

ORGANIC SPECIAL

Newsletter

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## SHRI NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES SIKKIM ORGANIC FESTIVAL 2016

### Sikkim India's first Organic State:

*All of Sikkim's farmland has been certified organic under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) regulations by the end of 2015. "Sikkim has already achieved that feat of living in harmony with nature, and is therefore a model of development which also protects nature," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.*

Under NPOP guidelines and the government program Sikkim Organic Mission, it took 12 years to convert the Himalayan state into the first 100 % organic state of India, eliminating pesticides, chemical fertilizers and GMOs, and working closely with the local ecosystem to preserve biodiversity and prevent erosion.

Sikkim's organic mission started in 2003, when its Chief Minister Pawan Chamling declared his intent to make Sikkim India's first organic state. Dr. Pawan Chamling has been re-elected five times, so he was able to oversee the entire process. First, the state officially banned the sale of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers, forcing its farmers to go organic. And it ran a number of events like a two-day

workshop in March 2010 where organic experts and scientists advised farmers on making the transition. But Sikkim's organic switch is not just good for public health; it's also good for the economy as organic produce has higher profit margins for farmers, as reported by the *Huffington Post*.

### Sikkim organic festival 2016:

To mark this special achievement, the State Government organized *Sikkim Organic Festival 2016* from 18th to 20th January, 2016 to mark the completion of organic certification of all agricultural land and for formal declaration of Sikkim's achievement of 100% organic status as per National standards. The festival was also hosted to sustain organic movement in Sikkim, and spread the message of organic movement to other States.

The farmers of Sikkim should gain wider exposure to global and national trends in organic markets, and get greater market access. Sikkim should be positioned as India's and perhaps world's, first 100% organic State, and established as a trend setter at the global level, says Sikkim Organic Mission. Furthermore it is planned to

enable Sikkim to attract tourism in general, specifically **eco-tourism**, sustainable and responsible tourism.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Sikkim Organic Festival 2016, on January 18. He addressed the Plenary Session of the *National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers Welfare* at Gangtok in Sikkim. The Prime Minister digitally launched the logo of **Sikkim Organic** and handed it over to the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Pawan Chamling.

In his address, the Prime Minister paid homage to former Governor of Sikkim, Shri Rama Rao. He praised Sikkim Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling for his vision of welfare for farmers and tribes. He credited this vision for the development that the State is witnessing, and said the welfare and development issues raised by the Chief Minister would be looked into by the Union Government.

The Prime Minister described Sikkim as an example of resolve despite difficulties and struggle, towards organic agriculture. He said today the whole world had recognized this effort





## SIKKIM

Sikkim, the small Indian State, with a geographical area of only 7,096 sq km is located in the Eastern Himalayas and shares its borders with countries like Bhutan, China and Nepal. Sikkim has an assorted elevation ranging from 300 m to 8586 m above mean sea level. As a result it is extraordinarily rich in biodiversity, possesses abundant water sources, diverse soil profile, extremely varied climate ranging from Sub tropical to Alpine.

### Sikkim's Organic Heritage

Agriculture in Sikkim has a glorious history that has been practised for generations where people and nature live in perfect harmony. With the system of farming that was time tested, deeply interwoven with ecological system and climatic conditions and founded on sustainable farming practices, an idea of transforming Sikkim into an organic farming State took shape in the year 2003. In the same year, the Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Pawan Chamling made a historic declaration in the State Legislative Assembly to bring the entire agricultural land under organic management. It was given a formal approach with the launch of "Sikkim Organic Mission" in the year 2010 to convert all the cultivable land into organic by the year 2015. Today, having certified more than 74,000 ha of land, Sikkim stands at the threshold of becoming the first organic State in the country.

#### Sikkim organic festival 2016

To mark this special achievement, the State Government is organising, "Sikkim Organic Festival 2016" from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 with the following objectives-

1. To mark the completion of organic certification of all agricultural land and for formal declaration of Sikkim's achievement of 100% organic status as per National standards.
2. To sustain organic movement in Sikkim and spread the message of organic movement to other States.
3. To provide to the farmers of Sikkim, wider exposure to global and national trends in organic markets and get greater market access.
4. To position Sikkim as India's and perhaps world's first 100% organic State and establish it as a trend setter at the global level.
5. Finally, to enable Sikkim to attract tourism in general and eco-tourism, sustainable/responsible tourism in specific.

