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Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India)

Swachhata Pakhwada (01 – 15 July 2020)

Report

"Ocean Valley",
Pragathi Nagar (B.O.), Nizampet (S.O.),
Hyderabad - 500 090, India.
https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/SwachhataPakhwada2020.jsp

Acknowledgement

Since the inception of Swachh Bharat Mission by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) carried out several swachhata activities which include public awareness campaign, cleaning, plantation etc. However, this year was remarkably different. The biggest challenge before the Swachh Bharat Committee was to organize various activities by maintaining social distance due to Covid-19 pandemic. As Murphy's law states "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong". However if you have a good team, encouragement and support, it is hard to go wrong. There were many colleagues, institutions and individuals, whose support was crucial for the successful completion of the Swachhata Pakhwada2020 at the INCOIS, especially in this difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic. The Swachh Bharat Committee placed on record the support and help received from all the quarters and acknowledges the contribution of the following:

- **Dr. Balakrishnan Nair**, T. M., Director (I/C), INCOIS for his guidance, support and constant encouragement.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, for its support under the guidance of Secretary, MoES and officers of MoES designated for executing this mission in ministry.
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- Shri. B. V. Satyanarayana, Head, CWG, INCOIS along with his team Shri. N. Kiran Kumar, Shri. S. P. Vighneshwar, Shri. J. Ramanjaneyulu and Ms. Unnimayakrishnan for creating and managing different web pages for Swachhata Pakhwada 2020, regular updating the web pages with current activities, managing competition entries and providing statistics.
- Manager (F&A), Joint Manager (S&P) and Joint Manager (A) of INCOIS for timely help and support.
- All the group heads and employees of the INCOIS for supporting and participating actively in the Swachhata Pahkwada 2020.
- A group of eminent scientists of INCOIS for providing innovative ideas towards various activities, grading and judging entries received for various competitions.
- In-house colleagues (Dr. Nímít Kumar and Shrí. Sívaíah Borra) and external expert (Dr. J. Kíranmaí) for delivering lectures and providing very informative information in webinars.
- Shri. Jitendra for capturing all the moments (photographs) during Swachhata Pakhwada 2020
- All the participants of the various competitions (our colleagues and their families, all the participating schools along with teachers and students) for making all competitions and related events successful
- Housekeeping staff of INCOIS, who went out of their normal schedule to help in various activities.

Swachh Bharat Committee, INCOIS

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1. Preamble

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October 2014. The Ministry of Jal Shakti is designated as the nodal ministry for executing this national mission. The mission is being executed by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti at national level. The mission objectives are to eradicate open defecation, efficient management of solid and liquid waste, encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation, overall cleanliness and to create significant positive impact on gender and promote social inclusion by improving sanitation.

The Swachhata Pakhwada was started with a vision to mainstream Swachhata activities across all Ministries / Departments of Govt. of India. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the attached, sub-ordinate and autonomous offices under the administrative control of MoES are actively participating in this national mission since its inception. To carry out swachhata activities in all institutes of MoES, first fortnight of July 2020 (July 01 - 15) is allocated. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous body under MoES carried out 11 activities covering all working days during the during the Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 as detailed in Table below.

Date	Activities	
01 July 2020	ly 2020 Inaugural session followed by webinar on "Open Defecation Free India: A Ca	
	of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh" by Dr. J. Kiranmai, Registrar, Institute of	
	Public Enterprise, Hyderabad	
02 July 2020	First phase of sampling plantation, provided by Govt. of Telangana under their	
	Haritha Haram mission, at ITCOocean campus of INCOIS.	
03 July 2020	03 July 2020 Awareness campaign and distribution of personal hygiene materials to INC	
	outsourced (housekeeping, gardening, security, electrical etc.) staff.	
06 July 2020	Campus sanitization in coordination with COVID Task Force of INCOIS	
07 July 2020	20 e-poster design competition for INCOIS employees on theme "How do	
	Swachhata impact oceans?"	
08 July 2020	Second phase of sampling plantation in the area surrounding ITCOocean campus	
	of INCOIS.	
09 July 2020	Event on "Discouraging single use plastic".	
10 July 2020	Drawing competition for school students on "Personal Hygiene".	
13 July 2020	Essay competition for school students on "Household solid waste management".	
14 July 2020	Webinar on "Swachh samudra and COVID-19" by Dr. Nimit Kumar, Project	
	Scientist, INCOIS	
15 July 2020	Valedictory session followed by a webinar on "Covid19: Protector or Polluter to	
	the Oceans" by Sivaiah Borra, Project Scientist, INCOIS.	

