

**Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**  
**Ministry of Earth Sciences**  
**Govt. of India**

**Press Release: 15 July 2023**

**Visit of the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Shri Kiren Rijiju and Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India, Dr. M. Ravichandran at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**

**Pune, 15 July 2023:** The Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Shri Kiren Rijiju along with Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India, Dr. M. Ravichandran visited the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune on 15 July 2023. Shri Rijiju visited several R&D facilities and laboratories at IITM and interacted with scientists and research scholars. He took stock of the various R&D projects being executed by IITM and discussed future directions.

“IITM is one of the most important and pioneering institutes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Our scientists and research scholars have made India as one of the leading nations in the world of weather and climate research and prediction. IITM scientists and researchers have made India proud through their high end and deep research in weather and climate sciences. IITM is a centre of excellence recognized by the world,” said Shri Rijiju while interacting with media persons.

“The recent cyclone Biporjoy and heavy rains in the northern India, were predicted precisely. Our institutions are making precise forecasts. Getting to this level of precision in predictions by IMD could not have been possible without the hard work and R&D efforts of IITM,” said Shri Rijiju. He urged the public and other stakeholders to take such precise advisories seriously to mitigate the effect of natural calamities and extreme weather events.

IITM Director Dr. R. Krishnan briefed the Minister about the research initiatives and achievements of IITM in the field of weather and climate sciences, and highlighted some important studies. Dr. Krishnan, while highlighting the achievements of Monsoon Mission in improving forecast at different space and time scales, expressed that the third phase of Monsoon Mission is targeting model development and impact studies. He said that efforts are being made to develop sector specific forecast products to benefit stakeholders including farmers and water management agencies.

At the Press Meet, Shri Rijiju informed the media persons about the various new initiatives of the ministry including Deep Ocean Mission and projects with societal implications for farmers and fishermen. “We have our observatories and stations in the three poles of the world – the North, the South and the Himalayas. Our station Himadri in the Arctic is operational only during summer. This limits our research and observations. India is soon going to make this station operational around the year,” said Shri Rijiju.

“We plan to have an advanced research station in the Arctic where we can study auroras, astronomy, astrophysics, permafrost, weather and climates sciences. These require around the year observations. Therefore, we are planning to install more equipment and instruments soon at Himadri and make it functional throughout the year,” added MoES Secretary Dr. Ravichandran.

Dr. Ravichandran appreciated the efforts of Centre for Climate Change Research (CCCR) at IITM is developing India's first Earth System Model (ESM) that contributed climate projections in the recent IPCC report. “We are strengthening our weather radar network in the country for better prediction of

extreme weather events. We hope that by the next year, entire India will be in the radar range for rainfall coverage,” said Dr. Ravichandran.

“We are now at an advanced stage of weather and climate predictions that benefit farmers, fishermen, aviation/airports, etc. Our advisories can save lives. Therefore, our weather and climate advisories must be taken seriously,” said Dr. Ravichandran.

While apprising the Minister about the High Performance Computing (HPC) facilities at IITM, HPC Project Director Dr. A.S. Rao expressed that improvements in weather prediction were possible due to dynamical models run on HPC. Further improvements in prediction need more computing power. That is why HPC facilities need continuous upgradation to meet the changing demands in weather and climate prediction and research.

Shri Rijiju informed the press/media that MoES is constantly working for improving forecast and strengthening necessary infrastructure. “With the current 4 petaflops HPC Pratyush, an order is placed to procure an additional 10 petaflops HPC at IITM. We will soon have another 8 petaflops HPC at NCMRWF Noida,” said the Hon’ble Minister of Earth Sciences Shri Rijiju.

In the august presence of Shri Kiren Rijiju and Dr. M. Ravichandran, IITM signed two MoUs with Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, Uttarakhand. The MoUs were signed by Dr. R. Krishnan, IITM Director and the respective registrars of Tezpur University and ARIES.

The MoU with Tezpur University aims to promote collaborative research on biosphere-atmosphere exchange of Greenhouse Gases and Energy Fluxes being monitored at the Kaziranga National Park, Assam. The MoU with ARIES targets collaborative research on biosphere-atmosphere exchange of Greenhouse Gases and Energy Fluxes being initiated at Devasthal, near Nainital in Uttarakhand.

On the occasion, Shri Rijiju and Dr. Ravichandran also released the latest issue of IITM’s in-house Rajbhasha magazine ‘Indradhanush.’ The Minister also planted a tree at the IITM campus.

The visit ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. A.S. Rao, Scientist-G.

**Photos on the next page**



IITM Director Dr. R. Krishnan welcoming the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Shri Kiren Rijju.



The Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Shri Kiren Rijju welcomed with the traditional Puneri Pagdi.



Taking a stock of the various R&D facilities and Labs.



The Hon'ble Minister at the HPC Pratyush.



Tree Plantation.



Press Meet



Signing of MoUs.



Release of IITM's in-house Rajbhasha magazine 'Indradhanush.'