

INCOIS Celebrates World Oceans Day 2026 with the Launch of New Oceans Cleanup Initiative and INCOIS Research Scholars Collective (IRSC)

Hyderabad, 8 June 2026

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, celebrated World Ocean Day 2026 with enthusiasm and commitment, reaffirming the importance of ocean conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. World Ocean Day, observed annually on 8 June under the aegis of the United Nations, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about the critical role oceans play in sustaining life on Earth and the collective responsibility to protect them for future generations.

The theme for World Ocean Day 2026, "REIMAGINE: Beyond the World We Know, A New Relationship with Our Ocean", highlights the need to foster a deeper and more sustainable connection with the ocean while encouraging innovative approaches to address emerging ocean challenges.



The formal function was inaugurated by Dr Balakrishnan Nair T.M., Director, INCOIS, who emphasised the pivotal role of ocean science and services in supporting sustainable development and disaster resilience. Special remarks were delivered by Dr Jagvir Singh, Scientist-G, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Cdr. P.K. Srivastava, Scientist -G /Advisor, MoES, Dr Udaya Bhaskar., DCC-Indian Ocean Region Coordinator, and Ms. Arpita Goswami, who underscored the importance of strength-

ening India's ocean observing capabilities and promoting ocean literacy.

The event was graced by distinguished Guests of Honour, including Dr Prakash Chauhan, Director, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Shri Vivekananda Pai, Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), and Dr S. S. C. Shenoi, Former Director, INCOIS. The Chief Guest, Dr Ravindra D. Kulkarni, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai, delivered the keynote address, stressing the significance of scientific research, innova-

tion, and academic partnerships in addressing contemporary ocean challenges.

During the event INCOIS launched clean-ocean initiative to establish the first integrated marine litter-tracking the NIRMAL sgar programme, a clean ocean initiative to establish the first integrated marine litter tracking framework for the Indian Ocean Region. By combining ocean modelling, satellite remote sensing, and AI/ML-based tools, the programme will identify marine litter hotspots, monitor, and forecast to support targeted cleanup and mitigation efforts. Aligned with the Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar mission and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, NIRMAL sgar aims to provide scientific inputs for a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient ocean, promote community participation, and policy support.

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A major highlight of the celebration was the launch of the INCOIS Research Scholars Collective (IRSC), a student-led platform established to foster a collaborative, innovative, and socially connected research ecosystem within INCOIS. The initiative aims to strengthen interaction among research scholars, encourage interdisciplinary collabora-

tions, promote academic and professional development, facilitate mentorship opportunities, and enhance outreach activities that connect science with society. Through structured programmes and community engagement efforts, IRSC seeks to nurture leadership, creativity, research excellence, and teamwork among young researchers.

As a precursor to World Ocean Day celebrations, IRSC organised a series of engaging activities for INCOIS staff, scholars, and students, including a Photography Competition, Treasure Hunt, Quiz Competition, and Marine Clay Art Challenge. These events witnessed enthusiastic participation and helped foster awareness and appreciation of ocean-related themes among the staff and scholars.

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