

## INCOIS Celebrates World Oceans Day 2026 with the Launch of New Oceans

■ **Cleanup Initiative and INCOIS Research Scholars Collective (IRSC)**

**HYDERABAD**

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 in-



augurated 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-C, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Cdr. P. K. Sivasubra, Scientist -G /Advisor, MoES, Dr Udaya Bhaskar, DCC Indian Ocean Region Coordinator, and Ms. Arjita Goswami, who underscored the importance of strengthening India's ocean observing capabilities and promoting ocean literacy.

The event was graced by distinguished Guests of Honour, including Dr Prekash 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, innovation, 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.sagar 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.sagar aims to provide scientific inputs for a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient ocean, promote community participation, and policy support.