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CYCLONIC STORM 'VARDAH'

Govt announces incentives for payments made through digital modes: FM

LG reviews state of preparedness; Orders measures for welfare of tourists held up in Havelock & Neil Islands

Port Blair, Dec 8
 The deep depression formed over Southeast Bay of Bengal, as reported, has moved further northwards during the day, intensifying into cyclonic storm, VARDHAH. The depression remained situated 340 km Northeast of Car Nicobar and 240 km West Southwest of Port Blair. To review the state of preparedness, the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi held a detailed meeting with the Officers of the Administration and other stakeholders including Tour Operators Association, Hotel Owners this morning. During the meeting, the Lt. Governor of the Islands directed the

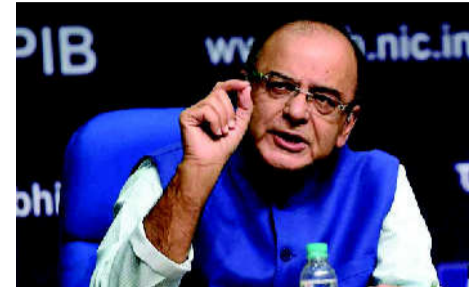
Directorate of Shipping Services to make all possible efforts to send boats to Havelock and Neil Islands once the sea conditions improve. In view of the inconvenience faced by the tourists who are held up in Havelock and Neil Islands beyond their scheduled duration of stay due to inclement weather and circumstances beyond their control, the Lt Governor directed all Hotel owners having tourist properties in Neil and Havelock islands to provide accommodation and food to the stranded tourists free of charge for the period of extended stay, both as a humanitarian gesture and as part of

Corporate Social Responsibility. Meanwhile, the Administration has requested the Defense Ministry to provide air sorties to expedite the movement of tourists and essential supplies, in case required. The Administration has also asked all the tour operators not to take any tourists towards North & Middle Andaman as a precautionary measure, till the weather improves. The Directorate of tourism is coordinating with all the airline agencies for the smooth and timely return journey of the tourists to their respective home towns. The MET Office has

forecast heavy rainfall/wind at a speed of 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph during the next 24 hrs. The tourists have been advised to stay in their rooms and stay away from coastal areas till weather condition improves. The cyclonic weather witnessed in the Islands since Tuesday has resulted in uprooting of trees, disruption of power supply and flooding of some of the low lying areas. However, there is no report of any loss of life, from any parts

of the Islands so far. The District Administration, A & N Police, Fire Brigade, Electricity Department, Disaster Management and other line departments, with support of all men and machinery are making best efforts in mitigating the situation arising out of the inclement weather conditions. All the Emergency Operation Centers across the A & N Islands are functioning round the clock and are on high alert. The situation is being monitored at highest levels 24 X 7.

New Delhi, Dec 8
 Government today announced several incentives on payments made through digital modes. Addressing media in New Delhi, Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said, petroleum companies will offer a discount of 0.75 percent on diesel and petrol to consumers who pay through digital means. Shri Jaitley also said, 0.5 percent discount will be given to people who will buy monthly seasonal tickets in the Suburban railway networks through digital payment mode. It will be effective from 1st of next month and will start with the Mumbai suburban railways. The Minister said, passengers will get 10 lakh rupees free accident insurance cover on booking of Railway ticket



through online mode. He said, payments through digital mode for railways catering, accommodation, retiring room will also attract 5 percent discount. Shri Jaitley also said, purchasing of new insurance policy of PSUs online will be cheaper as people will get 10 percent discount on General Insurance and 8 percent discount on life Insurance policies. The Finance Minister said, a discount of 10 per cent will be available to users for payment of toll at Toll Plazas on National Highways using RFID card and Fast Tags. He directed government departments and PSUs to ensure that transaction, MDR charges are not borne by customers for public dealings. Shri Jaitley also said, to expand digital payment infrastructure in rural areas, the Government through NABARD will extend (Contd. on last page)

UPSC Member to visit Isles

Port Blair, Nov. 8
 The Member, Union Public Service Commission, Prof. (Dr.) Pradeep Kumar Joshi will be on a five-day visit to the Islands from tomorrow (Dec. 9). During his stay in the Islands, he will be in the interview board for the post of Sr. Veterinary Officers, A&N Administration in the conference hall of Secretariat. He will also visit various places of tourist interest in and around the Islands before leaving for mainland on Dec. 14, 2016, a communication said.

