



A study to know stratospheric changes better

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THE Stratosphere-Climate Interactions with Emphasis on the Upper Troposphere and Lower Stratosphere (SCOUT-03) project will focus on the stratospheric ozone and the ground level ultraviolet radiation, says Dr Cornelius Schiller.

Schiller, who is leading an airborne mission from Munich, was here today enroute Darwin in Australia, the culminating point.

The European Union-funded SCOUT project will also throw light on other substances which are causing damage to the ozone layer.

Talking to newsmen, he said the project would help better understand the changes in climate and stratosphere. SCOUT-03 will also study Hector, a storm system that occurs almost daily over Tiwi Islands, north of Darwin, during November and December, he said.

European scientists will conduct extensive studies on chemical molecules of aerosol and cloud ice particles from M-55 Geophysica, a former reconnaissance Russian aircraft, and the German DLR Falcon jet. Besides the two aircraft of the UK Active project, a Swiss Learjet is also part of the project. A detailed report of the project will be ready in two or three years, he said.

The experiment is being supported by scientists of various countries, including Australia, USA and India.

The Indian institutions involved in the scientific mission include National MST Radar Facility near Tirupati, Indian Institution of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and National Balloon Facility of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai.

Prof Manchanda of TIFR said a specially-made balloon was launched here yesterday to study the atmospheric changes up to 40 km height.

BM Birla Science Centre Director B. G. Siddarth was also present on the

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