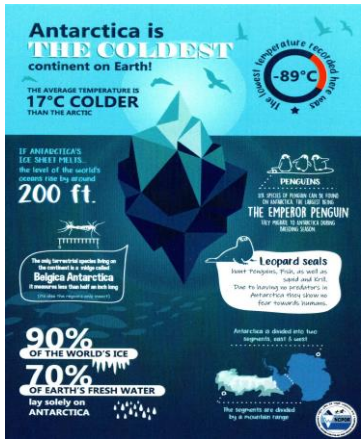


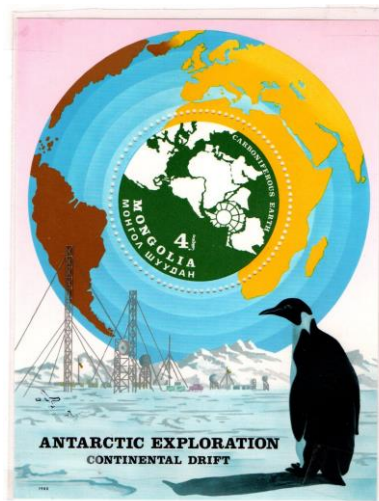
Antarctica

M.R.Ramesh Kumar, PhD ; Email:rameshkumar.mr@gmail.com

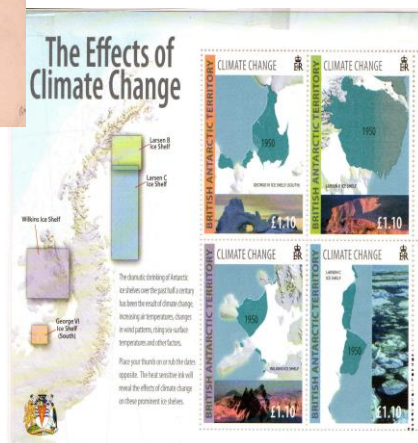
Antarctica is on average the coldest, driest, and windiest of the continents, and has the highest average elevation. It is mainly a polar desert, with annual precipitation of 200 mm (8 in) along the coast and far less inland. About 70% of the world's freshwater reserves are frozen there, which if melted would raise global sea levels by about 60 metres (200 ft). Native species of animals include mites, nematodes, penguins, seals and tardigrades. Vegetation consists of tundra.



Supercontinent called Gondwana was formed, 500 million years back. Gondwana began to split apart around 180 million years ago. One by one vast blocks tore away, and Antarctica drifted towards the south.



The Antarctic Treaty came into force on 23 June 1961 after ratification by the twelve countries then active in Antarctic science. The Treaty covers the area south of 60°S latitude. ... to promote international scientific cooperation in Antarctica; to set aside disputes over territorial sovereignty.



The dramatic shrinking of ice shelves over Antarctic region over the past 50 years has been result of Climate Change.

The first Indian Scientific Expedition was led by Dr.S.Z.Qasim, who was then the Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa, in the year, 1981 and it touched Antarctica on 9th January, 1982.



A se-tenant stamp on Preserve the Polar Regions was issued by the Department of Posts, Govt of India along with a Maitri Research Station (India) cancellation in blue