



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Readers,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you the latest issue of VayuMandal [Vol. 49, No. 1 (January-June), 2023], a bi-annual bulletin of the Indian Meteorological Society (IMS). This is the first issue produced by the new IMS Standing Committee on VayuMandal chaired by Dr A.K. Sahai with Dr R.G. Ashrit, Mr Sunny Chug and Dr R.K. Giri as members. I also compliment the new Standing Committee for their concerted efforts in updating the membership of the Editorial Board of VayuMandal with very eminent national and international experts kindly agreeing to support the journal and enhance its scientific standard. I warmly welcome the members of new Editorial Board and look forward to working with them in raising the profile of VayuMandal.

I take this opportunity to warmly congratulate Dr M. Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology (DGM) and Permanent Representative of India with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), for being recently elected as the Third Vice-President of WMO with an overwhelming majority. It is indeed a matter of great pride for the IMS, to have its Immediate Past President occupying such a high position in WMO governance. On behalf of all the members of the IMS, I convey our best wishes to Dr Mohapatra for a successful tenure.

With the kind support of the DGM, we have also embarked on an ambitious initiative to make VayuMandal a fully online journal, with the entire editorial process being migrated to a new software platform. The system is currently being tested, and we hope to launch the online version soon.

This issue of VayuMandal features six review articles dealing with a variety of topics. These include a comprehensive review of the current state of knowledge on the interactions of aerosols with radiation, clouds, and precipitation, use of machine-learning approach to predict fine particulate matter and examine its temporal variations and association with a variety of contributing factors at Patna, the Stratosphere-Troposphere (ST) Radar at Cochin – a national facility to probe the tropical atmosphere and ionosphere, a comprehensive review of the characteristic features associated with the intensity and movement of North Indian Ocean tropical cyclones, review of the Indian geostationary meteorological satellite program – INSAT, which started in 1982, and diagnostics of seismic noise in digital seismic telemetric monitoring network to support earthquake monitoring over the Indian domain. Reports on recent extreme weather events and activities of IMS and its local chapters, regularly featured in VayuMandal, have also been incorporated in this issue.

This year, the IMS Jaipur Chapter has taken on the responsibility to host our annual flagship event, TROPMET-2023 at Jaipur. I am happy to know that there has been an overwhelming response to the call for papers, and we look forward to a very successful organization of the event.

The next year will see the launch of the 150-year celebrations of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which is a proud moment for all Indian meteorological and allied communities. I extend our warm felicitations to the current and former staff of the IMD, and I look forward to the IMS joining the celebrations in a befitting manner.

June, 2023

**Rupa Kumar Kolli
President, IMS**