

High-altitude cloud physics lab at Mahabaleshwar

The research centre will study cloud and rainfall behaviour

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Pune: The government will set up a high-altitude cloud physics laboratory at Mahabaleshwar to study cloud behaviour and its correlation with rainfall pattern, a top government official said on Tuesday.

“The Ministry of Earth

Sciences (MoES) has approved the setting up of the high-altitude laboratory at Mahabaleshwar. This will help scientists in understanding clouds and monitor them, on a long-term basis. This will also help in studying rainfall pattern,” MoES Secretary Shailesh Nayak said.

He was speaking at the in-

auguration of the two-day national workshop on 'Advances in Science of Climate Change and Indian Monsoon' at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, on behalf of the MoES.

“Mahabaleshwar is an ideal location for our new lab, because the clouds here often come to the ground lev-

el during the monsoon. We don't have to seek an aircraft to make our observations. Flying in aircraft and taking measurements of cloud properties is an expensive proposition,” he said, adding that the Central government has sought suitable land from the state government for the purpose.

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Sakal Times
Dated 01/05/10
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Nayak emphasised on the need to understand all the interactive processes leading to climate change. He also spoke about the efforts in building human capacity in climate change research through training programmes at IITM. He also mentioned about government efforts in paleoclimate observations, understanding the polar ocean variability. “There is a need to study the projected impacts of climate change on Himalayan water resources. The MoES has conveyed to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to initiate a “Himalayan council”. It is a group of research organisations from several neighbouring countries which would work on the changing water cycle in Himalayas,” he said. Director, IITM, B N Goswami stated that while considerable confidence has been achieved in climate global model simulations, however, modeling of climate change at regional scales particularly involves a lot of uncertainties.