



Anna Mani (1918 – 2001)

*sterling contributions to the development
of meteorology in India.*

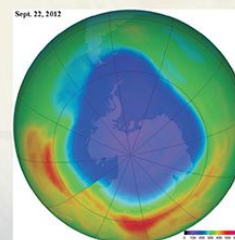
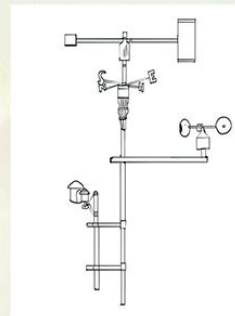
Anna Modayil Mani was born on 23 August 1918 in Peermedu in Kerala. After securing a honours degree in physics from the Presidency College, Madras, she won a scholarship for research at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore where she worked on spectroscopy of diamonds and rubies.



In 1945, Anna Mani went to England on a troop ship to study at the Imperial College, London. She wanted to pursue physics but landed up specializing in meteorological instrumentation. She studied weather instruments, their calibration and standardization procedures.

On returning to India in 1948, she

- Joined instruments division of the Indian Meteorology Department (IMD) at Pune.
- Focused on development of indigenous instruments.
- Standardized drawings for nearly a hundred weather instruments and started their production
- Set up networks of stations to measure solar radiation & 700 sites for wind measurements to gauge wind energy potential
- In 1960, commenced studying stratospheric ozone, even as its importance was not yet fully recognized and undertook the development of ozonesonde, an apparatus to measure ozone



Anna Mani retired as the Deputy Director-General of Indian Meteorological Department in 1976. Later she set up a millimetre wave telescope at Nandi Hills, Bangalore.