All the activities were planned and executed under the supervision of Swachh Bharat committee constituted by Director, INCOIS. The activities carried out during Swachhata Pakhwada for the year 2020 were carried out keeping in mind all the instructions and guidelines issued by the M/o Home Affairs and M/o Health and Family Welfare considering current situation of Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Details of the activities

As per the directives from Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the attached, sub-ordinate and autonomous offices under the administrative control of MoES observed Swachhata Pakhwada during the first fortnight of July 2020 (01 – 15 July 2020). INCOIS carried out 11 different activities covering all working days during the allotted time to observe the Swachhata Pakhwada 2020. The activities include, three webinars from eminent scientist from INCOIS as well from outside institute, two days of plantation drive, campus sanitization in coordination with COVID Task Force of INCOIS, an event on "Discouraging single use plastic", awareness on personal hygiene among INCOIS outsourced staff and three competitions arranged online (e-poster, drawing and essay writing) for school children and for children of INCOIS employees.

The online activities streamed live **INCOIS** were on youtube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRO5M01zI_x6HsUjNVv8hSQ/videos) and facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/INCOISofficial). The activities carried out by INCOIS during Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 were also publicized on **Twitter** handle (https://twitter.com/esso_incois) in other digital media and (https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/incois-hyderabad-observes-swachhata-pakhwada/). In addition, the details of all the activities, including reports and photographs are also available in the website (https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/SwachhataPakhwada2020.jsp).

All the activities were carried with minimal physical gathering keeping in mind all the instructions and guidelines issued by the M/o Home Affairs and M/o Health and Family Welfare in current Covid-19 pandemic. The details of the activities carried out on individual days are described in the sub-section below.

2.1. Day01: Inaugural session followed by webinar

Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 was inaugurated on 01 July 200. The inaugural function was conducted as per the following schedule and was moderated by Ms. Almeida Celsa, PRO, INCOIS.

Activity

Welcome address by Director, INCOIS

Introduction of speaker

Invited talk on "Open Defecation Free India: A Case of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh" by Dr. J. Kiranmai, Registrar, Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad

Q & A

Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 by Chairman, Swachh Bharat Committee

Vote of thanks

Directors, INCOIS, in his address, welcome all the participants and thanked the invited speaker for accepting the invitation to delivering a talk. He also briefed the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission. He stated that we must use cost effective, environment friendly and sustained sanitation technology. He mentioned that INCOIS is actively involved in the various awareness campaigns in this regard. He also appreciated the efforts put forward by Swachh Bharat Committee towards achieving objectives of Swachh Baharat Mission using innovative approaches and also the elaborative activities planned during Swachhata Pakhwada 2020. Following the welcome address by Director, INCOIS, the moderator introduced the speaker with her academic and scientific credentials.

The inauguration of Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 was followed by an invited talk on "Open Defecation Free India: A Case of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh" by Dr. J. Kiranmai from Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE), Hyderabad. The IPE, Hyderabad initiated management education in 1981 with the commencement of a 3-year part time MBA (PE) programme for practising managers. The full time management education program started in 1995. Institute has well defined and carefully structured programmes in PGDM, PGDM-RM, PGDM-BIF, PGDM-IB, PGDM-HRM and Exe. PGDM.

The eminent speaker, Dr. J. Kiranmai (on right), is currently the Registrar at IPE, Hyderabad. She holds Masters in Philosophy in management and **MCom** with specialization in Banking and Finance. She undertaken many research and consultancy assignments from apart organizing management development programmes for various Central and State enterprises. She is presently the Editor of Scopus indexed Indian Journal of Corporate Governance published by SAGE Pvt Ltd. She is also an Editor of IPE Journal of



Management. She heads the Center for Corporate Governance and Centre for Corporate Social

Responsibility at IPE. She has participated and presented research papers in national and international seminars and published in journals of repute.

The webinar entitled "Open Defecation Free India: A Case of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh" presented by Dr. Kiranmai was focused on the case study carried out in Krishna District on open defecation. The lecture provided an overview on need for hygiene and sanitation followed by Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations and their linkages to hygiene and sanitation. Further, Dr. Kiranmai gave an overview of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) with special emphasis to hygiene and sanitation. She also provided the statistics of SBM along with the phases of Open Defecation Free (ODF) activities. Subsequently, Dr. Kiranmai spoke on a case study in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh assigned to IPE by Ministry of Dirking Water and Rural Development GoI. She spoke about the approach, field survey, sampling, methodology, indicator used to access the status of ODF in Krishna District.

The webinar received a large response with participants attending within and outside INCOIS. At the end of the webinar there was Q & A session where the speaker clarified doubts of the audience. The webinar was very much useful in terms of the knowledge acquired towards Open Defecation Free (ODF) activities under Swachh Bharat Mission.

Subsequent to the Q & A session, The Chairman, Swachh Bharat, Committee, address the audience. He gave an overview of the mission followed by the activities taken up by INCOIS on regular basis. He also briefed on the activities planned during Swachhata Pakhwada 2020.

The speaker thanked INCOIS for giving an opportunity to deliver a talk and showed keen interest to be associated with INCOIS towards achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission in future. The event was concluded by the vote of thanks by the moderator.

2.2. Day02: First phase of sampling plantation

The second day (02 July 2020) activity of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was on plantation and campus cleaning. The Swachh Bharat Committee identified International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOocean) campus of INCOIS for the plantation drive. The plantation drive was planned to be executed in two phases. The first was carried out on 02 July 2020. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) supplied 1000 saplings, free of cost, for this activity under Telangana Ku Haritha Haram (TKHH) project. The first phase of plantation drive was conducted in the presence of Director, Group Heads and Scientist-in-Charges of INCOIS along with the members of Swachh Bharat Committee. Total 500 plants were planted during the first phase as tabulated below.

