Union Minister inaugurates Geophysical Observatory at Shoal Bay

Our Country now well equipped to tackle any eventuality due to disaster: Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Port Blair, Mar 30

The Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan today said that India can now boast of being one of the most scientifically advanced countries and as a result of this, it is now well equipped to tackle any situation effectively arising out of natural calamities and disasters. Inaugurating the Multi-Parametric Geophysical Observatory set up by the Indian Institute of Geo- Atmospheric & Solar Physics (IIG-APS) in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, he said that the observatory is an outcome of the painstaking effort made by the people of these Islands which was sanctioned by the Ministry of Science & Technology in 2005. During his tenure as the Minister of Science & Technology, he added, the Ministry provided funds to the tune of Rs 3.34 crore by way of recurring grants for the development of the observatory.

In brief address on the occasion, the Member of Parliament, Smt. Bhima Pada Ray expressed his happiness that a useful asset has been created in the Islands by establishing the Multiparametric Geophysical Observatory at Shoal Bay and urged the Minister to upgrade this Observatory into a Regional Centre for the benefit of the Islanders.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the Chairman, Dr. Harshvardhan, said, `India is proud of our scientists and their scientific innovations for the development of the country. The Indian Institute of Geo-atmospheric & Solar Physics has made a significant contribution in this area,` he added.

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Preparations for 2019 WC should start immediately: Borde

Mumbai, Mar 30
India should start preparing for the 2019 World Cup in a diligent manner similar to the way Australia did for the 2015 World Cup, he said. The Australian team did not play any Test cricket before the World Cup and finished on top of the ICC Test rankings, Borde pointed out.

"It is a good example for us," Borde added.

The former India pacer pointed out that the Indian cricket team had to change its mindset at the end of the 2011 World Cup, when they were on the verge of elimination, to win the World Cup. The current team has to learn from the past and start preparing immediately for the 2019 World Cup, he said.

Borde also highlighted the importance of retaining the core group of players for the World Cup. He said that the team management should make sure that the same 15 players who were part of the 2015 World Cup squad are selected for the 2019 World Cup.

"If we do that, we will have a team that is consistent and can build a successful World Cup campaign," Borde said.

Borde, who is the chairman of the Indian Cricket Captains’ Council, also appealed to the Indian Cricket Board (ICB) to give more autonomy to the team management to make decisions regarding the team composition and strategy.

He pointed out that the ICB had given the team management the autonomy to select the squad for the recent tour of Australia, and the team had performed well.

Borde also praised the performance of the Indian bowlers in the series, saying that they had bowled with great confidence and consistency.

Borde's message comes at a time when the Indian team is preparing for the upcoming tour of South Africa. The series will be a good test for the Indian cricket team to gauge its preparation for the 2019 World Cup.

Borde also made a special mention of the performance of the Indian team in the Twenty20 format, saying that it has been consistent and has been performing well against all three formats of the game.

Borde's message is likely to be welcomed by the Indian cricket team management, which has been under pressure to make some strategic decisions regarding the team composition and selection for the upcoming series against South Africa.

The Indian cricket team is scheduled to play three ODIs and as many T20s against South Africa in the series, which will be a good test for the team ahead of the 2019 World Cup.

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