Opening of Rohins Multispecialty Hospital

Port Blair, Nov. 8
 The opening ceremony of Rohins Multispecialty Hospital at AIR Road, Delanipur will be held on Dec. 9 at 6 pm. The Chief Secretary, Shri Anindo Majumdar will inaugurate the hospital as chief guest, a communication said.

Cyclone 'VARDAH' upgraded as 'L2' type disaster

People advised to remain indoors

Port Blair, Dec. 8
 A deep depression over southeast of Bay of Bengal has intensified into cyclonic storm, 'VARDAH' and lay centred at over southeast Bay of Bengal near Latitude 11.2°N and Longitude 90.5°E, about 1060 km northeast of Vishakapatnam, 1150 km east-southeast of Machilipatnam, 340 km northeast of Car Nicobar and 240 km west southwest of Port Blair. The system is very likely to move nearly northward for some more time and then northwestwards towards Andhra Pradesh coast during next 4 days.

The cyclone 'Vardah' which is near Andaman Islands, is likely to intensify into a severe cyclone by early morning 5 am on Dec. 9. Very high speed winds accompanied by heavy rainfall are expected. The general public have been advised to remain indoors.

The cyclone caused by depression has already hit the A & N Islands since Dec 5, 2016. The worst effected parts are Havelock and Neil islands which are separated by approx 40 kms from Port Blair. The only means of transportation are ship/boat/helicopter which has stopped operation since Dec. 5, 2016.

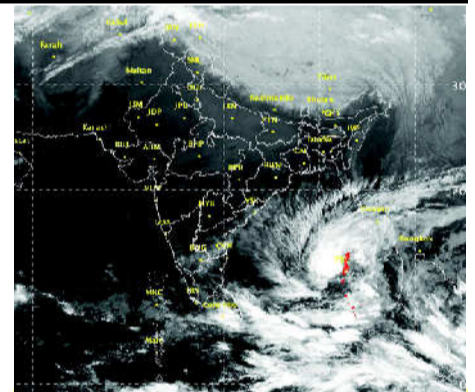
About 1200 tourists who had visited the islands on previous days are now finding

themselves stranded and are unable to return to Port Blair to fly back home. On Dec. 6, 2016, the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman declared this cyclonic as L1 Disaster.

To evacuate the stranded tourists in Havelock/Neil Island, Administration had requested the Defence command for assistance following which four Navy ships were sent to Havelock Islands on Dec. 7, 2016 to evacuate the tourists. The ships couldn't berth alongside due to very rough sea condition.

The Relief Commissioner, A&N Administration is competent to declare L2 Disaster for the extent of damage affected by L1 in all Districts, loss of human lives if it exceeds above 20 or loss to property exceeds Rs.10 crore, the District authority has asked for assistance from Defence forces or is declared to be large scale disaster without from GOI by A & N Administration.

In view of the adverse weather conditions due to cyclone 'VARDAH' and assistance sought by Administration from Defence, Shri Raajiv Yaduvanshi, Relief Commissioner, A&N Administration has declared the cyclone caused by depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal as 'L2' type Disaster, a communication from the Relief Commissioner said here today.



All schools to remain closed today

Port Blair, Dec. 8
 The Directorate of Education, A&N Administration has ordered closure of all schools in A&N Islands for another day i.e. 9th Dec. 2016, in the wake of continue torrential rains and inclement weather condition, a communication from the DDE (Admn) said here today.

Colleges to remain closed; exam postponed

Port Blair, Dec 8
 The Pondicherry University examinations scheduled to be held on 9th December 2016 in all the colleges in Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been cancelled due to the cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal. All the colleges will also remain closed on 9th December 2016. Fresh dates for the examinations will be intimated later, a communication said.

