

The 11th Indian Scientific Expedition to the Southern Ocean/Antarctic Waters (ISESO-2020) launched from Mauritius for Climate Change Studies

A two month long Indian scientific expedition was flagged off from Mauritius on 11th January (Sunday), 2020. A team of 34 scientists from 18 institutions led by Anoop Mahajan of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune is onboard the South-African oceanographic research vessel S.A. Agulhas.

The research expedition that would be conducted in Southern Ocean and India is called the Indian Scientific Expedition to the Southern Ocean (ISESO). ISESO was started by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in 2004.

This is the 11th ISESO expedition planned and implemented by National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Some of premiere institutes



of the country participating in this research expedition are India Meteorological Department (IMD), IITM Pune, NCPOR Goa, Indian Institute of Science (IIS) Bengaluru, Physical Research Laboratory Ahmedabad, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Chennai, Annamalai University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Delhi. The team included research scholar Swaleha Inamdar from IITM, Pune and scientist Tushar Kaushik and student

researcher Mangesh Rajguru from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune.

The research expedition's major objective is to explore the Southern Ocean (The ocean area between Antarctica and India) responses and the role played by it in global climate variability (like its effects on monsoon pattern) due to the effects of air, sea and ice interactions. The team of scientists and engineers trained in oceanography would also carry out atmospheric, physical, chemical, biological and geological researches. The team aims to collect a huge amount of data from 60 designated stations *en route* which would help building newer and better climate models for better understanding of climate change and predictions.

The Indian Antarctic Program is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional program under the control of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. It was initiated in 1981 with the first Indian expedition to Antarctica.