

GULMARG FIELD STATION

The idea of establishing an all purposes high altitude research centre was initiated by Professor P. S. Gill at Aligarh Muslim University in 1949 with active support by Mr. G. M. Sadiq, former Chief Minister of J & K State. The operational part of the research centre was further supported by the then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru and the research centre finally got established in 1951 by the orders of Sheikh Mohamad Abdullah, the then Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir State. The Laboratory was formally inaugurated by Professor A. H. Compton (Noble Laureate). The main objective of the laboratory was to impart training to young Scientists in high altitude research leading to the degrees of M.Phil / Ph.D's. Since its inception, it has imparted training to a good number of scholars in the high energy and Atmospheric Physics. It has also extended the facilities and collaboration to various researchers in the country and abroad.

Presently the Department is actively engaged in establishing an Optical Astronomical Observatory under the research project entitled "*Development of Optical Observational Facility at Gulmarg*" sanctioned by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi. The above 0.4 meter telescope will be used for basic research in stellar objects, Variable stars, binary stars, star clusters etc and other astrophysical aspects in the universe within the reach of this telescope. Besides research, this telescope will be used by M.Sc students for their project work as a part of compulsory component in the curriculum. This observatory will provide a unique facility in northern part of the country in the University sector. The GFS is also collaborating with India Meteorological Department, New Delhi / Pune for the last 55 (fifty five) years in collecting and recording valuable atmospheric and weather related data.