

**“No one has ever achieved greatness without dreams.” Roy T. Bennett**

**NATIONAL**

**ODISHA BEACH IS ASIA'S FIRST TO GET 'BLUE FLAG' TAG**

The **Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha** will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification.

Twelve more beaches in the country are being developed by the **Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)**, an Environment Ministry's body working for the management of coastal areas, in accordance with the Blue Flag standards.

**Blue flag project:**

Launched in December 2017 by the Environment Ministry, the prime objective of the project is to enhance standards of cleanliness, upkeep and basic amenities at beaches. Under the project, each state or union territory has been asked to nominate a beach which will be funded through the ongoing Integrated Coastal Management Programme.

To achieve the Blue Flag standards, a beach has to strictly comply with 33 environment and tourism-related conditions. The standards were established by the Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985. For example- a beach must be plastic-free and equipped with a waste management system. Clean water should be available for tourists, apart from international amenities. The beach should have facilities for studying the environmental impact around the area.

Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) has been established under the aegis of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change.

The main objective of the Centre is to promote research and development in the area of coastal management including addressing issues of coastal communities.

It also supports implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) activities in India and implements the World Bank assisted India ICZM Project.

**AGNI-5**

India recently successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Long Range Ballistic Missile Agni-5 from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.

**Agni-5 Ballistic Missile:**

It is a surface-to-surface missile which can carry nuclear warhead weighing 1.5 tonnes to a distance of over 5,000 km and is the longest missile in India's arsenal capable of reaching most parts of China.

The missile features many new indigenously-developed technologies, including the very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS), and the most modern and accurate Micro Navigation System (MINS) which improves the accuracy of the missile.

At present, India has in its armoury the Agni series — Agni-1 with 700 km range, Agni-2 with 2,000 km range, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to more than 3,500 km range.

India joins the elite club: With this missile, India has joined an elite club of nations that possess the ICBM launch capability. Only the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – China, France, Russia, the United States and Britain, along with Israel, have so far possessed such long-range missiles.

Agni-V is an intercontinental ballistic missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India. Agni V is part of the Agni series of missiles, one of the missile systems under the original Integrated Guided Missile Development Program.

The successful development of Agni proved India's capacity and technical expertise. This missile put India into an advanced stage of technology. Agni has not only technologically, scientifically and in the fields of security but also in international politics, put India on a noticeable platform. Agni missiles would be a

game changer, transforming the way the world looks at India's defence arsenal.

#### ENSEMBLE PREDICTION SYSTEMS (EPS)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has commissioned two very high resolution (12 km grid scale) state-of-the-art global Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS) for generating operational 10-days probabilistic forecasts of weather. The EPS involves the generation of multiple forecasts using slightly varying initial conditions.

Ensemble forecasting:

Ensemble forecasting provides localized predictions of a 12 km resolution compared to 23 kilometers in the earlier system.

The new model has been developed jointly by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting.

With this new model, India joins the US with a model that predicts with a 12 km resolution. Only the 'European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast' has a, better, nine-kilometer resolution.

Better forecasts lead to better management agriculture and water resources. It also helps promote tourism, solar and wind energy.

#### 49TH CONFERENCE OF GOVERNORS CONCLUDES AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

The two-day 49th Conference of Governors concluded at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The President of India, expressed satisfaction that participants at the Conference contributed to meaningful discussions. He was confident the deliberations would strengthen our national effort to improve the lives of every Indian.

The President noted on June 5 the World Environment Day. The approach of 'Think Global, Act Local' is considered effective for environment protection. Keeping in mind the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Accord and the International Solar Alliance, local and state-level contributions are very important to achieving national goals.

The Directive Principles of our Constitution specifically mention issues of the environment and conservation of forests and wildlife. In this context, Governors can make efforts to develop Raj Bhavan complexes and state universities as an environmental ideal.

The President said that Raj Bhavans must take the lead in adopting modern technology and methods. By using a wide variety of IT initiatives, including real-time dashboards, Raj Bhavans can create a demonstration effect and motivate other institutions.

The President said that Governors can inspire universities towards USR (University Social Responsibility). University students should visit villages at regular intervals. They should engage with residents of the village in regard to cleanliness, literacy, immunisation and nutrition programmes. Governors could hold discussions with Vice Chancellors to make the 'Swachhta Internship' programme more effective.

The President urged Governors to convene meetings of Vice Chancellors of state universities from time to time. He was happy that some Governors were already doing this. He emphasised that the agenda of such conferences could be decided in consultation with the VCs. And to find quick solutions, representatives of State Education and Finance Departments, as well as officials from the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, the UGC and other institutions, could be invited.

