



3 days International conference of IOR countries to put thrust on Trade, Civilisational linkages, blue economy & security in the region

- *International Conference on 'Indian and The Indian Ocean- Renewing Maritime Trade & Civilisational Linkages' among IOR countries to be held from 20-22 March at Bhubaneswar*
- *Eight Ministries of Government of India & representatives of 20 nations to participate in the Event*
- *The high profile conference to witness participation of several Union Ministers including External Affairs Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar, Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister (MoS IC) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Tourism & Culture Minister (MoS Independent Charge) Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Commerce & Industry Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman besides NSA Shri Ajit Doval*

Bhubaneswar, March 7, 2015: Socio cultural similarities, Civilisational linkages, exciting facts on ancient maritime trade, security and the future potential of trade and blue economy in Indian Ocean region will be explored by eminent scholars, researchers and experts in the three day long international Conference titled “**India & the Indian Ocean: Renewing the Maritime Trade & Civilisational Linkages**”, to be held from 20 March to 22 March, 2015 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs is slated to inaugurate the Conference with **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the chief patron of the conference as the Guest of Honour. Celebrated members including **Shri Ajit Doval**, NSA as Guest of Honour and **Ambassador Shri KV Bhagirath**, Secretary General of IORA as Speaker will grace the occasion with their views and insights. **Dr. Mahesh Sharma**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (IC), Government of India will chair the first plenary session titled '**Historical Linkages and Cultural Networks in IORA**' on the 2nd day of the conference on 21st March 2015. Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Commerce & Industry will chair one plenary session titled 'Regional Maritime & Energy Security in Indian Ocean region'. **Shri Manohar Parrikar**, Hon'ble Defence Minister will grace the event as the Chief Guest in the Valedictory Session on the concluding day.

Addressing the media, chief patron of the international conference Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India said, “With its rich maritime trade history Odisha has been selected to host this conference as part of the current Central Government policy of holding major activities in the state capitals and cities of related states instead of concentrating all at the National Capital.” This conference will certainly place Odisha up in the International trade map while simultaneously giving a boost to sectors like tourism, shipping and export trade, he added.

He also informed that commemorating the occasion as well as thousand year coronation of Rajendra Chola I, a special postal stamp will be released by India Post during the conference. Besides, it has been decided with the concurrence of Finance Ministry to make a special coin commemorating the occasion, he added.

Earlier in the day, the reception committee of the conference headed by eminent litterateur and Moortidevi Awardee writer **Shri. Haraprasad Das** had its first formal meeting today at Bhubaneswar in the presence of the Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, who is also the chief patron of the conference. The committee has several eminent personalities from Odisha from various walks of life. Prof Kishore Basa, Department of Anthropology, Utkal University is the Secretary of the Committee and among other eminent



personalities in the committee include noted Odishi exponent Padmashree (Smt) Kumkum Mohanty, sculptor Padmashree Sudarshan Sahu, singer and music composer Padmashree Prafulla Kar, former Diplomat Shri Abasar Beuria IFS (Rtd), Commodore A K Patnaik, Editor of Sambad Sri Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, former Chief Secretary Shri S.B Mishra IAS(Rtd), former State Information Commissioner & member secretary, CYSD Shri Jagadananda, former chairman of Paradip Port Trust and presently the Director of Adani Group, Odisha Shri Santosh Mohapatra, Dr. Sadasiv Pradhan, Department of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, Utkal University, Dr. Sunil Patnaik, Director, Kalinga Maritime Institute, Dr. Kshiti Bhusan Das, Prof in Commerce, Utkal University Shri Sanjay Acharya, Dept of Ancient Indian History and Archeology, Utkal University and leading Theatre personality Shri Anant Mohapatra.

Reception Committee Chairman Dr. H P Das informed that apart from the participating IOR Countries China & USA have evinced interest to send observers to take part in the conference.

Twenty nations from the region, popularly known as Indian Ocean Rim Countries, will participate in this three day deliberations covering vital aspects of Trade, Maritime Security and Civilisational linkages. The conference is supported by eight important Ministries of the Government of India - External Affairs, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Power, Shipping, Commerce & Industry, Culture, Tourism and Agriculture. Representatives from more than 20 countries, including India, Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Thailand, Mauritius, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Madagascar, Singapore, Yemen, Oman, Iran, Cambodia etc. are expected to attend the Conference.

The Conference is being organized by the **Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS)** jointly with **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**. The three-day conference will have parallel sessions and serious deliberations on the three vital aspects of Trade, Regional Maritime Security and Civilisational linkages in the region. It is expected that through this conference there will be a thorough study and analyze on Indian Ocean from all the aspects and perspectives -historical, economical, geo political, cultural, energy security, religion, literature, trade, migration, diaspora, etc., and rejuvenate the deep ties that bind the regional nations.

The collaborating partners of the conference include Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA); XP Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Department of International Relations & Co-operation, Republic of South Africa; Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Odisha Institute of Maritime & South East Asian Studies and National Fisheries Development Board.

Highlights

Knowledge sessions apart, an **Exhibition on the Indian Ocean: The Seafaring Legacy** will be organized on the Inaugural occasion of IOR Conference. This exhibition will showcase the vast heritage of the region, its inter-linkages, its synergic ideologies, cultural similarities and also display various symbols and remnants of the glorious past including Socotra, Terracotta art in Bengal, Boats of India, the text of Loan Agreement on Papyrus, Ramayana Tradition, Buddhism in South East Asian Countries, Bali - Land of Enchantment, Imprint of Indian Art in SEA, Deities & temples of Cambodia, Indian Linkages with Indonesia, Vietnam & other countries.

The event will be marked by the release of a **Postal Stamp on 'Indian Ocean and RajendraChola I'**, commemorating the occasion and the glorious past. Various cultural programmes have been planned including Odissi fusion at Khandagiri and also performance by Myanmar dance group during the evening of the conference.

About Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS)

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) is an organization promoting research and academic activities on various social and cultural issues. It has been working with academicians, students, researchers and activists on topics of historical and cultural interests. The objectives of the ISCS are to promote national and social integration as



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well as international understanding, preserve & arrange for documentation of national heritage including its intangible components, organize conferences, workshops, seminars, study groups to study public policies and their impact on society, grant fellowships for research and publish journals, books etc. for furtherance of the above objectives.

About Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is an organization that specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity building among developing countries on international economic issues. The focus of the work program of RIS is to promote South- South Cooperation and assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives. RIS is providing analytical support to the Government of India in the negotiations for concluding comprehensive economic cooperation agreements with partner countries. Through its intensive network of policy think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues.

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