

# **Investigations on Ionospheric Electrodynamics over Low Latitudes in Indian Sector**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of

the requirements for the degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy**

by

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Discipline of Physics

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2018

to

*my parents*

## **Declaration**

I declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words and where others' ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources. I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any idea/data/fact/source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above can cause disciplinary action by the Institute and can also evoke penal action from the sources which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been taken when needed.

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# Certificate

We feel great pleasure in certifying that the thesis entitled "**Investigations on Ionospheric Electrodynamics over Low Latitudes in Indian Sector**" by **Mr. Pandey Kuldeep Rambabu** has been carried out under our supervisions and this work has not been submitted anywhere else for any degree or diploma.

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## Abstract

The central theme of the present doctoral thesis work is to understand the occurrence of equatorial counter electrojet (CEJ) or reductions in equatorial electrojet (EEJ) strength under geomagnetically quiet and disturbed conditions. Since variation in the ionospheric zonal electric field is central to any meaningful study on EEJ or CEJ, it is important to know the zonal electric field variations to understand these events. Since systematic measurements of electric fields covering all local times and seasons over the Indian sector are not available, the vertical drifts from the presently available global empirical models [*Scherliess and Fejer, 1999; Fejer et al., 2008a*] are used. Detailed investigations on the applicability of these empirical models over the Indian sector are carried out based on the comparisons with the measured and derived drifts. This investigation revealed that *Fejer et al.* [2008a] model drifts represent the quiet time vertical drifts over the Indian sector fairly well barring early morning hours. Therefore, the drifts obtained from *Fejer et al.* [2008a] model are used in the subsequent investigations, whenever applicable.

Observational studies over the Indian longitudes revealed that the occurrence of quiet time CEJ events is most frequent in afternoon hours during June solstice in solar minimum. An investigation carried out to understand the generation mechanism of these CEJ events showed that these CEJ events are caused by westward Sq electric fields and hence are part of the Sq current system extending from pole to equator. Further, the reversal of EEJ due to disturbance dynamo is investigated and it is found that reductions in the daytime electric field can be significantly large ( $0.7 \pm 0.2$  to  $1.2 \pm 0.3 \text{ mVm}^{-1}$ ) during disturbance dynamo events. In order to explain such large westward electric field perturbations, additional role of semi-diurnal tides is indicated. Further, the strength of nighttime equatorial E-region current, used as the base level to determine the EEJ strength, are estimated to be about  $0.3 - 0.7 \mu\text{Am}^{-2}$  based on three methods. The corresponding strength of the horizontal component of magnetic field induced at ground is found to be within  $6 \text{ nT}$ .

**Keywords:** Low latitude ionosphere, Sq electric field, plasma drifts, equatorial electrojet (EEJ), equatorial counter electrojet (CEJ), disturbance dynamo,  $D_{dyn}$ , reversed electrojet, nighttime E-region current.

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# List of Publications

## Publications included in the thesis

1. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandarao, S. P. Gupta, and D. Chakrabarty (2016), Estimation of nighttime dip-equatorial E-region current density using measurements and models, *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics*, 146, 160 - 170.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jastp.2016.06.002>
2. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, S. P. Gupta, D. Chakrabarty, B. G. Anandarao (2017), Comparison of quiet time vertical plasma drifts with global empirical models over the Indian sector: Some insights, *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics*, 157 - 158, 42 - 54.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jastp.2017.03.012>
3. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandarao, S. P. Gupta, and D. Chakrabarty (2018), On the occurrence of afternoon counter electrojet over Indian longitudes during June solstice in solar minimum, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics*, 123(3), 2204 - 2214.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/2017JA024725>
4. **Kuldeep Pandey**, D. Chakrabarty and R. Sekar (2018), Critical evaluation of the impact of disturbance dynamo on equatorial ionosphere during daytime, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics*, 123.  
<https://doi.org/10.1029/2018JA025686>

## Publications not included in the thesis

1. Rout, D., D. Chakrabarty, P. Janardhan, R. Sekar, V. Maniya, and **Kuldeep Pandey** (2017), Solar wind flow angle and geoeffectiveness of corotating interaction regions: First results, *Geophysical Research Letters*, *44*, 45324539.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/2017GL073038>
2. Rout, D., **Kuldeep Pandey**, D. Chakrabarty, and R. Sekar, Significant electric field perturbations in low latitude ionosphere due to the passage of two consecutive ICMEs during 6 - 8 September 2017, *under revision in Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics*.

## Presentations at International/National Conferences

1. **Kuldeep Pandey**, D. Chakrabarty, R. Sekar, “Effect of disturbance dynamo on equatorial ionosphere during daytime” presented in the 15<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Equatorial Aeronomy (ISEA-15) held at Physical Research Laboratory, India during 22 - 26 October 2018 [*Poster presentation - Best Young Scientist Paper Award*].
2. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandaraao, S. P. Gupta, and D. Chakrabarty, “Afternoon counter electrojet over Indian longitudes during June solstice in solar minimum” presented in the 15<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Equatorial Aeronomy (ISEA-15) held at Physical Research Laboratory, India during 22 - 26 October 2018 [*Oral presentation*].
3. **Kuldeep Pandey**, D. Chakrabarty, R. Sekar, “Significantly Large Impact of Disturbance Dynamo on Equatorial Ionosphere: Case Studies” presented in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) held at Hawaii, USA during 3 - 8 June 2018 [*Oral presentation*].
4. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandaraao, S. P. Gupta, and D. Chakrabarty, “On the Occurrence of Afternoon Counter Electrojet Over Indian Longitudes During June Solstice in Solar Minimum” presented in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) held at Hawaii, USA during 3 - 8 June 2018 [*Oral presentation*].
5. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandaraao, S. P. Gupta, D. Chakrabarty, “Estimation of nighttime current density and daytime zonal electric field over the dip-equatorial E-region” presented in the 3<sup>rd</sup> URSI-Regional Conference on Radio Science (URSI-RCRS-2017) held at National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, India during 1 - 4 March 2017 [*Poster presentation*].

6. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandaraao, S. P. Gupta, and D. Chakrabarty, “Estimation of nighttime equatorial E-region current densities using electrojet model” presented in the 19<sup>th</sup> National Space Science Symposium (NSSS-2016) held at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, India during 9 - 12 February 2016 [*3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in Students' Poster Presentation*].
7. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandaraao, S. P. Gupta, D. Chakrabarty, “Estimations of Nighttime Equatorial E-region Currents”, presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> URSI-Regional Conference on Radio Science (URSI-RCRS-2015) held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India during 16 - 19 November 2015 [*2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in Students' Poster Presentation*].

## International School Attended

Heliophysics Summer School (Year 12) held at High Altitude Observatory, Boulder, Colorado, USA during 24 - 31 July, 2018.

# Publications attached with thesis

1. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandarao, S. P. Gupta, and D. Chakrabarty (2016), Estimation of nighttime dip-equatorial E-region current density using measurements and models, *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics*, 146, 160 - 170.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jastp.2016.06.002>
2. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, S. P. Gupta, D. Chakrabarty, B. G. Anandarao (2017), Comparison of quiet time vertical plasma drifts with global empirical models over the Indian sector: Some insights, *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics*, 157 - 158, 42 - 54.  
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3. **Kuldeep Pandey**, R. Sekar, B. G. Anandarao, S. P. Gupta, and D. Chakrabarty (2018), On the occurrence of afternoon counter electrojet over Indian longitudes during June solstice in solar minimum, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics*, 123(3), 2204 - 2214.  
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