



# INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

## AHMEDABAD CHAPTER

Issue: January - March

MEGHA

2010

### From Chairman's Desk

Unusually long foggy period in January, hottest March in the known history, many news items about aircrafts grounded or hitting air pockets (1), Severe power shortage in many parts of the country for industrial / domestic use pointing to a need for adding power generation capacity (2)!

The two seemingly unrelated sets of stories hide a dilemma of a fast developing nation like India. If we take traditional route of building more and more thermal and hydro-electric power stations to solve (2) will we not be adding cause for more of (1). I believe that while the meteorologists continue to work on improvement in weather forecasting and global climate modeling, it is necessary to encourage out of box thinking to find efficient solutions for generation of clean and green energy. This and many more issues can be efficiently discussed through blogs. IMSA proposes to start its moderated discussion forums. Any volunteers?

Dr. PK Srivastava <[pradeep@sac.isro.gov.in](mailto:pradeep@sac.isro.gov.in)>

### Secretary's Report

In this quarter, IMSA arranged the following activities:

- ◆ An educational excursion to Diu, Somnath and Gir forest on 9-10 January, 2010.
- ◆ World Meteorological (WM) Day was celebrated jointly with IMD, Ahmedabad and Gujarat Science city, Ahmedabad. On this occasion Dr. P. C. Joshi gave a lecture on the theme of this year's celebration.
- ◆ IMSA in association with Gujarat Science city and Gyan-vani educational radio channel arranged a live phone-in radio program as part of the WM day celebrations.
- ◆ IMSA executive council met on 17 March to discuss the future activities of IMSA.

In the coming quarter, annual general body meeting of IMSA will take place.

Dr.V.Sathiyamoorthy <[v.sathiyamoorthy@gmail.com](mailto:v.sathiyamoorthy@gmail.com)>

### News / Events

- ◆ World Meteorological day was celebrated with full enthusiasm on March 23 by IMSA. The theme for this year was *60 years of service for your safety and well being*.
- ◆ A category 4 hurricane- cyclone Tomas hit the northern Fiji on March 15, 2010.
- ◆ Summer temperature in India is set to remain above average, weather officials said, raising hopes of heavy rains at the start of the monsoon season.
- ◆ A major volcanic eruption took place near Eyjafjallajokull glacier in Iceland on March 21 after a gap of about 200 years. The eruption caused injection of large amount of ash in the atmosphere.

### Prolonged Fog of January 2010

Indo-Gangetic plains experienced persistent fog conditions starting around 25 December 2009 and stretching for almost one month. In fact this is one of the longest fog events in recent past. On occasions, the visibility reduced even lower than 10 m, which led to bus and train accidents and loss of several lives. Fog engulfed Delhi airport for 172 hours in January 2010 and caused several cancellation and delay in flight schedule.



Gorakhdham Express hit the stationary Prayagraj Express in dense fog at Panki Railway Station in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, on January 2, 2010.

Photo: PTI

### TROPMET 2010

IMS will organize the symposium TROPMET-2010 on the topic *Advances in Weather and Climate services* during May 19-21 in Kolkata. Further details about the symposium can be viewed from the website <http://tropmet.imskolkata.net>

## SUPERANNUATION



Dr. S. S. Rana (LM-510), outstanding scientist and Deputy Director, MRSA, SAC received his M. Tech from IIT, Delhi. He has been responsible for the development of Satellite Microwave Radiometer (SAMIR). He has contributed significantly for the development of variety of microwave sensors, especially Scanning Microwave Radiometer (MSMR) for Oceansat-I. He is also the Associate Project Director for Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) and actively involved in various projects such as Disaster Management System, Oceansat-II etc. Subsequent to his superannuation, Dr. Rana has been appointed as Prof. Satish Dhavan Professor at SAC.



Dr. Abhijit Sarkar (LM-65) superannuated as the Group Head of Meteorology & Oceanography Group at SAC in February 2010. He obtained his Ph.D from Moscow in 1979. His prime interests are in applications of space-based microwave data for various scientific objectives and he is closely associated with the Oceansat-1 and Oceansat-2 Utilisation Programmes. He is presently 'Prof. Brahma Prakash Scientist'. Dr Abhijit Sarkar is one of the keen participants of science activities of IMSA. He has numerous publications in national and international journals.



Dr. P. C. Joshi (LM-64) received his Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University in Theoretical Physics. Before joining SAC in 1983, he worked as senior scientific officer in IITM. His field of research includes satellite meteorology, NWP, and climate change. While retiring, he was heading the Atmospheric Sciences Division of SAC. He is the fellow of Indian Meteorological Society and Indian Geophysical Union. He is one of the founding members of IMSA. He is in the editorial board of many reputed journals. Dr. Joshi has more than 75 publications in national and international journals. He is presently 'Prof. Brahma Prakash Scientist'.



Dr. A. K. Sisodia (LM-454) completed his ME from Roorkee University in 1973. He joined SAC as design engineer. He was the Project Manager for disaster warning system, which was developed for IMD and was made operational in 1985. He was Group Director of navigation payload system and receiver group and the Project Director of IRNSS/ SATNAV (payloads) programme of ISRO until his retirement. He has published many technical papers in international journals/ symposiums.



Dr. B. Manikiam (LM-507) obtained his Ph.D from IIT, Chennai in 1976. He started his carrier as Meteorologist in IMD and joined ISRO in 1984. In ISRO, he was instrumental in coordinating the satellite remote sensing programme under NNRMS. He played a pivotal role in developing several indigenous weather instruments such as AWS, GPS Sonde, Lidar etc. He has more than 60 publications in national and international journals. In January 2010, he superannuated as the Programme Director of Atmospheric Sciences Program of ISRO at ISRO Head Quarters in Bangalore.

## Unusual Heat wave

During March of this year, maximum and minimum temperatures remained above normal almost throughout the month over most parts of the country. The Maximum temperatures increased considerably from the beginning of third week crossing 40°C mark at some places over Gujarat and south Rajasthan. The cause of this may be attributed to the less number of western disturbances, which are affecting only the hilly regions. In addition to it, there is a large anti-cyclonic follow over the northwest and central India that cause downward motion of warm air. The subsidence warming combined with lack of moisture and a practically cloudless sky resulted in persistently high temperatures. **Source: IMD**

## El Nino-Southern Oscillation Status

- \* Central Pacific sea surface temperatures remain warmer than the long-term average.
- \* The sub-surface water of the tropical Pacific continues to cool.
- \* The SOI has fallen slightly through March.
- \* The latest approximate 30-day value of the SOI is -12.
- \* Trade winds have strengthened in the equatorial Pacific.
- \* Cloudiness near the date-line has fluctuated through March.
- \* Most international computer models are predicting a return to neutral conditions during the southern hemisphere autumn

**Source: Bureau of Meteorology, Australia**

## Photo Gallery



An educational excursion to Diu, Somnath and Gir forest was arranged by IMSA in January, 2010



A weather balloon was released by President, IMSA on World Meteorological Day at IMD, Ahmedabad

## IMSA Executive Committee (2009-2011)

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