

INDIAN SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

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Introduction: "The quest for unknown" has always inspired mankind to undertake voyages into uncharted territories on earth. Antarctica has always been considered as the last unexplored continent and thus ultimate challenge for all adventurers. India has three research stations at Antarctica namely Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri and Bharati.

Dakshin Gangotri and Maitri station: The presence of a permanent scientific and research station is a standing testimonial of India's commitment towards Antarctic treaty system. Dakshin Gangotri (currently a supply base) was the first scientific base station of India situated at 2500kms from south pole . It was built by a 81 member team of scientists which include Geologist Sudipta sen gupta who is among the first women scientist to Antarctica along with Dr.Aditi pant.



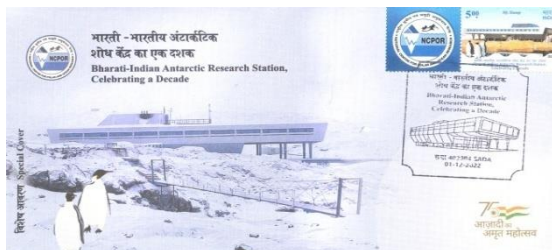
Stamp released by India in 1989 on Dakshin Gangotri Post office (1984).

A private cover of Sudipta sengupta with Maitri cancellation (N.Goa mark)

Maitri (1989) research station is India 's second permanent research station at Antarctica after the Dakshin gangotri buried in ice in 1989 .It is situated near Lake Priyadharshini(named after the Prime minister of India Ms IndiraGandhi and the name Maitri is also suggested by her. It is a friendship research centre administered by National centre for polar and ocean research(NCPOR) at Goa.

Bharti is the third research station also with airfield and Helicopter service and it is second operational one. Maitri has also airfield . **Bryum bharatiense** ,a species of moss discovered .

Vasily Golovnin Ship: This is regularly chartered for entire seasons to reach Antarctica from Cape town (South Africa).It is operated by Russia's Far East Shipping Company(FESCO)



An official cover commemorating a decade of Bharati research station at Antarctica with the special Cancellation on My Stamp



A cover with the the Ultimate HELI Pvt.Ltd Helicopter seal ,signature of voyage leader Mohammed Sadiq ,Ice class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin and the 42 nd expedition official seal

Conclusion: All the expeditions are under Ministry of Earth Sciences of Government of India.The post office at "Maitri" station acts as vital means of communication for all scientists and officials posted at the station.