International Conference on Climate Change gets underway

DT Correspondent
 Port Blair, Dec.08
 The three day International Conference on Climate Change, Adaptation and Biodiversity, Ecological Sustainability and Resources Management for Livelihood Security got underway with its inauguration in the auditorium of Dr. B R Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT) here today. The Member NITI Aayog, Prof. Ramesh Chand inaugurated the Conference as the chief guest by lighting a ritual oil lamp. The Conference is being organized by Andaman Science Association (ASA), ICAR-CIARI, Andaman & Nicobar Islands with the cooperation of different



international as well as national societies from different parts of the world and the country as well. Addressing the inaugural function, Prof. Chand underlined the need for taking up various issues for deliberation during the conference, concerning survival of mankind. Climate Change is a serious issues that need to be addressed at present or else it will be late and the

consequences will endanger the future, he said. "We need to create awareness among all about the adverse impact of climate change, understand its consequences and offer pragmatic solutions to address the problems", he said. The chief guest expressed gratitude to ASA team for organizing

(Contd. on last page)

Electricity Department urges people to inform about falling, snapping of lines

Port Blair, Dec. 8
 The A&N Islands is experiencing cyclonic weather conditions, due to which repeatedly transmission faults are occurring, resulting in heavy disturbance in power supply. The Electricity staff are working round the clock to resume the supply after rectifying the defects. The major faults noticed are entangling of high tension & low tension lines due to heavy winds, failures of lightning arrestors, falling of trees and branches etc. The patrolling parties are sent to the fault area, but working becomes difficult due to rain and wind

(Contd. on last page)

Blood donation camp by VHP

Port Blair, Dec. 8
 The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), A&N Islands will be organising a voluntary blood donation camp on the occasion of Shaurya Diwas on Dec. 10, 2016 from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm in the premises of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Lamba Line.

All the Islanders have been requested to voluntarily participate and donate blood on the said camp. The noble service of Volunteers Blood Donors shall be honoured with a certificate of appreciation, a communication said.

Heavy rainfall warning; fishermen advised not to venture into sea

Port Blair, Dec. 8
 The cyclonic storm, VARDHA over southeast Bay of Bengal remained practically stationary during past 06 hours and lay centred at 1430 hrs IST of today, the 8th December, 2016 over southeast Bay of Bengal near Latitude

11.5°N and Longitude 90.5°E, about 1040 km east-southeast of Visakhapatnam, 1135 km east-southeast of Machilipatnam, 360 km northwest of Car Nicobar and 240 km west-southwest of Port Blair. The system is very likely to intensify further into a severe cyclonic storm during next 24 hours. There is possibility of slight weakening of the system before landfall.

Forecast track and intensity of the system are given in the table below:

| Date/Time (IST) | Position (lat. ON/ long. OE) | Maximum sustained surface wind speed (kmph) | Category of cyclonic Disturbance |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 08-12-2016/0830 | 11.5/90.5 | 60-70 gusting to 80 | Cyclonic Storm |
| 08-12-2016/1130 | 11.7/90.5 | 65-75 gusting to 85 | Cyclonic Storm |
| 08-12-2016/1730 | 12.0/90.3 | 70-80 gusting to 90 | Cyclonic Storm |
| 08-12-2016/2330 | 12.3/90.1 | 80-90 gusting to 100 | Cyclonic Storm |
| 09-12-2016/0530 | 12.6/89.8 | 90-100 gusting to 110 | Severe Cyclonic Storm |
| 09-12-2016/1730 | 13.1/89.2 | 100-110 gusting to 120 | Severe Cyclonic Storm |
| 10-12-2016/0530 | 13.7/88.1 | 110-120 gusting to 130 | Severe Cyclonic Storm |
| 10-12-2016/1730 | 14.2/86.7 | 110-120 gusting to 130 | Severe Cyclonic Storm |
| 11-12-2016/0530 | 14.6/85.1 | 110-120 gusting to 130 | Severe Cyclonic Storm |
| 11-12-2016/1730 | 15.0/83.6 | 100-110 gusting to 120 | Severe Cyclonic Storm |
| 12-12-2016/0530 | 15.4/82.0 | 90-100 gusting to 110 | Severe Cyclonic Storm |
| 12-12-2016/1730 | 15.8/80.4 | 70-80 gusting to 90 | Cyclonic Storm |
| 13-12-2016/0530 | 16.1/78.8 | 40-50 gusting to 60 | Depression |

Warning: Light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at a few (Contd. on last page)

Implementation of 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Mantriviva Abhiyan' by DHS

Port Blair, Nov. 8
 The Govt. of India has already launched a new initiative the 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Mantriviva Abhiyan (PMSMA)' to ensure quality antenatal care to pregnant women in the country. Under the campaign, a minimum package of antenatal care services would be provided to the beneficiaries on the 9th day of every month at the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Mantriviva Clinics (District Hospital CHS, PHCs and UHCs) to ensure that every pregnant woman receives at least one gets

checkup in the 2nd & 3rd trimester of pregnancy by doctors/Gynecologist. The PMSMA clinic will help in providing quality antenatal care and also detection, referral, treatment; follow up of high risk pregnancy and women having complications. If the 9th day of the month is Sunday/Holiday, then the clinic should be organised on next working day.