Sr. No	Name of Plant	No. of Plants
1	Jamoon	75
2	Ashoka	75
3	Juvvi	50
4	Akharamelk	50
5	Spatodia	50
6	Pogada	50
7	Marri	50
8	Tecoma Arjentia	50
9	Kanuga	50

During the plantation drive, Dr. N. Srinivasa Rao (Scientist-D), active member of Swachh Bharat Committee address the gathering and briefed on the importance of plants/trees. He also briefed the relevance of plantation in the light of Swachhata Abiyan. In addition, cleaning activities was also carried out in the areas surrounding ITCOocean campus.

2.3. Day03: Awareness campaign and distribution of personal hygiene materials

The third day (03 July 2020) activity of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was "Awareness campaign and distribution of personal hygiene materials to INCOIS outsourced (housekeeping, gardening, security, electrical etc.) staff. The activity was carried out based on the recommendation of Dept. Drinking Water & Sanitation, M/o Jal Shakti (Vide D.O.No.2/2/S (DWS)/20 dated 13th June 2020). The recommendation was based on the current Covid-19 pandemic where personal hygiene is utmost necessary to prevent from the infection. The distributed personal hygiene material includes washable face mask, hand gloves and hand sanitizer.

Prior to the distribution of material, Dr. N. Srinivasa Rao (Scientist-D), active member of Swachh Bharat Committee addresses the gathering and briefed the importance of personal hygiene during regular activities in office and home. The staff was also informed that they should wear face mask, hand gloves and periodically sanitize the hands. Total 150 INCOIS outsourced staff were provided with one washable face mask, one pair of best quality hand gloves and 100ml alcohol based sanitizer bottle.

2.4. Day04: Campus sanitization

The fourth day (06 July 2020) activity of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was Campus Sanitization. The activity was performed in coordination with the COVID task force constituted by Director, INCOIS to prepare and execute the Standard operating Procedure (SOP) during the current Covid-19 pandemic. The activity was carried out based on the recommendations of Dept. of Drinking Water & Sanitation, M/o Jal Shakti (Vide D.O.No.2/2/S (DWS)/20 dated 13th June 2020). The recommendations were based on the current Covid-19 pandemic where personal hygiene and overall sanitization are utmost necessary to prevent from the infection.

Against the backdrop of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, Swachhatha Pakhwada assumes a critical aspect in the current year. The pandemic situation demands not only visible cleanliness but a sanitized work environment devoid of harmful microbes too. Proper and frequent sanitization along with regular briefing of all the regular and outsourced staff are the need of the hour.

Keeping in view the above objectives, an exhaustive campus sanitization exercise was carried out. The sanitization was carried out under the supervision of Shri V. Subramanyam (Joint Manager) and Ms. K. G. Sandhya (Scientist-E), active members of Swachh Bharat Committee. Although, sanitization of the common areas (such as corridors, washrooms, entrance, and exits etc) are done regularly on a daily basis, the exercise was aimed to target and cover as much area possible. Focus was also there to brief the employees on necessary precautions such as frequent washing of hands, monitoring their health condition for Covid-19 symptoms, monitoring nearby spaces etc.

2.5. Day05: e-poster design competition

The fifth day (07 July 2020) activity of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was scheduled for an online e-poster competition to be participated by INCOIS employees on "How does Swachhata impact oceans?" The Swachh Bharat Committee of INCOIS has decided to award the best three e-posters. Given the Covid-19 pandemic raging across India, it was decided to conduct an online competition to avoid any social gathering. The activity was coordinated by Dr. Arya Paul (Scientist-E) and an active member of Swachh Bharat Committee. This activity was planned in order to raise awareness about the impact of waste disposal on water bodies - particularly oceans. Marine pollution is a growing problem in today's world. Our ocean is being flooded with two main types of pollution: chemicals and trash.

Chemical contamination, or nutrient pollution, is detrimental to health, environmental, and economic reasons. The runoff of the fertilizers, used on farms, into the ocean leads to algal blooms which can be toxic to both humans and marine lives. The negative effects on health and the environment caused by algal blooms hurt local fishing and tourism industries. Plastic waste is particularly problematic as a pollutant because it is so long-lasting. Plastic items can take hundreds of years to decompose. This trash poses dangers to both humans and animals. Fish become tangled and injured in the debris, and some animals mistake items like plastic bags for food and eat them which eventually affect humans as well.

Keeping the above objectives, all the INCOIS employees were encouraged to submit e-posters that would highlight the impact of cleanliness on oceans. Total 10 entries were received for e-poster competition. An internal committee, consisting of INCOIS scientists, was formed to evaluate and grade the submitted essays. Based on the evaluation, the winners were announced on 15 July 2020 during the valedictory session. All the e-posters are available for viewing on the INCOIS website (https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/eposter.jsp).

