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## Workshop for promoting IT/ ITeS Industry in Isles held

# Administration to provide friendlier business environment & define attractive IT/ITeS policy: Lt. Governor

Port Blair, Jan 6

Establishing IT and ITeS industries in A&N Islands is one of the thrust areas of development identified by the A&N Administration to generate employment opportunities. Availability of robust telecom connectivity, internet and business friendly policy are few prerequisite for promoting IT and ITeS enterprises. As a prelude, the A & N Administration organised a day long workshop for promotion of IT & ITeS industries in A&N Islands, in association with NASSCOM, CII, FICCI, ANIIDCO in the conference hall of DBRAIT auditorium here today.

The Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi lit the ceremonial oil lamp as the chief guest, to mark the inauguration of the workshop which was attended by the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar, Joint Secretary, Department of Telecommunication, Shri Sashi Ranjan Kumar, Adhyaksh, ZPSA, Shri Jaydeep Kumar Dey, PBMC Chairperson, Shri B. Eswar Rao, Smt. Rupa Ray, ACCI President, Shri Girish Arora and other senior officers of the Administration besides Senior Officers from Ministry of Telecommunication, Ministry of Electronics and IT, other firms and top management of pioneers in IT, BPO Industries in mainland.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt. Governor expressed happiness that the pioneers of IT Industry of India have come together under one roof at the capital of this beautiful archipelago to think, deliberate, suggest and encourage means to establish these pristine islands as one of the leading sourcing destination for IT and ITeS industry in India.

"We all know that IT industry in India has led the economic transformation of the country and altered the perception of India in the global economy. India's cost competitiveness in providing IT services continues to be the mainstay of its USP. However, our country is also gaining prominence in terms of intellectual capital with several global IT firms setting up their innovation centres in India", he said.

The Lt. Governor expressed confidence that the A&N Islands have the capability and strength to attract the IT Industry, specifically ITeS sector in commencing their operations and the youth of the Isles have huge potential. "The literacy rate here is 86.63% which is much higher as compared to national average of 74.04%. English and Hindi are the official languages predominantly spoken in the Islands. The region's technical education framework comprises of 1 Engineering College offering B.Tech and Diploma courses, 01 degree college offering BSc(IT) and Science subjects and 01 degree college providing BCA/MCA courses with enrolment capacity of approx. 150 students per year", he said, adding that very soon a Central University will also be established in A&N Islands.

The Lt. Governor also stated that there are various other private institutes that offer non-formal courses such as Diploma and Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications and train about 1500 students per year. Many of the engineering graduates and diploma pass outs from our institution today are serving in leading IT firms of India. The educated, computer literate and English speaking youth of these Islands offer huge potential of talent for BPO firms. Besides, the Islands blessed with immaculate beaches and exotic flora-fauna, offers pollution free environment as lucrative incentives for the Industry, he opined.

The Lt. Governor mentioned that the Islands' economy is basically Government driven due to non-existence of large and medium scale industries. The economic activity is largely restricted to micro-enterprises and training activities besides the activities related to tourism and fisheries sectors.

Acknowledging that there are various Infrastructure and operational challenges involved in setting up and running an IT and ITeS industry successfully, the Lt. Governor said, the main constraints in respect of these Islands are poor telecom connectivity, availability of limited revenue land (only 6%), (Contd. on last page)

## LG pays obeisance to Guru Gobind Singhji



Port Blair, Jan 6

The 350th birth anniversary of the 10th and last Guru of the Sikh faith, Guru Gobind Singh Ji was

celebrated in the Islands' along with other places yesterday. The Police Gurudwara, Aberdeen Bazar celebrated the day

by organizing a number of programmes. The Lt. Governor A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi (Contd. on last page)



## Ten-day long Island Tourism Festival begins amidst fanfare Administration committed to develop tourism in Islands on top priority basis: LG A&N Islands to be all season tourist destination



Port Blair, Jan 6

The much-awaited annual extravaganza 'Island Tourism Festival' - 2017 got underway with its inauguration by the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi at the ITF Ground here this evening. The Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray and the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar were the guests of honour on the occasion. Smt. Rupa Ray, Adhyaksh, ZPSA, Shri Jaydeep Kumar Dey, Chairman, PBMC, Shri B. Eswar Rao, Chairperson, UTCCPCR, Smt. Kiran Tigga, Shri Anurag Mishra, Director, Song and Drama Division, Govt. of India also attended the inaugural ceremony. This year, the ten day festival will be held up to Jan 15, 2017.

