

The Regional Meteorological Center, Chennai going to focus on urban meteorology and flood forecasting

The Regional Meteorological Center, Chennai (RMC) which is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee this year has planned to strengthen its weather observation network and provide local meteorological data to ensure more accurate forecasts. It has expanded and upgraded its observation facilities including the Doppler Weather Radar. Due to the increasing demand for various types of meteorological information, RMC Chennai has shifted its focus towards urban meteorology and established a dense observation network to provide flood forecasts.

Deputy Director-General of Meteorology, RMC Chennai, Dr. S. Balachandran said that the department is in the process of identifying sites to install more automated weather stations and rainfall gauges, especially in Chennai. This will help in flood forecasting and disaster management measures.

In addition, RMC Chennai also plans to venture into more sector-specific weather data to meet changing demands. The Department has come a long way to disseminate weather information and improve the efficiency of weather modeling, including a statistical ensemble forecasting system.

A dense network will facilitate the monitoring of temperature levels and rainfall that varies in different locations and helps in more accurate predictions. Dr. Balachandran said that at present there are about 40 automated weather stations and 73 automatic rainfall gauges across the state.