#### FLOWER EXHIBITION

One of the world's most attractive and talked about plant with varied species and exhibiting different characteristics in terms of physical structure, flower colour, fragrance etc is the orchid plant. Of the total 1220 species of orchid species estimated in the country, Sikkim alone is home to 325 species. Though small in size (70% sq. Km) the State harbours a high diversity of orchid species and when land to species ratio is considered, Sikkim perhaps is the world's richest orchid diversity hotspot. During the Sikkim Organic Festival 2016 a flower exhibition will also be organised to showcase the orchid diversity of the State. The Flower Show at Ridge Park aims at creating a wide platform for the floriculture industry in Sikkim which will vividly exhibit its true potential in the national and the global market.



#### THE EVENT

The Sikkim Organic Festival 2016 is expected to be a mega show, where visitors from within and outside the State and international guests will be present in large numbers. The targeted visitors to the show is more than 2 lakhs which will include farmers, organic seeds and input companies, importer & exporters of organic foods and products, equipment companies, scientists, researchers, organic stakeholders, policy makers, tourists and general public. The event will showcase the orchid diversity of the State through a display at Ridge Park, Gangtok and the organic agriculture show at Saramsa Garden where all the agricultural and horticultural products will be on display along with various organic technologies.



#### ORGANIC AGRICULTURE EXHIBITION

Farmers in Sikkim have always said no to chemical fertilisers. Widespread intensive chemical inputs based agriculture system has posed a catastrophic to ecology, environment and a big threat to human existence over the years. Prudent Sikkimese farmers remained attached to integrated mixed farming system, abiding by organic agriculture principles complementing with nature. "Sikkim Organic Festival 2016", aims to celebrate the achievement of 100% organic farming status through certification required to be met as per National standards, creating an efficient and lucrative avenue for Eco & Agro based tourism, where the farmers in alliance with the government and the global market would benefit ecologically. Various agriculture products will be showcased in grand manner.

**Organic Technology display**  
On farm inputs production is one of the essence of organic farming system. Burning of farm waste is strictly prohibited. All biodegradable waste has to be recycled to effective organic manure. Various technologies pertaining to soil health and plant health management such as rural compost, vermi compost, E.M. technology, mulcham compost, vermi wash, journal, bioinsect, pangloss etc will also be displayed.

Image Source: Sikkim Organic Mission, Government of Sikkim

of the farmers of Sikkim. He said the winds of this organic effort would now spread across the country.

Organic exports would receive a huge boost with the building of an airport in Sikkim. He said the vision behind rural roads was also to connect agricultural produce with markets. He said tree plantation and animal husbandry

should also become an integral part of farming activities. The Prime Minister suggested that a digital online platform of progressive farmers should be developed in each State.

Two noteworthy books on organic farming: *JOURNEY OF FULLY ORGANIC STATE* and *TRANSFORMING RURAL SIKKIM* were also released by The Prime

Minister on the occasion. Subsequently, the Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi launched three new alluring orchid species. Two of the new orchid species were christened as *CYMBIDIUM DEEN DAYAL* and *CYMBIDIUM SARDAR* by The Prime Minister and one was named as *LYCASTE NAMO* by The Chief Minister in dedication to the Prime Minister.





# JHANKRIDHUNGA RHODODENDRON TOURISM FESTIVAL - 2016

## ABOUT MANEYBONG DENTAM CONSTITUENCY:

Maneybong Dentam constituency is located in western part of Sikkim, sandwiched between famous Indo-Nepal border (Chewa Bhanjyang) to the west, Changey Waterfall to the east, the holy cave Nubdechenphu (Nedham) to the north and Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary to the south. It is a sprawling panoramic locale nestled on the top of hills set in the very heart of tranquility amidst verdant greenery. It occupies a place of pride in one of the richest culture heritage of Sikkim.

