

efforts to promote higher growth in sectors like the forest and village industries, MSMEs, manufacturing, tourism, infrastructure, etc., with the intent of creating more job opportunities in the country.

■ Two More Indian Beaches Get Prestigious "Blue Flag" Certification

In recognition of India's commitment to protect and conserve the pristine coastal and marine ecosystems through holistic management of the resources, the globally recognized and the coveted International eco-label "Blue Flag" has been accorded to two new beaches - Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach - both in Lakshadweep. This takes the number of beaches certified under the Blue Flag certification to twelve. The Thundi Beach is one of the most pristine and picturesque beaches in the Lakshadweep archipelago where white sand is lined by turquoise blue water of the lagoon. It is a paradise for swimmers and tourists alike. The Kadmat Beach is especially popular with cruise tourists who visit the island for water sports. It is a paradise for nature lovers with its pearl



Thundi



Kadmat

white sand, blue lagoon waters, its moderate climate and friendly locals. Both the beaches have designated staff for beach cleanliness and maintenance; and for safety and security of swimmers. Both the beaches comply with all the 33 criteria as mandated by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE). Headquartered in Denmark, the FEE is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education. FEE is active through five programmes; Blue Flag, Eco-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment, Learning about Forests and Green Key International.