

## All set for Republic Day Celebration in Isles

### Lt. Governor to unfurl National Tricolour at historic Netaji Stadium today

Port Blair, Jan 25

The 68th Republic Day will be celebrated in a befitting manner in these Islands too together with the rest of the country tomorrow (Jan 26). The main function for the Republic Day celebration will be held at the historic Netaji Stadium wherein the Lt. Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi will unfurl the National tricolour.

As per the programme chalked out for the Republic Day celebrations, the Lt. Governor will unfurl the National tricolour at 8.35 am, distribute Medals, Gallantry Awards & Commendation Certificates and thereafter address the Islanders. March past by Defence Forces, Police, NCC contingents, school boys & girls followed by tableaux presentation and

cultural programme by school children will be the other highlights of the Republic Day function which will conclude with the national anthem.

Before arriving at the Netaji Stadium for the main function, the Lt. Governor will visit National Memorial Cellular Jail and place wreath at the 'Martyr's Column' there.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of Republic Day, a twenty one gun salute will be fired from Ross Island at 1200 hrs on Jan 26, 2017.

### GREETINGS



On this 68th Republic Day, I extend my heartiest greetings to the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and wish you all peace, prosperity and progress.

On this day, in 1950, India became a Socialist, Secular, Sovereign and Democratic Republic, guided by the principles of justice, liberty and equality. Our Constitution resolves to provide Justice, Liberty, Fraternity and Equality of status, assuring the dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the Nation.

On this occasion, let us pledge to live upto the ideals enshrined in our Constitution and

show a sense of unity and purpose to take our great Nation forward.

Sd/-  
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi  
Lieutenant Governor  
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

## 7th National Voters' Day celebrated in Isles

### LG calls upon youth to exercise their franchise with pride in elections



Port Blair, Jan 25

Along with the rest of the country, the 7th National Voters' Day was celebrated in these Islands too today. To celebrate the occasion, a function was organized in the auditorium of the JNRM here this morning. The Lt Governor, A&N Islands, Prof Jagdish Mukhi was the chief guest on this occasion. He administered the National Voters' Day pledge to the people present in the auditorium and handed over Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC), to some of the newly enrolled voters on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor said, this day marks the foundation day of the Election Commission of India on 25th January, 1950, and is an important day as on this day the people of the country reiterate their belief in our democracy. "We are proud of our vibrant democracy and reaffirm our

commitment to follow the democratic path", he said. The celebration of this Day is a new and unique initiative of the Election Commission to involve the voters and motivate them, especially the youth, to vote. Observing this Day in colleges brings awareness about the

duties of citizens as a voter and encourages youth to register as voters, he observed.

Referring to this year's theme, 'Empowering the young & future voters', the Lt Governor said, participation of youth in electoral process is the key for a healthy democracy.

"Our country is the world's largest functional democracy and the success of democracy lies on the fruitful political participation of population; and one of the effective ways of participation is voting", he said.

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## Lt. Governor greets Islanders on Republic Day Reiterates Administration's commitment for all-round development of the Islands

Port Blair, Jan 25

The Lt Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi has called upon all the Islanders to reaffirm their commitments to take our nation forward under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Greeting the Islanders on the eve of 68th Republic Day, broadcast by AIR this evening, the Lt. Governor said, in the past one year these Islands have witnessed rapid development and progress on various fronts and expressed confidence that this year also the Islands would witness greater development and prosperity.

He also paid tributes to the heroes of our freedom struggles who made supreme sacrifices for the cause of the Motherland.

"Let us also pay our homage to those martyrs of various struggles, who made the supreme sacrifices to safeguard our country from 'divisive forces'", he said.

The Lt. Governor said, there has been a tremendous all round development in the country under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. In the Andaman & Nicobar Islands too, the development processes are in full swing with the support from the Govt. of India. In the past one year, all national schemes, launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister have been

launched here with great enthusiasm and people of these Islands have been benefitted immensely. The Administration has successfully implemented many projects under its plan schemes, he said and highlighted some of the notable achievements made in the last one year.

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### Lucky draw under 'Lucky Grahak' & 'Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana' scheme on Jan 27

Port Blair, Jan 25  
The A & N Administration under the guidance of NITI Aayog, will organize 'Lucky Draw' event under the Central Government's incentivizing schemes 'Lucky Grahak Yojana' and 'Digi-dhan Vyapar Yojana' at 6 pm at ITF Ground, Port Blair on 27th January, 2017. The Lt Governor, A&N Islands, Prof Jagdish Mukhi will be the chief

guest of the event. A day long awareness camp - Digi-dhan Mela is also being organized on the day to provide assistance and train people to use online platforms to conduct transactions. Ministers of Govt. of India are also expected to attend the function.

Lucky draw event will be organized in evening. During the lucky draw the

winners of 'Lucky Grahak Yojana' and 'Digi-dhan Vyapar Yojana' will be announced. On this occasion a few Govt. institutions and private organizations actively doing digital transactions will also be felicitated. To create awareness and motivate the youth towards digital transactions, various contests viz. slogan competition, jingles and poster competitions were conducted at school and college levels. Winners of these contests will also be awarded by the dignitaries in the function.

The prime objective of the event is to generate awareness among citizens and merchants about various digital payment systems available. It also aims to handhold users in downloading, installing and using various digital payment systems for carrying out digital

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### Legal awareness camp at Sippighat

Port Blair, Jan 25  
The District Legal Services Authority, A&N Islands will hold a legal awareness camp at Sippighat Gram Panchayat hall at 4 pm on Jan 28, 2017, a communication from the Secretary, DLSA said here today.

