# Notes and News

## THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY

The Third Session of the Commission for Synoptic Meteorology of the World Meteorological Organisation was held in Washington D.C., U.S.A., from 26 March to 20 April 1962 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Paul H. Kutschenreuter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and President of the Commission. Dr. S. N. Sen, Regional Director of the Indian Meteorological Service and Vice-President of the Commission, was elected Chairman of one of the three Working Committees during the Session.

The Session was attended by representatives from 40 Member-States, Observers from 5 International Organisations, besides a few others. India was represented in the Session by Shri C. Ramaswamy, Deputy Director General of Observatories and Dr. S. N. Sen, Regional Director, Calcutta.

Many subjects of far-reaching importance were discussed and as many as 74 Recommendations and 10 Resolutions were passed during the Session. Among the subjects discussed, special mention may be made of the following—

(*a*) The plan for the exchange of meteorological data in the northern Hemisphere;

(*b*) The organisation for the exchange of meteorological data in the southern Hemisphere;

(*c*) The possible circuits and procedures for the exchange of information from the northern Hemisphere to the southern Hemisphere and *vice-versa* and for the re-distribution of this information to the Meteorological Services within both the Hemispheres;

(*d*) The international distribution of meteorological data collected by artificial satellites;

(*e*) Various observational requirements of synoptic meteorology;

(*f*) Coding problems;

(*g*) Methods and techniques of Numerical Analysis and Forecasting.

A new feature of the Session was the scientific lectures on subjects coming within the field of interest of the Commission. Three afternoons of the Session were devoted for these lectures. The leader of the Indian delegation, Shri C. Ramaswamy, delivered lectures on (1) India's contribution to the meteorological programme of the International Indian Ocean Expedition and (2) the Application of Optimum Ship-routing Techniques in the Indian Seas.

At the close of the Session, Dr. S. N. Sen, Regional Director, Calcutta, was unanimously elected President of the Commission. Dr. T. Logvinov of the U. S. S. R. Hydrometeorological Service was elected Vice-President.

## FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION

The Fourteenth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organisation was held at Geneva from 29 May to 20 June 1962. In the absence of Dr. Po E.,

President, R. A.-II (Asia), who was not able to attend the meeting. Shri P. R. Krishna Rao, Director General of Observatories, who is Vice-President of R.A.-II, attended the meeting from 6 June 1962 as alternate to President R.A.-II.

## W.M.O. PANEL MEETING ON METEOROLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Dr. P. R. Pisharoty, Director, Colaba and Alibag Observatories, who is a member of the W.M.O. Panel of Experts on meteorological aspects of peaceful uses of atomic energy, attended the meeting of the Panel held at Geneva from 16 to 18 April 1962. The meeting was called by the President of W.M.O. to discuss a draft Plan for the International Exchange of measurements of atmospheric radio-activity in implementation of a request from the United Nations addressed to the W.M.O. in Resolution 1629 (XVI) on 'Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects of Atomic Radiation' adopted by the General Assembly of U. N.

## THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN EXPEDITION

The International Indian Ocean Expedition is scheduled to start on 1 July 1962 and last for about 2 years. The meteorology program includes collection of Surface and Upper Air data by Oceanographic research ships, automatic weather stations, weather ships, weather reconnaisance flights and satellite transits over the Indian Ocean area. The International Meteorological Centre to be started soon by the Government of India at the Meteorological Office, Colaba, Bombay, as a Special Division of the Institute of Tropical Meteorology will look after the meteorological work of the Expedition. The Government of India have requested for U. N. Special Fund Assistance for special equipment and experts for the Institute of Tropical Meteorology (with headquarters at Poona) including the International Met. Centre at Bombay.

The Fourteenth Session of the Executive Committee of W.M.O. held in Geneva in May —June 1962 passed a Resolution on the meteorological importance of the IIOE which states *inter alia*

"Considering that the IIOE provides all opportunity for obtaining valuable data from an area in which meteorological observations are normally sparse, and should therefore contribute to our understanding of the general circulation in the monsoon areas and of the interaction between the atmosphere and the ocean.

