

Indian Meteorological Department

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In News

The beginnings of meteorology in India can be traced to ancient times. India is fortunate to have some of the oldest meteorological observatories of the world. **The British East India Company established several such stations, for example, those at Calcutta in 1785 and Madras (now Chennai) in 1796** for studying the weather and climate of India. The **Asiatic Society of Bengal** founded in 1784 at Calcutta, and in 1804 at Bombay (now Mumbai), **promoted scientific studies in meteorology in India.**

More About IMD

- **In the year 1875, the Government of India established the India Meteorological Department**, bringing all meteorological work in the country under a central authority.
- From a modest beginning in 1875, IMD has progressively expanded its infrastructure for **meteorological observations, communications, forecasting and weather services and it has achieved a parallel scientific growth.**
- India was the **first developing country in the world to have its own geostationary satellite, INSAT**, for continuous weather monitoring of this part of the globe and particularly for cyclone warning.
- IMD is under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences.**
- The **Director General of Meteorology is the Head of the India Meteorological Department, with headquarters at New Delhi.** For the convenience of administrative and technical control, there are 6 Regional Meteorological

Centres, each under a Deputy Director General with headquarters at Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur and Guwahati.

- In addition, there are **separate Divisions to deal with specialised subjects**. They are:

- . Agricultural Meteorology
- . Civil Aviation
- . Climatology
- . Hydrometeorology
- . Instrumentation
- . Meteorological Telecommunication
- . Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre
- . Positional Astronomy
- . Satellite Meteorology
- . Seismology
- . Training

Mandate of IMD

- To take meteorological observations and to **provide current and forecast meteorological information for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities** like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc.
- To **warn against severe weather phenomena** like tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which causes destruction of life and property.
- To **provide meteorological statistics** required for agriculture, water resource management, industries, oil

exploration and other nation-building activities.

- To **conduct and promote research** in meteorology and allied disciplines.