



PBMC organizes Civic Reception in honour of Home Minister

Central Government is committed towards welfare of the Islanders: Shri Rajnath Singh

Port Blair, Apr 7

"The Central Government is committed towards the welfare of the people of these Islands and it will leave no stone unturned to see that these Islands are developed at a faster pace", said the Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh. He was addressing a mammoth gathering at the ITF Ground at Port Blair, where the Port Blair Municipal Council organized a 'Civic Reception' in honour of the Home Minister, who is currently on a three day visit to the A&N Islands. A huge number of people from all walks of lives, members of the BJP and prominent citizens assembled in large numbers at the ITF Ground to see and listen to the Union Home Minister and the popular leader of the country.

Appreciating the warmth and love bestowed upon him by the Islanders, the Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh said, the A&N Islands are a place of pilgrimage and for those who visit the Islands even once, it becomes a lifetime memory. He said he is fortunate enough to have visited the Islands thrice and the A&N Islands will always remain close to his heart.

The Home Minister lauded the true essence of unity in diversity exhibited by the Islanders. He said, the A&N Islands represent a true 'Mini India', where people from all regions of the country live with peace and harmony. He also recalled the pre-independence freedom struggle movement and the contributions made by the freedom fighters. "The extreme tortures meted out to them could not dampen their spirit", he said. The Home Minister also recollected the contribution of freedom fighter, Veer Savarkar towards the country's freedom struggle movement.

About development of the Isles, the Home Minister stated that the representatives of the people have elaborately highlighted issues relating to Isles' development, and assured that it will be looked into. He said, the Central Government is giving due importance to the development of A&N Islands and the welfare of the Islanders will remain its priority.

The Home Minister also highlighted the manifestoes of the BJP government and stated that in 2014, India witnessed a historic change when the BJP government came into power. "When we flip through the history of our country, we can see for the first time in independent

India, that BJP garnered a sweeping victory and came to power with the sole motive of 'Sabka Saath Saab Ka Vikas', the Home Minister remarked. "It is for the first time since Independence, that India has claimed and carved its due position on the world stage, the credit for which goes to our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi", he said.

The Home Minister said, since coming into power in the year 2014 the NDA government has taken up various projects for all round development and benefit of all the citizens, especially, the poor and downtrodden. The Prime Minister has taken numerous initiatives for the inclusive development of the poor viz. opening of Jan Dhan Accounts with zero balance, providing subsidies through Direct Benefit Transfer to eliminate the scourge of middlemen & ensuring that schemes reach the targeted beneficiaries. The Government has been fighting against corruption through demonetization and is committed to bring down parallel economy of black money, eliminate fake currency and choke sources of funding for terrorists, Maoists, and naxalites, said the Home Minister. He also threw light on various schemes for promoting social issues such as 'Beti Bachao Beti Padoo', 'Swachh Bharat Mission' etc. that are being implemented across the length and breadth of the country. The Home Minister remarked that India is poised for development in all spheres by making the citizens a part of it. The Home Minister stated that the Government is committed (Contd. on last page)



A&N Islands poised for 100% Clean & Green Energy: HM

Union Home Minister lays foundation stone for solar power plants with battery energy storage system

Port Blair, April 7

The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, who is currently on a three day visit to the A&N Islands, laid the foundation stone for Solar Power Plants of 17 MW capacity at Manglutan and 8MW at Chidyatapu, during a function organized at Guptapara here this morning. The Union Home Minister unveiled the plaque to mark the foundation stone laying, in the presence of the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Smt. Prem Mukhi, Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Smt. Rupa Ray, Chief Secretary, Shri Anindo Majumdar, Commissioner cum-Secretary (Power), Shri Sanjeev Khirwar, Regional Executive Director (South), NTPC, Shri V.Fadnavis, Adhyaksh, ZPSA, Shri Jaydeep Kumar Dey, Chairperson, PBMC, Shri B. Eswar Rao, Senior Officers of the Administration, PBMC Councillors and PRI members.

