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Balloon flights experiments launched by VBIT

Laudable effort:The balloon flights with GPS radiosondes instrument, to measure wind speed, direction, humidity and temperature, were released from the VBIT campus near Ghatkesar.

Vignana Bharathi Institute of Technology (VBIT) scripted a new chapter in its research activities launching the prestigious balloon flights experiments in association with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The balloon flights with GPS radiosondes instrument to measure wind speed, direction, humidity, temperature up to an expected altitude of 35 km were released into the atmosphere from the VBIT campus near Ghatkesar formally by the OU Vice-Chancellor, S. Satyanarayana.

The project is collaborative experiment among three institutions – Space Physics Laboratory (SPL), Trivendrum; National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), Gadanki and the VBIT.

The data collected at these three stations will be utilised to quantify different wave activities in the tropical region, according to Gopa Dutta, Director R&D, VBIT.

The ISRO has set up a research facility Mini Boundary Layer Mast (MBLM) in the premises of the Institute which gives data of wind speed, wind direction, humidity, pressure, temperature, long wave radiation, short wave radiation, soil moisture and temperature at several levels. All the data are collected at 1 second resolution and averaged for every four minutes. A rain gauge has also been installed to measure rain fall.

Appreciating the activity, the Vice-Chancellor stressed the importance of the continuous interaction between industry and academic bodies and expressed a hope that VBIT will go on to become an autonomous institution and attract more funds for the research projects.

G.Manohar Reddy, Secretary and N. Goutham Rao, Chairman, VBIT said that the R&D cell was set up Prof. Gopa Dutta as a full-time Director to promote research in various departments of the college and the Institute has also been recognised as Research Centre by JNTU, Hyderabad.

It is now undertaking two research projects sponsored by ISRO under their Climate and Weather of the Sun-Earth System (CAWSES) programme amounting to Rs. 16 lakh and Rs. 43 lakh. J.S.N.Murthy, Principal, VBIT also spoke.