Wishing the Islanders a prosperous year ahead, Lt. Governor, while addressing a large gathering, expressed his happiness to be a part of the ITF, and said, the festival aims at bringing together different cultural groups from the East Zone Cultural Centre, South Zone Cultural Centre, North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Song and Drama Division of Govt. of India and the local cultural groups where they can exchange their cultural ideas and come to the mainstream.

Acknowledging that the Island Tourism Festival is also an important event for boosting tourism in the Islands, the Lt. Governor outlined the schemes and programmes of the Central Government like 'Swadesh Darshan Yojana' under which 42.18 crore rupees has been sanctioned for boosting tourism activities in A&N Islands. About Rs. 8.5 crore will be spent for preservation and upgradation of various facilities in the National Memorial Cellular Jail. The Light and Sound Show of the Cellular Jail is also being upgraded and modified under this scheme, he said. The A&N Administration has also identified 8 beaches in different Islands which will be developed under this scheme. These beaches include Kalapathar and Elephant beaches in Havelock, Bharatpur and Laxmanpur beaches in Neil Island, Balu Dera Beach in Baratang, Ross & Smith beach in Diglipur, Lalaji Bay in Long Island, said the Lt. Governor. He also informed that steps are also being taken for holistic development of the five Islands selected by NITI Aayog viz. Ross & Smith, Avis Island, Long Island and Little Andaman.

With a view to provide better entertainment to tourists during evening hours, a world class laser show is being initiated at the Radha Nagar Beach at Havelock. Similarly, beautiful tent accommodations, with most modern facilities are ready at Lalaji Bay at Long Island to attract tourists while other lands belonging to ANIIDCO at Havelock, Neil Island and Little Andaman will also be used for providing such tent accommodations, he said adding that this will be important to handle the expected 25% growth in arrival of tourists in the next year.

The Lt. Governor also mentioned that besides scuba diving activities, submersible water scooter will be started in (Contd. on last page)

**Administration to provide....**  
*(Contd. from page 1)*

Power - since 98% is generated through DG set resulting in high unit cost and the demographic isolation from mainland India.

However, he said, we should always be on the lookout for ways to turn a problem into an opportunity for success. The Lt. Governor informed that the Union Cabinet has approved laying of dedicated submarine optical fibre cable connecting Chennai Cable Landing Station and Landing Stations at Port Blair & 5 other islands. The Lt. Governor also revealed that the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi is likely to lay the foundation stone of the project in the first week of Feb 2017. The project is likely to be completed by December, 2018. This will result into abundant telecom bandwidth which would facilitate potential investors.

In order to augment the power supply in the region and to make progressive steps towards realization of clean energy vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Administration has operationalized 5MW solar power plant and have initiated setting up of 20 MW solar power project. UT Administration is further planning to add 100 MW to the Islands solar grid, he said.

The Lt. Governor also spoke about the incessant efforts of Administration to improve air connectivity between A&N Islands and mainland. "Today we have added six flights to the earlier 11, making it 17 aircrafts operating daily between Port Blair major cities such as Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Mumbai, since September 2016. Talks are on with different airlines to further increase the number of flights and add new cities", he said.

Mentioning that policy initiatives set the pace for any industry and industry-friendly policies not only instill confidence in the entrepreneurs, they ease the process of setting up businesses, the Lt. Governor expressed confidence that through this workshop the expectation of IT/ITeS companies to institute new ventures in these Islands will be clear.

The Lt. Governor expressed hope that the valuable inputs from Industry players and policy makers would facilitate the Administration in providing friendlier business environment and defining an attractive IT/ITeS policy which will aid in improving our competitiveness with other cities of the country.

In his keynote address, the President, NASSCOM, Shri R. Chandrashekar said that the IT sector is the clear crown jewel of India's economy today, with an annual turnover of Rs.10 lakh crore. The IT sector provides employment to over 4 million people directly today and is the biggest foreign exchange earner. However, the IT sector has its own challenges too.