Addressing the gathering, the Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh thanked the Islanders for the warm welcome accorded to him on his visit to the Islands. He congratulated the Islanders on the momentous occasion of the foundation stone laying ceremony. He said that the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has envisioned making A&N Islands a 100% green and clean energy Islands by December 2018 for which, continuous efforts on ensuring clean. The Union Home Minister remarked that though the Islands are far off, the



Government of India has strong emotional attachment and strong commitment for the people of A&N Islands. He said, under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, the Government aims at ensuring development in every nook and corner of the country with special emphasis on outlying islands. Highlighting about the review meeting held with the Lt. Governor, Member of Parliament, and senior officers of the Administration yesterday, the Union Home Minister expressed his satisfaction on the pace of development taking place in the Islands under the able leadership of the Lt. Governor of A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi. He stressed that the schemes of the Govt. of India need to be effectively implemented for taking the Islands towards further progress and development. The Home Minister said, with the setting up of 25 MWp Solar Power Plant here today, the dependency of diesel for power generation will be reduced and also associated pollution which adversely impacts health and longevity. "Not only India, but the whole world is concerned about the rising pollution level across the globe", he said. The Union Home Minister appreciated the cleanliness being maintained in the Islands. He also appreciated the efforts of the Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray for the development of the Islands. The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh said that politics should be done with a motto of service to the humanity. "Politics should not be done merely for Governments but it should be for creating a better society and development (Contd. on last page)

Union Home Minister Visits Car Nicobar

Inaugurates School Building at Malacca; appreciates nationalism of Nicobarese

Car Nicobar, April 7

The Union Home Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh visited Car Nicobar today. He arrived at a rousing welcome at the IAF Airport at Car Nicobar. The Minister was accompanied by the Lt. Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Member of Parliament Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar and other senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the A&N Administration. On arrival at the Airport, the Home Minister was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Car Nicobar Ms. Neha Bansal, IGP Shri N.S. Bundela, Superintendent of Police, Shri Deepak Yadav, Secretary Tribal Council Shri Martin Luther.

After arrival, the Home Minister visited Mus Village and paid tributes to Late Bishop John Richardson by laying wreath at his memorial. Later he visited the Tsunami Memorial at Big Lapathy village and laid wreath there. He also viewed the photo gallery at Tsunami Memorial.

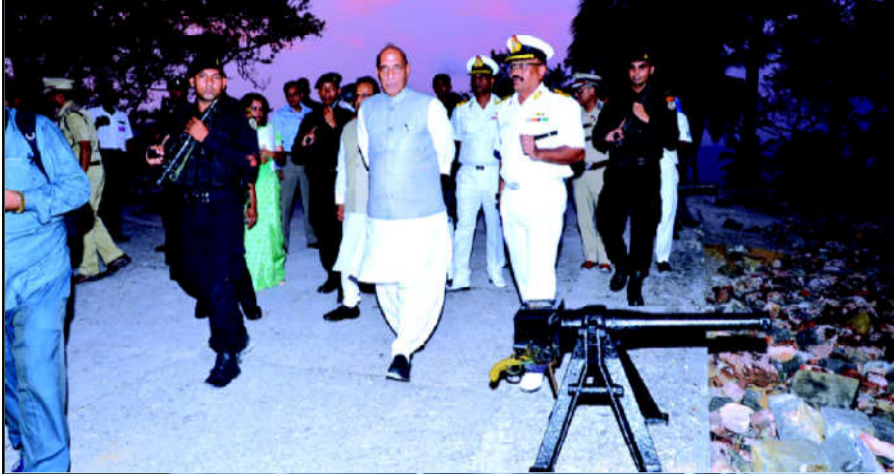
Thereafter, the Home Minister visited Malacca village where he inaugurated the new building of Govt. Senior Secondary School, Malacca by unveiling a plaque.



Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the school building, the Home Minister said, despite the geographical distances, people of Andaman & Nicobar are very close to our hearts. India is the nation of unity in diversity and the best example of this can be seen in the A&N Islands, he said.

Praising the Nicobarese youth for their feelings of nationalism, the Home Minister encouraged them to join Defence services and paramilitary forces. Mentioning about the contribution of Late Bishop John Richardson, the Union Home Minister said that John Richardson played a vital role in

integrating these Islands with the Country. In view of the fact that youth of the Islands are interested in sports activities, the Home Minister also stressed the need to promote sports in the Islands. He also acknowledged the contribution of Ms. Deborah, Islands' Cyclist, (Contd. on last page)



The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh visited Ross Island & witnessed Light and sound show on 07.04.2017. He was accompanied by Lt. Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Chief Secretary Shri Anindo Majumdar and others.

Inaugurates School Building ..

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who brought laurels to the Nation by winning Gold Medals in international cycling championships. He encouraged and exhorted local youth to get more engaged in sports and bring laurels to the Islands and the Nation.

The Union Home Minister assured to look into the demands of the people of Nicobars, including improvement in Shipping connectivity, communication and other issues as highlighted by the Secretary, Tribal Council, Car Nicobar.

The Union Home Minister also appreciated the cultural programme presented by the school students, particularly the Nicobari folk dance, and also congratulated the students for their endeavour.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt. Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi highlighted that the Administration is making all efforts to improve the status of education in the Islands. He stated that besides Medical College, a Law College has recently been started in the islands. All out efforts are being made to establish a Central University in the islands which will greatly benefit the youth, he said. The Lt. Governor informed that for improving inter-island shipping services, four large ships and 10 small ships are being procured by the Administration some of which will be delivered by July 2017. Efforts are being made to re-introduce chartered flight services, once in a week, between Port Blair and Car Nicobar, he said.

The Secretary (Education), Ms. Tanvi Garg briefed the gathering about the new School Building.

Earlier, the Deputy



Commissioner, Car Nicobar Ms. Neha Bansal welcomed the dignitaries and the gathering. The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Shri Ajit Singh Thakur, Assistant Commissioner, Car Nicobar.

Union Home Minister lays...

(Contd. from page 1)

of a strong nation and we convey this same message to all our citizens and the Party workers", he said.

The Home Minister said, since coming into power in the year 2014, the NDA Government has taken up issues related to the all round development of all the citizens, especially the poor and downtrodden. A number of procedural changes have been made to speed up development and make government system transparent accountable and effective. "It is for the first time since Independence, that India has claimed and carved its due position on the world stage, the credit for which goes to our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi", he said.

Shri Singh said that these Islands comprise of 608 Islands out of which only 200 Islands are named. The remaining islands, which have not been named so far, should be named so that the people of our country know about them, he said. Regarding the issue of land resettlement, the Home Minister stated that a committee will be constituted to look into the issue for meaningful solution. A scheme has been developed for arresting bank erosion for which a sum of Rs 20 Crore has been provided to the UT Administration, he said. In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor, Prof Jagdish Mukhi welcomed the Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh and called it to be a significant day. These Islands are very close to the heart of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji who always thinks for the welfare of the Islanders", said the Lt Governor adding that the present government has approved many important projects which will benefit the Islanders to a great extent.

The Central Government has accorded approval for laying of undersea Optical Fiber Cable project worth Rs 1100 crores which was pending for years together. The project is expected to be completed by 2018. The Lt Governor said out of the 333KM National Highway, 82KM road will be improved and developed as two lane roads. The work for the same has been awarded. The foundation for the project, which will cost Rs 521 crores will be laid soon. The Lt Governor further informed that the Govt. has approved construction of two bridges; one each at Humphrey Strait and Middle Strait. The work for the Humphrey Strait Bridge has been allotted to M/s MBZ-RDS joint venture at a cost of Rs 217 crores. The foundation for the same will be laid soon, he added. The construction of the bridge will ease the conveyance for the people residing at Middle Andaman and this will speed up the development of the region. The Lt Governor stated that tender has been floated for preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for developing two Lane Bridge connecting Chatham & Bamboo flat. The Lt Governor informed that 90 percent power is

generated through diesel and 96 percent population of the Islands has been provided with electricity. He said round the clock power supply is provided to 86 percent population, adding that the goal of the Govt is to convert these Islands into 'Green Energy' by 31st December, 2018.