2.6. Day06: Second phase of sampling plantation

The sixth day (08 July 2020) activity of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was on greenery enhancement in the INCOIS campus. This was the second phase of plantation drive following the one carried out on 02 July 2020. The Swachh Bharat Committee identified the area surrounding International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOocean) campus of INCOIS for the second phase of plantation drive. The remaining 500 plants, supplied free of cost by Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), under Telangana Ku Haritha Haram (TKHH) project were planted in the area opposite to the Sewage treatment plant (STP). The second phase of plantation drive was performed by INCOIS employs along with outsources staff and the members of Swachh Bharat Committee. Total 500 plants were planted as tabulated below.

Sr. No	Name of Plant	No. of Plants
1	Jamoon	75
e	Ashoka	75
3	Juvvi	50
4	Akharamelk	50
5	Spatodia	50
6	Pogada	50
7	Marri	50
8	Tecoma Arjentia	50
9	Kanuga	50

2.7. Day07: Event on "Discouraging single use plastic"

The seventh day (09 July 2020) activity of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was scheduled to make an awareness campaign on "Discouraging single use plastic". INCOIS is declared as a plastic free zone. However the aim of this activity was to sustain the efforts to ensure and to educate individuals, and boost public awareness. The event commenced with the Pledge on "Avoid single use plastic items" (Appendix-1). The pledge was taken in different batches, to avoid large gathering and maintaining social distancing and all safety measures.

The Swachh Bharat Committee of INCOIS highlighted the environmental menace of single-use plastic. This event was coordinated by Dr. Suprit Kumar (Scientist-D), Dr. Nimit Kumar (Project Scientist-B) and Dr. Kunal Chakraborty (Scientist-E), active members of the Swachh Bharat Committee of INCOIS. This event was planned to raise awareness about the detrimental impact of single-use plastic items prevalent in the day to day activities. It is well known that, single use plastic bottles and cups were one of the major culprits in day-to-day increase of the plastic pollution. Usage of single-use plastic bottles is also harmful for human health in long term as the harmful chemicals leach into the water. Plastic waste is particularly problematic as a pollutant

because it is long-lasting. Plastic items can take hundreds of years to decompose. This trash poses dangers to both humans and animals and creates long-lasting un-cleanliness.

In view of the above objectives, to encourage the avoidance of single use plastic items, all the INCOIS employees were provided with a good quality metal water bottle with "Swachhata" message and "INCOIS" logo. Employees also signed an oath/pledge (Appendix-1) that they will avoid single use plastic not only in office but in their homes, as far as possible. It is expected that this event will generate a firm commitment to stop single use plastic in our daily life. The bottles were distributed following all social distancing norms.

2.8. Day08: Drawing competition for school students

As the old saying goes, prevention is better than cure. This is especially the case when it comes to young children. It becomes more important during the present Covid-19 pandemic situation. Good personal hygiene certainly helps children stay healthy, ward off illnesses, and build better self-awareness. Good hygiene habits are key to ensuring the safety of the children and the children they interact with. There are multiple benefits to encouraging children to practice good hygiene. It allows children to (i) avoid contracting illnesses and diseases caused by bacteria (ii) develop a healthy body image and (iii) increase their confidence and self image. Children who practice good hygiene have more success in their developing social and eventual professional lives. Children who live in unhygienic conditions get sick more often and can have trouble in social situations. It's never too early to start teaching hygiene. However, teaching the principles of correct hygiene at an early age can help keep individuals healthy in later life, and be taught to future generations. Principles of hygiene should be made part of everyday life.

In view of this, the eighth day (10 July 2020) event of Swachhata Pakhwada- 2020 was scheduled for an online e-drawing competition on "**Personal hygiene**" for the school students studying in the schools located at Hyderabad. The drawing competition was open for classes 5 to 10 only. The schools were invited to make nominations. The nominations were received in three different categories viz. Category#1 - students from Classes 5 & 6; Category#2 - students from Classes 7 & 8 and Category#3 - students from Classes 9 & 10. Total 103 nominations were received from 14 of Hyderabad. Out of total 103 nominations, 52 female students and 51 male students were participated in the competition. Students were instructed to use their own ideas. The genuineness of the drawing was the complete responsibility of the participating students and their school. The submitted drawings were considered under the license type CC BY as given in (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/).

The Swachh Bharat Committee of INCOIS decided to award the best e-drawing from each of three categories. As a token of appreciation, e-certificate will be also provided to all the participating students. Given the Covid-19 pandemic raging across India, the competition was conducted by accepting online entries to avoid any social gathering. The activity was coordinated by Ms. Almeida Celsa Margaret (PRO) along with Shri. N. Kiran Kumar (Scientist-D) and Dr.

