

Dr. Raghavendra Ashrit

Dr. Raghavendra Ashrit received his M.Sc. (Meteorology) in 1994 and M. Tech (Atmospheric Science) in 1996 from the Department of Meteorology and Oceanography, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. He started his career in research as Research Scholar in Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune in 1997 and obtained Ph. D from University of Poona in the year 2001. He worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Meteo-France in Toulouse in France and in the Meteorological Research Institute (MRI), Tsukuba in Japan during 2001-2003. Climate change and its impact on Indian Monsoon formed his area of research interest and contributions in his early career. Some of his early research contributions include study of impact of anthropogenic warming on (i) the ENSO-Monsoon teleconnections and (ii) Indian agriculture/food production. He was awarded START Young Scientist Award in 2002 and was one of the recipients of the IITM Silver Jubilee Award in 2003.

After joining NCMRWF in March 2003 as Scientist-C, Dr. Ashrit worked in the area of Mesoscale modelling and forecasting of high impact severe weather events. Experiments using high resolution mesoscale models in sensitivity studies of cloudbursts and heavy rain events led to scientific contributions to the understanding of Himalayan cloudbursts (Leh Cloudburst) and Mumbai Heavy Rain event of July 2005. Similar episodes of Uttarakhand during June 2013 and Srinagar in September 2014 have also been investigated by Dr. Ashrit in high resolution global models.

Operational implementation of NCMRWF Global Ensemble Forecast System (NGEFS) and development of various ensemble based forecast products was a challenging task and Dr. Ashrit made significant contributions towards achieving this in NCMRWF. This led to real-time generation of medium-range probabilistic rainfall forecasts for the first time in India at NCMRWF.

The advanced object based verification techniques (CRA method) implemented at NCMRWF by Dr. Ashrit is useful for the modellers and researchers to monitor and quantify the progress and improvements in rainfall forecasts.

Dr. Ashrit has made notable contributions to the operational implementation of various forecast products for different agencies like, IMD, BARC, SASE and BBMB. He has seventeen publications in peer reviewed national and international journals and three contributed chapters in books.

Dr. Raghavendra Ashrit is awarded the Certificate of Merit for his outstanding contributions in the field of Atmospheric Sciences.