

SaGHAA



An international
panel of speakers

MANAGING THE POLAR OCEANS SUSTAINABLY

WEBINAR ON

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2020

**Session Themes: Clean and healthy oceans | Oceans - weather and climate
Maritime jurisprudence | Create value from ocean resources**

Organised by The Science and Geopolitics of Himalaya-Arctic-Antarctic (SaGHAA), a Delhi based think tank. Conceptualised in 2011, SaGHAA has been organising an international bi-annual conference committed to addressing challenging issues facing the global community, apart from writing in prominent newspapers and journals. It is the first in India to focus exclusively towards holistic tri-polar issues under the aegis of LIGHTS, an NGO working in multiple environmental and educational domains.

ONLINE REGISTRATION TO COMMENCE FROM
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AT SaGHAA.ORG

WHY THE POLAR OCEANS?

The Polar oceans are a global responsibility. Keeping that in mind the United Nations has declared 2021-2030 to be the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Devised to draw attention and accelerate scientific developments that will ensure the safety and sustainability of the vast oceans, the UN's initiative is a challenging milestone. In the context of the Polar oceans this role's enormity magnifies. The Polar oceans cover about one fifth of the total surface area of earth and are among the coldest. In recent decades however, they are experiencing the most rapid oceanic warming which has resulted in major physiological changes, exacerbating the vulnerability of the organisms inhabiting these waters. Safeguard of these extreme realms whilst exploring new avenues and opportunities across scientific, policy and commercial domains is an engagement that calls for collaborative efforts of a multitude of nations. Globally shared interests necessitate legal and policy reforms to ensure sustainable and equitable management of the Polar oceans. SaGHAA Webinar 2020 will serve as a teaser to initiate constructive dialogue on these issues to set the ball rolling towards a sustainable future of our Polar oceans.

Science and Geopolitics of Himalaya, Arctic and Antarctic (SaGHAA) is the only Indian think tank focusing exclusively on discourse related to the dynamic geopolitical and environmental developments in the polar regions of the world. We at SaGHAA, believe that engaging in an inclusive dialogue with nations, small and big, will push for greater Indian involvement in the Arctic in all its dimensions—climatic, geological or resource utilization. The Arctic discourse therefore holds immense relevance for India.

WHY WEBINAR?

Over the years SaGHAA's biennial conferences have been a grand affair. Experts from all over the world congregate in New Delhi for two days of presentations, panel discussions and networking events. With the Coronavirus pandemic raging through India at the moment, it has forced us to shelve our physical interactions in this year's event in New Delhi.

But with a revolution of IT platforms and more importantly considering safety of participants, we have decided to go ahead with the best digital option available to us, a webinar. The webinar will be hosted seamlessly in real time by the team at SaGHAA on the most cutting edge and user friendly platform available. A host of digital activities are planned to create the best experience for all our esteemed delegates on the same dates i.e. the 18th and 19th of September. An actual follow up conference is also planned for the month of March, 2021.

WHY SAGHAA?

SaGHAA works under the aegis of Learning in Geography, Humanities, Technology and Science (LIGHTS). SaGHAA has been working for greater Indian involvement in Polar Regions since 2011. Our core competencies lie in facilitating high level dialogues between the Indian scientific and social science community with their international counterparts from the Polar Countries. SaGHAA has organized 5 uniquely successful editions of conferences by the same title, with the assistance and participation from Ministry of Earth Sciences, NCPOR, IITM, SASE, DRTL, Norwegian Embassy (to name a few) as well as many other members of the Indian scientific community and bureaucracy. SaGHAA's president is a well-known authority on polar discourse. SaGHAA has been invited to various high level international meetings like the Reykjavik annual Arctic Circle Assembly, 2019 and the high-level Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly organised by the all-party parliamentary group (APPG) headed by UK parliamentarian James Gray, at Westminster, London, 2019. The opinions and efforts of SaGHAA have been covered widely in the press, a testament to the efficacy and influence of the organisation. Lastly, the strength of SaGHAA lies in the 'SaGHAA people' — the high-level experts. Every organisation in India working on anything that is even distantly 'Polar' participates in each event. Heads of scientific establishments and policy bodies assiduously attend, contributing emphatically and freely to the discourse. The first outcome of SaGHAA is, therefore, its stature that draws from its myriad stakeholders providing a body of recommendations that serves as an illuminated path for policy makers. Proceedings of two SaGHAA Conferences have been published by Springer.

CURATION OF TOPICS

SaGHAA's organising committee has carefully curated only the most relevant and timely topics for deliberation and debate during the Webinar. Every topic has been arrived at after rigorous research and approval of the committee. The panel for each discussion will feature world renowned domain experts to ensure the highest quality of discourse is presented before the learned audience. A perfect balance of Polar ocean sustainability, and scientific issues are presented to ensure equitable time and attention is given to each dimension. SaGHAA Webinar 2020 hopes to set a benchmark in the Polar Ocean debate in India. SaGHAA will also provide opportunities to budding scholars to present their research and earn certificates.