Nub Dechen Phu locally called as Ne Dham, a holy site for both Buddhist and Hindus, is one of the four important caves of Sikkim, where the 8<sup>th</sup> century's Great Indian Buddhist saint Guru Padmasambhava meditated during his visit to Sikkim. Pictched on the giant hill, a large rocky structure is visualized from the three storied monastery with 12 pillars. With one being the main cave facing south-west called Baryul Rinchen Shong. At the center of the cave is a square Mandal with assemble of many gods and goddesses and auspicious objects like Norbu Sampel, a vase containing precious gems, by visiting this place one attains Eternal Wisdom.

## ABOUT JHANKRIDHUNGA:

Jhankri-Dhunga village is known to be one of the farthest and the remotest village towards the western side of Sikkim. The word 'Jhankri' means Faith Healer and 'Dhunga' means stone. An age old legend is associated with this place which means why this village acquired the name 'Jhankridhunga'. At the top of the village lies a huge round shaped rock which is regarded as the guardian diety of the village. The wild faith healers used to come there from villages nearby and stay there for days beating their drums. This beating of drums would bring good fortune and prosperity to the village. The old folks of the locality still narrate the story of hearing the sound of drum beating deep inside the huge rock.



*The Jhankridhunga Rhododendron Tourism Festival 2016*

## The Festival Attractions:

- Jhankri Dance
- Rock Climbing/Rapling
- Ethnic Organic Food Stall
- Traditional Culture Show/ Flower Shows
- Organic Local Wine {Jhingshing/ Guras/ Satuwa(Paris)}
- Display & Sale of Medicinal Herbs (Ayurvedic)
- Home Stay Experience
- Yak & Horse Riding
- Bird Watching/ Hiking
- Nature Walk's (Treks to Nub Dechen Phu)

## Promotional Trekking

- Jhankri Dhunga to Shingalila treks via Nub Dechen Phu
- Singalila-Goechala trek
- Singalila-Kasturi Odral round trek
- Kalizar-Barsey trek
- Rhododendron trek- Gurasey dara, Barsey- Rhododendron Sanctuary
- Uttarey Phoktey dara Achalley Chewabhanzyang pass trek
- Mangmoo- Phoktey dara Via Barsey Thulo Dhap

## Sightseen

- Gurasay Dara
- Changa Water Falls
- Singshore Bridge
- Dentam Valley & Alpine Cheese Factory
- Uttarey Valley & Tenzing Hillery Park
- Tintic Cafeteria at Uttarey
- Minebaash Water Falls at Uttarey
- Chaya Taal & Water Garden at Hee

## Home Stay

- Hee Tamabung GPU
- Sankhu- Radhu- Khandu GPU
- Maneybong- Sopakha GPU
- Mangmoo- Dentam- Begha GPU
- Geetang- Karmatar GPU
- Bongten- Saphong GPU
- Sardung- Lungzik GPU

The Event was supported by a number of organizations:

1. Nirmal Dentam Sanitation Society
2. Maneybong- Dentam Sports Society
3. Maneybong- Dentam Education Society
4. Maneybong- Dentam Culture Society
5. Maneybong- Dentam Herbal Medicinal Co-operative Society

Hon'ble Chief Minister Pawan Chamling who had attended the first day of the festival also announced several developmental plans for Jhankridhunga and surrounding areas. Some of these were:

1. Construction of road from Jhakridhunga to Sepi (sanctioned-in principle)
2. Construction of a huge statue of Kirateshwar bigger than the size of Jhakridhunga rock together with life size statues of traditional healers-Bunghthing, Fedangba, Bijwa and Jhakri.
3. All 11 households to be provided with Homestay project in the first phase from the State Government.
4. Construction of foothpath at Naidam.
5. Construction of a playground at Jhakridhunga (sanctioned-in-principle Rs. 25 lakhs from MP Fund)
6. Chiya Bhangyang to be renamed as Chaewney (Peeping) Bhangyang
7. Tender work for upgradation of Utteray Lake to be taken up at the earliest.

On the last day of Jhankridhunga Rhododendron Tourism Festival 2016 under 03 Maneybong Dentam constituency, HRD Minister Shri RB Subba graced event as Chief Guest.





**Ever green nursery & Ram Gauri Sangrhalaya:** Located at Rhenock Bazar, the nursery and museum is



privately owned and has drift wood collections, botanical & other varieties of flowers.

