

Diary of Events

Chronology of Events, 30th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

Date	Activities/ Events
1 Nov 2010	Launching of the 30 th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (hereafter ISEA) and flagging of the South Pole expedition at Goa.
02 Nov 2010	The first batch of 30 th ISEA along with the South Pole expedition team members left Goa for Antarctica.
08 Nov 2010	Team reached Maitri, Antarctica, via Cape Town, South Africa
13 Nov 2010	South Pole expedition team left Maitri after a ceremonial sendoff
09 Nov 2010 to 30 Nov 2010	Vehicle maintenance - obtaining training from Khasbhorer Engineer Generator maintenance - obtaining training from previous team member
01 Dec 2010	The South Pole expedition team returned safely to Maitri after successfully completing the traverse
03-04 Dec 2010	Joint convoy between 29 th ISEA and 30 th ISEA members
04 Dec 2010	Site selection of Maitri-II Station
05 Dec 2010	Seven members of the South Pole team members left for India via Cape Town, South Africa using DROMLAN facility. Shri Asit Swain stayed back at Maitri for geological work.
16 Dec 2010	A length of ~60m water supply duct line collapsed at about 0230 UT.
16-19 Dec 2010	Restoration of the water supply after the damage to the duct system and starting the work on permanent structure of the duct line
29 Dec 2010	Water tanks in the boiler room (C block) cleaned
20 Dec 2010 to 16 Jan 2011	Restoration of duct line was completed. Repairs and improvisation of Doddabetta Hut completed
14 Jan 2011	Installation of 20KvA UPS for the backup power to all the laboratories in the summer camp area Painting of NPL hut started
16 Jan 2011	Cleaning of summer camp, workshop and A-Block area started

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17 Jan 2011	Cleaning of dozer point area (a container load of back loading items had toppled during 16 th ISEA) Dismantling of old toilet complex started
26 Jan 2011	Republic Day celebrated at Maitri. Dr. V. Andrey, leader, Russian Station, Novolazaraskaya was the chief Guest at the function. A few entertainment activities were organized for the day.
17 Feb 2017	Walk in freezer serviced
05 Feb 2011	Old toilet complex dismantling work completed
19 Feb 2011	The expedition vessel arrived in India Bay area. Courtesy visit paid by Dr. Rajesh Asthana, Voyage Leader of the expedition
24 Feb 2011	Igloo hut shifted to Zweissel Mountain, and a fuel dump created with the help of helicopter for geological/geophysical studies
03-04 Mar 2011	First independent convoy left for the shelf to help in unloading of cargo and decanting of fuel for the expedition
09 Mar 2011	Maintenance of klargestester duct line started
13 Mar 2011	The convoy started back for Maitri after completing the unloading of cargo and decanting of fuel from the expedition vessel. All the material was stored at a safe distance from the edge of the shelf. The convoy reached Maitri safely the next morning.
14 Mar 2011	All assigned summer tasks were completed successfully, and the expedition vessel signaled to sail back.
03 Apr 2011	3 rd convoy started from Maitri
20 Apr 2011	4 th convoy started from Maitri
05 May 2011	5 th and the last convoy for the season completed
Month of April	The entire loft area was cleaned. Old deep freezers (brought during the first winter in Maitri) were brought down from the loft and back loaded
19 May 2011	The last sunrise and sunset prior to polar night.
01 Jun 2011	Celebration of polar night with sports activities including songs competition, music instrumental

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	playing competition. Presentation of scientific topics by the winter members organized.
16 Jun 2011	Table Tennis room painted
21 Jun 2011	Mid-Winter Day celebrated with pomp and show at Maitri. Messages were received from various dignitaries, Heads of participating Organizations, former Expedition Leaders and members.
19 Jul 2011	First sunrise observed after long polar nights
15 Aug 2011	Independence Day was celebrated. The Leader and members of nearby Russian Station participated in the celebrations. Mr. S. Evgeny, Leader, Novolazaraskaya Station, was the Chief Guest for the function.
15-17 Oct 2011	Examination of the base pillars of Maitri station carried out and found to be intact. A total of 141 pillars and girders were examined.
03 Oct 2011	Earth work for the new Klargest area started
05 Oct 2011	6 th convoy, the first after the post winter season.
06 Oct 2011	Flooring work completed at Nandadevi. The lab is organized by removing all the unwanted and non-working equipment and other items
12 Oct 2011	Work on clearing the ice-covered containers of the summer camp started
21 - 26 Oct 2011	The last convoy for the team. All the remaining fuel at the shelf was brought to Maitri. A new engine for the Mantis crane is replaced. Usually, engine replacement is carried out inside the workshop. The vehicle maintenance team decided to replace the engine on the shelf to avoid transporting the Crane to Maitri.
21 Oct 2011	Work on clearing space for new klargest started
27 Oct 2011	C block Gymnasium area repaired with new materials.
30 Oct 2011	Snow clearance around the fuel farm
09 Nov 2011	Arrival of the first batch of 31 st ISEA. The Leader and Station Commander Shri Uttam Chand along with summer Doctor, Nodal Officer for Bharati Station and engineers from KAIFAR, and IMS, Germany.

