



सत्यमेव जयते  
Ministry of Earth Sciences  
Government of India



**MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (MOES)**

**RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY**  
(AN INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE)

**UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC NETWORK**

# INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INDIA'S POLAR REGION POLICY TOWARDS BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**08-09 FEBRUARY 2024**



**ORGANIZED BY**

**SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED COASTAL & MARITIME SECURITY STUDIES (SICMSS)**



The Polar Regions refer to the areas within the Arctic and Antarctic circles around the north and south poles. The North Pole is surrounded by the Arctic Ocean within the Arctic Circle. The South Pole is located on the Antarctica landmass. They are equally dynamic and vibrant ecosystems as in other parts of the Planet, but with certain exclusive geophysical attributes. These attributes impact human systems in their respective geostrategic contexts in national and global governance.

India has a unique geolocation contiguous to the Indian Ocean in the northern hemisphere as a coastland<sup>1</sup> with islands near shore and in the ocean. The impact of Polar Regions on India will depend upon its governance policies by national security (GBNS) as defined.<sup>2</sup> India has been engaged in Antarctica studies seriously since 1981. The country signed the Antarctica Treaty on 19 August 1983 and received consultative status on the following month.<sup>3</sup> Since then India's engagement with Antarctica has grown manifold. Today India is part of the Antarctic Treaty System, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes and Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

India's engagement in the Arctic Region started with the Svalbard Treaty signed on 9 February 1920. The country launched its first scientific expedition to the Arctic in 2007 to initiate a series of baseline measurements in biological sciences, ocean and atmospheric sciences and glaciology. Subsequently, the Indian research station Himadri at the international Arctic research base at Ny-Ålesund in Spitsbergen, Svalbard was dedicated to the nation in 2008.<sup>4</sup>

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1 Paleri, P. (2014). *Integrated maritime security: governing the ghost protocol*. Vij Books. p.32

2 Paleri, P. (2007). *National security: imperatives and challenges*. Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Limited. p.74

3 12 September 1983.

4 *Daily current affairs (no date)* Next IAS. Available at: <https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/19-03-2022> (Accessed: December 6, 2022).

Salient features of the India's Arctic Policy comprise the following: -

**1) Scientific Research.** India has been involved in scientific research in extreme regions such as the Arctic, Antarctica, and the Himalayas for several decades. India intends to enhance its capabilities in scientific research through partnerships and cooperation with research institutions across the globe by participating in global research projects, science-policy dialogues, and decision-making processes. Polar Regions are key areas for continued research towards sustainable development.

**2) Space Technology.** India has had a highly developed and expanding space program since 1962. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) operates a vast constellation of satellites. Among these, the radar imaging earth observation RISAT series of satellites can be deployed for the study of the Arctic region. Additionally, ISRO's optical, high-resolution, and hyperspectral imaging capabilities can also be used to assist in the development of the Arctic region.

**3) Climate and Environment.** India is at the center of global efforts to fight adverse changes in climatic conditions. It is on track to exceed its commitments and targets under the Paris Agreement adopted on 12 December 2015. It is an international treaty on climate change legally binding on the parties to it. Climate change is a critical dimension of India's scientific research in the Arctic. Studying the impact of climate change in the Arctic can improve response mechanisms in other parts of the globe by understanding causative mechanisms for climate change. Linkages between glaciers in the Arctic and the Himalayas are well documented in the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in 2019.

**4) Economic and Developmental Activities.** The Arctic holds a mix of opportunities and challenges in economic and developmental activities. While abundant unexploited living and non-living resources coupled with shorter transit routes represent opportunities, the adverse impacts of increased economic activity pose a danger to the fragile environment. Economic activity in the Arctic region must rest on the creation of robust and effective mechanisms that promote responsible business activities based on the three pillars of sustainable development—environmental, economic and social.<sup>5</sup> Also, India has substantial expertise in collaborating with the Arctic states to assist their indigenous communities to cope with similar challenges.

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5 577847985708945 (2022) Summary: India's arctic policy 2022, Statecraft. Statecraft. Available at: <https://www.statecraft.co.in/article/summary-india-s-arctic-policy-2022> (Accessed: December 6, 2022).

**5) Transportation and Connectivity.** Ice-free conditions in the Arctic are resulting in the opening of new shipping routes which could potentially reshape global trade. Traffic, especially through the Northern Sea Route, is rising exponentially and is projected to reach 80 million tonnes by 2024. Arctic navigation needs specific hydrographic and meteorological data, communication coverage, seasonal mapping of ice-free channels, ships of Ice-class standards, and trained polar shipping crew under the Polar Code.

**6) Governance and International Cooperation.** The Arctic region includes nation-states with respective sovereign jurisdictions as well as areas beyond national jurisdiction. The region is governed by national domestic laws, bilateral agreements, global treaties and conventions and customary laws for the indigenous peoples. India has ratified almost all international treaties and is a member of international organisations that are relevant to the Arctic.