Kali khola falls (Lonely falls) : 100 m in height (Rorathang-Rongli road)

**Changey water fall:** 50 m in height (Near Lampokhari)

**Lungchok valley:** Trekking destination (Lokdara, Chujachen)

**KEYWORD:** Sikkim Tourism, Lampokhari, Festival.

**SOURCE:** ReviewNE

#### Report on the festival:

The 9th Lampokhari Tourism Festival kick started with the official announcement of declaration from the Chief Guest of the auspicious event Shri K.N. Rai, SLA Speaker here in Aritar Dalapchand Festival venue. The Chief Guest was accorded arousing

welcome with traditional gesture who was followed by the Chief Whip of Government of Sikkim cum Area MLA Shri Bikram Pradhan, who is also a Chief Patron of Lampokhari Tourism Festival, Zilla Adhyaksha Shri Bimal Dawari, officials, local bodies, public and school students. The three day long festival which commemorated the birth of Lord Rama “Ramnawami”, these 3 days of festival has been specially woven with great numbers of colourful activities one can envisage in 9th Lampokhari Tourism Festival.

On the first day of the inauguration Chief Guest Shri K.N. Rai offered garland to photo of Dr. BR Ambedkar commemorating 125<sup>TH</sup> Ambedkar Jayanti.

The Chief Guest visited various traditional food stalls, traditional houses of Sikkimese ethnic

communities in festival ground here at Aritar. Shri Rai also handed awards and felicitations to Sikkim Police personnel from 20-Chujachen constituency for their commendable work towards service for state and society, handed the prize to winner of Lampokhari Super Chef 2016, Mr Kumari Kami; Shri Rai also launched *the Lampokhari Tourism Festival Souvenir Magazine 2015-16*.

Followed by cultural shows like Super Mom Dance competition and traditional dances the crowd took great opportunity to replenish the sanctity of 9th Lampokhari Tourism Festival 2016. In the evening the Musical Night was graced by various renowned artists like Remanti Rai, Ramchandra Kaflay enthralled crowd in great vigor and enthusiasm.



## ECO-TOURISM POTENTIAL ALONG THE INDIAN COAST LINE

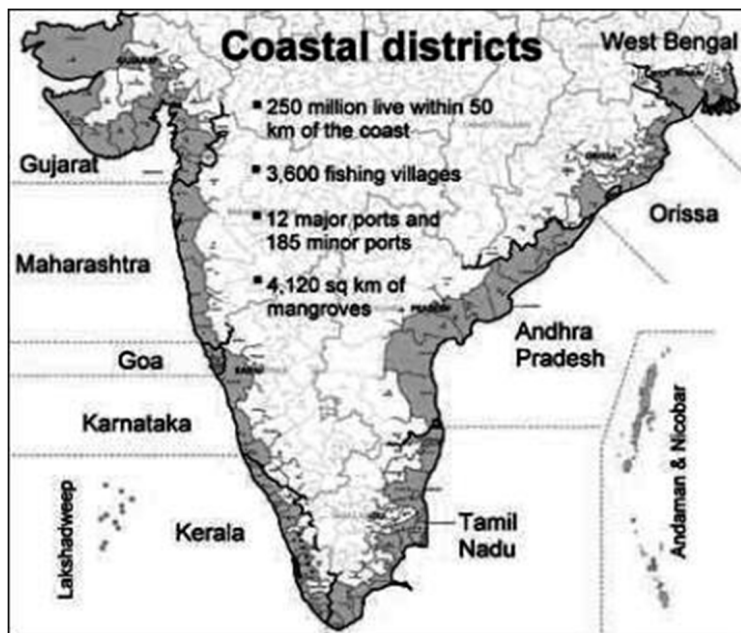


Figure 1 Map of Indian Coastal District.

Tourism in India has recently become one of the major industries in India. The concentration of tourism in India is on the historical as well as religious places, hill stations and to some extent the beaches.