He said, a large segment of students coming out of colleges get gainful employment in the IT sector, including in the BPOs. The sector offers great opportunities to bright young people in carving their own niche in the IT industry.

He also counted the three pre-requisites of establishing the IT sector in any place viz. availability of skilled manpower, infrastructure that includes working space and reliable telecom connectivity and reliable supply of power.

Combination of all these provide the base for setting up of IT industry, he said, expressing hope that the A&N Administration will take care of all these issues, as IT is a tremendous sector to proliferate employment. He also requested the Administration to include skill development programmes for students of the Islands, alongside their regular curriculum, so that they be industry ready as soon as they complete their studies. He also asked NASSCOM officials to interact with the officers of the Administration and other stakeholders for coming up with ideas & projects to set up IT based industries here.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Chief Secretary, Shri Anindo Majumdar said this initiative is first of its kind and it will be a launching pad for the Administration to take the Islands on the path of further development. He mentioned that the Govt. of India has sanctioned the Under Sea Cable Project connecting Chennai and Port Blair and 5 other Islands, worth over a thousand crore rupees.

The Chief Secretary said, this will be a game changer for the Islands and said that the project will be completed by Dec. 2018. He said, organising this workshop is basically a preparatory act, so that IT based industry can become functional in these Islands as soon as the cable is laid. He said, an advanced action is needed and this workshop will go a large way in planning the development activities.

The Chief Secretary said, the economy of the Islands is Govt. driven though there are lot of other activities which have been taken up in fisheries & tourism sectors too. The Administration today is also looking at other sectors, which can generate employment, such as the green industry i.e. IT and IT related activities. He said that we have large number of educated youth here and the literacy rate is very good besides we also have an Engineering College here. In the years to come, if the right steps and actions are taken, the Administration will be able to set up IT enabled industry in the Islands, he said. The outcome of the workshop will help the Administration in preparing an action plan for setting up of IT and IT enabled Service industry in the Islands, the Chief Secretary said, also thanking the NASSCOM President for making the workshop happen.

The ACCI President, Shri Girish Arora proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural ceremony.

The workshop was divided into three sessions. The first session- discussed threadbare about 'Opportunities & challenges in A&N Islands for IT and ITeS industries', which was chaired by the Principal Secretary (Finance), Shri Raajiv Yaduvanshi.

The Joint Secretary, DoIT, Shri Sashi Ranjan Kumar informed the gathering about plans for robust connectivity while the Jt. Director, MeitY, Shri Rajesh Kumar Jenwar spoke on schemes to promote IT and ITeS in A&N Islands. The Special Secretary (IT), A&N Administration, Dr. Utpal Sharma presented paper on draft IT and ITeS policy of A&N Islands, challenges & opportunities and proposed infrastructure for IT and ITeS industries in A&N Islands. The ACCI Member, Shri M.H. Jadwet spoke on A&N Islands as tourist destination with potential for relevant IT industries.

The Jt. Development Commissioner, MEPZ-SEZ, Chennai, Shri D. Anandan spoke about challenges & opportunities in establishing SEZ for promotion of IT and ITeS industries in A&N Islands. Success story of Tidel Park and suggested model for A&N Islands was presented by Managing Director, Tidel Park, Chennai, Shri B. Elangovan.

The second session, which aimed at creating a conducive business environment, was chaired by the Secretary (Industries), Smt. Rashmi Singh.

The Jt. Director, MeitY, Shri Rajesh Kumar Jenwar chaired the third session on 'evaluating A&N Islands as preferred IT destination'.

During the open sessions, various suggestions on IT and ITeS policy for A&N Islands were presented by all participating industries/local entrepreneurs.

**LG pays obeisance....**  
*(Contd. from page 1)*

visited Police Gurudwara and paid his respect. Addressing the devotees present at the Gurudwara, the Lt. Governor, who spoke in Punjabi, said, he was happy to visit the Police Gurudwara on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh. About the life of Guru Gobind Singh, the Lt Governor said that Guru Gobind Singhji's entire life was devoted to serving people and he always fought for the betterment of the poor and downtrodden.