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of India is establishing an International Met. Centre for the IIOE as a temporary Division of the Institute of Tropical Meteorology, with the following main functions

(*i*) Servicing and testing of meteorological instruments for the Expedition

(*ii*) Collecting, processing and analysing the meteorological data of the Indian Ocean area

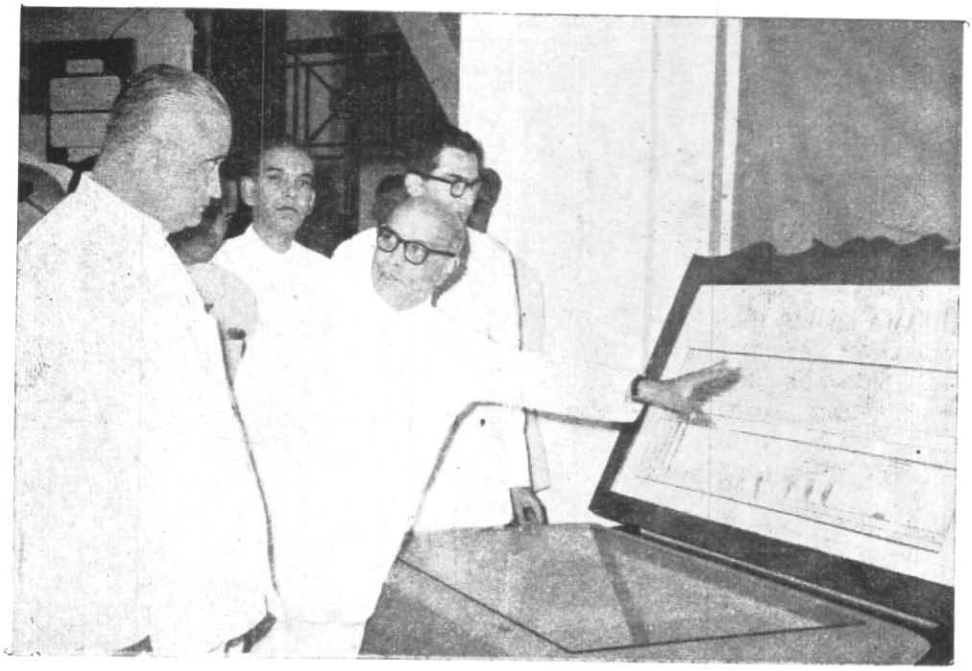
(*iii*) Issuing of meteorological forecasts and warnings required for the operation of the Oceanographic ships of the Expedition

(*iv*) Carrying out research on special meteorological problems of the Indian Ocean area, including the Monsoons and Tropical Cyclones

Urges Members concerned to participate to the greatest possible extent in the meteorological programme of the IIOE and to collaborate in the work of the International Met. Centre".

Prof. C. S. Ramage, SCOR Scientific Director for the meteorology program of the IIOE, is expected to arrive in Bombay early in August 1962 and will work at the International Met. Centre. Five more U. S. A. Meteorologists deputed by the U. S. A. Government are expected to join and work at the International Meteorological Centre between September 1962 and January 1963.

## WMO DAY ON 23 MARCH 1962 AT POONA



**Shri P. R. Krishna Rao, Director General of Observatories showing the details of the Crop Weather Calendar to Shri S. K. Patil, Minister for Food and Agriculture during the Celebrations of the Second World Meteorological Day at the Meteorological Office, Poona on 23 March 1962**