The International Workshop on India's Polar Region Policy for Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development is expected to provide vital inputs for policy making on geostrategic issues for national and global security besides generating awareness nationally and globally about India's importance in the Polar Regions. The objective of this international workshop is to reach out to the key stakeholders and together to observe, analyse and discuss various legal issues linked to it.

Accordingly, the workshop is aimed to bring together the maritime security agencies, academicians, researchers and governments, to discuss various legal provisions and strategic approaches, and build partnerships for sustainable development.

### **About Rashtriya Raksha University**

Rashtriya Raksha University (An Institution of National Importance), Ministry of Home Affairs, is a pioneering statutory University established by the Government of India to contribute to India's vision of a peaceful, prosperous and stable world order based on rule of law. RRU aims to provide comprehensive education, research, training and extension facilities in all aspects of national security and rule of law to serving and retired personnel from military and other armed forces, security and intelligence agencies, enforcement agencies and establishments, and the student communities in associated faculties. The University contributes to the vision of India of a peaceful, prosperous and stable world order in a sustainable manner through strategic cooperation between like-minded nations and people.

## School of Integrated Coastal & Maritime Security Studies

The School of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Security Studies (SICMSS), RRU seeks to make advancement in law, policy and governance systems affecting integrated coastal and maritime security at national, regional and international level. It provides a unique blend of national and international best practices in the domain of integrated coastal and maritime security and maritime laws including the Law of the Sea. SICMSS aims to build capacity in the domain through teaching, research, training, and extension programme and activities.

### Agenda

- 1) Overview of India's Polar Region policies and challenges of multifaceted coastal and maritime security threats, at and from the sea.** Impact on nation's sovereignty and security, deep explorations and scientific breakthroughs, sustainable development, and role of India in the Polar Regions.
- 2) Legal aspects related to fisheries, scientific research, and oil, gas, and mineral explorations in the Polar Region.** India needs to assess, analyze, formulate, and suggest policies in the region upholding and promoting its sovereignty and maritime security in the region.
- 3) Geo-political, legislative, executive and judicial initiatives.** This includes analysis of prevailing geo-political developments, maritime and coastal security threats in the Polar Regions, existing legislations, executive orders, and the role of the judiciary in enabling maritime security.
- 4) Climate change variables.** To prepare for a sustainable future, it is important to prepare, assess, analyze, and observe the various cause-and-effect models of climate change leading to the study of the impact of climate change on the present biodiversity in the region. It will also involve the study of the initiatives and plans of governments.
- 5) Gap Analysis.** This will include the study of various limitations and impediments at national and international levels, the identification of gaps, threats, and opportunities in terms of connectivity, technological developments, finance, and human resources.
- 6) Capacity-building initiatives in the Polar Regions.** This includes national and intergovernmental cooperation, capacity building, research and development, education, and training.
- 7) Trade routes and economic connectivity.** The Northern Sea Route (NSR) and its significance in the region for the economic stability and connectivity.

**Abstract submission deadline is 5th January 2024 at 15:00 IST**

We welcome selective abstracts for seven sessions under the seven agendas mentioned above. The duration and format of the presentation will be decided individually by the session convener(s) and subject to accepted number of abstracts. Each session will be of an hour.

**Guidelines**

- Abstracts must be submitted through registration.
- Abstracts must be submitted in English.
- Abstract title – limited to 20 words. Title must appear in upper and lower case (e.g. The Arctic migration of people).
- Affiliation and authors information. Maximum 2-3 authors. You must enter the names of all authors - including yourself if you are an author - in the order in which you wish them to appear in the printed text. Names omitted here will not be printed in the author index or the final programme. Author(s) names must appear in upper and lower case (e.g. Manish K. Singh).
- Abstract text – limited to 250 words. Abstract text should ideally include introduction, methods, results and conclusions. Tables, diagrams and references are not allowed.
- Presentation – preferred means of presentation – oral, poster, or either.
- The organizer(s) have inherent right to publish your submission on electronic media and in hardcopy if it is accepted.
- Author will attend – at least one author should register in full to attend and present the paper at the Conference, please acknowledge and confirm this.
- Final confirmation that your submission has been approved by all authors is necessary.
- Please note that we will not accept late submissions.
- Notification of acceptance/rejection will be given in second week of January. The workshop is to be held on 8-9th February 2024.
- The presenting author is required to ensure that all co-authors are aware of the content of the abstract and all agree to submit in prior to actual submission.
- If accepted, the presenting authors still need to register and pay the conference fee in order to be included in the final programme. Also, submit their paper and presentation by 4th February 2024.

**Technical questions**

If you need assistance, have technical or practical questions regarding the submission, please contact: Mr. Manish Kr. Singh, Vice Chancellor Office, Rashtriya Raksha University. e-mail: [manishkumar.singh@rru.ac.in](mailto:manishkumar.singh@rru.ac.in) or call: +91-9919887544.

**Important Dates (Tentative)****Registration Open: 12th Dec 2023****To Register: [Click here.](#)****Abstract Submission (Last Date): 20th Jan 2024****Abstract Confirmation & Registration: 22nd Jan 2024****Paper & Presentation Submission: 4th Feb 2024**