During this campaign, trained service provider and ASHA will focus their efforts to identify and reach out to pregnant women who have not registered for antenatal care

(left out/missed antenatal care) and also those who have registered but not avail antenatal care services (drop out) as well as high risk pregnant women.

The beneficiaries under PMSMA have been advised to attend PMSMA clinic for their antenatal check-up on 9th day of every month at District Hospitals (DHS), Community Health Centers (CHCs)/Primary Health Centers (PHCs)/Urban Health Centers (UHCs), a communication from the Deputy Director (HE/FW)/Jt. Secy. (RCH-II) said.

SPORTS

India vs England, 4th Test, Day 1: Honours even as Keaton Jennings, Ravichandran Ashwin dominate

Mumbai, Dec 8
In Cricket, England today finished the opening day of the Mumbai Test at 288 for 5. Opting to bat, the visitors had started the game strongly and were 196 for 2 at tea. Debutant Keaton Jennings was the star of the day as he hit his maiden Test ton. He scored 112. Jennings and Moeen Ali, who scored a half century, took England's score to 230 in the final session before both batsmen fell in quick succession.



made way for Lokesh Rahul. India is leading the 5-match series, 2-0.

Isles youth participates in World Karate tournament

Port Blair, Dec. 8
As one of the seven Indian representatives (solitary representative of A&N Islands), Shri Ratan Golder, Honorary General Secretary, Andaman Karate Association participated in the 5th IKO Matsushima World Open Kyokushin Karate Tournament (for men & women) held in Maebashi City Gumma Prefecture in Japan from Nov. 25 to 29. Participants from 49 countries of the world took part in this prestigious World Tournament.

meeting of Branch Chiefs. On Nov. 29, Shri Ratan Golder appeared for Dan Test followed by power training, kihons, kata and kumite - where he successfully completed 40 men

kumite fight and obtained 4 Dan Black Belt as well as awarded International Centre Referee Certificate after completion of its eligibility criteria, a communication said.

Korea Masters: Parupalli Kashyap reaches quarterfinals

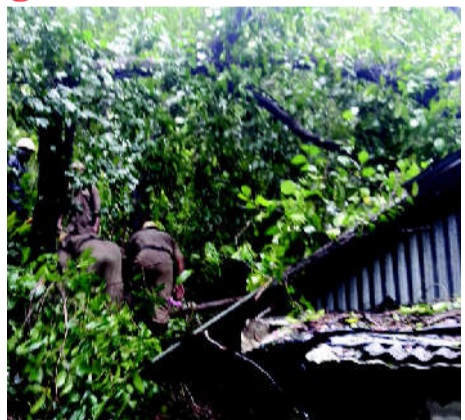


New Delhi, Dec 8
Parupalli Kashyap on Thursday reached the quarterfinals of the Korea Masters Grand Prix Gold after defeating China's Zhou Zeqi in the men's singles competition in Jeju, Korea. Kashyap, 30, survived a fast-paced three-game thriller to beat Zeqi 21-11 13-21 21-8 in 45 minutes.

Games gold medallist won the first game comfortably, but failed to wrap up the match losing the second game. But the experienced Hyderabad shuttler produced a commanding performance in the decider. The Indian ace will play local shuttler Jeon Hyeok Jin in the quarters. The sixth seeded Korean defeated Hashiru Shimono of Japan 22-20, 21-16.

A&N Fire Service rescues 35 persons from water logging at Diglipur, Rangat & Bakultala

Port Blair, Dec. 8
The Police Fire Service personnel deployed at Fire Stations in South Andaman and North & Middle Andaman are making full efforts in undertaking various tasks like cutting and removing of uprooted trees which had fallen on the residential houses, roads etc continuously despite incessant rain and cyclone 'Vardah' in round the clock. The prompt action of the Fire Service personnel, has saved lives and property, ensured free vehicular movement in Port Blair township and remote areas.



