

Headlines At a Glance - 29th Jan 2020

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Ramsar declares 10 more wetland sites from India as sites of international importance

India has added 10 more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced on Tuesday. The 10 new ones are Nandur Madhameshwar, a first for Maharashtra; Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal in Punjab; and Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and Sarsai Nawar in Uttar Pradesh. The other Ramsar sites are in Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Tripura. With this, a total of 37 sites in the country have been recognised under the international treaty. Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

Bhuvan Panchayat V 3.0 web portal launched by the Government

The Union Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions,

Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Bhuvan Panchayat V 3.0 web portal in Bengaluru. The Web Geo portal is an easy to use Geo portal developed for database visualization, data analytics, generation of automatic reports, model based products and services for the benefit of Gram Panchayat members and other stake holders. The targeted audiences for this portal are Public, PRIs and different stakeholders belonging to the gram Panchayats.

SOURCE: *The New Indian Express*

Centre inaugurates Composite Regional Center (CRC) in Port Blair

Union Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot has called upon the people to extend cooperation to the government in implementing schemes meant for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). No scheme can be successfully implemented without the participation of the people, the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment said at a recently. He inaugurated the Composite Regional Center (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral D K Joshi (Retd), Member of Parliament, Kuldeep Rai Sharma were present in the function.

SOURCE: *Business Standard*

Indian Railways commissions country's first governmental waste to energy plant in Bhubaneswar

Indian Railways has commissioned country's first governmental waste to energy plant at Bhubaneswar. The national transporter has put in place the governmental Waste to Energy plant in Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop which falls under East Coast Railway. The waste to energy plant has been constructed in three months according to statement by the railway ministry. The new plant has been installed at a cost of ₹1.79 crore while the maintenance cost will be ₹10.4 lakhs per year and the estimated income from the byproducts will be ₹17.5 lakhs per year. The waste to energy plant uses a patented technology called POLYCRACK, is first-of-its-kind in Indian Railways and fourth in India.

SOURCE: *Livemint*

Indian Navy launches 'Operation Vanilla' to help cyclone-hit Madagascar

Indian Navy on Tuesday launched Operation Vanilla in a bid to support the people of island nation Madagascar in the face of a natural disaster. Indian Navy said, 'As the first respondent, Indian Navy Ship Airavat, which was en-route to Seychelles has been diverted to Madagascar for rendering assistance.' The ship is carrying victualing, clothing and stores along with

medicines. The ship is scheduled to reach Madagascar by 30 January 2020. As per the Navy 'The ship will be able to provide clothing, emergency food, medical assistance, diving and communication assistance and undertake transportation and evacuation of personnel using its four large and two medium-sized boats.'

SOURCE: *The New Indian Express*