



भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
India Meteorological Department

Press Release
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Sub: Celebration of World Meteorological Day 2011

Each year, on 23 March, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), its 188 Member countries and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day around a selected theme. This Day commemorates the entry into force of the WMO Convention creating the Organization in 1950. Subsequently, in 1951, WMO was designated a specialized agency of the United Nations Organisation. From that day on, WMO assumed the responsibilities of the former International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which had been established by First International Meteorological Congress (Vienna, September 1873) to facilitate international collaboration in meteorology, including coordinated observations and standardized instruments.

The theme for 2011 celebration has been selected as “**Climate for you**” which is appropriate at a time when every aspect of our life viz. human health, food, water, economic well being etc. are affected by rapidly changing climate. India has unique climate diversity. The natural disasters like devastating cyclones, drought, floods, earthquakes, health hazards and food scarcity are contributing to increase in socio–economic and ecological problems.

Globally, the year 2010 has been recently reported by WMO as the warmest year on record at the same level as 1998 and 2005, since the relative differences between the three years were less significant than the uncertainty margin, which only confirms the observed long-term warming trend highlighted by the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** report, for all of the ten

warmest years on record were experienced since 1998. The IPCC has further anticipated an increase in the frequency and intensity of floods, droughts and other weather and climate extremes as a result of a warming climate, in particular heat waves, which can have adverse effects on human health, exacerbate pollution events and spark wildfires. Global temperature has shown an increasing trend of the order 0.74°C during last 100 years. The rate of warming is twice during last 50 years. Additionally, over the ten years elapsed since 2001, global temperatures averaged almost half a degree above the 1961-1990 mean, the highest ever recorded for any 10-year period since the beginning of instrumental climate observations.

In India also, analysis of annual land surface air temperature data for country as a whole for the period 1901-2008 showed a warming trend of 0.52°C/100 years. There have been 9 warmest years since 1998 out of 14 in last century. Analysis of rainfall during the past more than 100 years data does not show any significant changes in the all India Rainfall as a whole. However the significant changes are being noticed in the regional pattern.

We have to work together to help the communities and the nation mitigate and adapt to vulnerability of climate change. IMD has strong commitments to address hydro-meteorological issues through climate monitoring, research, better weather prediction and people awareness about changing climate. IMD is monitoring weather, climate and water resources with its extensive network and has participated in many National and International Programmes of WMO.

It was evident a few years back that Disaster management, Agriculture etc would require a much more alert, responsive and technically capable meteorological service simply because the very size of the vulnerable population in India has grown so large as to demand the best possible warning services.

IMD has embarked upon an ambitious modernisation programme order to play this significantly new role. Its efforts in that direction are now a well debated, discussed and reported history. The new capabilities are preparing us to serve the future world where instant information on meteorological parameters shall be churned through expert decision support systems into specific advisories. The target audience would be health, agricultural and social agencies and also the common unsuspecting layman. Towards this, IMD has installed High Power Computing System and running Advance weather prediction models for medium range weather prediction. IMD is the process of installing 14 Doppler Weather Radars, 25 Upper air Stations, 550 Automatic Weather Stations and 1350 Automatic Rain Gauges to augment its observational network.

IMD activities in the area of weather and climate are widely perceived today as key contributions to human safety and well-being and the realization of economic benefits. Seasonal predictions of monsoon guide farmers on when and how best to plan their crops. National Weather Forecasting Centre has been established at HQ New Delhi for providing value added services to various sectors and users on All India basis. The Public Weather Services of the Department has been strengthened by continuous interaction with the Media Personnel and feedback from Disaster Managers.

World Meteorological Day (WMO) provides an opportunity for focusing the meteorological services. On this occasion, IMD has planned to celebrate the day by organising Seminars/Workshops, Special lectures and opening of observatories at IMD HQ New Delhi and sub offices of IMD for General Public, School/ College/ University students / teachers and other users.

IMD's PROGRAMME FOR WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY – 2011

- National Seminar on “**Climate for you**”
- Exhibitions all over the country
- Special talks related to the theme
- Awareness programmes through print and electronic media
- Visit of students and public to IMD Offices and Observatories

At New Delhi, it is proposed to celebrate this year's day with organisation of **one-day Seminar in on 23 March 2011** at India Habitat centre, to highlight the climate resource for various sectors like agriculture, water resources, health, aviation, power sector etc . Hon'ble Minister **Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal** will grace the inaugural function as Chief Guest. Eminent scientists will be invited to deliver talks on the theme after the inaugural session to be graced by scientists, University Professors, students/ media/ farmers/ professionals and other users.

(AJIT TYAGI)
Director General of Meteorology