A note on this has appeared on p. 258 of April 1962 issue of this journal

## COMMITTEE FOR SPACE RESEARCH (COSPAR) OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNION (ICSU)

The COSPAR Plenary Meeting and the two Symposia—one on 'Meteorological uses of Rockets and Satellites' and the other on 'Use of Artificial Satellites for Geodesy'—arranged along with it, the former in collaboration with W.M.O., were held at Washington, U. S. A. from 23 April to 9 May 1962. The Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, sent a delegation from INCOSPAR to the above meeting and symposia consisting of (1) Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad and Chairman of INCOSPAR (Leader), (2) Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, Director, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, (3) Shri P. R. Krishna Rao, Director General of Observatories and (4) Dr. A. P. Mitra, Asstt. Director, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

Dr. K. R. Ramanathan and Shri P. R. Krishna Rao visited the Goddard Space Flight Centre near Washington and the Wallops Island rocket launching base of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the U. S. A. They saw the work being done there on rocket and satellite meteorology including the satellite read-out station. They also visited the Satellite Meteorological Section of the U. S. Weather Bureau at Suitland near Washington and saw the work being done on the dissemination, analysis and study of meteorological information obtained from meteorological satellites.

## RESEARCH PLANNING CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL METEOROLOGY

A Research Planning Conference on Tropical Meteorology was convened on 10-11 May 1962 at Asbury Park, New Jersey, U.S.A. by the University of Texas and the U. S. Army Signals Research and Development Laboratory, Fort Monmouth, N. J. Dr. P. Koteswaram, Director, Aviation Services, India Meteorological Department, attended the conference by invitation.

## INDIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SPACE RESEARCH (INCOSPAR)

The Second Meeting of the Indian National Committee for Space Research was held on 29 June 1962 in the Conference Room of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Colaba, Bombay. Shri P. R. Krishna Rao, Director General of Observatories, Dr. P. R. Pisharoty, Director, Colaba and Alibag Observatories and Dr. Vainu Bappu, Director, Astrophysical Observatory, Kodaikanal, attended the above meeting as members of the Committee.

## INDIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON OCEANIC RESEARCH (INCOR)

A meeting of the Indian National Committee on Oceanic Research was held on 10 May 1962 at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, at which various points connected with the organisation of the expedition were discussed. Dr. L. S. Mathur, Deputy Director General (Instruments), represented the India Meteorological Department at the meeting.

## POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The first meeting of the Posts and Telegraphs Board Advisory Council was inaugurated on 17 March 1962 at Vigyan Bhavan by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and was presided over by Dr. P. Subbarayan, Minister of Transport and Communications. Dr. P. Koteswaram, Director, Aviation Services, attended as the representative of the India Meteorological Department. The meeting discussed ways and means of improving the telecommunications in the country.

## AGRONOMY COMMITTEE OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Shri A. K. Mallik, Dy. Director General of Observatories (Climatology), who was permitted by the Government to continue to serve on the Agronomy Committee of I.C.A.R. till 31 August 1962 pending its reconstitution,

attended the meetings of the Committee held on 30 April and 1 May 1962 at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

Shri Mallik and the Director of Agricultural Meteorology, Poona, were also permitted to serve on the Sub-Committee constituted by Agronomy Committee of I.C.A.R. for a review of the utilisation of the data obtained under the Crop Weather Scheme.

## AIR INDIA INAUGURAL FLIGHTS

Shri P. R. Krishna Rao, Director General of Observatories, accompanied the Air India International Boeing 707 inaugural flight to Moscow in the second week of April 1962. At Moscow he visited the Headquarters of the U.S.S.R. Hydrometeoro'ogical Service and the Central Forecasting Institute and had discussions with the Director. He also visited Leningrad and saw the Central Geophysical Institute and the Outstation Research Observatory attached to it.

Dr. R. Ananthakrishnan, Deputy Director General of Observatories (Forecasting), accompanied the Air India International Boeing 707 inaugural flight to Sydney (Australia) in the second week of May 1962.

## FOREIGN VISITORS

Rev. H. J. Millar of Lamont Geological Observatory, U. S. A., visited Delhi for calibration of the Press-Ewing seismographs which are on loan from them to this department since the I.G.Y. and are at present operating at the Seismological Observatory at the Ridge, Delhi.

