

XVII INDIAN EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA (1997- 1999)

HOW THE THINGS ROLLED

- 02 Dec 97, Tuesday - Ship MV POLARD BIRD arrived at Marmugao Port.
- 08 Dec 97, Monday - 1600hrs - Farewell at ASC, GOA.
Chief Guest : Dy. CM of Goa, Dr. Wilfred D'Souza.
- 1900hrs - Flagged off by Dr. AE Muthunayagam, Secretary.
- 11 Dec 97, Thursday - 23hrs 45min 52 sec(IST)Equator crossed. (26' 41"E)
- 13 Dec 97, Saturday - 1000hrs - Presentation of XVII IAE Scientific and Logistic program by members commenced
1700hrs - Tournaments inaugurated.
- 16 Dec 97, Tuesday - 0900hrs - Reached Mauritius.
- 17 Dec 97, Wednesday - 1200hrs - Lunch hoisted by Indian High Commissioner, Mr Mani Tripathi.
1400hrs - Visit of Telecom conformation.Minister, Mauritius, Hon.' Sarat Dutt Lallan on board ship.
- 18 Dec 97,' Thursday - 0930hrs - Visit, Dy. P M of Mauritius, Mr. Kailash Purryag.
Two Australian Jayro Helicopter arrived on board ship
- 20 Dec 97, Saturday - 1215 hrs left Mauritius and continued voyage to Antarctica
- 24 Dec 97, Wednesday - 2000hrs- X'mas eve party.
- 25 Dec 97, Thursday - X'mas Day.
0208hrs(GMT), crossed roaring 40 deg. South.
Sea bird Albatross sighted at 1430hrs.(37.28S, 46.57 E)
2200hrs time retarded by one hour (total - 3.5hrs)
- 26, 27 Dec 97 - Rough sea, rolling and pitching, poor visibility.
- 28 Dec 97, Saturday - 0141hrs crossed furious 50 deg S. Very rough sea.
2200hrs, time retarded by one hour (total - 4.5 hrs)
- 30 Dec 97, Tuesday - 0330 hrs first ice berg sighted. Very rough sea.
2200hrs time retarded by one hour { total - 5.5 hrs)
- 31 Dec 97, Wednesday - 0330 hrs crossed screaming 60 deg South.Rough sea, rolling and pitching. New Year Party.
- 1 Jan 98, Thursday - NEW YEAR DAY. Greetings from Bharat Ratna (Dr) APJAbdulKalam, SA,Head of Orgns, Directors & others
1600hrs - Ship near polar ice. Penguins sighted.
- 02 Jan 98, Friday - Ship 5 nm away from India Bay. Helicopter assembly.

- 03 Jan 98, Saturday - First helicopter test flight at 1346hrs.
Courtesy visit to Maitri. (Flt started at 1455hrs and reached Maitri at 1548hrs)
- 04 Jan 98, Sunday - 0900hrs- first load to Maitri by underslung.
16 members shifted to Summer Camp (Mr. MJ D'Souza, GSI as Summer Camp Commander assisted by Mr.Premkishore, NGRI)
- 06 Jan 98, Tuesday - 1455hrs - courtesy visit to Russian Stn, Novolazarevskya.
12 sorties for shifting of men and material.
- 08 Jan 98, Thursday - Field Camp at DG and 2 camps at Western Schirmacher Oasis established.
- 09 Jan 98, Friday - Established GSI Field Camp at Humboldt Mountains.
11,12,13 Jan 98 - No flight from Ship due to bad weather.
- 14 Jan 98, Wednesday - Pongal. Biological field camp closed down.
- 15 Jan 98, Thursday - E'mail link established with new satcom terminal.
Army Day. Celebration at Maitri. German camp established.
- 17 and 18 Jan 98 - No flight due to bad weather.
- 19 January, Friday - New water pipe line (w/o trace heater) tested for leakage.
- 22 to 26 Jan 98 - No flight due to bad weather.
- 26 Jan 98, Monday - Republic Day. Seismological Lab inaugurated by Mr. Alexander Kondratyey, Leader,42 Russian Antarctic Expdn
- 28 Jan 98, Wednesday - German camp closed down. GSI team returned from ship.
- 29 Jan 98, Thursday - First Sun set after 13 Nov 97 at 2255 hrs.
- 31 Jan 98, Saturday - GSI field work (drop point at mountains-250 km away)
- 01 Feb 98, Sunday - No flight due to bad weather.
- 02 Feb 98, Monday - Corner reflector experiments at mountain ranges-Germans
- 03 Feb 98, Tuesday - No flight due to bad weather.
- 04 Feb 98, Wednesday - Ship along side - India Bay.
- 05 Feb 98, Thursday - JU field camp closed down.
- 06 Feb 98, Friday - Mauhling Hoffman mountain ranges recce by GST.
- 07 Feb 98, Saturday - German field camp established at glacier.
- 08 & 09 Feb 98 - Shifting of fuel from ice shelf to DG.
- 12, 13 Feb 98 - Blizzard, wind 40 to 80kn
- 15 Feb 98, Sunday - Shifting of fuel to DG completed (handled approx 1.2 kl fuel)

