

Metadata Details

Title

Dakshin Gangotri : The Indian Permanent Station in Antarctica

Science Keywords

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Summary

Abstract

In addition to carrying out investigations and observations in diversified scientific disciplines, one of the major responsibilities of the Third Scientific Expedition was to set up a permanent station at Antarctica to sustain continued scientific work during the winter months. This responsibility was given to the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army. The double storeyed, two block station built over a raft foundation with a plinth area of 620 sq. m. was completed and facilities commissioned in a record time of two months. The first Indian Antarctic wintering team consisting of twelve members started wintering from March 1, 1984. At the time of writing this article, two years of wintering have been successfully completed by Indian teams in Antarctica during 1984 and 1985. This article describes the Indian Station, Dakshin Gangotri, at Antarctica.

Purpose

India successfully laid down the foundation of scientific research in Antarctica during the first expedition in 1981-'82. The second expedition, during 1982-'83, further strengthened scientific re-search efforts in Antarctica. However, both these expeditions were restricted to Antarctic summer months. The necessity of having a permanent base station, where scientific observations and research could be continued during the winter months, was strongly felt. Therefore, the Department of Ocean Development, Government of India, decided that during the third expedition, in addition to carrying out investigations and observations in diversified scientific fields, a permanent scientific station should be set up. This major responsibility of setting up of a permanent research station was assigned to the Corps of Engineers of Indian Army. For several other countries, which have established permanent stations in Antarctica, the construction job has been handled by personnel in uniform.

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