Dr. James E. Johnston, F.A.O. Expert, Animal Climatology, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, visited the Agricultural Meteorological Division, Poona, on 19 April 1962. During his visit, he discussed problems regarding the collection of meteorological data for animal research programmes.

## VISIT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, JAPAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

Dr. Kiyoo Wadati, Director General, Japan Meteorological Agency, visited the India Meteorological Department at New Delhi on 27 and 28 June 1962 on his way back to Japan from Geneva after attending the meetings of the Executive Committee of W.M.O.

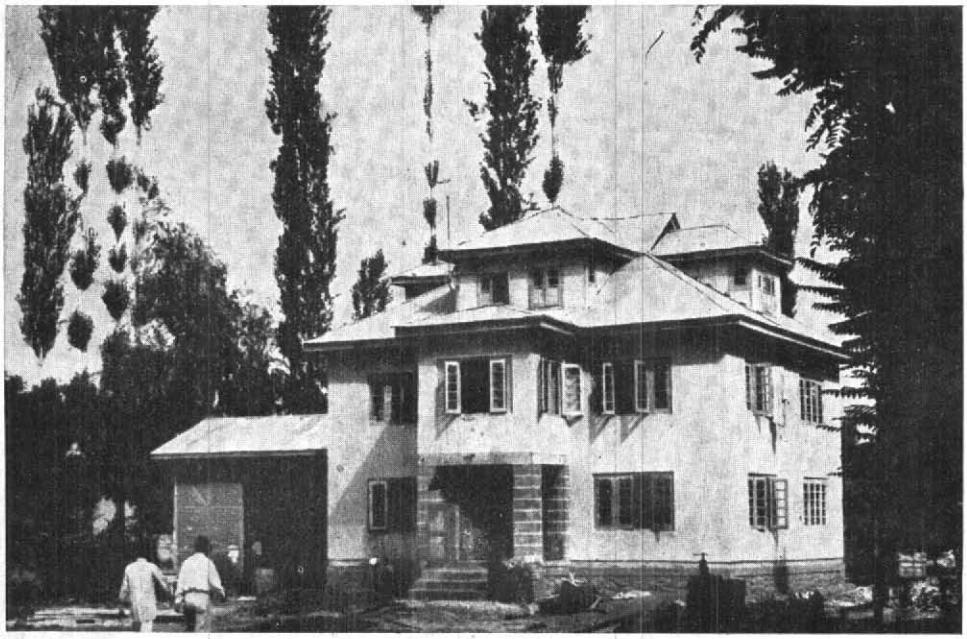
He was shown round the Workshops, Laboratories, Weather Radar, the Northern Hemispheric Exchange and Analysis Centres, the Forecast Office at Safdarjung Airport and the Seismological Observatory at the Ridge. He was entertained to tea by the Deputy Minister for Civil Aviation at his residence and to an official lu ch at the Ashoka Hotel by the Director General of Observatories.

Under the auspices of the Indian Meteorological Society, Dr. Wadati gave a talk on 'Recent developments in the Japanese Meteorological Service'.