First batch of Scientists (summer) returned

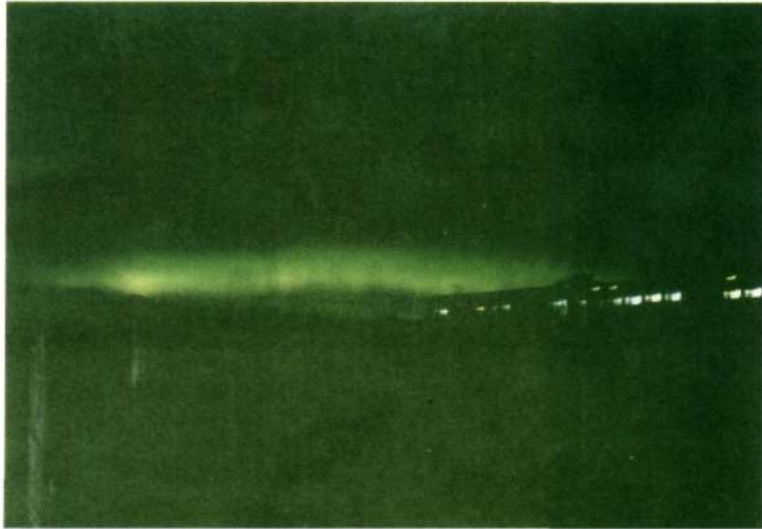
to ship.

- 16 to 19 Feb 98 - No flight due to bad weather. Wind 40 to 70 kn.
- 22 Feb 98, Sunday - 1100 hrs. Handing/Taking over of Maitri.
- 25 Feb 98, Wednesday - Summer camp closed down.
- 26 Feb 98, Thursday - First combined convoy left Maitri at 0530 hrs.
- 02 to 05 Mar 98 - Heavy snow fall, bad weather, wind speed up to 62 kn.
- 07 Mar 98, Saturday - First combined convoy returned safely at 0300 hrs.
- 08 Mar 98, Sunday - Celebration on the success of first convoy.
- 09 Mar 98, Monday - 1010 hrs, last helicopter sortie for XIV WOT members.
1415 hrs. Ship MV Polar Bird return voyage.
XV WOT - Wintering period starts
- 12 Mar 98, Thursday - Holi.
- 14 Mar 98, Saturday - Lake completely frozen.
- 18 Mar 98, Wednesday- 100 days completed after leaving GOA.
- 19 Mar 98, Thursday - First convoy with 7 vehicles left at 0550 hrs.
- 22 Mar 98, Sunday - 12 hrs. equal day and night.
Ship MV Polar Bird reached Mauritius.
- 23 Mar 98, Monday - World Meteorological Day. Ship left Mauritius.
- 25 Mar 98, Wednesday- First Aurora sighted. Convoy returned safely at
2330hrs.
- 28 Mar 98, Saturday - Gudhipadwa & Ugadi.
- 01 Aprl 98, Wednesday- Ship, MV Polar Bird reached GOA at 01000hrs.
- 02 Apr 98, Thursday - E'mail services disrupted due to non renewal of
license.
- 10 Aprl 98, Friday - Good Friday.
- 12 Aprl 98, Sunday - Easter Sunday & celebration.
- 16 Apr 98, Thursday - Msg and greetings from Bharat Ratna (Dr) Abdulkalam.
- 20 Apr 98, Monday - Second independent convoy with 7 vehicles left Maitri.
- 23 Apr 98, Thursday - Convoy returned safely at 0100 hrs.
- 26 Apr 98, Sunday - First day off for the XV WOT.
- 04 May 98, Monday - E'mail facilities restored after a month.
- 08 May 98, Friday - First blizzard at Maitri (0415 hrs onwards)
- 09 May 98, Saturday - 'Victory Day' celebration attended at Russian Station.
- 11 May 98, Monday - Computer classes for the members started by Mr.
Prasad Goud, R & DE (Engrs) assisted by Mr. Aran
Choudhry.SASE.
- 17 May 98, Sunday - Warm Sendoff to 42 Russian Antarctic Expedition
team.
- 18 May 98, Monday - Record breaking Communication - E'mail from
Antarctica to Indian Everest Expedition team, greeting
and congratulatory msg. on their success to scale Mt.
Everest.

