

## **The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**

### **PRESS RELEASE (17.11.16)**

**Pune, 17.11.2016:** The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune today celebrated its 55th foundation day in a befitting manner. On this occasion, Prof. S.K. Dube, Vice Chancellor, Amity University, Jaipur was the Chief Guest, while Prof. P.C. Joshi, Retired Scientist, SAC, Ahmedabad was the Guest of Honour. Dr. R. Krishnan, Director, IITM presided over the function.

While highlighting the achievements of the Institute over the year, Dr. R. Krishnan, Director, IITM said, “The IITM Earth System Model (IITM-ESM) is participating in the upcoming Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6) from India and is contributing to the IPCC AR6 Assessment Report.” He said that the Model has been further refined by incorporating aerosol forcing land-use land-cover changes. He also informed the gathering that the CFS-based Monsoon Mission Model developed by IITM has been transferred to IMD for making it operational. “In order to better understand the fog formation and dispersion mechanisms, IITM is conducting the winter fog campaign in New Delhi for the second year in a row,” said Dr. Krishnan. “Under the NITI Aayog programme on High Resolution Weather Forecasting, IITM has set up high resolution Global Ensemble Forecast and Deterministic Forecast systems for real time short range predictions of monsoon,” he added. Dr. Krishnan also said that the SAFAR group has conducted a mobile air quality campaign for assessing air quality at strategically important location in Jaipur during May-July 2016 and that a 72 metre meteorological tower is being erected at Sagar University in Madhya Pradesh. Under the Indo-German collaborative Stratoclim campaign, balloon-sonde observations of upper troposphere lower stratosphere were conducted in Nainital during August 2016, he added.

While speaking on the occasion, Prof. S.K. Dube, Vice Chancellor, Amity University, Jaipur praised IITM for being one of the few top institutions in the world in the area of weather and climate by the quality and quantity of research publications. He impressed upon that different institutions working in this area should come together to achieve more. He also urged that IITM should take a larger role in capacity building in weather and climate modeling.

Prof. P.C. Joshi, Retired Scientist, SAC, Ahmedabad while talking on the occasion highlighted the contributions of ISRO satellite missions in satellite meteorology in the last 50 years. He added that ISRO was infrared and microwave sensors in the past, but in the future, more thrust is on microwave sensors for meteorological observations/applications.

Prof. C.K. Shum, Ohio State University delivered ‘Prof. P.R. Pisharoty Distinguished Lecture’ on the topic ‘Improved Estimates of 20th and early 21st century global sea level rise’. In the lecture, he discussed about the complexities of the various geophysical processes contributing in the sea-level rise and its prediction under the anthropogenic warming. Prof. Shum highlighted the contributions of land subsidence in the Bangladesh Delta towards sea-level rise in the region.

On this occasion, various IITM awards for the year 2015 were presented. The Golden Jubilee Award was presented to Dr. AK Sahai and Dr. C Gnanaseelan for their outstanding contributions in the field of atmosphere, weather and climate sciences. Dr. Sahai’s contributions are recognised for his pioneering work which led to the setting up an exclusive extended range prediction system for monsoon intraseasonal oscillations for the first time in the world. Dr. Gnanaseelan’s contributions are recognized in the area of data assimilation, ocean modeling, physical and

dynamic oceanography, air sea interaction, monsoon dynamics and climate variability. The Award carries a cash reward of Rs.1,00,000/-, a gold coin and a citation. The Silver Jubilee Award was presented to Dr. Sayantani Ojha and Dr. C Gnanaseelan for their research paper on tropical Indian Ocean subsurface temperature variability and the forcing mechanisms. Dr. Ananthkrishnan Award for the best PhD thesis was presented to Dr. CK Jena for thesis on high resolution NOx emission estimates for India based on satellite measurements and regional chemistry transport model. The Best Student Research Paper Award was presented to Ms. Priya P. for her paper on sea surface temperature anomalies and monsoon circulation. The Excellence Awards for scientific support, administrative, technical and multi-tasking staffs were presented to Smt. SB Patankar, Shri KD Barne, Shri SM Thorat, and Shri VV Bamble respectively.

From this year onward, IITM has started an Award which comprises of a citation, and a reward of relevant books worth Rs. 7, 500/- for research fellows for their performance in the pre-PhD course work.

The function also included special lectures by the award winners. A simple and colourful cultural programme was also arranged in the evening. Several ex-employees and special invitees, in addition to the existing employees and their families, attended the function.



**Photo 1:** Dignitaries inaugurating the function by lighting the traditional lamp.



Photo 2: (from L to R) Dr. R. Krishnan, Prof. S.K. Dube, Prof. P.C. Joshi and Dr. C. Gnanaseelan.