

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune

PRESS RELEASE (17.11.19)

Pune, 17.11.2019: The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune today celebrated its 58th foundation day in a befitting manner. On this occasion, Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Secretary, DSIR and DG, CSIR was the Chief Guest, while Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Director, PRL, Ahmedabad was the Guest of Honour.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Ravi S. Nanjundiah, Director, IITM highlighting the important work being done at the Institute and the recent achievements in the field of weather and climate research and services to the nation. “Recently, under MoES, IITM has developed a high-resolution Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi for predicting extreme air pollution events in Delhi and providing warnings to take necessary steps as per Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). Providing air quality forecast at a very high-resolution of 400 meters, it is the best resolution available for air quality forecasts in the world,” Prof. Ravi said. While appreciating the efforts of IITM scientists working on various R&D projects for their remarkable performance, he apprised the audience that IITM is working toward developing a system for providing block-level weather forecast 3 days in advance. “Soon we are getting land in Bhopal for establishing an advanced research facility called Atmospheric Research Testbed (ART) to study the monsoon behavior in the central India. The facility would prove very useful for improving monsoon prediction,” said Prof. Nanjundiah. He urged IITM scientists to come up with new and innovative ideas for translating weather and climate sciences for societal benefit while focusing on their research.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, DG, CSIR, highlighted how science, technology and innovation can play an important role in our country’s development. “When applications of S&T can bring benefits to society, public support for science must continue for its advancement,” said Dr. Mande. “Innovation can be done not only by trained scientists/technologists, but even by untrained common people,” he added while emphasizing on the need for inculcating a culture of innovation in the country. “We must continue to do fundamental science but also do something to bring the benefits of science to society,” Dr. Mande urged. “After passing through different phases in science, we are now aspiring to be global S&T leaders,” said Dr. Mande. He also spoke on the evolution of CSIR.

Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Director, PRL, Ahmedabad delivered the 58th foundation day lecture on the topic “Indian Planetary Missions: Challenges and Science”. Through his lecture, he took the audience on a journey of Indian planetary missions and presented an inside story about the challenges and science of these missions. He shared anecdotes about the Chandrayaan-1, MOM and Chandrayaan-2 missions. “We are soon going to launch Aditya L1, India’s first mission to study the Sun in 2020. We are also working on missions for Mars Atlas and Venus anytime in 2023 and beyond,” informed Dr. Bhardwaj.

On this occasion, various IITM awards for the year 2018 were presented. The Silver Jubilee Award was presented to Dr. Ayantika Dey Choudhury *et al.* for their research paper entitled ‘Phenomenological paradigm for midtropospheric cyclogenesis in the Indian summer monsoon,’ published in the international journal *Journal of Atmospheric Sciences* in September 2018. Dr. Ananthakrishnan Award for the best PhD thesis was presented to Dr. Gayatri Kulkarni for her thesis entitled ‘Study Aerosol Effects on Deep Convective Clouds within Monsoon Environment based on Observations and Numerical Modeling’. The Best Student Research Paper Award was

presented to Shri Dipjyoti Mudiar *et al.* for the paper entitled ‘Quantification of observed electrical effect on the raindrop size distribution in Tropical Clouds’ published Journal of Geophysical Research in April 2018. The Excellence Awards for scientific support, administrative, administrative and multi-tasking staffs were presented to Dr. Deewan Singh Bisht, Smt. Yogita Kad, Shri Sandip Kulkarni and Shri Rakesh Bhandari respectively. IITM employees who completed 25 years of service were also felicitated.

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: Dignitaries on the dias.



Photo 3: Felicitation of Dr. Mande



Photo 3: Felicitation of Dr. Bhardwaj