newsletter.

Dr. Abhijit Sarkar (sarkar.abhi@gmail.com)

Secretary's Report

The first quarterly newsletter covering the highlights of recent events of the IMSA activities and forthcoming events of interest to IMSA members is in your hands.

♣ Monsoon performance-2007, lecture by Dr. M. N. Rajeevan, Director, National Climate Centre, India Meteorological Department, Pune.

♣ IMSA member Dr. A. K. Varma gave a lecture to the students of Delhi Public School, Ahmedabad on *Meteorology and Nature* in November 2007.

♣ An educational excursion to Champaner fort complex and eco-tourism centre in Jambu Ghoda wild life sanctuary (Panchmahal Dist.) was arranged for IMSA members and their families on February 9 2008. This was jointly organized by INCAGB, ISGAC, ISRSAC and IMSA.

♣ We plan to celebrate World Meteorological Day on March 23 2008, jointly with Gujarat Science City. This year's theme is *Observing Our Planet for a Better Future*. Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Director INCOIS will deliver a lecture on *Ocean observation for societal benefit*.

Dr. Baby Simon (babysimon@gmail.com)

News/ Events

✠ The national programme on Isotope Fingerprinting of Water of India (IWIN) has finally become a reality. In this ambitious national programme, 5 central agencies namely, CPCB, CWC, CGWB, CRIDS and IMD related to water and 7 research institutes namely, PRL, NRL, NIH, NIO, BARC, NGRI and AU have joined hands to understand the hydrological cycle over India.

✠ The 88th annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) was held at New Orleans, Louisiana during January 20-24 2008. The theme of the meeting was *Enhancing the Connectivity between Research and Applications for the Benefit of Society*. Fellow of the Indian Meteorological Society, Prof. T N Krishnamurti was nominated as Honorary Fellow of the AMS. IMSA member, Dr. P. C. Joshi, presented the details of the current and future Indian meteorological satellites. A keen interest and appreciation of Indian efforts was clearly visible.

✠ A strategic workshop on ocean surface topography constellation was held at Germany during January 29-31 2008. The objectives were to review user requirements and plan ways to meet them using altimeter constellation. IMSA member, Dr. Rashmi Sharma presented details of the altimetry applications. She also made a presentation on current and future oceanographic satellites by India.

✠ National symposium TROPMET-2007 was held during December 17-19 2007 on *Advances in Meteorology and their Applications* at Bhopal. IMS decided to take different steps to popularise meteorology among common man.

✠ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change led by Mr. Rajendra Pachauri and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr. were awarded Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change".

Monsoon Lecture by Dr. M. N. Rajeevan

On October 11 2007, Dr. Rajeevan, Director, National Climate Centre, IMD, Pune gave a very elucidatory talk on Southwest Monsoon –2007. This was the first activity of the newly elected IMSA Executive Committee (2007-09) and was organized at the Ramanathan auditorium, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. In his lecture Dr. Rajeevan touched upon different aspects of monsoon such as onset, spatial and temporal rainfall distribution, circulation, SST anomalies and performance of different models.

Regarding onset, he informed that May 24 was the predicted date, whereas actual onset took place on May 28, which was four days earlier than the normal date. In 2007, summer monsoon was normal, with heavy rainfall over Saurashtra and Orissa coast and good rainfall over the south peninsula and Gujarat region, while central India, parts of U.P., Punjab and Haryana were rain deficit.

An interesting account of extremely heavy rainfall events of 2007, which broke several past records was also covered. In his presentation on circulation anomalies, he gave an interesting account of active-break spell, a new algorithm to define seasonal rainfall and an overview of IMD's new statistical methods for long range forecast. Special mention was made on the seasonal forecast given by SAC.

Cold Spell

Almost entire Gujarat continued to reel under severe cold wave conditions. Naliya (0.5^oC) in the Kutch and Deesa (2.5^oC) in Banaskantha remained the coldest places in the state as per the record of the IMD, as on February 11 2008. Places like Naliya have recorded lowest temperatures in the last sixty years. The long spell of cold had left Amdavadis freezing!!

Photo Gallery

Monsoon Lecture
by
Dr. M. N. Rajeevan

Educational trip
to
Champaner Fort
Complex

**Interesting New Arrivals**

⌘ Satellite Meteorology, BS Publications, Kelkar R.R. (2007).

⌘ Global Warming and Global Cooling Evolution of Climate on Earth, Elsevier Science, Sorokhtin O.G. (2007)

⌘ Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast, Blackwell Publishing, Archer, David (2007)

⌘ Look for the popular article *Satellites in Meteorology: A Historical Context* by IMSA member Dr. P. S. Desai in the forthcoming CSSTEAP Newsletter.

Courtesy: Mr Narasimha Rao (sac7775@sac.isro.gov.in)

Science Updates

◆ TU Delft has taken a new weather radar system into use, the 'Drizzle Radar', which can observe even the lightest of drizzles. This is an enormous gain for climate researchers and is attracting international attention.

◆ Some of the new satellites launched in 2007 are:

* CARTOSAT II – India (January)

* CZ-4B – Brazil remote sensing satellite, launched by China (September)

* METOP-A – European Space Agency (October)

* YAOGAN III – China (November)

◆ The International Council for Science and WMO recently launched the International Polar Year 2007-08, which builds on 125 years history of internationally coordinated study of polar regions.

◆ Quickbeam, a radar simulation package that converts modelled clouds to equivalent radar reflectivities measured by CloudSat cloud profiling radar can be downloaded from:

<http://cloudsat.atmos.colostate.edu/radar-sim>

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