

Samudra Manthan 2023: National Oceanography Scholars' Meet

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The first National Oceanography Scholars' Meet - Samudra Manthan, was organized by the National Institute of Oceanography Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, Goa from 28th to 30th September 2023.

The meet started with the ice-breaker on 27th September, while the formal inauguration was held on 28th September at the S.Z Qasim Auditorium, CSIR-NIO, Goa. Dr. Thamban Meloth, Director, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) Goa, graced the event as the chief guest. Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh, Director, NIO, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished audience and emphasized the relevance of this platform's crucial role in providing young oceanographers with the opportunity to engage and learn from distinguished experts in the field, thus enhancing their research endeavours. Prof. Singh expressed gratitude to participants hailing from various parts of the country and conveyed his best wishes for a productive and memorable event. During the opening ceremony, the chief guest Dr. Thamban Meloth unveiled the second edition of the 'Samudra Manthan-23' magazine, which represents the various activities being undertaken by the student community of NIO. Shri Thavapandian, P., the Convenor of the Organizing Committee, extended his thanks, acknowledging the collaborative efforts that made this event possible. With experts from diverse fields such as marine biology, oceanography, and climate science, the event aimed to not only discuss the findings of young research scholars, but also provide hands on training on various instruments and techniques. Workshops, lectures, and panel discussions were organized to share the latest discoveries and insights.

The conference attracted over 140 abstracts, which were presented orally as well as through poster presentations. The event saw a gathering of over 250 participants from all over the country. All the participants gave a 3-minute oral presentation followed by a detailed poster presentation of their work. The primary objective of Samudra Manthan-

2023 was to delve into the mysteries of the ocean.

There were many invited lectures by speakers from various reputed institutes of India, who spoke on diverse backgrounds in the fields of biogeochemistry, marine geology/geophysics, biological oceanography, and physical oceanography and shared their latest research and findings.

The authors presented their work through both oral and poster presentations, on Late Neogene-Quaternary Biochronology of the Western Indian Ocean and Quaternary Palaeoceanography of the Agulhas Current.

On the second day of the Samudra Manthan 2023 event, the organizers had arranged an engaging and educational field excursion exclusively for the participating students. This field excursion was meticulously designed to provide attendees with hands-on experience in sampling techniques, instrumentation, water column chemistry, and marine geophysical surveys. Overall, the second-day field excursion organized by Samudra Manthan-23 was a memorable and educational component of the event, enriching the experience for all the participating students and contributing to their growth in future.

On the third day of the Samudra Manthan conference, the agenda was packed with engaging talks and presentations. Participants from diverse backgrounds in the fields of biogeochemistry, marine geology/geophysics, biological oceanography, and physical oceanography presented their latest research findings. Two posters were awarded in each category with the best poster award, which was presented by the Director, NIO. The day concluded with a valedictory session.

Samudra Manthan 2023, organized by the National Institute of Oceanography, was a resounding success in its mission to promote oceanic knowledge, sustainability, and conservation. It brought together experts and enthusiasts to celebrate the beauty and importance of our oceans. This event showcased India's dedication to marine science and underscored the collective responsibility we all share in protecting our invaluable marine ecosystem.