The Lt Governor also mentioned about the 20 MW solar power plant at Attam Pahar, the foundation for which has already been laid. The project will be executed by Neyveli Lignite Corporation, he said. The Lt Governor also mentioned about the alternative energy projects, including generation of electricity from waves to be taken up in Little Andaman, which will be implemented the Isles in the coming days. In his address on the occasion the Member of Parliament Shri Bishnu Pada Ray said that it is the dream of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to convert these Islands into a green energy Island. The Administration is striving hard to develop 100 MW Solar Power Plants in different locations for which work is in full swing. He further stated that as per the decision of the Administration the long pending demand of 2773 DRMs working in different Departments for the implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission incentives will be fulfilled. He said the PBMC has already passed a resolution for grant of the incentive to its 292 rightful DRMs, which will be implemented shortly by the Council.

In his welcome address, the Chief Secretary, Shri Anindo Majumdar said the Government has approved a 100 MW Solar Energy Park for A&N Islands the foundation stone for Solar Power Plants of 17 MW capacity at Manglutan and 8MW at Chidyatapu is being laid today. He said 90% of the power generation is being met through diesel generation and gradually this will be phased out once the green energy project is achieved here in the Islands. He said, the Administration is making all out efforts in making these Islands a 100 % clean and green energy.

In his address, the Regional Executive Director (South), NTPC, Shri V.Fadnavis said for the first time in the country, a solar power energy integrated with battery energy storage system is being implemented here in A&N Islands. He highlighted the contribution of NTPC in meeting the power needs of the country and also the various projects implemented by NTPC across the country.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Commissioner cum-Secretary(Power), Shri Sanjeev Khirwar.

Central Government...

(Contd. from page 1)

for making India a vibrant economy by introducing the concept of 'one nation one tax' by implementing GST with effect from July 1, 2017. "Today, the economists across the world have accepted that India is the fastest growing economy of the world", he said, reiterating the commitment of the Govt., of making India an economic superpower.

About dealing with terrorism threats from neighboring country, Pakistan, the Home Minister said, India is no more going soft on such issues and it is fully capable of handling any such situation.

Regarding the issue of submerged land in A & N Islands, the Home Minister stated that a committee would be constituted to look into the issue for its meaningful solution. He said, the Islands have many sports talents in football and cycling and to further boost the sports activities of the Islanders, a MoU would be signed between the UT Administration and Sports Authority of India for the promotion of sports in these Islands in a greater way. He also lauded the talent of Isles' cyclist, Deborah for bringing laurels to the nation.

He said that the Prime Minister himself is concerned about the development of these Islands. Accordingly, plans are being made to bring in holistic development in five islands through Niti Ayog. By end of 2018, the government is setting a target to achieve the plan of making A&N Islands completely clean and green energy driven Islands, to ensure that the Islands are free from pollution and its effects.

The Home Minister also congratulated the Chairperson, PBMC, Shri B. Eswar Rao and his team for keeping Port Blair city spic and span. He also assured of visiting the other parts of A&N Islands soon.

Expressing his immense joy on the visit of the Home Minister to the A&N Islands, the Lt. Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi said it is a proud moment for us to see the Home Minister amidst us here, which is a place of pilgrimage as many freedom fighters have shed their blood here for the freedom of the country. The saga of India's freedom struggle is etched in golden letters in the Cellular Jail here, he said. According a warm welcome to the Home Minister on behalf of the Islanders, the Lt. Governor said, the Isles are a Union Territory governed by the Centre, and the Home Ministry has a pivotal role in paving way for the development of these Islands.