Kunal Chakraborty (Scientist-E), active members of the Swachh Bharat Committee of INCOIS. This event was planned to educate children on good hygiene, to raise awareness about the importance of good hygiene, and to avoid the spread of infection and disorders. An internal committee, consisting of INCOIS scientists, was formed to evaluate and grade the submitted essays. Based on the evaluation, the winners were announced on 15 July 2020 during the valedictory session. All the drawings are available for viewing on the INCOIS website (https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/drawing.jsp)

2.9. Day09: Essay competition for school students

Millions of tons of household waste are generated globally each year, a part of it adds to the environmental pollution and general un-cleanliness of our surroundings. Although there are strict government rules and regulations to handle and manage the household wastes, unfortunately, a significant portion of the household waste finds its way out to our open environment causing pollution and uncleanliness. As the old saying goes, prevention is better than cure. This is especially the case when it comes to young children. It becomes more important during the present Covid-19 pandemic situation to discuss proper household waste management and impress their young minds. Their proactive role in the effective management of household waste such as reducing, recycling, reusing, segregating waste may indeed go a long way in reducing the pollution and improving the Swachhata. It's never too early to start following the proper waste management principle. However, teaching the principles at an early age can help propagate the message more efficiently and be taught to future as well as older generations.

In view of this, the ninth day (13 July 2020) event of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was scheduled for an online e-essay competition on "Household Waste Management" for the school students studying in the schools located at Hyderabad. The essay competition was open for classes 7 to 10 only. The schools were invited to make nominations. Total 59 entries were received from seven schools of Hyderabad. Out of total 59 entries, 50 unique and valid entries were considered for the competition (Essays can be seen on https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/essay.jsp). Out of 50 entries (consists of 22 female students and 28 male students), 7 were from Class 10th, 9 were from Class 9th, 12 were from Class 8th, and 22 were from Class 7th. Students were instructed to use their own ideas, in their own words and in their own handwriting. The genuineness of the submitted essay was the complete responsibility of the participating students and their school. were submitted under the license type BYgiven (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/).

The Swachh Bharat Committee of INCOIS decided to award the best essay from Classes 10th and 9th (Category 1), Class 8th (Category II), and Class 7th (Category III). As a token of appreciation, an e-certificate will be also provided to all the participating students. Given the Covid-19 pandemic raging across India, the competition was conducted by accepting online entries to avoid any social gathering. The activity was coordinated by Ms. Almeida Celsa Margaret, Shri.

N. Kiran Kumar, Shri. J. Ramanjaneyulu. Ms. Unnimayakrishnan, Dr Kunal Chakraborty and Dr. Suprit Kumar along with the other members of the Swachh Bharat Committee of INCOIS under the guidance of Dr. Aneesh Lotliker, Chiarman.

This event was planned to educate children on household waste management. It is hoped that this event will raise awareness about the importance of good household waste management and promote the cleanliness around our residential localities. An internal committee, consisting of INCOIS scientists, was formed to evaluate and grade the submitted essays. Based on the evaluation, the winners were announced on 15 July 2020 during the valedictory session. All the essays are available for viewing on the INCOIS website (https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/essay.jsp).

2.10. *Day10: Webinar*

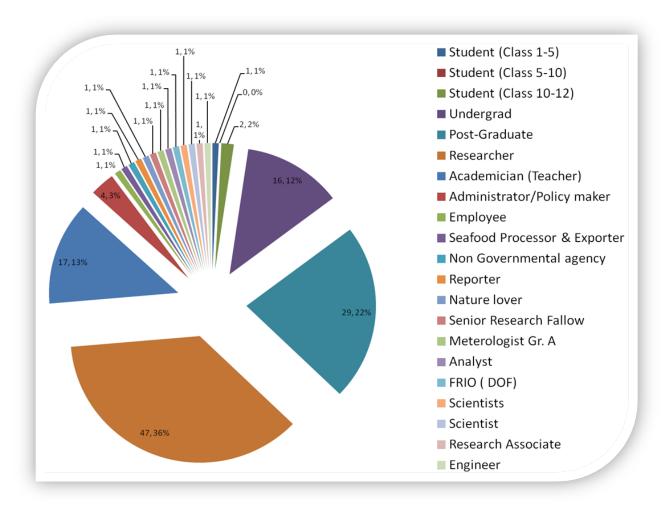
The tenth day (14 July 2020) activity of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was scheduled to host a webinar on "Swachh samudra and COVID-19" by Dr. Nimit Kumar from INCOIS. Coincidently, the day is also observed as Day of Shark Awareness. The outbreak of COVID-19 has far reaching impacts. This includes adverse effect to the momentum towards 'reduce, reuse, recycle' of plastic because of sanitary requirements that come with the outbreak. As a result, responsible management of plastic in our lives has become even more critical. Any lapse in that, and marine life will be the victim eventually. The webinar aimed to seek awareness towards this ongoing conundrum.

Dr. Nimit Kumar (on right) is a Marine Ecologist who serves as a Project Scientist at INCOIS since 2011. He is formally associated with the Marine Fishery Advisory Services (MFAS) programme of INCOIS. His core strengths comprise of ocean observations, telemetry, remote sensing and GIS. He is alumni of NF-POGO, PORSEC, BOBLME, and IOC-WESTPAC's MOMSEI. He has sailed for multiple research cruises in the North Atlantic Ocean and North Indian Ocean onboard Indian and foreign vessels. His science interest includes conservation, sustainable development, outreach and capacity building.



