

SAGAA VIII
LEADERSHIP MEET

NOVEMBER 24-25, 2025
INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTER
NEW DELHI



CONFRONTATION **TO** **COLLABORATION** IN A FRACTURED **WORLD**

SCIENCE ■ BUSINESS ■ POLICY



SaGAA®

Science and Geopolitics
of Arctic-Antarctic,
a Delhi based Polar
think-tank.

SaGAA Began in 2011
under the aegis of LIGHTS
(Learning in Geography,
Humanities, Technology
and Science)—A not-
for-profit organisation
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COVER DESIGN:

Wandering Albatross flying
over a warming world

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SETTING THE SAGAA VIII

Modern science transcends space and time, speaks a common language, and primarily works towards the well-being of humans and, occasionally, other species. Science is not just empirical thought, primed to a pinnacle of discovery and innovation; it is a commitment that coalesces all learning into a single shared entity. As the world order swirls and shifts in never-ending eddies and counter currents, the rise and fall of nations is inevitable. Unabashed scientific forthrightness down the ages, however, remains even-keeled, powered by connections that have overridden with fortitude the divergent tides of the time. History has proved, time and again, that the benign service of science and its generations of peace-keepers have kneaded the proverbial 'water from stones'. From the International Geophysical Year (IGY) marking the dawn of major international science collaboration in the Polar regions where 60 nations came together, to the forging of the Antarctic Treaty, born amidst the formidable peak of the Cold War and the global effort to heal the ozone layer, the Montreal Protocol, hailed as one of the most successful environmental agreements, to perhaps CERN where scientists from different nations jointly unlock the mysteries of the universe, serve as instances of hope. The rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines too was a remarkable example of human camaraderie within global science networks.

Scheduled for November 24-25, 2025, the eighth edition of the SaGAA Conference is an intricate intersection of science, geopolitics, and global

partnerships. The expected outcome gives a unique pathway toward actionable collaboration and a reintegration of global and national science.

Back in 2011, when Polar aficionados were far and few, SaGAA began its conversation. Long before Polar and more specifically an appetite for Arctic discussions rose in the high-offices of India, SaGAA was already involving a gamut of senior government officials from organisations such as the MoES, MEA, NSCS and professors of myriad universities, pioneering the idea of science and geopolitics. Others have joined the conversation since and played valuable roles, but it was SaGAA that first insisted that science and geopolitics must be seen together, not in isolation.

A new world today pivots on resource density, with emergent conflicts that view all intentions as guileful. Without a doubt, the geopolitical tipping points have been breached, and the global fabric, painstakingly sewn together over decades of strife, has ruptured in parts once again. Benign scientific priorities are now being increasingly backseated. It is time to reassert the need for major scientific global collaborations for meaningful reiterations and new-age commitments above geopolitical bondages.

This edition of SaGAA is not just a continuation of its previous efforts—it is a clarion call for all who truly believe that collaborative science can repair a fractured world.

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