



International Conference on India and the Indian Ocean to begin from Friday

- *Postal Stamp on 'Indian Ocean and Rajendra Chola I' to be released on 1000th coronation of Rajendra Chola-I*
- *A first of kind exhibition on "Indian Ocean: The Seafaring Legacy" to be inaugurated on inaugural session*

Bhubaneswar, 19th March 2015: Odisha has a rich maritime trade history in Global scenario. The state has a vast sea coast of around 500 kms and has the potential to be a global trade hub. Organizing such an International conference on India & The Indian Ocean at Odisha is justified from many reasons. The state has able to put its footsteps in various countries and through this first of kind event, Odisha is going to be a maritime trade hub, said Reception Committee Chairman and eminent writer Sri Haraprasad Das while addressing a press conference here today on the eve of 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.

"This conference will provide a valuable opportunity to study and analyze 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", he further added.

The conference will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs, Govt. of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj, along with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Sri Naveen Patnaik as the Chief Guest. Among others Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, IORA Secretary General, Ambassador K.V. Bhagirath, and BIMSTEC, Dhaka, Secretary General, Mr. Sumith Nakandala will be the Guests of Honour of the event. The Inaugural session will be chaired by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, New Delhi and the key note address will be delivered by Mr. R. N. Ravi, Head of Joint Intelligence Committee, New Delhi. 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. Dr. S.C. Jamir, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Defence Minister will grace the event as the Chief Guests in the Valedictory Session on the concluding day.

Among others Dr. Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Prof Kishore Basa, Secretary of the Reception Committee, Sri Rituraj Sinha, Secretary of Organizing Committee, Dr. P Das and Sri Mahesh Aroda from RIS were present in the press conference.

On the occasion Secretary, ISCS Dr. Arindam Mukherjee informed that The event will be marked by the release of a Postal Stamp on 'Indian Ocean and RajendraChola I' by Mr. Tilak De, Chief Post Master General, Odisha Circle, Department of Posts, Govt. of India 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.

Knowledge sessions apart, an Exhibition on the "**Indian Ocean: The Seafaring Legacy**" will be inaugurated on the Inaugural occasion of IOR Conference by Honble Tourism & Culture Minister of Odisha Sri Ashok Chandra Panda. 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, added Dr. Mukherjee.

Press Release



It may be noted here that, 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 and Odisha Tourism.

There will be several parallel sessions covering various topics like **Trade Linkages: Routes, Commodities and Merchants, Religion and Literature: Buddhism, Brahmanism, Epics and Secular Literature in Sanskrit and Migration and Diaspora in the Indian Ocean Realm on the 2nd day**. Parallel sessions on **Maritime and Humanitarian Issues, Non-Traditional Security Issues and Resources, Climate Change and Sustainable Development will also be held on the 2nd session of day 2**.

On the third day of the event on 22nd March 2015 the plenary session on **Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment in IORA** will be chaired by **Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (ER & DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, informed Dr. Mukherjee**.
