

HISTORY OF COLABA / ALIBAG MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY

SOBHANA ALEX, B. D. Kadam

Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, New Panvel (West), Navi Mumbai - 410218, INDIA.
email: salex@iigs.iigm.res.in

Contribution from the ground magnetic measurements is an important component in space weather studies in view of providing a unique and inexpensive data base. Observations of the changes in the geomagnetic field component began about 200 years ago. India's participation in the field of the science of geomagnetism was initiated in the early 18th century, when the country joined the Göttingen magnetic Union. The geomagnetic data from Colaba – Alibag Magnetic Observatory combined is the link up of the observations at Alibag (Geog. Long. 72°52'E, Lat. 18°38'N) since 1905, in continuation of the earlier series of observations at Colaba (Geog. Long. 72°49'E, Lat. 18°5' N) since 1841. Systematic recordings of the hourly eye observations using Grubb's magnetometer were carried out at Colaba, from 1847 to 1872. The regular daily photographic records of the geomagnetic components are available since 1872 to 1905 from Colaba (Bombay), and thereafter the continuity is maintained with the magnetic recording commenced at Alibag from 1905 till today. Meticulous method of data reduction and analysis evolved at various stages will be discussed. The study is also aimed at presenting some of the interesting storm events prior to 1900.

magnetic observatories, historic records

Sobhana Alex, Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Plot 5 , Sector 18, New Panvel (West), Navi Mumbai - 410218, INDIA, tel: +91 022 27480764, fax: +91 022 27480762, email: salex@iigs.iigm.res.in