In order to provide a secure and interactive webinar environment registration for webinar was sought from the aspirant audience. A total of 129 registrations were received by evening of 13 July, 2020 (pre-eve of the webinar). Of these, 69 (54%) respondents identified themselves as Male whereas 58 registrations were female. Majority of the responses were from India, whereas 20 responses were from Egypt. An overview of attendees' age-group/occupation levels has been categorized (no. of people, % share) in the chart provided herewith, based on their responses. The aspirants were asked if there will be others who will join for the webinar (through their

single registration). The responses informed us that while 104 would join alone, 12 registrations will have 2 participants. Similarly there were 3 registrations for 3 attendees, 1 for 4, 5 for 5, 1 each for 10, 11 13 and 41 participants. This conveys that through 129 registrations, a total of 240 attendees planned to attend the webinar. Similarly, registrants have conveyed their request to have such webinar in languages other than English. The response for Hindi (56%) was highest with other languages including Gujarati, Marathi, Telugu, Malayalam, Bengali and even, Arabic.



Since the webinar announcement received overwhelming response and about 90% have shown preference to access it though YouTube/Facebook Live or Archived (later), it was decided that the webcast would be done on both of these platforms simultaneously. Among other queries almost 90% have shown the interest in providing feedback after webinar, and 84.5% respondents were willing to subscribe for future updates from INCOIS. These will help INCOIS conduct better outreach through better content in coming times.

The speaker began the webinar by showing some environmental-positive effects of the COVID-19 outbreak and the lockdowns resulted thereof. He quickly shown that this have other adverse impacts such as burgeoning solid-waste that poses challenge for the authorities to safely

manage the waste; especially much of it being the medical waste. Then the speaker had shown mainstream and social media reports that cover the medical waste such as masks, gloves and PPE entering into sea as early as in March, 2020. This followed by a detailed depiction on what harms such waste bring to the marine environment and thus, why it is pertinent to stringently avoid waste going into the sea. He also connected these impacts to the Sharks, since 14 July is celebrated as the Day of Shark Awareness. He introduced the audience with many astonishing facts about sharks and did myth-busting related to them, underlining that Sharks are real "Chowkidaar" of the oceans. Keeping in mind the kids' requirement of creative activities during lockdown time, he shared online resource related to Shark in order to address the same.

The webinar was a major success with about 130 attendees, in addition to the INCOIS employees who attended from their work desks or from INCOIS auditorium. All the necessary precautions were taken as per prevailing guidelines while screening the webinar in the auditorium.

2.11. Day11: Valedictory session followed by a webinar

The valedictory session of Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 was conducted on 15th July 2020 (11th working day). The valedictory session was moderated by Ms. Almeida Celsa, PRO, INCOIS as per the schedule below

Activity

Address by Chairman, Swachh Bharat Committee, INCOIS

Address by Director, INCOIS

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Guest talk on "Covid19: Protector or Polluter to the Oceans" by Sivaiah Borra, Project Scientist, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad

Q & A

Announcement of prizes for e-poster, drawing and essay competition

Vote of thanks by Dr. Suprit Kumar, Scientist-D and Member, Swachh Bharat Committee

Dr. Aneesh Lotliker, Chairman, Swachh Bharat Committee, INCOIS, in his valedictory address briefed on the Swachh Bharat Mission, launched by, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and its execution by Department of Drinking Water, Ministry of Jal Shakti at national level. Subsequently, he mentioned how efficiently INCOIS was involved in the Swachhata activities in the previous years and how this year was different due to Covid-19 pandemic. He appreciated the team work, support and encouragement towards achieving all the planned activities during this challenging time of Covid-19 pandemic. He also described the activities carried out during 11 working days of Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 (01 – 15 July 2020).

Dr. Balakrishnan Nair, Director, INCOIS, in his valedictory address, appreciated the efforts put forward by the Swachh Bharat Committee to organized innovative activities, with available digital platforms, during the difficult time of Covid-19 pandemic. He mentioned that activities

covered all working days during Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 that includes webinar, plantation, awareness and competitions for INCOIS employees as well as for the children of the schools from Hyderabad. Dr. Nair explicitly congratulated the committee for organizing various activities following all the instructions and guidelines issued by the M/o Home Affairs and M/o Health and Family Welfare considering current situation of Covid-19 pandemic. Towards the end, Dr. Nair mentioned that all should take the message given during the Swachhata Pakhwada in terms of personal as well as environmental hygiene towards "Clean India initiative".

The valedictory session of Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 also included an invited talk by Shri. Sivaiah Borra, Project Scientist, INCOIS on the topic "Covid19: Protector or Polluter to the Oceans". Following the address by Director, INCOIS, the moderator introduced the guest speaker with his academic and scientific credentials.