Eco Tourism is a fairly new concept in India which is slowly gaining importance among domestic as well as international tourists. It has created awareness for education, research, conservation, sustainable utilization and management of Flora and Fauna. India has several biosphere reserves, marine parks and sanctuaries having different eco-biological components and uniqueness in flora and fauna. These reserves have attracted several domestic and foreign tourists. However, these areas have not received much attention for eco-tourism due to the lack of tourist oriented spots/recreation as well as infrastructural facilities and poor media coverage highlighting the unique and varied biota of the region.

Some of the coastal ecosystems which can be considered for eco-tourism are intertidal mangrove forests (such as



*Sunderbans* which are unique in the world where tigers share aquatic and terrestrial food web), rich and varied beds of marine benthic algae, subtidal coral reefs and seagrass beds. Apart from these there are several hotspots along the Indian coastline which could be exposed for its eco tourism potential. These hotspots are Gulf of Kuchchh, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep groups of Islands, Sunderbans, Bhitarkanika, Malvan, Chorao, Palk Bay, etc. There is an urgent need to develop all these spots on the line of other tourism areas with facilities such as water sports, angling, snorkeling, scuba diving, aquarium, etc. which can not only attract a large number of tourists but also give an opportunity to understand the marine habitat and sea life at close quarters.

India, with diverse socio-economic and religious structure, has attracted people from all over the world. The tourist industry in India is based mainly on the historic and religious places, wildlife, mountaineering, trekking and to limited extent seashores. The concept of ecotourism can be programmed in such a way that every aspect of the ecosystem can be looked upon from the management and utilization point of view. This concept will also give an opportunity to understand and study various components of the coastal ecosystem at close quarters and will help to monitor the ecosystem, evaluate and rectify the damages caused due to man's interference.

Coastal ecosystems have been neglected for a long time. In spite of the vast Indian coast line of 7860 km harboring number of sandy beaches, coves, bays, headlands and lagoons, very few sandy beaches are being used for tourism purposes. This is one of the few areas that can be extensively used for tourism purposes based on the concept of ecotourism. Facilities such as water sports, snorkeling, diving, etc. can be properly developed. Tourists should be encouraged to understand and study the behavior of the organisms and their interaction with various ecological components. Environmental

education regarding destructive processes and unwanted biotic interference like pollution, reclamation, etc. need to be introduced among the tourists. There has been a worldwide concern over the damage caused to the coastal areas due to the industrial and domestic sewage pollution, extensive destruction and modification of the coastal belt for techno-economic development and over exploitation of marine living resources. These activities have resulted in the degradation of wetlands, floodplains, seagrass beds, coral reefs etc. throughout the world. It is these coastal environmental problems which have led to the concept of "Biosphere Reserve" to protect unique and ecologically important plant and animal species. Concept of biosphere reserves and eco tourism are synonymous and both are meant for sustainable utility of the living and non living resources. Government of India has declared a number of biosphere reserves all over India out of which four are marine biosphere reserves. (Namely: *Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve [Tamil Nadu]*, *Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve [West Bengal]*, *North Andaman Biosphere Reserve* and *Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve*)

#### ECO TOURISM SPOTS ALONG THE INDIAN COASTLINE:

The potential areas for coastal eco-tourism are:

1. Gulf of Mannar, (Tamil Nadu)
2. Chilka Lake, (Orissa)
3. Bhitarkanika, (Orissa)
4. Sunderbans, (West Bengal)
5. Andaman & Nicobar Group of Islands
6. Malvan, (Maharashtra)
7. Lakshadweep Group of Islands.

##### 1. Gulf of Mannar

(8°49'-9°-15'N latitude and 78°-11'-15'E longitude) This region lies in between India and Sri Lanka and is Very rich in marine life, dominant being molluscs (*snails, slugs, mussels, and octopuses*). They have a soft unsegmented body and live in aquatic or damp habitats, and most kinds have an external calcareous shell.), pearl oyster and

marine algae. There is a line of 22 islands parallel to the Indian mainland from Tamil Nadu to Mandapam peninsula. The shell fishery of this region is well known for *conus*. *Murex (Sea Snails)* has been a target of over exploitation. Seagrass beds and seaweeds are the feeding grounds for the endangered species of *dugong* and breeding grounds of marine turtle. Mangroves along the swampy islets and creeks between the islands are feeding grounds for marine reptiles and nursery grounds of several species of fishes.

