

ANNUAL REPORT

LIGHTS

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING

1, APRIL 2020 - 31 MARCH 2021

LIGHTS Activities for the year 2020-2021

As the First comprehensive lockdown was imposed on 23rd March 2020, the first few months in the financial year 2020-21 saw office closed and no activities to record.

SaGHAA Activities

‘SaGHAA Webinar 2020’ held on 28-29 September 2020, was a unique chapter in LIGHTS’ conference history. It was the first time that the Webinar was organised an end to end online event. The webinar may serve as a prelude to the main event, the proposed SaGHAA 2021 Conference in New Delhi. SaGHAA works under the aegis of Learning in Geography, Humanities, Technology and Science (LIGHTS). SaGHAA has been working for greater Indian involvement in Polar Regions since 2011. Our core competencies lie in facilitating high level dialogues between the Indian scientific and social science community with their international counterparts from the Polar Countries. Every year the expert panel at SaGHAA chooses a theme to focus the spotlight on, this year’s chosen theme was “Managing the Polar Oceans Sustainably”. The Polar oceans are a global responsibility. Keeping that in mind the United Nations has declared 2021-2030 to be the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Devised to draw attention and accelerate scientific developments that will ensure the safety and sustainability of the vast oceans, the UN’s initiative is a challenging milestone. In the context of the Polar oceans this role’s enormity magnifies. The Polar oceans cover about one fifth of the total surface area of earth and are among the coldest. SaGHAA Webinar 2020 served as the lead in event to initiate constructive dialogue on these issues to set the ball rolling towards a sustainable future of our Polar oceans. Four well rounded panel sessions with eminent experts deliberated the impacts of the changing oceans on the different domains of science and policy over a period of two days.

Following Dignitaries graced the occasion by their virtual presence and participation in the Webinar:

Chief Guest: Mr. Ola Fur Grimson, Former President, Iceland and Founder of Arctic Circle;

Special Guest: Mr. James Gray, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, the UK.

Keynote Speaker (Day 1): Dr. Victor Smetacek, Professor Emeritus, Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Germany.

Keynote Speaker (Day 2) : Dr. SWA Naqvi, Distinguished Scientist, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.

Session wise list of Esteemed Speakers

Session 1: Clean and Healthy Oceans

Session One was chaired by **Dr. Shailesh Nayak**, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies and Former Secretary, MoES, Govt of India

The distinguished panellists included:

Prof Katherine Richardson, Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Dr Ole Arve Misund, Director, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway

Dr Pushp Bajaj, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi

Session Two: Polar Oceans-Weather and Climate

The Session was chaired by **Dr M N Rajeevan**, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The distinguished panellists included:

Dr. Ravichandran, Director, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa

Dr. Nalan Koc, Research Director, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway

Dr. Lasse Pettersson, Director, Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre, Norway

Dr. Asa Lindgren, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Sweden

Session Three: Maritime Jurisprudence

The session was chaired by Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, National Maritime Foundation

The distinguished panellists included:

Captain Sarabjeet Parmar, Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation

Dr Rasik Ravindra, Formerly the Director of National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research Goa and former Member, UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Dr Paula Kankaanpää, PAME Chair, SYKE, Finland

Dr M Sudhakar, Former Director, Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology, Kochi

Session Four: Blue Economy

The session was chaired by Dr. PS Goel, Former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

The distinguished panellists included:

Dr Atmanand, Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology

H E Armstrong Changan, Ambassador of India to Iceland

Dr Sameer Guduru, Associate Fellow, National maritime Foundation

Dr John Kurian, senior Scientist, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

Dr Jan-Gunnar Winther, Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic, Norway

Participation Metrics

SaGHAA Webinar 2020 had a lot of firsts for us. It was the first fully digital event hosted by SaGHAA think tank. It was also the first time that a former head of a state graced our event. The webinar saw enthusiastic participation from the scientific and student community of India. The event was spread out over a span of two days. Brief attendance metrics for both the days are presented below:

Day 1: Day 1 marked a total of 532 registrations and about 276 attendees.

Day 2: Day 2 marked a total of 556 registrations and a total of 184 attendees.

These numbers speak for themselves as such high registrations are rare for specialised events like the SaGHAA Webinar 2020. There were high levels of engagement from the audience with the interest rating being above 75 per cent for both days.

Parliamentary and Administrative Research Institute:

Parliamentary and Administrative Research Institute (PARI) is a capacity building institute functioning under the aegis of LIGHTS.

A Joint International course on Health Policy Administration in a Parliamentary Democracy was scheduled from 10-20 April 2020. We had nominations from 15 participants from different AIIMS, and we also had received participation fees from 13 participants. We had also given some advance fee to DODS Training in London for this course and for booking the accommodation. However, due to the Pandemic international travels were suspended w.e.f 22nd March 2020 and the batch scheduled for April 20, could not go. Nevertheless, the batch will go as soon as travel restrictions on training are lifted by the UK.

Apart from this no other activity could take place under PARI during the period (April 20-March 21).

GnY and Bhugol Aur Aap Magazines

LIGHTS took over the responsibility of printing and publishing Geography and You (English) and Bhugol Aur Aap (Hindi) magazines w.e.f 1st January 2020. However, the period between April 20 and March 21, publication of the magazines was irregular due to the lockdown imposed in April 2020 leading to shortage of demands. The details of the publication during the said period is given below:

Geography and You Magazine

| S. No. | Title | Volume | Year |
|--------|--------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 1. | Caste Class in India | Vol. 20, Issue 4 & 5, No. 142 & 143 | April 2020 |
| 2. | Sentinels of the Seas | Vol. 20, Issue 6 & 7, No. 144 & 145 | May 2020 |
| 3. | Rethink Reboot Remake | Vol. 20, Issue 8, No. 146 | June 2020 |
| 4. | Food Systems Transformation | Vol. 21, Issue 1, No. 147 | September 2021 |

Bhugol Aur Aap Magazine

| S. No. | Title | Volume | Year |
|--------|----------------------------|--|------|
| 1. | प्रारंभिकी-2020-पुनरावलोकन | वर्ष 18, अंक 10, April 2020 | 2020 |
| 2. | महासागरों के प्रहरी | वर्ष 18, अंक 11-12, May-June 2020 | 2020 |
| 3. | समसामयिक मुद्दे | वर्ष 19, अंक 1, July 2020 | 2020 |
| 4. | प्रारंभिकी परीक्षा 2020 | वर्ष 19, अंक 2-3, August-Sept 2020 | 2020 |
| 5. | समसामयिक मुद्दे | वर्ष 19, अंक 4-5, October-November 2020 | 2020 |
| 6. | वार्षिकी-2021 | वर्ष 19, अंक 6, December 2020 | 2020 |
| 7. | प्रारंभिक-परीक्षा-2021 | वर्ष 19, अंक 7, January 2021 | 2021 |
| 8. | आर्थिक विकास और पर्यावरण | वर्ष 19, अंक 8-9, February-March 2021 | 2021 |

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