

Dakshin Gangotri

By IASToppers | 2023-12-12 15:50:00



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Project Gangotri in **1983** was aimed to **establish Dakshin Gangotri**, India's first permanent base in Antarctica.



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About Project Gangotri:

- On December 3, the **Finnpolaris**, a chartered ice-class vessel sailed from Goa to **set up Dakshin Gangotri** in 60 days.
- The base is named after **Dakshin Gangotri Glacier**.
- **Prefabricated huts** for Dakshin Gangotri were produced by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- A post office was established at Dakshin Gangotri in **1984**, with a special stamp cancelling letters in **Antarctica**.
- The post office operated under **Goa's Department of Posts** from **1988**, connecting **Antarctica to Goa**.

Characteristics of Dakshin Gangotri:

- It was an **unmanned station**, set up using indigenous Indian equipment, powered by **Solar energy**.
- It was built using **pre-fabricated timber** and was **entirely computerised** to record all data.

About Antarctic Treaty:

- The **Antarctic Treaty** and related agreements called the **Antarctic Treaty System (ATS)**, regulate **international relations for Antarctica**.
- Antarctica is **Earth's only continent without** a native **human population**.
- It was signed in **Washington** in **1959** by the **12** countries during 1957-58 and entered into force in **1961**.

Important provisions of the Treaty:

- Antarctica shall be used for **peaceful purposes only**.

- Freedom of **scientific investigation** and **cooperation** toward that end shall continue.
- **Scientific observations** and **results** from Antarctica shall be **exchanged** and made **freely available**.