

EU tests ozone impact over city sky

By OUR CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad, Nov. 8: Three flights with scientific payloads are flying over the Hyderabad skies since Monday in an attempt to find out the atmospheric concentrations of chlorofluorocarbons and their effect on Ozone layer.

European Ozone Co-ordination Unit has embarked upon this exciting project to find out the present condition of ozone

layer right from Germany to Darwin, Australia.

The project SCOUT-03 (Stratosphere-Climate Interactions with Emphasis on the Upper Troposphere and Lower Stratosphere) consists of weather scientists from Europe who will be collecting the atmospheric data and will compare it with previous records at the Royal Australian Air Force base in Darwin.

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The National Balloon Centre of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Hyderabad) is working with the scientists of European union.

The balloon centre on Monday launched a weather balloon which travelled upto 43 kilometres to collect ozone data over the city.

Talking to media persons Prof.

R.K. Manchanda said "we will share with our counterparts at Darwin. We have to compare their and our data to come to conclusions on the ozone layer around the Indian ocean."

German weather expert and head of SCOUT-03 team Dr C Schiller said the tropics, including India, plays an important role. Air enters the stratosphere and forms massive tropical thunderstorms in places like

Indonesia and northern Australia. We have to study this region to understand its impact on the ozone layer. At the moment we are just collecting the data. After reaching Darwin we will compare the data with previous ones to find out the impact."

The SCOUT-03 began in Germany and has been passing through France, Dubai, Hyderabad, Indonesia and will end in Darwin.