Fireman lift etc. In an another incident at Kalasi Chowk (Bakultala), where the nallah adjoining to the ATR Road was overflowed and thus the vehicle supposed to pass over the road is daunting task. Finally, the help of Fire Station Bakultala was sought and the fire fighters swung into action and

saved 40 vehicles (Light & Heavy). At the same time, around 50 people stranded due to flow of heavy water over the road were also assisted in crossing the road to safety by the fire fighters of FS Bakultala, a communication from the Dy. Superintendent of Police (Fire Service) said here today.

Special bank account opening camp

Port Blair, Dec. 8
The Labour Department in association with State Bank of India will be holding a special bank account opening camp for workers in the premises of Office of Labour Commissioner at Supply Line on Dec. 9 from 11 am to 1 pm. All employees/contractors have been requested to

ensure that workers without bank accounts avail this facility to open bank accounts. Since it has been mandated by Government of India that salary of workers from Jan 1, 2017 shall be through bank accounts only, a communication from the Labour Commissioner & DET said here today.

Australia named unchanged squad for Brisbane Test

New Delhi, Dec 8
Australia named an unchanged squad on Thursday for the first Test match - a day-night affair - against Pakistan starting 15 December at Gabba, Brisbane. This will also be the first day-night Test at the venue. Selectors have decided to continue with same squad that helped Australia win their last match against South Africa, and hoped it deserved another chance under lights at Gabba. "We were very pleased with how the team came together in Adelaide after some significant changes following the Tests in Perth and Hobart," said interim chief selector Trevor Hohns.

Junior Hockey World Cup: Germany, New Zealand win opening matches

New Delhi, Dec 8
The 11th Junior Hockey World Cup kick-started on Thursday with New Zealand beating Japan 1-0 in a pool C match at Lucknow Major Dhyani Chand Stadium. Kiwi striker Sam Lane scored the only goal of the match in the 44th minute through field strike. In other important match of the day, six-times champions Germany began their title defense on a shaky note. They escaped with a narrow 2-1 win over European rivals Spain in the same pool.

WEATHER

Rain or thundershower very likely to occur at most places. Maximum and minimum temperature will be around 27°C and 23°C respectively on Friday 09/12/2016
Observational data for Port Blair in last 24 hours
Maximum Temperature (°C): 27.3
Minimum Temperature (°C): 23.2
Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST: 81
Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST: 93
Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0529
Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST): 1656
Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs) in mm: 212.4
Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 005.4
Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 16: 3554.8 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

CINEMA

DIVIYUM TALKIES
Following is the Schedule for Week Dec 9 - 15
Befikre - (Hindi UA) - 1:30 PM, 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM
Dhruva - (Telugu UA) - 11:30 AM, 3:15 PM & 7:00 PM
www.ticketnew.com
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International Conference ..

(Contd. from page 1)
The conference and expressed hope that conference will come out with fruitful deliberations and positive suggestions to address the issue of climate change as also the management of resources for livelihood security. The chief guest also released a sequence of books, which included a book on the Conference and a souvenir on the occasion. He also felicitated scientists with different awards instituted by ASA for their contributions towards research works, besides lifetime achievement awards and Young Scientists awards. The other speakers at the inaugural function expressed their concern over the impacts of climate change and put forth their views on as to how it can be dealt, without compromising on the available resources to minimize its impacts. They included among others, Dr. AK Singh, DDG (Agri. Extn. & Horticulture Sciences), Dr. R R Hanchinal, Chairperson PPV & FRA and RC Agrawal, Registrar General, PPV & FRA and the Director CIARI cum President ASA, Dr. S Dam Roy. About hundred delegates from different science societies of the country and abroad are participating in the Conference, which will continue upto December 10, 2016.

Status of foreshore/inter-island vessels

Port Blair, Dec. 8
This is for the information of the passengers/general public that in the prevailing adverse weather respect of Foreshore sector/Inter Island vessels are detailed below.

| SL. NO. | NAME OF THE SHIP | DEPARTURE TIME | DESTINATION PORT | STATUS |
|---------|------------------|----------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. | MV Rani Lakshmi | 0620 Hrs | Havelock | CANCELLED |
| 2. | MV Strait Island | 0600 Hrs | Mayabunder | CANCELLED |
| 3. | MV Katchal | 0630 Hrs | Neil Island | CANCELLED |
| 4. | MV Kamorta | 0630 Hrs | Rangat via Havelock & Long Island | CANCELLED |
| 5. | MV Katchal | 1100 Hrs | Havelock via Neil Island | Will be reviewed at 1000 Hrs |
| 6. | MV Rani Lakshmi | 1400 Hrs | Havelock | Will be reviewed at 1300 Hrs |
| 7. | MV Chowra | 0700 | Nancowry via Hut Bay, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal | CANCELLED |

Passengers can also get update/status from the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay by using the Number 03192 - 245555/232714, a communication from the Deputy Director (SS) said here today.