In this area water sports such as snorkeling, diving, observatory for birds and mammal sighting could be some of the main tourist attractions. Inter island cruises will also be a thrilling experience for the tourists.

#### Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

- Embraces of 22 small islands and adjacent coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar in the Indian Ocean.(1986)
- 160 km between Tuticorin and Rameshwaram in Tamilnadu.
- The park includes estuaries, mudflats, beaches and forests of the near shore environment.
- It also includes marine components such as coral reefs, seaweed communities, sea grasses, salt marshes and mangroves.



Figure 2 image source: google

##### 2. Chilka Lake

(19°-30'N latitude and 85°-30'E longitude) It is the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia and is located south of the Mahanadi delta separated by large sand bars. The lagoon is 50km long and 20 km wide. Freshwater influx from one of the tributaries of the Mahanadi turns the lagoon brackish. This is one of the wintering spot for water fowl, pintails, wintering duck and geese. Besides these, two species of flamingo and concourses of shore birds make this lagoon an important tourist attraction. This lagoon has important prawn, mullet, crab fishery and luxuriantly growing economically important seaweed *gelidiella sp.*

This lagoon can be developed as one of the best eco tourism spots in India. It is an ideal place for developing water



sports such as water skiing, diving, snorkeling, etc. Observatories could be set up at number of places along the lagoon for bird observations.

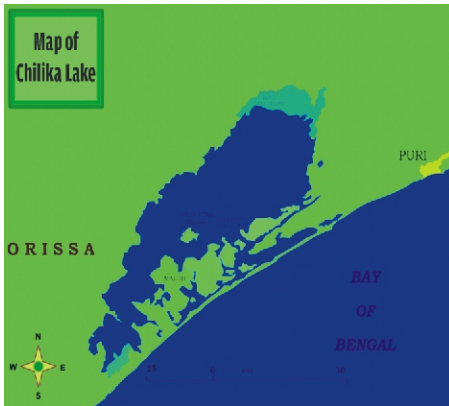


Figure 3 Source: wikimedia.org

### 3. Bhitarkanika

(20°-N & 86°-59'E) It is at the north of the Mahanadi delta having tidal creek. There are few other deltaic islands and Bhitarkanika is the bigger one fringed with mangrove vegetation. The largest living reptile *crocodilus porosus* (saltwater Crocodile) about 6m long is found here. The most important and significant characteristic of this area is the only nesting site in India for the Pacific Ridley turtle *Lepodochelys olivacea* which grow to the largest size among the living turtles in the world. Moreover, Bhitarkanika has highest biodiversity index as far as mangroves are concerned.

This area can be developed as a special area for spotting marine reptiles which are rare and require immediate conservation. Ecotourism is one of the measures by which these areas can be conserved and utilized.



Figure 4 Species of Animals and Reptiles seen at Bhitarkanika National Park

### 4. Sundarbans

(21°-30'-22°-45'N latitude and 88°-60'-89°-5'E longitude) It covers Gangetic and Bramhaputra delta of 9630 km area of which about 4264km is of Mangrove accounting for 60% of the total mangrove in India. The mangrove ecosystem of Sundarbans is unique and only of its kind where the tiger shares aquatic as well as terrestrial food web. It harbours a number of endangered and globally threatened species of plants and animals like Royal Bengal Tiger, estuarine Crocodiles, Salvador Lizard, Grey water monitor, gangetic dolphins and black finless porpoises (Chakraborty and Chaudhary 1973). Horse-shoe crabs a living fossil breed in these mudflats. This area is also rich in Tiger Prawns and Mullet Fishery. The Honey collected from these mangrove forests prove to be a promising business and produces about 144 tones of honey annually employing 200 people.

Conducted tours in these areas can be organized with proper information system on fauna and flora of the region and identifying areas for spotting rare animals. Diving or snorkeling should be strictly prohibited in the tiger infested area.