- 19 May 98, Tuesday - Polar nights commenced (sun rise/ sun set - 1035 / 1144 hrs)
- 29 May 98, Friday - Engine of Dozer D-50-A-15 replaced successfully with new one.
- 31 May 98, Sunday - Russian Ship. MV Akademik Federov, with 43 RAE arrived.
- 01 Jun 98, Monday - Russian MIS helicopter crash landed near the Russian barrier.
Five members lost their lives and four seriously injured.
- 02 Jun 98, Tuesday - Convoy with 5 vehicles and 7 men rushed to Russian barrier for assistance, cargo handling & shifting to Russian Station.
- 06 Jun 98, Saturday - Greetings from Defence Minister Mr. George Fernandes during his visit at R & D E (Engrs), Pune.
- 08 Jun 98, Monday - Convoy returned completing the mission successfully.
- 14 Jun 98, Sunday - Mr. Alexander Kochin, Leader of 43 Russian Antarctic Expedition (43RAE). and members visited Maitri
- 20 Jun 98, Saturday - Convoy with 4 vehicles and 7 men left in search/rescue of missing 4 Russian convoy members for 4 days.
- 21 Jun 98, Sunday - Mid Winter Day. Located and rescued the missing Russian convoy team. Numerous greetings received.
- 23 Jun 98, Tuesday - Convoy team returned successfully completing the rescue mission.
- 25 Jun 98, Thursday - Mid Winter Day Celebration.
Chief Guest - Mr. Alexander Kochin, Leader 43 RAE.
- 27 Jun 98, Saturday - Mid Winter Day.Celebration at Russian Station.
- 01 Jul 98, Wednesday - Tele message, appreciation for the assistance provided to the Russian Team, from Bharat Ratna (Dr) Abdulkalam, S A.
- 13 Jul 98, Tuesday - Fuel Cell successfully tested.
- 14 Jul 98, Wednesday - Tele-message, appreciation for the assistance to Russian Team from Dr. AE Muthunayakam, Secretary, DOD.
- 19 Jul 98, Sunday - Glimpses of Sun.
- 27 Jul 98, Thursday - SUN RISE after the polar nights.(delayed due to bad weather, over cast and cloudy sky)
- 30 Jul 98, Thursday - Successfully replaced the engine of Pisten Bully PB 330 with new one.
- 13 Aug 98, Thursday - Appreciation/greetings from COAS General VP Malik, PVSM.AVSM, ADC
- 14 Aug 98, Friday - MESSAGE INFORMING THE HARD SHIP ALLOWANCE ENHANCED WEF 10 AUG 98.

