

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, IITM

Press Release (16.12.2020)

Curtain Raiser Ceremony of the IISF-2020 for IITM High Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory (HACPL) and Clean Air

IITM Pune; 16.12.2020: Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology, and Earth Sciences will digitally inaugurate the virtual Curtain Raiser Ceremony of the IISF-2020 for High Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory, Mahabaleshwar and Clean Air which is organised by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) under Ministry of Earth Sciences, as a part of 6th India International Science Festival 2020 (IISF 2020) on 18th December 2020 at 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Welcome address will be presented by Prof. Ravi S. Nanjundiah, Director, IITM. During the occasion, inaugural address will be delivered by Dr. M. Rajeevan, Secretary, MoES & Special Guest, Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe, National Organising Secretary, Vijnana Bharati. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Earth Sciences will online address the gathering. At the end program, there will be a virtual tour to High Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory (HACPL) showcasing the R&D activities and observational facilities established by IITM at Mahabaleshwar. Below is the IITM **YouTube link to join the virtual curtain raiser program:** <https://youtu.be/Mr0NBxZVPOs>

The 6th IISF 2020 is being organised by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).

The HACPL of IITM (MoES) is located at Mahabaleshwar at an altitude of 1378m above mean sea level has been chosen for this event to highlight its unique contributions towards the study of cloud microphysics and interaction between clouds and aerosol, orographic process of precipitation and related dynamics.

The High Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory (HACPL) is equipped with state of art observational facility located at Western Ghats, which provides an ideal location for continuous monitoring and study of monsoon clouds and heavy rainfall events. Cloud probes deployed collect information on cloud liquid water content, cloud droplet size distribution. Radars are used to study the vertical structure of clouds, spatial distribution of precipitating systems. The results coming out from this laboratory are helping to improve our understanding on cloud microphysics, cloud-aerosol interactions and orographic rain processes.

IITM Pune under the aegis of MoES has contributed for Clean Air by developing air quality forecasting products & services for Public viz., Air Quality Early Warning System (AQWES) that issues 72 hours forecast in advance and alerts on large scale air pollution events that may occur over the Delhi NCR region <http://ews.tropmet.res.in>, and System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) which provides air quality forecast and health advisories for Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad cities <http://safar.tropmet.res.in>.

As a part of the IISF-2020, IITM is organizing an event entitled '**Clean Air**', initiated by MoES. This event aims to make aware the citizens of India about the emerging air pollution issues and its plausible implications and provide a suitable platform for interactions amongst non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society citizens, academic and R&D institutions together to discuss the opportunity & challenges, technical interventions and various strategies for mitigating air pollution problems. It also aims to provide a platform to new ideas to start their journey and also give chance to some top start-ups of India to exhibit their well-established start-ups. In the series of Clean Air event, IITM has organised a number of activities such as Vigyan Yatra, Webinars on Clean Air, online Competitions, R&D virtual display through IISF Expo. In continuation of IISF-2020 Clean Air event, **a curtain raiser event for HACPL is organised to bring awareness to the Public & Students about IITM's observational facilities established at Mahabaleshwar.**

For more details about IITM activities for IISF 2020, Dr. Sachin D. Ghude, Sc-E (IITM Pune) & Principle-Coordinator (IIFS2020-clean air) may be contacted at sachinghude@tropmet.res.in