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SEPT 28, 2020

Day 1: 4:00 to 7:15 pm	SaGHAA WEBINAR INAUGURATION (4:00 TO 4:45 PM)
Introduction (10 mins)	Convenor welcome (1 min) Introduction (4 mins): Dr Rasik Ravindra , Chairman SaGHAA Brief by Organising Chairs (5 mins): Dr Ravichandran , Director, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research / Dr Nalan Koc , Director, Norwegian Polar Institute
CHIEF GUEST ADDRESS 4:10 to 4:30 pm (20 mins)	Convenor introduction to Chief Guest (1 min): HE Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson , Fmr President, Iceland
Special Guest Speech 4:30 to 4:40 (10 mins)	Convenor introduction to Special Guest Speech (1 min) Ms Hilde Svartdal Lunde , Senior Arctic Official, Ambassador for the Arctic and Antarctic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
Keynote Address 4:45 - 5:05 pm (20 min)	Prof Victor Smetacek , Prof Emeritus, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
SESSION 1: 5:05 to 5:55 pm (50 mins)	PANEL DISCUSSION I CLEAN AND HEALTHY OCEANS Polar oceans and its degradation Pollution in the polar oceans Microplastics and its impact Biodiversity loss in the Polar oceans
Chair /Moderator	Dr Shailesh Nayak , Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies
Panellists	Prof Katherine Richardson , Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, University of Copenhagen, Denmark Dr S Singh , Director, National Institute of Oceanography Dr Ole Arve Misund , Director, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway Dr Pushp Bajaj , Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
5:55 to 6:05 (10 mins)	Questions from the audience
Session Break (6:05 to 6:10)	Reconvene in 5 minutes
SESSION 2: 6:10 to 7:00 pm (50 mins)	PANEL DISCUSSION I POLAR OCEANS - WEATHER AND CLIMATE Atmospheric bridge, Ocean tunnel and the Indian monsoon Arctic oscillations
Chair / Moderator	Dr M N Rajeevan , Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences
Panellists	Dr Ravichandran , Director, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa Dr Nalan Koc , Research Director, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway Dr Lasse Petersson , Director, Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center, Norway Dr Åsa Lindgren , Head, Ship-based research support, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Sweden
7:00 to 7:10 (10 mins)	Questions from the audience
Rounding off 7:10 to 7:15 pm (5 mins)	Organising Chair/s / Chairman SaGHAA summary of the webinar and special mentions. Convenor: Invite for the following day. Close day 1.

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SEPT 29, 2020

Day 2: 4:00 to 7:15 pm	SaGHAA WEBINAR SPECIAL SESSION (4:00 TO 4:45 PM)
SPECIAL INVITEE (10 mins)	Convenor introduction to Special Invitee (1 min) HE Mr Hans Jacob Frydenlund , Ambassador Royal Norwegian Embassy
GUEST OF HONOUR 4:10 to 4:30 pm (20 mins)	Convenor introduction to Guest of Honour (1 min) Parliamentarian James Gray , House of Commons, United Kingdom
GUEST SPEAKER 4:30 to 4:40 (10 mins)	HE Freddy Svane , Ambassador, Royal Danish Embassy
Keynote Address 4:45 - 5:05 pm (20 mins)	Dr S W A Naqvi , Distinguished Scientist, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
SESSION 3: 5:05 to 5:55 pm (50 mins)	PANEL DISCUSSION I MARITIME JURISPRUDENCE Strategic convergences and divergences on sharing of common spaces I International law and the Arctic-Antarctic
Chair / Moderator	Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan , Director General, National Maritime Foundation
Panellists	Captain Sarabjeet Parmar , Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation Dr R Ravindra , Fmr Director, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research Dr Paula Kankaanpää , Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Chair, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland Dr M Sudhakar , Director, Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology
5:55 to 6:05 (10 mins)	Questions from the audience
Session Break (6:05 to 6:10)	Reconvene in 5 minutes
SESSION 4: 6:10 to 7:00 pm (50 mins)	PANEL DISCUSSION I BLUE ECONOMY Food from the oceans I Non-living resources I Technology development
Chair / Moderator	Dr P S Goel , Fmr Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences
Panellists	Dr Atmanand , Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology Armstrong Changsan Ambassador of India to Iceland Dr Sameer Guduru , Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation Dr John Kurian , Senior Scientist, Deep Sea Exploration and Mapping, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research Dr Jan-Gunnar Winther , Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic, Norway
7:00 to 7:10 (10 mins)	Questions from the audience
Valediction and Vote of thanks 7:10 to 7:15 pm (5 mins)	Organising Chairs/Chairman SaGHAA to present a summary of the webinar and special mentions. Most participatory student /s will be mentioned too. Online certificate awarded



LIGHTS SECRETARIAT

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