

Archana Bora discussed the environmental changes in the Baralacha Pass of NW Himalaya

In the valedictory session the SAAEG-sponsored first *Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented to *PadmaShree* K S Valdiya. Mr. Jokhan Ram was honored by SAAEG for his significant contributions in the field of hydrocarbon exploration. The best young scientist oral presentation award was given jointly to Ms Swati Deol and Mrs. Prabha Joshi and the best poster award went to Mrs. Manju Pandey. The major research results and new findings emerged from various deliberations were thoroughly discussed. It was realized that the main theme *magmatism, tectonism and mineralization* have been perfectly represented by papers presented and indeed several papers have integrated these processes to explain a larger crustal-mantle evolution scenario. Dr. M. K. Panigrahi at IIT-Kharagpur can organize the next MTM-2010. Dr. P. D. Pant delivered the vote of thanks. The seminar was concluded with closing remarks of *PadmaShree* K S Valdiya who stressed upon the need of interlinking the research results with mineral exploration programme, and expressed his view to draft a new mineral policy in Indian context.

Dept of Geology, SANTOSH KUMAR  
Kumaun Univ, Nainital  
Email: skyadavan@yahoo.com

### Launching of Indian Chapter of the International Polar Year (2007-2009)

The International Polar Year (IPY) extending from March 2007 to March 2009, aims to provide an international and interdisciplinary approach to understand the behavior of the polar regions. Their role in the broader Earth System, including the oceans, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere, and land surface, broadening the spirit of exploration and discovery that has been the characteristic of the previous IPYs (1882-1883, 1932-1933) and the International Geophysical Year of 1957-1958.

The primary objective of the current IPY campaign is to inform and inspire diverse public audiences by sharing our knowledge about polar science, its global

connections by communicating unique contributions to recent advances in Antarctic research and climate science world wide. A secondary objective is to help attract and educate the next generation of scientists and engineers. One of the major goals of IPY is the outreach to general public with special emphasis on school children where the future polar enthusiasts need to be introduced with the ongoing activities and the ways they can be a part of that system. India endorses the view of intensified outreach programme. In this regard, information on various activities during IPY campaign shall be made in Hindi/English to schools and colleges to generate public interest. Apart from this, various outreach activities have been planned in association with WWF (World Wildlife Fund) for school children, scientists, academicians, and policy makers starting March 2007 and going up to December 2008.

With the aim to bring the school children into this fold, the Indian Chapter of the International Polar Year (IPY) campaign (2007-2009) was officially launched on March 1, 2007 during a special Inaugural function organised by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), at Goa by Prof. U. R. Rao, former Chairman, Space Commission. Speaking on this occasion Prof. Rao stressed on target oriented research in various domain of polar science and technology. He also realised that it is high time when youngster should come forward and take up polar research as their career. Dr. S. R. Shetye, Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa also spoke on 'Managing the climate' on this occasion. The inaugural function was attended by scientists, technocrats, school and college students apart from people from various sectors of life. In parallel a special lecture was delivered by a well known Polar Scientist Dr. S. L. Jain on the topic "Green House Gases and Global Warming" at Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi to mark the launching of Indian chapter of IPY.

During IPY campaign, NCAOR, has been actively involved in popularizing Antarctic science by inviting students from colleges from different part of India to NCAOR, where they can have a first hand

experience of Antarctica and the associated challenges. Many competitions like (Poster and slogan writing, stamp designing etc.) for school children and many invited lectures by eminent scientists, Polar Exhibition "People and the Poles and Photo Exhibition "Polar Ice" have also been planned during IPY. Details may also be obtained from our URL [www.ncaor.org](http://www.ncaor.org) or WWF-India website [www.wwfindia.org](http://www.wwfindia.org).

NCAOR, Goa

N KHARE

Email: [nkhare45@gmail.com](mailto:nkhare45@gmail.com)

### 30<sup>th</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting During 30 April to 11 May 2007 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) is convened annually on rotation basis among treaty nations having consultative status. It has been India's proud privilege to host 30<sup>th</sup> ATCM Meeting this year at New Delhi during April 30 – May 11, 2007. The meeting was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Shri Kapil Sibal at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on April 30, 2007 which was represented by about 300 delegates and experts from over 37 countries and organizations. Dr. U. R. Rao, former Chairman, Space Commission acted as the Chairman of the 30<sup>th</sup> ATCM.

The main attention of ATCM has been focused on protection of Antarctic Environment, regulation of growing tourism, global climate change and its impact on the icy continent and managing Antarctica as a continent of peace and science. A total of 45 Working Papers supported by over 140 Information Papers were deliberated during two weeks long meeting.

During the first week of the meeting the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) and the Legal and Institutional Group deliberated on the issues related to Antarctic Environment under the Environmental Protocol of the Antarctic Treaty and various legal issues related to its governance. To quote a few, the CEP after reviewing the revised draft Management Plans for two ASMA of Larsemann Hills and Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, referred them to ATCM for adoption, which were finally