

BITS student gears up for chilling reality

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MISSION ANTARCTICA

► Singh along with the 80-member team will explore the Antarctic Peninsula and gain first-hand knowledge of the continent's fragile ecosystem



► The purpose of the expedition is to engage and inspire the next generation of leaders to build communities

► He will experience the unique Antarctic wildlife

sustainable in all aspects of living

which is in turn leading to a rise in water levels. You can also see the effect this is having on animal species. It is already an alarming condition. I will be able to see first-hand the contribution of our actions from this part of the world on the Antarctica," said Singh.

Singh was selected after a rigorous process which included writing four essays and sitting through two interviews. He beat dozens of students from India, including

some from the BITS University itself.

What worked to Sarthak's advantage was his work with the Andhra Pradesh government's young leadership programme, his role as a winter scholar with the quality council of India attached to the Prime Minister's office and his position as a student member of the senate of the BITS university.

"Due to these roles, I already have contact with a huge network of youngsters across

India. I have also planned workshops and activities once I return from the expedition which will enable me to share what I have seen and learnt during the expedition," said Singh, who heard of Robert Swan's expedition through his brother currently studying at the Harvard medical school.

Singh is partly funding the trip from his personal savings, while also relying on crowd sourcing, the BITS Pilani alumni division, his school in Delhi and tie-ups with private companies to provide the rest of the resources to make the trip possible.

"India has a huge carbon footprint, but many of us are not even aware of opportunities like the ClimateForce: Antarctica 2018 Expedition, where they need people from India to become aware of the impact of climate change," said Singh.