



## Reaching out to students across India under IPY

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India is actively involved in the scientific as well as the outreach activities related to IPY with National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR) as the national coordinating agency. The purpose of the Indian IPY outreach activities is to educate general public, especially school children, about Poles & specifically about Indian scientific activities that are being carried out there. It becomes an uphill task considering the vast population & area of India. To achieve this, NCAOR in collaboration with WWF-India (World Wide Fund for Nature) is organizing various activities that include competitions such as poster & model making, stamp designing, petition writing etc. for school children. NCAOR has also supplied audio-visual & printed material on polar science for organizing exhibitions that focus on geography, environment, flora, fauna, people & importance of poles along with issues related to poles such as ozone hole, global warming etc. Moreover, a popular book entitled "Story of Antarctica" is published by NCAOR & distributed to students in different states of India. To further give impetus to our outreach efforts & to engage more students, an innovative Soccer Tournament called Sub-Zero Soccer was arranged for College students, which received very enthusiastic response. The main objective is to generate awareness among the youth by engaging them in sports and culture as this is very close to their heart and appeals to them. NCAOR also has a specific student participation program in Indian Antarctic Expeditions & students on return share their experiences with other students through lectures etc. To mark the end of IPY, a whole lot of activities are being planned for the last week of February that would include street plays, lectures, question & answer sessions etc.