### 5. Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands

(6°-45'-13°-45'N latitude and 92°-45'- 94° E longitude) These islands have coralline substrata with coral reef extending far away from shore and enclosed lagoons. The Pygmalion Point (Indira Point) of this group of islands is the southernmost point of India. The mangroves occupy more than 110, 000 hactares of land and plays an important role in coastal ecosystem with high level of carrying capacity. Several bird species are endemic to the region. Marine turtle, estuarine crocodile and dugong are found in the vicinity of the islands. More than 2,900 species of animals (Subbarao, 1984), 56 species of birds, four species of turtles, one crocodile are the characteristic feature of this islands. Out of the 750 species of fishes, 11 species are commercially important.

Although this locality is far away from the main land it has a great potential for eco-tourism development. The area is quite large and various recreational

facilities such as water sports, observatory and aquarium can be developed in this area. Inter Island cruises can boost tourism depicting tribal culture of the island. This area is in pristine form and as it is far away it is necessary to create facilities to cater for both domestic as well as international tourists.

(16°-15'-16°-50'N latitude and 73°-27'-73°-31'E longitude) The coastline harbours numerous creeks and bays. The most dominant creeks are Kolamb, Kalavati and Karli. The area around Sindhudurg fort is rich in marine algae, corals, pearls, oysters and variety of invertebrate species. The area is free from pollution and harbours 94 species of marine algae and 198 faunal species comprising sponges, seafans, soft corals, sea anemons, hard corals, etc. The area in and around the Sindhudurg fort is ideal for ecotourism development. Water sports, snorkeling, diving can be developed in and around the fort. Proper outlay of the aquarium for different groups of animals with attached museum showing the richness of the area will be a good attraction. As Malvan is a small town and away from the national highway, infrastructural facilities in terms of domestic as well as international tourists are to be developed. The most important aspect is to work out the carrying capacity of the area. Boat cruises from the mainland to the fort area will be additional tourist attraction. Local people should be given priority during the development of this area as tourist spot because these are the people who are aware of the changes taking place during the different seasons in the environment.

### 6. Malvan Maharashtra

(16°-15'-16°-50'N latitude and 73°-27'-73°-31'E longitude) The coastline harbours numerous creeks and bays. The most dominant creeks are Kolamb, Kalavati and Karli. The area around Sindhudurg fort is rich in marine algae, corals, pearls, oysters and variety of invertebrate species. The area is free from pollution and harbours 94 species of marine algae and 198 faunal species comprising sponges, seafans, soft corals, sea anemons, hard corals,



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## 7. Lakshadweep Group of Islands

(11°N to 72°E) These group of islands lie about 300 km to the west of the Kerala coast. These islands are unique in coral atolls. These islands have been proposed as marine biosphere reserve for conserving rich marine life. About 21 species of marine algae are found growing luxuriantly in these coastal waters.

Developing a marine aquarium on one of the islands can be useful to monitor the aquatic habits of the marine species and its impact on the ecosystem. Modern day marine national parks and sanctuaries with proper infrastructural facilities are a good way of preserving these species and a good way to attract tourists on the line of eco tourism.

## CONSTRAINTS FACED BY COASTAL ECO TOURISM:

- Detailed and seasonal surveys of the Flora and Fauna from the tourist point of view are not available.
- Coastal areas are facing environmental problems due to pollution (sewage, industrial and oil), reclamation, deforestation etc.
- Proper and scientific impact assessment studies are not available.
- No proper implementation for legislation for over exploitation, deforestation, sand mining, reclamation etc.
- Certain tourist spots are not accessible by route and lack tourist oriented tourist facilities.
- Over and unscientific exploitation of flora and fauna should be stopped immediately and proper harvesting procedure should be used to retain germ plasm.

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## Invitation for Article / Research paper

Dear Readers,

Research papers / Articles related to ecotourism, climate change & mitigation are invited for free publication in the ENVIS newsletter. The same will be uploaded in the ENVIS website with due courtesy of the author.

### Terms and conditions for publication:

- The article should not be published anywhere.
- Closely related with ecotourism related subjects or climate change.
- Full paper with abstract notes.
- 650 to 700 words in English language.
- High resolution pictures (3,4 nos.) of the topic.

**Note:** Publication of the research paper/ article will be decided by the editorial board of the Newsletter.

Please send your valuable suggestions, queries, comments and articles to:  
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This newsletter is aimed at disseminating ecotourism information and its related subjects among, environment enthusiasts, ecotourism stakeholders, students, researchers and public at large.

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