

Special features

FIFTY YEARS OF METEOROLOGICAL TRAINING IN INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

The Professional meteorological training in India Meteorological Department (IMD) commenced in 1942 with the establishment of a small unit at Pune under the direct supervision of Sir Charles Normand, the then Director General of Observatories. This year the meteorological training in IMD completes fifty years and is celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

The training activities started, initially, to meet the demands of war-time expansion in the meteorological facilities. Subsequently, with the expansion in the spheres of activities of IMD and advances in meteorology, the training activities have expanded enormously, by inclusion of specialised subjects like, Numerical Weather Prediction, Satellite Meteorology, Agrometeorology,

In IMD training activities were reorganised periodically and regular training courses on specialised subjects were introduced. The training in General Meteorology started functioning under the direct control of the Deputy Director General of Meteorology (Forecasting) from 1946. A modest training programme in Radiosonde and Radar started at New Delhi in 1952 which became a regular training centre for Radio Meteorology in 1962. The centre now functions at the Office of the Deputy Director General of Meteorology (Upper Air Instrumentation) at New Delhi. Training courses on Surface Meteorological Instruments, Radiation and Airport Instrumentation are organised by the Deputy Director General of Meteorology (Surface Instruments) at Pune. Subsequently, organised training in Agromet-

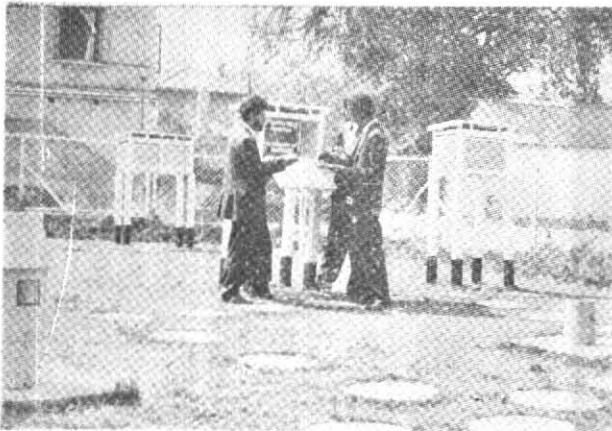


Fig. 1. Recording of synoptic observations by the trainees

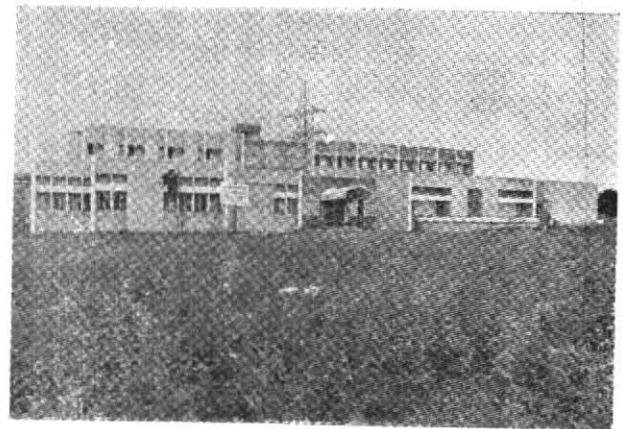


Fig. 2. Trainees' hostel building, Pune

Micrometeorology, Computer Data Processing, Meteorological Instrumentation, Telecommunication, etc.

eteorology commenced in 1976 at Pune and in Meteorological Telecommunication in 1977 at New Delhi.



Fig. 3. Use of personal computers in advanced course

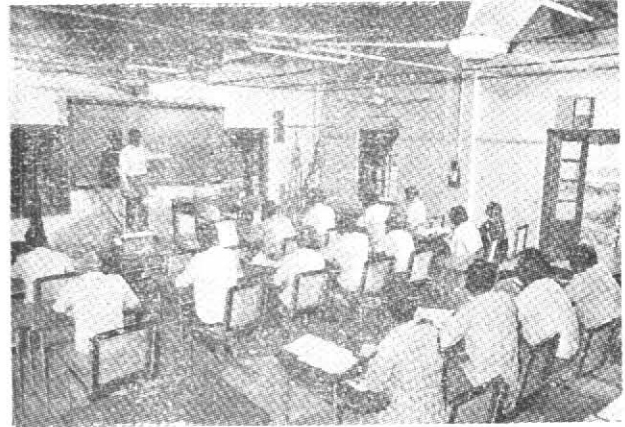


Fig. 4. Advanced meteorological class in progress

The meteorological training facilities at New Delhi and Pune have been recognised as the Regional Meteorological Training Centre (RMTC) of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva, in the year 1986. The training centres in IMD catering to various specialised needs are equipped with adequate modern facilities, like computers, audio-visual aids, full fledged libraries, etc. At present training facilities are available for all the WMO Class I, II, III & IV levels of training and also for various highly specialised subjects. These facilities have been utilised by a large number of foreign

trainees belonging to various meteorological services of developing countries of Asia and Africa and by a large number of organisations in India.

Keeping in view the large expansion in the application of meteorology to various programmes and enormous increase in the number of user agencies, there is a great demand for trained personnel at various levels in meteorology. Meteorological training would, therefore, continue to play a pivotal role in the development of human resources in the country in the years to come.