The Lt. Governor further said that Guru Gobind Singh was a great warrior and spiritual guru who always fought against injustice. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a nation builder who always struggled for establishing truth and sacrificed everything for human independence, equality and brotherhood, the Lt. Governor added. The Lt Governor also participated in the 'Guru ka Langar' arranged as part of the celebration. Earlier, on arrival at the Gurudwara, a 'Saropa' was offered to Lt. Governor by Gyani Rajinder Singh in the presence of the President Police Gurudwara, Shri Balwinder Singh.

The inmates of Seva Niketan were also present in the Gurudwara alongwith other devotees.

**Island Tourism Festival**

**International Cultural Group from Kazakhstan to perform on Jan 8**

**Port Blair, Jan 6**

**As part of Memorandum of Understanding signed between the A & N Administration and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, ICCR is deputed one International Cultural Group from Kazakhstan to perform at ITF Ground, Port Blair on Jan 8, 2017 at 6 pm.**

**The cultural group from Kazakhstan comprising of 10 members will perform dance "Shattyk" "Akku" "Bile-bile Gakku", "Saryozen" and "Kara zhorga". This is an added attraction of the Island Tourism Festival this year and it would facilitate the islanders towards understanding and appreciating International Cultural Landscape.**

**The Tourism Director has invited all the people to come and witness the first ever performance of Kazakhstan in the islands at 6 pm on Jan 8 at ITF Ground, a communication said here today.**



**Heavy rain forecast; fishermen cautioned**

Port Blair, Jan 6  
Heavy rain to very heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Under the influence of low pressure area over South Andaman sea and adjoining Tenasserim coasts, strong Northeasterly wind speed between 25 and 35 kmph gusting to 45 kmph and generally rough seas likely along and off A & N coasts. Fishermen have been asked to be cautious while venturing into the sea. The general public is advised to take precautionary measures and in case of any emergency contact in the

**Administration committed ..**  
*(Contd. from page 1)*



the Isles soon. He stated that A&N Administration proposes to reintroduce services of Sea Plane in the Islands under PPP mode, on commercial basis, for which a meeting with the CMD of Pawan Hans Ltd. has already been held.

The Lt. Governor stated that besides adding ships for improving inter-island connectivity, floating hotels will also be introduced in these Islands soon. He said, the Administration is committed to develop tourism of the Islands on top priority basis and aims at developing A&N Islands as an all season tourist destination where tourists can come throughout the year. Complementing the cleanliness being maintained in these Islands, the Lt. Governor called upon all the Islanders as well as tourists to keep these Islands spic and span.

The Lt. Governor witnessed the cultural programme and also visited the stalls on the occasion.

Stating that a bright future awaits the Islanders, the Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray in his address said that under the leadership of Lt. Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, the Islands are moving towards further progress. He informed the gathering that the OFC project could be materialized due to continuous efforts of the Lt. Governor and the Govt. of India sanctioned the 1100 crore project in September 2016. The health facilities in the Islands are also being improved while the PBMC will get rupees 8 crore annually for carrying out its projects, said the Member of Parliament also hailing the Lt. Governor for banning tobacco and its allied products in the Islands from Oct. 2, 2016 onwards and also for extending compensations to the genuine cases within 48 hours. The Member of Parliament mentioned that the tendering process for bridge between Uttara to Gandhi Jetty have been completed while the tendering process for national highway will be completed by Jan 2017. He also informed that roads of Neil & Havelock Islands now have been declared as National Highway. The APWD will be awarded all works related to construction and repair of NH, said the MP. He also mentioned that as per instructions of NITI Aayog, the Zilla Parishad has prepared a draft action plan for 15 year vision and 3 year action plan for A&N Islands.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary, Shri Anindo Majumdar said that Island Tourism Festival is a mega cultural event organized in the Islands every year showcasing the composite culture of the Isles which is unique in itself, recollecting how the festival originated as 'Apna Utsav' during 1980s. He said, the unique feature of this year's festival is the participation of troupe from Kazakhstan. He also mentioned that as part of the ITF, cultural performances will be presented throughout the Islands during the 10-days. The ITF will boost tourism in the Islands considerably, he said adding that the number of tourists visiting the Islands has crossed 4 lakh during 2016 and this, he felt, is a significant achievement. He said, the A&N Administration is a facilitator and the Tourism Department is proactive in its efforts to increase the tourist inflow into the Islands. Boosting the tourism in the Islands, is a truly collaborative effort, the Chief Secretary said. During the ten-day festival, artists from different parts of the Islands as well as the Islands will be performing, he said urging one and all to enjoy the mega event.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Secretary (Tourism), Smt. Ankit Mishra Bundela said, varied and vibrant

art forms will be presented by the artists during the festival which rejuvenates the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. She said, apart from participation of artists from various cultural troupes from mainland, about 1000 local artists from 58 cultural groups have been given the opportunity to participate in the event. The festival is truly dedicated to the spirit of unity & diversity, she said.