The guest speaker Shri. Sivaiah Borra (on right) is a Project Scientist working in Ocean State Forecast (OSF) group of INCOIS, Hyderabad. He completed his post-graduation in Physical Oceanography from Andhra University and pursuing Ph.D. in the topic related to Rip Currents from Andhra University under DST-INSPIRE Fellowship. His research areas include: Coastal and Open Oceanography, Tropical Cyclones, Ocean circulation, Meteorology, Ocean Acoustics, Remote Sensing, Ocean State Forecast, etc.,

The webinar entitled "Covid19: Protector or Polluter to the

Oceans" by Shri. Sivaiah Borra was focuses on the interconnection between Covid-19, Cleanliness and Oceans. It briefed some of the positive and negative effects of Covid-19 on the oceans and their cleanliness. In this webinar, some of the major and essential remedial measures that everyone should aware and follow towards the clean, neat and healthy ocean during this Covid-19 era were discussed. As the use of plastic such as masks, gloves and sanitizer bottles around the world has increased exponentially to protect everyone from coronavirus, it has now become an additional and new form of waste. Over the past few weeks many articles, surveys, statistics and researchers around the world have been discussing the plastic waste caused by Covid-19 and its adverse effects on the oceans, which is of great concern as it mostly ends up in the oceans. Few basic facts of the oceans' immediate and future physical-bio-geo-chemical response to newly adding plastic waste have been discussed and concern remedial measures such as preventing, reducing, recycling, recycling and replacing plastic to keep our oceans clean, healthy and fit for future generations were also described.

The webinar received a large response with participants attending within and outside INCOIS. At the end of the webinar there was Q & A session where the speaker clarified doubts of the

audience. The webinar was very much useful in terms of the knowledge acquired towards linkages between Ocean, Cleanliness and Covid-19 pandemic.

Subsequent to the Q & A session, Dr. Kunal Chakraborty (Scientist-E), active member of Swachh Bharat Committee announced the winners of the e-poster, drawing and essay competitions organized during Swachhata Pakhwada 2020. The event was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Suprit Kumar (Scientist-D), active Member, Swachh Bharat Committee, INCOIS.

3. Competition results

The Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 had a major setback due to prevailing situation of Covid-19 pandemic. The major challenge was to organize the activities, with minimum physical gathering and social distancing, keeping in the view guidelines issued by the M/o Home Affairs and M/o Health and Family Welfare. The Swachh Bharat Committee took the note of above situation and came up with the innovative idea to organize various competitions. During the Swachhata Pakhwada 2020, three competitions were organized using e-resources for INCOIS employees and school children including the children of INCOIS employees.

3.1. e-poster competition

The e-poster competition was organized on the fifth day (07 July 2020) of Swachhata Pakhwada – 2020 with the theme "How does Swachhata impact oceans?" All the INCOIS employees were encouraged to submit e-posters that would highlight the impact of cleanliness on oceans. Total 10 entries were received for e-poster competition. An internal committee was formed to evaluate the posters. The committee decided three best posters presented by

- Mr. Alakes Samanta, Scientist-C, Ocean Information and Forecast Services Group
- Mr. Paul Amboji, Jr. Office Assistant, Executive Support Services Group
- Mr. Ramanjaneyulu J., Project Scientist B, Computer and Web Group

3.2. Drawing competition

The drawing competition was organized on the eighth day (10 July 2020) of Swachhata Pakhwada – 2020 with the theme "**Personal hygiene**". The competition was for the school students studying in the schools located at Hyderabad. The drawing competition was open for classes 5 to 10 and the schools were invited to make nominations. The nominations were received in three different categories viz. Category#1 - students from Classes 5 & 6; Category#2 - students from Classes 7 & 8 and Category#3 - students from Classes 9 & 10. Following the rules of the competition, an internal committee consists of INCOIS scientists was constituted to evaluate the valid entries. The winners in each category are follows

- Category#1: Lochana Vangapandu, Silver Oaks International School
- Category#2: B. Shivani, Surya the global school
- Category#3: B. Neha Shushritha, Kennedy High the global school

3.3. Essay competition

The ninth day (13th July 2020) event of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 was an essay competition on "Household Waste Management" arranged online for the school students studying in the schools located at Hyderabad. The essay competition was open for classes 7 to 10 and the schools were invited to make nominations. Total 50 unique and valid entries were considered for the competition. The essays were graded in three categories: classes 10th and 9th (Category#1), Class 8th (Category#2), and Class 7th (Category#III). Following the rules of the competition, an internal committee consists of INCOIS scientists was constituted to evaluate the valid entries. The winners in each category are follows

- Category#1 Ms Bhavani Venkatesan, Kennedy High the global school
- Category#2 Ms Sai Sabhya Kantam, Surya the global school
- Category#3 Ms Jignaasa Kotti, Kennedy High the global school

There were also some "special mention" essays by Ms Sree Pranavi Honnahuggi (class 10), Mr Navdeep Reddy and Ms Teena Pappula (class 8), Mr Mantraksh Jain (class 7) from Kennedy High the global school, Mr. Mirza Ali Abbas (class 10) from NASR Boys School, Mr. Sarthak Kumar (class 7) from Vikas the Concept School and Mr TN Sripranav (class 9) from Narayana High School.