Training on fire fighting at Police Fire Service

Port Blair, Dec. 8
The 7th batch of 5 days training programme on 'First Aid Fire fighting & Disaster Preparedness & Medical First Aid' with the aim to spread community wide awareness especially for the benefit of School Teachers and Govt. servants of various departments, employees from various Hotels etc. is currently underway from Dec. 6 in the conference hall of A&N Police Fire Service Training Centre at Fire Service (HQs), Port Blair. The course will conclude on Dec. 10. Shri. B. Saigal, Dy. Superintendent of Police (Fire Service), A&N Islands welcomed the participants and briefed about the main components of the training programme and appealed them to complete the training in all respect and to gather adequate knowledge from the faculties of Police Fire Service Training Centre. Altogether, 33 persons from various Govt. Institutions, Schools and Hotels are attending the training programme.

Electricity ..

(Contd. from page 1)
velocity. The Electricity Department is trying our best to restore the power supply and to provide our best service to the public, said the Executive Engineer (HQ), Electricity Department in a press release received here today.

Meanwhile, the consumers have been requested to inform the nearest site office if they observe flash, abnormal sound in the electric system so that the technical team can reach and solve the problem. The falling and snapping of line could be dangerous, hence the citizens are requested that on sighting of such happening inform the nearest site Office, Police Stations, Fire Brigade so that safety measures can be taken. They have also been requested not to touch or come near the snapped lines and also not to allow other people and cattle etc. to come near the snapped lines.

The consumers/general public can inform the aforesaid situation over phone to the respective Junior Engineers/Assistant Engineers/Executive Engineers of the areas or Electricity Control Room Telephone no.03192-235250, for immediate attention and quick action, the release added.

Death of TN CM condoled

Port Blair, Dec 8
The Port Blair Municipal Sanitary Employees Welfare Union, A&N Islands have mourned the sudden demise of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha, who passed away on Dec 5. Meanwhile, a condolence meeting was organized by Andaman Tamizhar Sangam, Phoenix Bay yesterday to pay respect to Selvi J Jayalalitha, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, communications said here.

Heavy rainfall ..

(Contd. from page 1)
places over Andaman Islands and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Nicobar Islands is very likely to occur during next 24 hrs. Light to moderate rainfall at most places with isolated heavy falls is very likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands during subsequent 24 hours. Light to moderate rainfall at many places with isolated heavy falls over coastal Andhra Pradesh is very likely to commence from 11th December evening.

(ii) **Wind warning:** Squally winds speed reaching 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph would prevail over Andaman Islands & adjoining sea areas during next 24 hrs and Nicobar Islands & adjoining sea areas during next 12 hrs. Squally winds speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph would prevail along and off Andhra Pradesh coast commencing from 11th December night.

(iii) **Sea condition:** Sea condition would be rough to very rough along & off Andaman Islands and adjoining sea areas during next 24 hrs and Nicobar Islands and adjoining sea areas during next 12 hrs. Sea condition would be also rough to very rough along & off Andhra Pradesh coast commencing from 11th December night.

(iv) **Fishermen Warning:** Fishermen are advised not to venture into sea along and off Andaman Islands and adjoining sea areas during next 24 hrs and Nicobar Islands & adjoining sea areas during next 12 hrs. Fishermen are advised not to venture into sea along and off Andhra Pradesh coast from 10th December onwards. The fishermen out at sea are advised to return to the coast by 10th December 2016.

Govt announces ..

(Contd. from page 1)
financial support to eligible banks for deployment of two Point of Sale (PoS) devices each in 1 Lakh villages with population of less than 10,000. The Minister said, the Government through NABARD will also support Rural Regional Banks and Cooperative Banks to issue Rupay Kisan Cards to over 4 crore 32 lakh Kisan Credit Card holders to enable them to make digital transactions at POS machines and ATMs.