#### ODISHA LAUNCHES HEALTH INSURANCE FOR JOURNALISTS

Odisha government has launched "Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana" for working journalists. The health insurance scheme for working journalists will be implemented with effect from June 1, 2018.

#### Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana:

Under the scheme, journalists from across the state will get health insurance coverage up to Rs 2 lakh.

At least five members of a journalist's family would be covered under the scheme.

The scribes will get their health insurance card from the District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO) in their respective districts.

### **Gopabandhu Das:**

Gopabandhu Das (1877–1928) was a social worker, reformer, political activist, journalist, poet and essayist from Odisha. He was popularly known as Utkalamani (Jewel of Utkal or Orissa).

He won election to the Legislative Council that had been created in 1909 under the terms of the Morley-Minto Reforms.

He became the first president of Utkal Pradesh Congress Committee in 1920, holding the post until 1928, and he welcomed Gandhi to the province in 1921.

He started a discussion group, called Kartavya Bodhini Samiti (Duty Awakening Society), in which he and his friends considered social, economic and political problems.

He established a school at Sakhigopala, near Puri. Popularly known as Satyabadi Bakul Bana Bidyalaya, but called the Universal Education League by Das, it was inspired by the Deccan Education Society, operated in the gurukula tradition and aimed to impart a liberal education on a non-sectarian basis, despite opposition from orthodox Brahmins.

He was influenced by Swadeshi movement and took part in the non-cooperation movement.

He also launched and acted as editor for a short-lived monthly literary magazine titled Satyabadi from the campus of his school. Through this he was able to indulge his childhood aspirations to be a poet.

### **ENV. MINISTRY, TERI, AND UNEP STRATEGIZE THE ROADMAP FOR 'URBAN SUSTAINABILITY'**

A multi-stakeholder meet to strategize the roadmap for environmentally sustainable urban development in Indian cities, as part of the ongoing thematic sessions in the run-up to World Environment Day held.

With urban growth impacting the environment significantly, there is a need to create a stable policy framework for development of infrastructure and integrated spatial planning at all levels: national, state and city.

Today, 50% of humans are living in the cities. More than ever, there is a need to build strong urban infrastructure that can support the rising population. For smart, sustainable cities, it is essential to have a greener architecture, robust city transport, and good waste management policies.

The session also threw light on translating the global best practices of smart cities to local approaches. This was followed by a panel discussion, where representatives from national and local governments, UN, private sector, NGOs and academia discussed the planning and development of environmentally Smart Cities through partnerships among different stakeholders.

Today, as a result of continued rural-urban migration and population growth, more than half of the world's population lives in urban settlements. By 2050, cities are expected to house as much as two-thirds of the global population, making urbanisation one of the twenty-first century's most transformative trends.

While cities are centres for economic activity, innovation and growth, urban population impacts the environment significantly through their consumption of food, water and energy. Forty per cent of the Indian population is expected to live in urban settings by 2030. By 2050, India's population is expected to grow to 1.7 billion, adding further pressure on the country's urban capacity. With these numbers, it is imperative to devise smart urban solutions that can help achieve the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL**

### **OPERATION NISTAR – EVACUATION OF STRANDED INDIANS FROM SOCOTRA, YEMEN**

In response to a distress call received from the DG shipping and the Indian Sailing Vessels

Association, Indian Naval Ship Sunayna, currently deployed for a mission based deployment in the Gulf of Aden, was directed to evacuate 38 Indian nationals stranded on the Yemeni island of Socotra in the aftermath of cyclone Mekenu.

A very Severe Cyclonic Storm Mekenu crossed the Yemeni Island of Socotra on 24 May 18, leaving the 38 Indians stranded on the island with limited food and water. Also, three Indian dhows at Socotra suffered damages/ sank alongside in the harbour and another Dhow, MSV Safina Al Khijar with 12 Indians onboard is reported to be missing.

Based on this information, the Indian Navy undertook two aerial sorties on 27 and 28 May 18 to search for the missing 18 Indians.

INS Sunayna, deployed on a mission based deployment in the Gulf of Aden was pressed into action to evacuate the 38 Indian nationals from Socotra. The operation, code name 'NISTAR', was carried out on the morning of 03 Jun 18 off the coast of Socotra.



The evacuated Indians were embarked onboard and immediately provided with medical care, food, water and telephone facilities to call and reassure their families at home. All 38 have been reported to be safe. Post evacuation, the ship would be proceeding towards Porbandar to disembark the Indians ashore

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