



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
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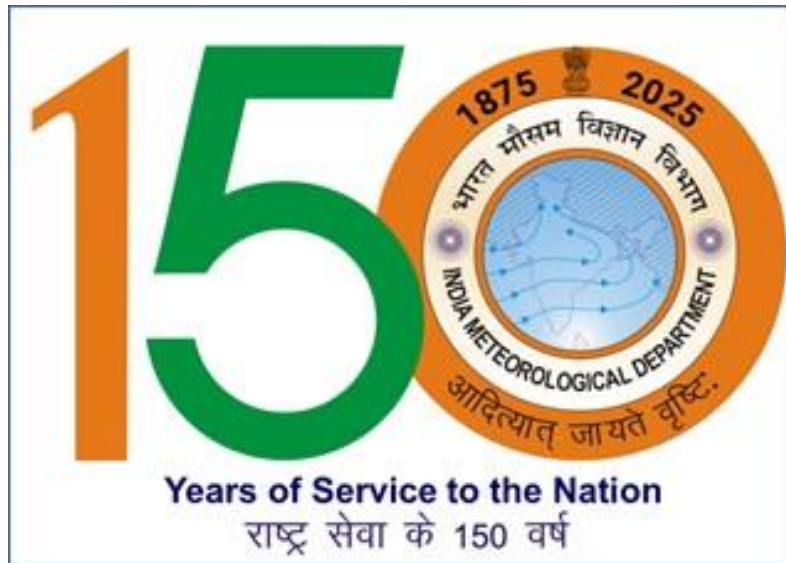
India Meteorological Department

Celebrating 150 Years of Excellence

(Ministry of Earth Sciences)

14 January 2025

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, marks a significant milestone as it celebrates **150 years of dedicated service to the nation**. Established in **1875**, IMD has been at the forefront of providing critical weather and climate services, playing a vital role in **disaster management, agriculture, aviation, and public safety**. As the National Meteorological Service of India, IMD has been at the forefront of **meteorology, seismology, and allied disciplines**, playing an integral role in **safeguarding lives, supporting economic development, and advancing scientific research for societal benefit**.



IMD at 150 years

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi graced the **150th Foundation Day celebrations** of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on **January 14, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. Highlighting IMD's remarkable journey, the Prime Minister noted that its 150-year legacy symbolizes India's progress in modern science and technology. On this historic occasion, he launched **'Mission Mausam,'** an initiative aimed at transforming India into a 'Weather-ready and Climate-smart' nation through advanced weather surveillance technologies, high-resolution atmospheric observations, next-

generation radars, satellites, and high-performance computing systems.¹

The Prime Minister also unveiled a commemorative **postage stamp and coin**, alongside releasing the **IMD Vision-2047** document, which outlines a roadmap for weather resilience and climate change adaptation as India prepares to mark 100 years of independence in 2047. The event featured workshops and activities showcasing IMD's contributions to making India climate-resilient and providing critical weather and climate services. Celebrating 150 years of IMD reflects not just a milestone for the department but also India's commitment to harnessing science for societal progress.

IMD: Origin and Significance

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** was established in **1875**, following a series of catastrophic events that underscored the need for centralized meteorological services. Among these, a devastating tropical cyclone struck Calcutta in 1864, followed by monsoon failures in 1866 and 1871, highlighting the vulnerabilities of the Indian subcontinent to weather extremes.

DID YOU KNOW?



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) became the first organization in India to have a message switching computer for supporting its global data exchange.

IMD's establishment marked a pivotal moment in the development of meteorology in India, bringing all meteorological work under a unified authority. Since its inception, the department has played a crucial role in advancing meteorology as a modern physical science. It has continually upgraded its capabilities, employing cutting-edge technology and research to enhance weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and disaster preparedness.

¹ To read more about Mission Mausam [Click here.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



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's services have been instrumental in mitigating the impact of natural disasters, supporting agriculture, water management, aviation, and other sectors, and contributing to the socio-economic development of India and the broader region. Today, it stands as a cornerstone institution in weather and climate services, driving resilience and sustainability in the face of climate challenges.

IMD: Achievements and Advancements

IMD has made significant advancements since its inception, reflecting its commitment to innovation and service enhancement. Key achievements include:

Pioneering Weather Observations

- ❖ By 2023, IMD has **replaced all Mercury Barometers with Digital Barometers** by the UNEP Minamata convention (as mercury is hazardous to human health) at all Class I observatories.
- ❖ Enhanced agro-meteorological services with the deployment of **200 AGRO AWS** stations.
- ❖ Sustenance of **25 GPS based PB Stations** in which 5 stations equipped with IMD manufactured and 20 are outsourced from Indian manufactures.

Communication and Outreach

- ❖ India Meteorological Department launched its Crowdsourcing web interface in January 2021 and the **mobile App "Public Observation" on 14th January, 2022** to allow users to provide their weather feedback at anytime from anywhere.
- ❖ **Crowd sourcing:** Since 2021, IMD has started an online interface to collect the information of the weather that has occurred as well as the associated impact information for six weather events initially, viz., Rain, Hail, Duststorm, Wind Speed, Thunderstorm/Lightning & Fog.

Advances in Numerical Weather Prediction

- ❖ Overall Forecast Accuracy witnessed a **40% improvement in 2023 as compared to 2014.**
- ❖ Expansion of Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) network from **15 in 2014 to 39 in 2023** with land area of coverage increased by about **35% from 2014.**
- ❖ The successful prediction of cyclones like **Phailin (2013), Hudhud (2014), Fani (2019), Amphan (2020), Tauktae (2021), Biparjoy (2023), and Dana (2024)** has demonstrated our capabilities and the value of our services in saving lives and reducing economic losses.
- ❖ With the accurate cyclone warning by IMD, the number of deaths has reduced from **10,000 in 1999 to Zero in 2020-2024**

Technological Advancements

- ❖ **High-Resolution Rapid Refresh (HRRR) model** for Nowcasting of Rainfall & Reflectivity forecasts.
- ❖ **Electric Weather Research and Forecasting (EWRf) model** for Nowcast of Lightning density & Accumulated Rainfall forecasts
- ❖ **Mausamgram**, an interactive and dynamic meteogram which provides location specific weather forecast information was released on 15-01-2024 during the IMD's 150th foundation celebration day by the **Vice President of India** to the public usage
- ❖ Increase in the number of Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) from **1350 in 2014 to 1382 in 2023.**
- ❖ Increase in the number of **District-wise Rainfall Monitoring Scheme (DRMS) stations** from **3955 in 2014 to 5896 in 2023.**

Make in India Initiative

- ❖ IMD has been the front runner of the development of Indigenous technology, commencing with indigenous **RADAR in 1958**, and Indian Satellite products in collaboration with ISRO since 1983. Automatic Weather Station since 2000, Doppler Weather Radar since 2010, Common Alerting Protocol since 2019, Impact based Forecast since 2019, Dynamic composite risk atlas since 2022.

A Legacy of Excellence

As IMD celebrates its **150th anniversary**, its legacy as a cornerstone of India's development and safety is undeniable. From pioneering meteorological research to adopting state-of-the-art technology,

IMD continues to evolve, ensuring its services remain relevant and impactful in an era of climate change and increasing weather unpredictability. With its unwavering commitment to innovation and service, IMD stands as a testament to the nation's progress and resilience.

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