4. Photo Gallery

4.1. Event gallery



Inauguration of Swachhata Pakhwada 2020 followed by webinar on 01 July 2020



First phase of plantation drive on 02 Jul 2020



Glimpse of distribution of personal hygiene materials on 03 Jul 2020



Campus sanitization on 06 Jul 2020



Glimpse of the entries for e-poster competition on 07 Jul 2020



Second phase of plantation drive on 08 Jul 2020



Discouraging single use plastic on 09Jul 2020



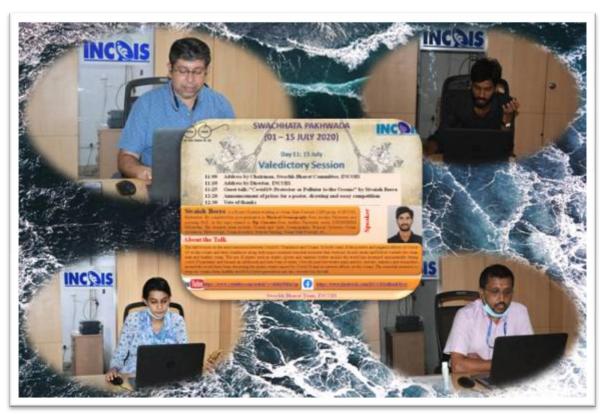
Glimpse of the entries for drawing competition on 10 Jul 2020



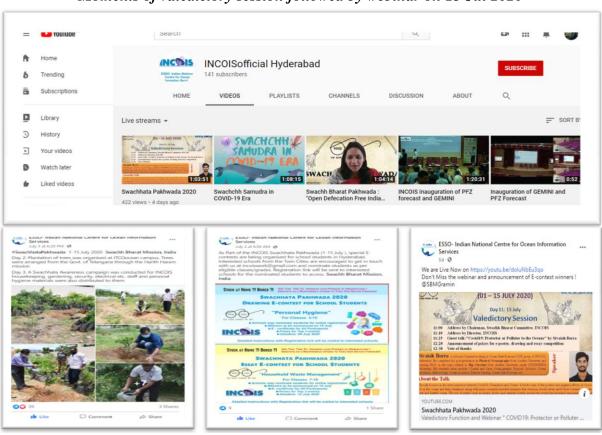
Glimpse of essays submitted by the students for the competition held on 13 Jul 2020

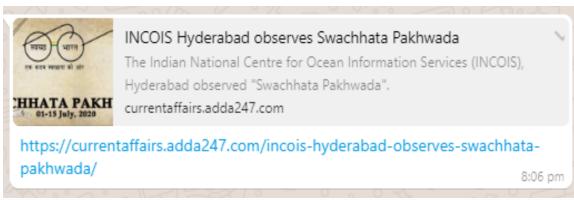


Webinar screening at auditorium maintaining COVID-19 related precautions on 14Jul 2020



Moments of valedictory session followed by webinar on 15 Jul 2020









The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad observed "Swachhata Pakhwada". During the event, several activities were conducted to aware people about the mission objectives such as to eradicate open defecation, efficient management of solid and liquid waste, overall cleanliness etc. It also included plantation of trees at ITCOocean campus, single-use plastic avoidance pledge, campus sanitization etc.

Swachhata Pakwada on social media and other digital media

4.2. Swachh Bharat Committee



Ms. Sandhya K. G. Scientist-E



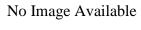
Dr. Kunal Chakraborty Scientist-E



Dr. Arya Paul Scientist-E



Dr. N. Srinivasa Rao Scientist-D



Shri. G. Vijay



Dr. Suprit Kumar Scientist-D



Ms. Prerna Singh Scientist-C



Shri. V. Subramanyam Joint Manager



Shri. H. Nagoji Rao Sr. Executive



Dr. Aneesh Lotliker Scientist-E

4.3. Special Invitees



Ms. Almeida Celsa Margaret Project Scientist - B (PRO)



Dr. Nimit Kumar Project Scientist - B



Shri. N. Kiran Kumar Scientist-D & In-Charge, Web Based Services

5. Useful / Reference Links

- Proceedings of Swachhata Pakhwada 2020:
 https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/SwachhataPakhwada2020.jsp
- Photo Gallery: https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/sbphotogallery.jsp
- Swachhata Activities Reports: https://incois.gov.in/SwachhBharat/SwachhtaActivites.jsp
- Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRO5M01zI_x6HsUjNVv8hSQ/videos
- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/INCOISofficial
- Twitter handle https://twitter.com/esso_incois
- Digital media publication https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/incois-hyderabad-observes-swachhata-pakhwada/

Pledge

"Avoid single use plastic items"

"As a responsible member of the earth science community of our beloved nation, I am fully aware of the dangers associated with unbridled usages of single use plastic items and their devastating impact on our environment and cleanliness. I pledge to reduce usage of single-use plastic items such as bags, bottles, cups, packaging material etc. as much possible, not only in our office but also in our homes. Jai Hind!"

I have read and understood the pledge.



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