The inaugural function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Director (Tourism), Shri Amit Anand. He expressed his gratitude to all the stakeholders for their contribution in organizing the event.

ISLAND TOURISM FESTIVAL-2017		
Date: 07/01/2017 (Saturday)		
Venue: ITF GROUND		Time: 06:00 PM
S. No.	Programme	Duration
1.	Musical Programme- M J Music Academy	15 Mts
2.	Oppana Folk Dance- Humane Touch	15 Mts
3.	Dances- KRG Kalai Kaveri School	15 Mts
4.	Dances- Island Development Organization	15 Mts
5.	Gudumbaja - Folk Dance- Madhya Pradesh- NCZCC	15 Mts
6.	Badhai Dance- Folk Dance- Madhya Pradesh- NCZCC	15 Mts
7.	Natua & Chow-Folk Dance- West Bengal- EZCC	15 Mts
8.	Rengma Naga Dance- Assam- EZCC	15 Mts
9.	Dances- Dance Nritya Academy	15 Mts
Venue: Amphitheatre		Time: 06:00 PM
S. No.	Programme	Duration
1.	Bharatnatyam Classical Dance - Tamil Nadu - SZCC	15 Mts
2.	Gotipua- Folk Dance - Odisha- EZCC	15 Mts
3.	Folk Dance Song & Drama Division -Assam	15 Mts
4.	Dances- Pragati(Social & Cultural Organization)	15 Mts
5.	Dances- Sky Youth Club	15 Mts
6.	Dances- Jhumur Nrityangana	15 Mts
7.	Dances - Kasheesh	15 Mts
Venue: Netaji Stadium		Time: 06:00 PM
S. No.	Programme	Duration
1.	Musical Pogramme- Srishti Cultural Group	1:30 Hrs
2.	Musical Programme-Maharashtra Mandal	1:30 Hrs
Venue: Bathubasti		Time: 06:00 PM
S. No.	Programme	Duration
1.	Natua & Chow-Folk Dance- West Bengal- EZCC	20 Mts
2.	Rengma Naga Dance- Assam- EZCC	20 Mts
3.	Programme - Education Relief Welfare Section & Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha	20 Mts
4.	Dhedia- Folk Dance- Uttar Pradesh - NCZCC	20 Mts
5.	Farwai Folk Dance -Uttar Pradesh - NCZCC	20 Mts
Director (Art & Culture)		

**Power break**

Port Blair, Jan 6  
The power supply will remain suspended at Bhatu Basti area complete, Laxmi Motor area, Pathegudda, Setlite Colony, New Pahargaon, Agency House, Garacharma complete & 5 MW Solar Power Plant area from 8 am to 11 am on Jan 7 in connection with maintenance of Garacharma Sub Station, a communication said.

**Bubble Show & special 3D show at Science Centre**

Port Blair, Jan 6  
The Science Centre will be organizing a Bubble Show at 5.30 pm and special 3D Show at 4.45 pm, 5.30 pm & 6.15 pm on Jan 7 & 8, 2017 for general visitors in the evening hours.

The Bubble Show is a fun filled show specially designed for all age group to enjoy with their kids. During the programme the visitors can witness the varieties of bubbles right from tiny bubble to Giant bubble, children's most favourite Doraemon bubble to the cubic bubble, aquarium bubble, caterpillar bubble, Fire bubble & many more, a communication said.

**Vaikunta Ekadasi**

Port Blair, Jan 6  
Sri Vaikunta Ekadasi Celebration will be organising by Sri Lord Rama Temple, Aberdeen Bazar from 9 am on Jan 8 at its premises, a communication said.