



INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

AHMEDABAD CHAPTER

Issue: January-March

MEGHA

2009

From Chairman's Desk

The month of April is special for all of us. The first successful satellite for meteorological observations was launched on April 1, 1960 – NASA's TIROS-I. Next year thus will be the 50th year of Satellite Meteorology – a glorious milestone in the service of society. 1st April deserves to be named and celebrated as *Satellite Meteorology Day*.

The term of the present IMSA-EC is coming to an end. There is a long list of activities carried out by the present team. But, the list of incomplete activities is even longer. We are confident that the new competent EC will take the baton from us and climb higher peaks during 2009-2011.

Dr. Abhiit Sarkar <sarkar.abhi@gmail.com>

Secretary's Report

This is the first quarterly newsletter of 2009 and the last from the present IMSA-EC. We thank all the IMSA members for the tremendous encouragement the present IMSA-EC got for organizing some special events like educational excursion to Champaner and Jambughoda wildlife sanctuary, tree plantation program and a photography contest. In this tenure we have also started the electronic version of IMSA Newsletter *MEGHA*, which is being appreciated by the IMS and IMSA members.

In this quarter, IMSA organized the 6th Prof. Satish Dhawan Lecture, on *A Model of the Indian Summer Monsoon Rainy Season: A Vehicle for Understanding Variability* on Feb. 27, 2009 by eminent meteorologist and Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, Prof B N Goswami. You can find the details of this lecture in the next page. World Meteorological Day was also celebrated on March 23, 2009, jointly by IMSA and Science city, Ahmedabad on the theme *Weather, Climate and the air we breathe*.

Annual General Body Meeting of IMSA is scheduled to be held on April 27, 2009 at 1530 Hrs at SAC-Bopal Campus and will also elect the new IMSA executives for 2009-2011.

Dr. Baby Simon <babysimon@gmail.com>

News / Events

- ◆ Indian Meteorological Society, Ahmedabad Chapter and Gujarat Council of Science city have jointly celebrated World Meteorological Day celebrations on the theme *Weather, climate and the air we breathe* at Gujarat Science City on March 23, 2009.
- ◆ IMSA-General Body Meeting is scheduled on April 27, 2009 at 1530 Hrs at SAC-Bopal Campus Auditorium.
- ◆ International conference on *Challenges and Opportunities in Agro-meteorology* was organized by Indian Meteorological Society at New Delhi during February 23-25, 2009.
- ◆ At least 12 persons were killed and more than 100 injured when a tornado hit 11 villages in Kendrapara district of Orissa on March 31, 2009.
- ◆ Dr. R R Navalgund, Director, Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad was honoured with the prestigious 'Maharana Udai Singh Award' for 2008-09.
- ◆ International conference on Megha-Tropiques, organized jointly by ISRO and CNES, France was held at Bangalore during March 23-25, 2009.
- ◆ ISRO-CNES workshop on SARAL –Altika is to be held during April 22-23, 2009 at SAC, Ahmedabad.
- ◆ On April 20, 2009, ISRO successfully launched RISAT-II, which carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar for disaster monitoring, especially for flood mapping, landslides and cyclones.

IMSA Elections

Election to select new executive committee of IMSA for 2009- 2011 tenure is announced. Dr. Rashmi Sharma, SAC is designated as the election officer.

ELECTION SCHEDULE

1	Notification	31.03.2009
2	Closing of Nomination	07.04.2009
3	Withdrawal of Nomination	14.04.2009
4	Elections & Result announcement	27.04.2009

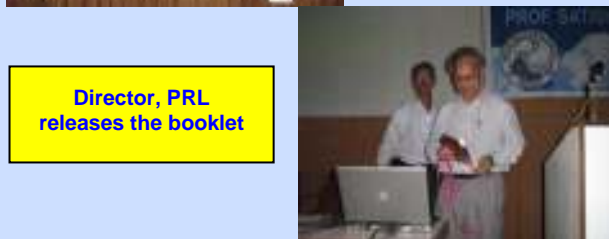
For further details contact Dr. Rashmi Sharma (rashmi@sac.isro.gov.in)

6th Prof. Satish Dhawan Lecture

On February 27, 2009, Indian Meteorological Society- Ahmedabad Chapter organized the 6th Prof. Satish Dhawan Lecture at K. R. Ramanathan auditorium, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad. The lecture on "A Model of the Indian Summer Monsoon Rainy Season: A Vehicle for Understanding Variability" was delivered by the renowned meteorologist Prof. B.N. Goswami, Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune and was attended by a large number of IMSA members from SAC, PRL, IMD and academic institutions. In his talk Prof. Goswami presented an unconventional way of understanding the factors driving the Indian summer monsoon. He pointed out the inadequacies of the (i) present 'fixed length' definition of monsoon season and (ii) Land-Ocean temperature contrast model of the monsoon. Hence he proposed a new conceptual framework for Indian summer monsoon based on tropospheric temperature gradient. This model explains all observed characteristics of the summer monsoon well. He proposed that melting of the Arctic sea-ice and Greenland ice due to global warming might tip the Indian monsoon to a mega drought

Photo Gallery

Prof. B. N. Goswami
delivers 6th Prof.
Satish Dhawan
Lecture



Director, PRL
releases the booklet



Director, SAC
presents a
memento

Summer Monsoon 2009**Long range Forecasts**

Long range forecast for the 2009 southwest monsoon season (June – September) are issued by India Meteorological Department and Space Applications Centre.

- (i) **Forecast by IMD:** 96% of the long period average with a model error of $\pm 5\%$.
 (ii) **Forecast by SAC:** Deficient by 5% (Using Genetic Algorithm).

Oceansat-II

India plans to launch Oceansat-II in mid 2009. It will carry 3 sensors onboard, viz. Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM-2), a pencil beam scatterometer (ISCAT) and an Italian payload called Radio Occultation Sounder for Atmosphere (ROSA). OCM-II is an 8 band multi-spectral camera operating in the visible and near-IR range. Its applications are in the field of biological oceanography- estimation of marine resources, primary productivity, potential fishery zone etc. and geological oceanography -fluvial fluxes in coastal marine environment, bio-geo-chemical cycles, etc. ISCAT is a Ku-band dual beam radar scatterometer having wide ranging applications in monitoring and prediction of ocean state parameters, tropical cyclones, monsoon onset, variations in polar ice parameters etc. ROSA data will be useful in providing temperature, humidity and electron density profiles. A very large number of Indian and International research organizations will be using Oceansat-II data.

IMSA Executive Committee (2007-2009)

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Joint-secretary	Dr. R. D. Deshpande
Treasurer	Dr. V. Sathiyamoorthy
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THANK YOU MEMBERS

The 'Megha' Editorial Board thanks all the IMSA members for their encouragement and support by sending feedbacks and useful suggestions, which helped to improve the quality of *Megha*.