



7 islands in Andamans, Lakshadweep identified for seaplane operations

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Bids invited for private sector participation in tourism-based projects; Home Minister Rajnath Singh reviews progress of development work

- Four islands in the Andamans and three in Lakshadweep have been identified for seaplane operations, while private sector participation has been invited for tourism-based projects, the Home Ministry said.
- The 5th meeting of the Island Development Agency, chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, also reviewed the progress made towards the programme 'Holistic development of islands'.
- Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep, Hutbay and Long Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Kavaratti, Agatti and Minicoy in Lakshadweep have been identified for seaplane operations.
- Key infrastructure projects such as operationalisation of the Diglipur airport for civilian aircraft and the construction of a new airport on Minicoy Island have been accorded high priority by the government, while Coastal Regulation Zone clearance (CRZ) has been accorded for 'Middle Strait Bridge' on Andaman Trunk Road.
- Bids for private sector participation in three tourism-based projects have already been invited by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration which include eco-tourism projects on Smith Island and Long Island and a tent city project on Aves Island.
- Three projects in Lakshadweep have been identified for issue of bids , include tourism projects in the islands of Kadmat, Minicoy and Suheli Cheriyakara.
- Environmental Clearance (EC), CRZ clearance and all other clearances required for these projects are being obtained upfront, on priority, to attract more number of reputed bidders.