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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VIII

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▸ Force and pressure

Atmospheric Pressure :

The earth is surrounded by a blanket on all sides of air called the atmosphere, which extends up to a height of more than a hundred kilometres from the ground.

The earth's atmosphere exerts a force on everything within it. This force, divided by the area over which it acts, is the atmospheric pressure.

Although we do not feel it, the weight of the air column pressing down on us is more than 1 kg on every square centimetre of our body.

We do not feel it because the air inside our body also exerts the same pressure, which balances the outside pressure. But an idea of the magnitude of the weight of the air column above us can be estimated by using a simple rubber or plastic sucker often used to fix hangers to flat surfaces.