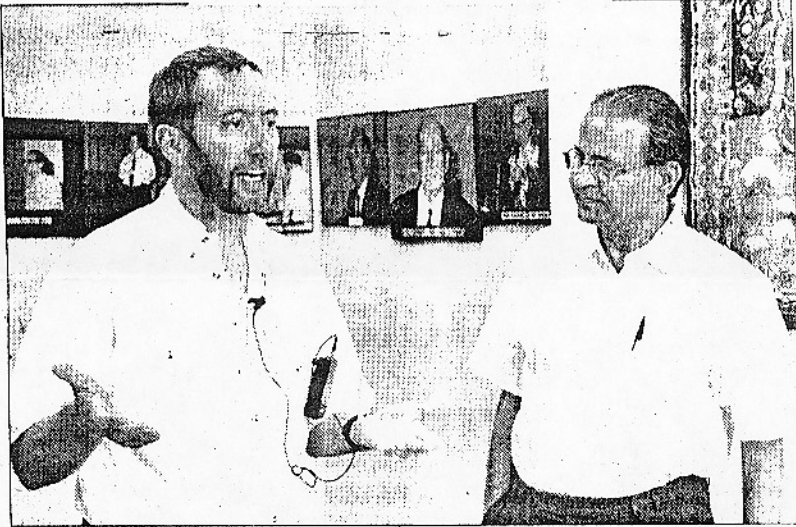




NO ONE COVERS HYDERABAD LIKE WE DO.

The Times of India, Hyderabad



German scientist Cornelius Schiller (left) tells reporters about his survey of the ozone layer in tropical countries, as B M Birla Science centre director B G Sidharth looks on in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Ozone layer study team lands in Hyderabad

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: A former Russian spy aircraft 'Falcon Tandem', a Lear jet of the Swiss army and a German research aircraft 'DCR Falcon' are on a mission in India.

They landed at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad on Tuesday morning as part of the mission to study the depletion of ozone layer over tropical countries. Mission accomplished at Hyderabad, two of the aircraft took off for their next destination, Bangkok. The other aircraft will leave on Wednesday.

This is the first time ever that such a mission, to study the ozone layer depletion across tropical countries, is being undertaken. This is being done over Germany, Dubai, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia apart from India.

A study of the depletion of ozone layer, the factors that led to it and other issues relating to the protective layer has been undertaken by a German scientist.

Funded and supported by the European Union (EU) and other countries like India, the research started on Friday at Germany. Called the Stratosphere-climate interactions, with emphasis on the upper troposphere and

lower stratosphere, the study will look into the various issues of atmospheric conditions in tropical countries.

The project head Dr Cornelius Schiller said they were looking into the aspect of any reduction in chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) or halogen gases after the depletion of ozone layer was observed over Antarctica a couple of decades ago.

Speaking to reporters at the B M Birla Science Centre in Hyderabad, Schiller said there might be some other factors, other than the release of CFCs for depletion of the layer.

"Climatic changes, global warming and other factors may also be responsible," he felt.

"The study focuses on what kind of atmosphere we are going to give to our future generations," Schiller said.

According to Schiller, tropics are the most important regions from where the air, comprising possible pollutants enter the stratosphere. Tropical thunderstorms prominent over Indonesia and northern Australia are one of the transporters of air into stratosphere, he said. The entire study is being done with three aircraft fitted with more than 15 atmosphere gauging equipment.