

ANNUAL REPORT

LIGHTS

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

UNDERTAKEN

DURING

2017-18

LIGHTS during the financial year 2017-18 organised a host of programmes with support from numerous government ministries and apex bodies. The details of them are:

1. Conference on Science & Geopolitics of Himalaya-Arctic-Antarctic (SaGHAA) Focussing Climate Change

LIGHTS organised the fourth conference on Science & Geopolitics of Himalaya-Arctic-Antractic (SaGHAA) focussing on climate change on November 30 & December 1, 2017 at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The composition of the various committees is given below:

Patrons

Dr M N Rajeevan, Secretary, MoES

Dr P S Goel, Distinguished Professor, ISRO

Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST

Dr Shailesh Nayak, Distinguished Scientist, ESSO-MoES

Dr Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, MoEF& CC

Dr Swati Basu, Scientific Secretary, PSA

Dr TrilochanMohapatra, Secretary, DARE

Advisory Committee

Dr B Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA

Dr M R Bhutiyani, Director, DTRL

Dr K J Ramesh, Director General, IMD

Dr N Purnachandra Rao, Director, NCESS

Dr Akhilesh Gupta. Head, SPLICE, DST

Prof Sunil Bajpai, Director, BSIP

Dr L S Rathore, Former DG, IMD

Prof Bimal Patel, Director, GNLU

Dr S C Shenoi, Director, INCOIS

Shri Vijay Kumar, Scientist G, MoES

Dr M Ravichandran, Director, NCAOR

Dr GufranBeig, Project Director, IITM

Prof Ravi S Nanjundiah, Director, IITM

Dr Sunil Kumar Singh, Director, NIO

Shri AshwagoshGanju, Director, SASE

Organising Committee

Dr. Rasik Ravindra (Chairman), Former Director, NCAOR and advisor LIGHTS

Ms. Sulagna Chattopadhyay (Convener), President, LIGHTS,

Dr. Ajit Tyagi, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.), Former DG, IMD

Dr N Prasad, Member, LIGHTS

Dr R Krishnan, Scientist G, IITM

Dr Gopal Iyengar, Advisor, MoES

Dr M J Beg, Scientist G, NCAOR

Prof AL Ramanathan, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU

The 4th Conference on Science and Geopolitics of Himalaya, Arctic and Antarctic (SaGHAA IV, 2017) was organised at Convention Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India on November 30 and December 1, 2017 in continuation of previous SaGAA conferences of 2015, 2012 and 2011. These three Polar Regions have drawn the attention of scientists and researchers in the last few decades like never before due to the unprecedented changes in environment and morphology and emergence of political interventions and strategic scientific developments. Arctic Region is transforming fast as the change in climate has increased melting of sea ice and opened accessibility in otherwise frozen Arctic. The growing demand for energy resources has further encouraged exploitation in these parts raising the concern of environmentalists. Loss of ice shelves in Antarctica too has increased over the past few decades.

The main objective of the conference was to evolve a synergy between scientists and social, political and legal experts working in the cryosphere of three Polar Regions i.e. – Himalaya-Arctic and Antarctic. The Conference also aimed at providing a networked platform for scientists, discuss the policy issues and the role of developing countries like India in Polar Regions as also to develop capacity building and outreach for students.

The two days of deliberations covered five broad themes which were divided into nine technical and one valedictory session as follows:

- a. Climate Change: current assessment, national and international response and policies.
- b. Geopolitics of Poles.
- c. Arctic and Antarctic Science and cold Response Technologies.
- d. Climate Change and Dynamics of Himalayan Glaciers, ecosystem and Biodiversity.
- e. Ocean Research.

An event like SaGHAA which attracted experts and researchers from all over the country and some foreign nations, was possible due to generous support from several government departments and organisations, such as:

Ministry of Earth Sciences

National Institute of Ocean Technology

Indian Institute of Technology Madras

National Centre for Earth Science Studies

**Ministry of Environment, Forest &
Climate Change**

Science and Engineering Research Board

**SPLICE of Department of Science and
Technology**

National Institute of Oceanography

National Geophysical Research Institute

National Remote Sensing Centre

Geological Survey of India

National Biodiversity Authority

Department of Biotechnology

Indian Space Research Organisation

**Indian Council of Agricultural Research
and**

The Royal Norwegian Embass

2. Parliamentary and Administrative Research Institute (PARI)

Parliamentary and Administrative Research Institute (PARI) was established with a view to undertake meaningful research on parliamentary and administrative issues in India. In India, the relationship between the Executive and the Legislature is very demanding. Therefore, the Executive has to orient itself to the requirement of the Legislature and at times it has to adapt to the demand resulting in the need of reforms. Likewise, the Legislature also has to sometime make amends so that it becomes easier for the Executive to implement the laws passed by the Parliament.

In order to understand the fine nuances of parliamentary procedure and practice and orient the respondents, PARI has brought out certain capacity building courses on Parliamentary procedure which enable the stakeholders to deal with the Parliament efficiently. The capacity building courses are tailor-made for officers of the ministries/department/PSUs. The faculty includes:

Dr Narmadeshwar Prasad, Director	Shri Devender Singh Aswal, Honorary Faculty
Shri S. Bal Shekar, Course Director	Shri S.K. Tripathi, Honorary Faculty
Shri N. K. Singh, Honorary Faculty	Shri Rakesh Naithani, Honorary Faculty
Shri Mukul Pande, Honorary Faculty	Shri S. Rangarajan, Honorary Faculty
Shri Jagmohan Sundriyal, Honorary Faculty	

In the financial year 2016-17, PARI held five training programmes in which representatives from over 40 ministries participated, some of which are:

Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited(BHEL)
Ministry of Earth Sciences	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)
National Aluminium Company (NALCO)	Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)
National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC)	Deptt. of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)
	ONGC

3. Dissemination of Research & Development Programmes of NRDMS through Social Media

Natural Resources Data Management System, under the Department of Science and Technology has been constantly working as a decision-support system under the geospatial domain since its inception in 1982. Despite many exemplary projects, the awareness of the work of NRDMS in public domain demanded strengthening. LIGHTS was awarded this project in 2017 with a mandate to create high-quality content from the commendable research and development programmes of NRDMS and disseminate it using social media channels.

The project titled '**Dissemination of Research & Development Programmes of NRDMS through Social Media**' initiated with the aim of helping policy-makers, bureaucrats, retired and current officials, young professionals and general populace understand the novel projects and innovations in the NRDMS funded labs all around the country, using mainstream social media channels and partner website(s). LIGHTS, as per the mandate, created twelve well researched short text features based on the ground experiences and on-going NRDMS projects. It also created twelve short films covering many areas of NRDMS activities and its future applications for societal benefits. These articles and short films were also promoted through online channels, as well as LIGHTS provided them to NRDMS to be placed on their own platforms.

The text and video features included NRDMS projects in the domains such as Crime and Law Enforcement, Human Development Indices, Water and Environment, Disaster Mitigation and NRDMS and GIS. The content disseminated on various social media channels in the form of text and visuals was well received and acclaimed by the audience. The total reach on online content surpassed 4,22,000, with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Quora, Reddit and the website of LIGHTS's partner, Geography and You as the key channels for content dissemination.

The content and video features also ranked highly on Google's search algorithm, which increased their visibility. Due to its high-quality and appropriate keyword placement, many video and text features appear on the top two pages of both text and images on Google, when the search term 'NRDMS' is used. The high ranking on Google is a constant repository of viewers, as NRDMS receives a high amount of searches on the search engine, and these features will help them understand the work of NRDMS even better.