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11 Nov 2011	LNS team Along with Er. Joseph Silveria arrived at Maitri enroute to Bharati
12 Nov 2011	Mr Eugney, The leader of Novolazarevskaya paid a courtesy visit to Maitri
16 Nov 2011	The first batch of the 30 th ISEA wintering team departed
02 Dec 2011	A joint convoy among 30 th ISEA and 31 st ISEA
06 Dec 2011	A courtesy visit to Novolazarevskaya by the Station commander Maitri.
07 Dec 2011	The Maitri Station was handed over to new team of 31 st ISEA. The old wintering team members of 30 th ISEA left for India using DROMLAN facility.



Handing over Maitri Station to 31st ISEA on 07 Dec 2011

Visit of Dignitaries

Dr. Ajit Tyagi, Director General of Meteorology and Dr. Satheesh C. Shenoi, Director, INCOIS visited Maitri during 19-21 December 2010. Dr. Tyagi visited all the laboratories and provided valuable suggestions to expedition members. He specially provided suggestions to IMD wintering team members for using the online data services and making daily weather report available to the website of IMD. Dr. Satheesh C. Shenoi had discussions with the Station Commander on the improvisation of the data link between Maitri and India.



Dr. Ajit Tyagi and Dr. Satheesh C Shenoi with Shri Ashok Khutwad, Shri. Shankar Prasad (wintering member IMD) and Dr. Nageshwar Rao (NGRI)



Visit of Dr Tyagi, Dr. Shenoi and Shri K. Jeeva to the AWS site of SASE near Sankalp point.



Visit of Dr. Tyagi and Dr. Shenoi to IMD lab at Maitri.

Back to Motherland

The arrival of team members of 31st ISEA marked the end of prolonged isolation of our wintering team. The new team was accorded a warm welcome and provided necessary training on functioning of life support system, vehicles etc. Quite a few changes were made in the summer camp to make their stay comfortable. The station was finally handed over to new team on 07 December 2011 and the old winter over team left for India using DROMLAN facility.

Acknowledgements

At the outset in all humility and gratefulness, I would like to thank Dr. Shailesh Nayak, the then Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and all the members of the expert committee for giving me an opportunity to lead the 30th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica and selecting me as Station

Commander, Maitri to continue the scientific research that has been carried out by India since 1981.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Rasik Ravindra, the then Director of NCAOR, who was always available with suggestions and words of encouragement to make this expedition a success. All the team members of 30th ISEA were delighted to be a part of the history as the maiden Indian expedition to South Pole under the leadership of Dr. Rasik Ravindra was launched during this expedition. The courage and dedication of the South Pole team impressed all the expedition members, and this set a benchmark for the wintering over team at Maitri.

My Sincere thanks to Shri Elango P, Leader and Station Commander, 29th ISEA who made every effort in handing over the system to the next team. I sincerely appreciate him and his team for the excellent cooperation for a very smooth transition of the station from 29 ISEA to 30 ISEA.

I am grateful to Prof Archana Bhattacharyya, the then Director of Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, for proposing my name as the leader of the expedition and the necessary supports extended by her throughout the expedition.

My sincere thanks to Shri Javed Beg, Logistic Director, NCAOR, and the staff members of the logistic group, for their continuous help and support for survival on the remote continent. Their sincere and dedicated service right from the selection of the team, through the travel arrangement via Cape Town to Antarctica is an excellent example of dedicated service for the success of Antarctic Expeditions.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Rahul Mohan Gupta, Program Director, Science, for providing necessary guidelines regarding the scientific activity.

I am grateful to Shri Rajesh Asthana, Voyage leader, 30th ISEA, for his support in delivering most of the survival items through the ship in very difficult conditions. The fast-ice condition around the India bay was very peculiar during the months of January-March, 2011, preventing the ship to come alongside. This made the supplying of the survival items to Maitri very difficult. I sincerely appreciate his skills while handling the situation during terrible fast ice conditions and using his experience in unloading cargo and decanting of fuel.

Thanks to Shri Ajay Dhar, my mentor, for his continued support in all aspects related to the expedition. My sincere thanks to all my colleagues at EGRL, Tirunelveli, especially Shri C. Selvaraj, for his technical guidance in the successful operation of all the experiments.

My thanks are also due to my previous expedition leaders, Dr. S. Mukherji, Shri Arun Chaturvedi and Shri. D. Jaypaul, whose experience helped me in executing various tasks under difficult conditions.