The Lt. Governor, mentioning about the social fabric of the Islands' society, said, people from all States and communities live in these Islands with peace and harmony, making it a 'Mini India' in true sense. He further mentioned that due to its typical geographic location, only 6% land is available for use while forests occupy the rest 94% land. The Administration is making all efforts in providing the entire population with basic facilities like education, health, electricity, water etc.

He further said that the Administration is making concerted efforts to follow the mantra of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi - 'Sabka Saath - Sabka Vikas', for all round development of the Islands, and all the schemes of the Central Govt. are being fully implemented in A&N Islands.

Referring to the Port Blair Municipal Council, the Lt. Governor said, the Council is shouldering its responsibilities very well and the top leaders visiting these Isles from the mainland, as well as the tourists have praised the cleanliness and availability of street lights in the city. He also lauded the PBMC for its efforts in implementing cashless payments here.

The Lt. Governor also stated that the transparency adopted by the PBMC in implementing the self assessment method in property tax, allotment of shops and parking spaces have been hailed by all.

The Lt. Governor informed the Home Minister and the gathering that following the increase in the Octroi rates by the Administration, an extra revenue of about Rs.10 crore will be generated by the PBMC. The PBMC also aims at achieving the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission', he said.

Expressing his happiness over inclusion of Port Blair in the Smart City Project, the Lt. Governor said, this Rs. 77 crore project will see rapid improvement in the water distribution system, transport, telecommunication, tourism, housing and other basic facilities.

The Lt. Governor also mentioned that Administration has succeeded in removing the bottlenecks that were being felt in the communication and transport sectors. With the active support of the Central Government, new ships are being procured, which will improve the inter-island connectivity. Likewise, with the construction of two bridges on the National Highways, the connectivity between South and Middle Andaman will improve. Meanwhile, the NoC for construction of bridge connecting Chatham and Bambooflat has been obtained from Defence and the tender has been floated for the Detailed Project Report, disclosed the Lt. Governor.

The Lt. Governor further said that for improving the communication network in the Islands, the centre has approved the undersea Optical Fiber Cable Project. This will lead to better internet connectivity, and establishment of IT and IT enabled service industry in A&N Island.

The Lt. Governor concluded his speech by expressing confidence that with the special cooperation of the Home Minister, this UT will see further developments. Responding to the issues raised by the State President BJP, Shri Vishal Jolly, the Lt Governor assured that the rules and regulations which are irrelevant will be scrapped and relevant rules will be implemented for the betterment of the people of these islands. The Lt Governor further assured that the projects which are beneficial for the Islanders will be pursued to get approved from the concerned Ministries.

In his brief address on the occasion the Member of Parliament Shri Bishnu Pada Ray thanked the Home Minister for visiting these Islands. He informed that as per the decision of the Administration the long pending demand of 2773 DRMs working in different Departments for the implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission incentives will be fulfilled. He said the PBMC has already passed a resolution for grant of the incentive to its 292 rightful DRMs.

While speaking, on the occasion, the State BJP President, Shri Vishal Jolly brought to the notice of the Home Minister the issue of submerged land due to Tsunami and the meager compensation given in lieu of it. He further urged for finding a suitable solution for the pre and post 1978 encroachers of Govt land, the issues of DRMs and contract mazdoors and explore possibilities of creation of Legislative Assembly or Pradesh Council in A&N Islands.

Earlier, the Chairperson, Port Blair Municipal Council, Shri B. Eswar Rao, extended an affectionate and warm welcome to the Home Minister. He informed that the PBMC is instrumental in providing basic amenities to the city dwellers, and added that 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and 'Housing For All', which is the dream project of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, are being implemented by the Council in letter and spirit.

The Civil reception function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Adhyaksh Zilla Parishad south Andaman, Shri Jaydeep Kumar Dey.