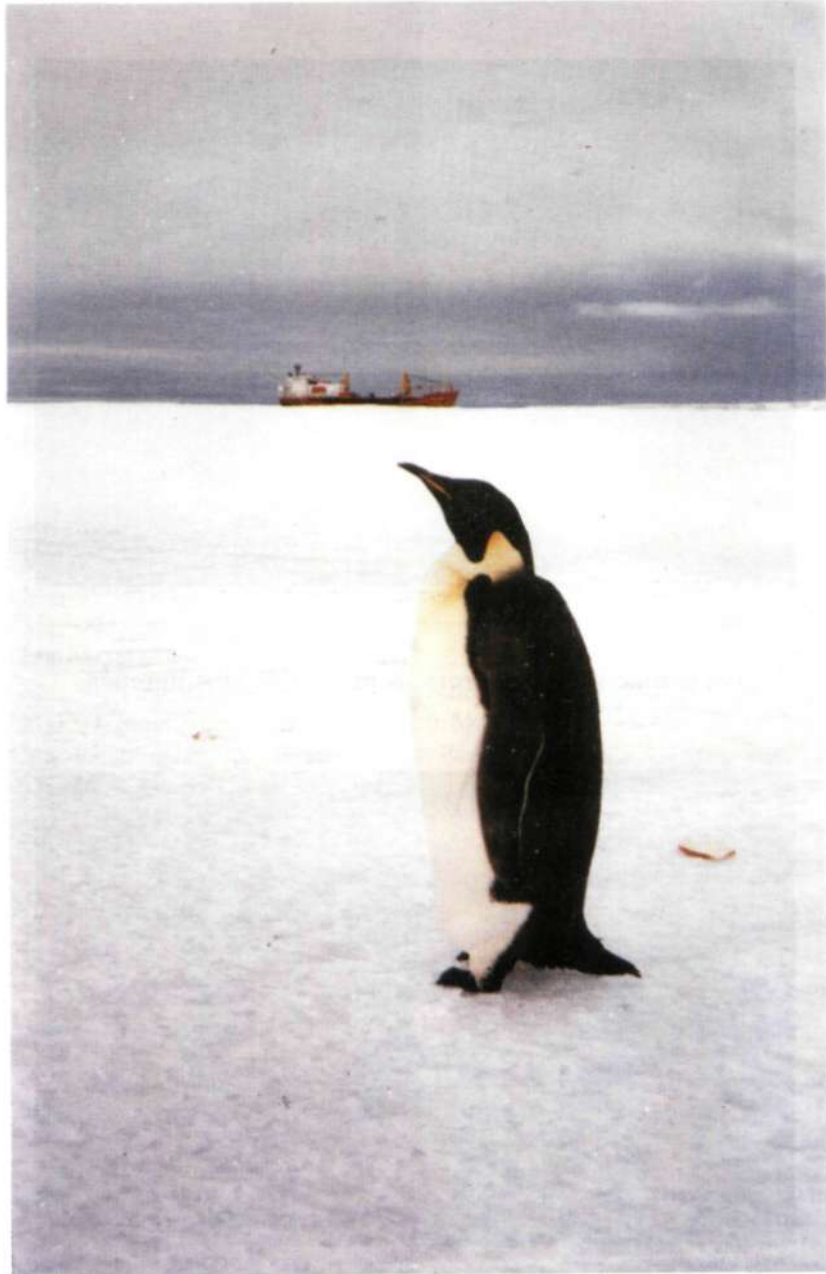
- (Winter Rs. 300 to 450 and Summer 200 to 300)
- 15 Aug 98, Saturday - 51st Indian Independence Day celebrated.
Fuel cell inaugurated by Russian Team Leader.
Blizzard started at 1130hrs.
- 19 Aug 98, Wednesday - Blizzard after 96 hrs. stopped.(Longest blizzard.)
- 30 Aug 98, Sunday - Lowest temp of the season minus 35deg C recorded.
- 09 Sep 98, Wednesday - Polar Bear Trailer with Fuel tank and 20kl fuel abandoned about 35km from Maitri since 13th Expdn (Feb 1994) and covered with blue ice successfully retrieved .
- 13 Sep 98, Sunday - 6th Convoy left. Maitri at 0600hrs with 9 men, 8x20kl fuel tank and one old PB 170 vehicle for back loading
- 13 to 16 Sep 98 - Renovation of Boiler Room, (relaying of pipe lines, rewiring with casing and capping, repainting of in stalled equipments, water tanks, fuel tanks etc.)
- 16 Sep 98, Wednesday - Convoy team returned to Maitri at 2400hrs safely with 35kl of fuel and one defective PB 270 for repairs.
- 17 Sep 98, Thursday - Viswakarma Pooja at Boiler Room after renovation.
- 27 Sep 98, Sunday - 7th Convoy left Maitri at 0600hrs with 8 men, 4x20kl fuel tank, crane traction motor for repairing the crane at ice shelf, half bin with scrap for back loading.
- 01 Oct 98, Thursday - Dussehra Pooja.
- 02 Oct 98, Friday - Food items piled up in six containers removed, checked and stocked properly in containers. Old items unsuitable for consumption loaded in containers for back loading.
- 03 Oct 98, Saturday - 0600hrs - Seventh convoy returned to Maitri with 20kl fuel.
- 10 Oct 98, Saturday - e'mail disrupted due to adm problems by DOD/ASC.
- 15 Oct 98, Thursday - 55th Anniversary of Corps of EME.
- 16 Oct 98, Friday - 8th Convoy left at 0600hrs with 6 vehicles and 8 men.
- 19 Oct 98, Monday - DIWALI.
- 22 Oct 98, Thursday - A couple of Skua sighted after the wintering period.
- 23 Oct 98, Thursday - 8th Convoy, last of the wintering period, returned at 1130hrs successfully completing all the tasks at DG/ India Bay
- 24 Oct 98, Saturday -} Strongest blizzard with wind more than 80kn and whiteout less than 1mtr visibility.
- 25 Oct 98, Sunday -}
- 01 Nov 98, Sunday - 0030hrs 5 penguins visited Maitri.
- 18 Nov 98, Wednesday- 218th Corps of Engineers Day- Medical Complex inaugurated by Mr. Alexander Kochin, Leader, 43

