

board the orbiting satellite Solar Maximum Mission, have shown changes of 0.1 to 0.2% over a short period.

Indian Middle Atmosphere Programme (IMAP)

To answer some of these questions a new international programme has been launched in which India's participation is massive. This MAP — the Middle Atmosphere Programme — began in January 1982 and will continue up to March 1989. Here the thrust is on a relatively narrow part of the atmosphere, from about 1 km to 90 km. The programme seeks to answer the following questions: (a) what are the possibilities of damage to earth's middle atmosphere from man's activity? (b) what role does middle atmosphere play in determining climate and climatic changes? (c) what are the processes by which the sun, acting through the middle atmosphere, may be able to affect weather?

Indian interest in this programme arises from several excellent facilities that now exist (3 rocket ranges, a balloon facility in Hyderabad, a network of ozone station, existence of MST radars and lidar) and the desire to understand the role of the middle atmosphere in monsoon circulation and tropical atmospheric chemistry.

In addition, a new major facility is coming up in India — the so-called MST Radar — a new generation high power coherent pulsed doppler radar operating around 53 MHz and capable of probing the atmosphere from the surface to about 100 km.

IGBP

Over the years, from the period of IGY to now, our concept about atmospheric science has changed

drastically. We now view the atmospheric environment as one entity. From the the ground to the boundary of the magnetosphere, the many classically recognized regions — troposphere, the stratosphere, the mesosphere, the ionosphere, the magnetosphere — have now merged, and coupling between various levels has been recognized. However, the boundaries have been erased only with difficulty, and in many countries, as in ours, only incompletely.

The most important weakness has been complete neglect of biosphere-geosphere connection. Global habitability or global change works through interactions between the sun, atmosphere, oceans, lithosphere and biosphere, only a few of these have in the past been interrelated. The International Council of Scientific Union have now adopted a programme that seeks to detect and examine interconnections between these fields and perhaps cross the barrier between physical and biological sciences.

Future efforts in India may well be directed to some or all of these areas. India is fortunate to have a strong interaction between physical and biological scientists. It would be important to take advantage of this interaction.

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NEWS

WHO'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The World Health Organization will be 40 years old in 1988! Its 40th Anniversary year could be the occasion for a gigantic mobilization of social forces working towards the goal of "health for all by the year 2000".

How could the anniversary of WHO's birth be used to sensitize public opinion, health workers, politicians and others to questions of health development?

The Editor of *World Health Forum* invites you to send him your ideas (in about 200 words) for activities at the local or national level that could be organized during the 40th Anniversary year. The most innovative suggestions will be published.

The manuscripts may be sent to: The Editor, *World Health Forum*, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.