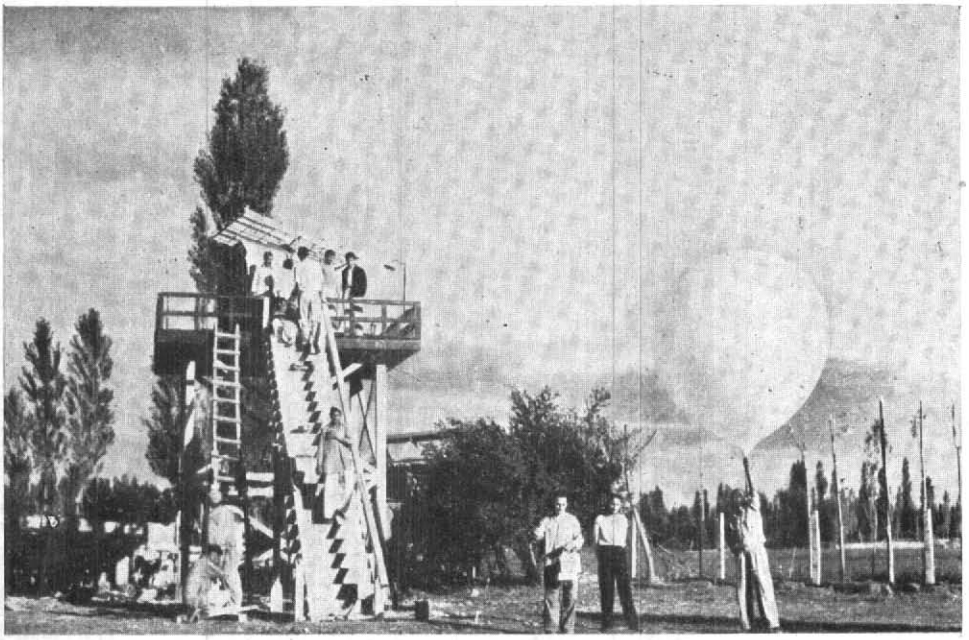
## RADIOSONDE-RAWIN OBSERVATORY AT SRINAGAR

A new Radiosonde-Radiowind Observatory was established at Srinagar on 19 July 1962. One Metox radio-theodolite operating on 400 M/c and one of the latest models of the C-type radiosonde ground equipment set was installed in a small rented building. The radio-theodolite has been mounted on a 15-ft high wooden staging to give maximum clearance round the horizon. The station started functioning on a trial basis with effect from 19 July 1962 and regular ascents twice a day are being taken from 1 August 1962.

This is the fourteenth radiosonde and the thirteenth radiowind station opened in the country for making regular soundings to get upper air meteorological information.



Radiosonde-Rawin Observatory, Srinagar



Radio-theodolite on 15-ft staging at Srinagar

## ILLUMINATED RAIN SQUALL

*Vessel* : R.M.S. *Kampala*

Captain : D. S. Hutton

*Observer* : J. De Barr

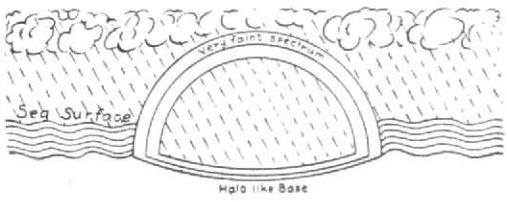
*Voyage* : Karachi—Seychelles—Mombasa

Position : 3°59′ S, 42°23′ E, Course : 265° (T)

Speed : 15¾knots

Time and Date : 1715 GMT on 23-9-1961

During frequent rains squalls one appeared as a distinct illuminated and perfect hemisphere. The light source was from the moon which was full and high at the time. This phenomenon was observed from about 250° to 320° (True from vessel) where its appearance eventually changed to that of an isolated rain squall. The radar confirmed this observation by indicating a small rain belt in those directions at 2·7 miles.




Barometer: 1014·1mb; D.B. : 76°F; W.B. : 74°F,

Dew Point: 73°F; Sea Temp. : 27·2°C Wind : 140°; Force: 04 knots

## METEOR REORT

*Vessel* : M.V. *Jag Laxmi*

Captain : V. A. P. Rao

*Observing Officers* : L. D. Choudhri, I. E. Patankar and N. G. Kriplani

*Voyage* : Japan to India

Position : Lat. 07° 48·5′ N, Long. 77° 26·5′ E, Time : 1600 GMT

On 3 March 1962, witnessed the falling of a METEOR, which appeared to be at least five times bigger in size than any known planet. When first noticed its altitude was about 45°, the colour of it being dark navy blue in the centre and sky blue on the outer surface bearing 280° true relative to the ships' position. The object fell up to the altitude of 10° in time interval of about 7 seconds before disappearing into the dark of the sky.