- RAE.
- 30 Nov 98, Monday - e'mail restored after 50 days.
 - 14 Dec 98, ' - XVIII ISEA left Goa.
 - 25 Dec 98, Friday - Christmas Day celebrated.
 - 31 Dec 98, Thursday - Grand Celebration-BYE BYE 1998. Welcome New Year 1999.
 - 12 Jan 98, Tuesday - First visit by XVIII ISEA leader Mr. Ajay Dhar & members.
End of XV WOT wintering period.
 - 15 Jan 99, Friday - Army Day- Celebration at Maitri.
 - 19 Jan 99, Tuesday - Courtesy visit to Novo by Mr. Ajay Dhar, Leader XVIII ISEA
 - 26 Jan 99, Tuesday - Republic day celebration. Attended in record number.
 - 11 Feb 99, Thursday - Station Handing Over Ceremony.
 - 28 Feb 99, Sunday - First combined convoy left from Maitri and arrived ship at 2130hrs
 - 04 Mar 99, Thursday - Convoy returned to Maitri and reached at 2330 hrs.
 - 05 Mar 99, Friday - Last helicopter sortie landed on board ship at 1130hrs.
 - 06 Mar 99, Saturday - 0600hrs return voyage.
 - 14 Mar 99, Sunday - Crossed 40 deg. S.
 - 18 Mar 99, Thursday - 1800 hrs - Reached Mauritius.
 - 21 Mar 99, Sunday - 1700 hrs - Left Mauritius.
 - 29 Mar 99, Monday - Reached Goan Port.
 - 30 Mar 99, Tuesday - Reception for Expdn, Team by ASC/DOD.



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Panoramic views, 'Aurora' & moon rise at Antarctica
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Penguin