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India looks forward to Deepen Partnership with Small Island Developing States for Resilient Coasts and Oceans: Bhupender Yadav at COP31 in Antalya (Türkiye)

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Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, today called for strengthening India's partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to build resilient coasts and oceans through knowledge-sharing, technology partnerships and practical cooperation.

Addressing the high-level ministerial event on 'India–SIDS Partnership for Resilient Coasts and Oceans: Sharing Knowledge, Technology and Solutions' during UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, the Minister emphasised that healthy oceans and resilient coastlines are fundamental to economic security, ecological stability and people's well-being. The event was organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in partnership with the International Solar Alliance (ISA). It saw participation at ministerial level from the island nations of Mauritius (H.E. Rajesh Anand Bhagwan), Kiribati (H.E Tokaibure Rabaua), Marshal Islands (H.E. Jess Gasper), besides senior officials from the Government of Fiji (Andrew K. Coriakula), TERI and ISA.

Highlighting the growing challenges of sea-level rise, coastal erosion, ocean warming, coral bleaching, stronger storms and marine pollution, Yadav said these are immediate concerns for island nations, affecting homes, infrastructure, livelihoods and, in some cases, the long-term habitability of their territories. Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India believes that environmental protection and



development must advance together, with climate resilience centred on people, livelihoods and ecosystems, he stated.

Sharing India's experience in coastal resilience, the Minister highlighted the country's approximately 11,099-kilometre coastline and its efforts in scientific assessment, ecosystem conservation, shoreline management and disaster preparedness. He cited the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), which advances mangrove conservation and restoration while supporting coastal livelihoods.

The Minister further highlighted India's experience in scientific coastal assessments, ocean forecasting and early warning systems, particularly in the States of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, as important areas for knowledge exchange with SIDS.

Through the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) and Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC), India is seeking to deepen cooperation in renewable energy, disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure and locally appropriate climate adaptation solutions, he informed.