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**Minutes of the first meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) held under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.**

The first meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) was held under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister on 24th July, 2017. The List of Participants is at Annexure.

At the outset the CEO, NITI Aayog extended a warm welcome to Union Home Minister and Chairman of the IDA; Admiral D.K. Joshi, Former Navy Chief and Vice Chairman of the IDA; Cabinet Secretary; Home Secretary; Secretary (Environment, Forests and Climate Change); Secretary (Tourism); Secretary (Tribal Affairs) ; Secretary (Border Management) and other participants. He made a detailed presentation on the current status and the way forward for holistic development of identified islands. He informed that Concept Development Plans and Detailed Master Plans are being prepared for identified islands with sustainability, people's participation, eco-system preservation and determination of carrying capacity as the guiding principles. After detailed consultations with key stakeholders and literature review, 10 islands namely Smith, Ross, Aves, Long and Little Andaman in Andaman and Nicobar; and Minicoy, Bangaram, Suheli, Cherium and Tinnakara in Lakshadweep have been identified for holistic development in the first phase. The Concept Development Plans and Detailed Master Plans for these island will be completed within 9 months against stipulated 15 months i.e. by February 2018.

Union Home Minister presented the vision for developing India's maritime economy while preserving the natural eco-system and addressing the security concerns. He emphasized the need for sustainable development of Islands with people's participation. He advised popularizing islands of historical importance such as Viper island. He suggested using the option of floating solar panels where less land is available and emphasized the need to setup de-salinisation plants wherever feasible. He further advised developing islands for affordable tourism and other economic activities in consonance with carrying capacity of the islands. He emphasized that tourism activities should also cater the middle class. He suggested that small uninhabited islands may be developed on the Maldivian pattern.

Admiral D.K. Joshi, former Navy Chief and Vice Chairman of the IDA expressed the need to identify suitable projects for socio-economic development of the islands in addition to the master plans being prepared by NITI Aayog through the Consultant.