

Two more Indian beaches get Blue Flag

October 29, 2022

In news- Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach- both in Lakshadweep have recently received globally recognized and the coveted International eco-label “Blue Flag”.

Two beaches-

- 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.**
- **The Kadmat Beach** is especially popular with cruise tourists who visit the island for water sports.
- Both the beaches **comply with all the 33 criteria as mandated by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE).**
- **The other 10 Indian beaches on the list are** Shivrajpur in Gujarat’s Devbhumi Dwarka district; Ghogla beach in Diu; Kasarkod (Uttara Kannada) and Padubidri (Udupi) in Karnataka; Kappad (Kozhikode) in Kerala; Eden beach in Puducherry; Kovalam (Chennai) in Tamil Nadu; Rushikonda (Visakhapatnam) in Andhra Pradesh; Golden beach in Puri, Odisha; and Radhanagar Swarajdeep in Andaman and Nicobar.
- Kovalam and Eden got the Blue Flag in 2021. The other eight beaches received the certification in 2020, and were re-certified last year.

Blue Flag certification-

- The Blue Flag is an **exclusive eco-label or certification** that is given to coastal locations around the world as a badge of environmental honour.
- The Blue Flag programme is **run by the Copenhagen,**

Denmark-headquartered Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a nonprofit which, through its work, contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

- According to the FEE, the iconic **Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.**
- In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained.
- **The Blue Flag programme started in 1987, initially in Europe.** Certification is awarded annually.
- A total 5,042 beaches, marinas, and tourism boats in 48 countries have been awarded the label so far. **A marina is a small harbour where mainly pleasure boats and yachts dock.**
- **The certification is given by an international jury comprising members** of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), **besides FEE.**
- Central to the ideals of the Blue Flag programme is the **aim of connecting the public with their surroundings and encouraging them to learn more about their environment.**