

## Parliament passes the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022

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It aimed at having India's own national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystem

The Bill also proposed to set-up the **Indian Antarctic Authority (IAA) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences**, which shall be the apex decision making authority and shall facilitate programmes and activities permitted under the Bill.

India today has two operational research stations in Antarctica named **Maitri** (Commissioned in 1989) and **Bharati** (Commissioned in 2012). With **Himadri** station in Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Arctic region.

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was signed at Canberra on the 20th day of May, 1980, for the protection and preservation of the Antarctic environment. India ratified the Convention on 17th June, 1985.