### NHIDCL invites bids for execution of roads from Austin Creek to Kalra junction

Port Blair, Jan 25

Pursuant to the initiative taken by Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament, A&N Islands with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, GoI, New Delhi and NHIDCL, New Delhi for early execution of the works for 'Rehabilitation and up-gradation of National Highway road from km 242.0 to 298.0 of NH-223 (New NH -4) to 2 Lane with hard shoulder from Austin Creek to Kalra junction under Diglipur Tehsil, the National Highways & Infrastructure

Development Corporation Ltd has invited bids from eligible contractors on 24.01.2016.

The complete bid document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of (NHIDCL) <http://w.w.nhidcl.com> or e-procurement portal of NHIDCL (<http://eprocure.gov.in>) from 24.01.01.2017 to 23.02.2017 upto 1500 hrs and bid will be received on or before 23.02.2017. Bids received online will be opened on 24.02.2017, a communication from Office of the MP said here today.

### Six persons, two institutions chosen for LG's Commendation Certificate

Port Blair, Jan 25

Altogether 6 persons from different walks of life and 2 institutions have been chosen to be honoured with the Lt. Governor's Commendation Certificates on the occasion of the Republic Day 2017.

The person to be awarded include Shri M. Mehmood, Police Constable, A&N Police Fire Services, Shri Ghyas James, Police Constable, A&N Police, Shri Mohammed Ismail, Assistant Camp Officer, Environment & Forest

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towards its eradication by creating a liquor free atmosphere in the Islands", he said while addressing the gathering, also comprising of students on the occasion of National Voters' Day in the auditorium of JNRM here today.

The Lt. Governor appealed to the students to take up eradication of liquor as a

mission and apprise people in their homes, neighborhood, social gatherings, religious functions, socio-cultural functions etc. about its ill consequences, so that people can make decisions and restrain themselves from consuming liquor. "There is no government law, which can stop such

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### GREETINGS



With the rest of the Country, the UT of A & N Islands is also celebrating 68th "Republic Day" on 26th January, 2017. Let us remember the golden heritage of our country and feel proud to be a part of India, the tricolour gives the messages of Peace,

Humanity & Prosperity. On this auspicious occasion of Republic Day, I would like to express my warm greetings and best wishes to all the peoples of A & N Islands for celebrating the national auspicious day with peace and harmony and also for strengthening the unity of the nation.

Sd/-  
Bishnu Pada Ray  
Member of Parliament (LS)  
A & N Islands

### Republic Day celebration at different places

Port Blair, Jan 25

On the occasion of Republic Day celebration on Jan 26, National Flag will be unfurled in the District and Sessions Court premises at 7.15 am by the District and Sessions Judge, A & N Islands.

The Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, Shri Jaydeep Kumar Dey will unfurl the National Flag on Jan 26 at 8.35 am at Mini Stadium,

Wimberlygunj.

The Chairperson, PBMC, Shri B. Eswar Rao will unfurl the National Flag in the office premises at 7.15 am. The Sr. Vice Chairperson, PBMC, Shri NK Udaya Kumar will unfurl the National Flag at Prem Nagar, Sanitary Workers Colony at 6.45 am. The Jr. Vice Chairperson, PBMC, Shri Dharmendra Narayan will unfurl the National Flag at Nagar Palika Vidyalaya School at 7 am.

### Urban Centric Bus Service

### Lt. Governor to flag off 'Sugamya Sewa' service today

Port Blair, Jan 25

The main motive of Transport Department is to provide efficient and affordable public transport to the commuters in the UT. It is observed that there has been a rapid increase in the personal vehicles in the recent past specially in the city of Port Blair which is leading to frequent traffic congestion, accidents etc.

As per the direction of Lt. Governor and Chief Secretary, Transport Department has decided to introduce an Urban Centric Bus Services within the city of Port Blair with the available resources. The service will be operated under the name of 'Sugamya Sewa' with the

existing white coloured mini buses and in future better quality low floor and semi low floor buses would be added.

Trial run of Sugamya Sewa service on selected route (Circular route from both directions and service between Mohanpura and Garacharma) has already

begun from Jan. 20, 2017. The practical difficulties faced during the trial run have also been removed. Sugamya Sewa Service will be formally flagged off by the Lt. Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi at 10.15 am on Jan 26, 2017 from Bus Terminus Mohanpura.

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The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar administering the Voters' Pledge to the Officers and Staff of Secretariat on the occasion of National Voters' Day in the Secretariat premises on 25.01.2017.

**Ragina & Saraswati win medals at National Canoe Sprint C'ship**

Port Blair, Jan 25  
Miss Ragina Kiro, Assistant Sub Inspector and Smt. Saraswati Poddar, Police Constable of Andaman and Nicobar Police have once again brought laurels to these Islands by winning medals in the recently concluded 27th National Canoe Sprint Championship 2016-17 which was held at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Ragina Kiro won 4 gold and 2 silver medals while Saraswati Poddar won 1 silver and 1 bronze medal. Meanwhile, the A&N Police has congratulated both of them for their achievements in National championship, a communication from the Superintendent of Police (HQ), A&N Islands said here today.

**LG calls upon..**  
*(Contd. from page 1)*

The Lt Governor said, elections play a crucial role in developing and strengthening democratic set up and through the conduct of free, fair and participative elections, our democracy has become one of the most vibrant in the world. "The Voter is the central actor in any democratic election" he said, also appreciating the Election Department for making the process of enrolment easier and convenient in these Isles. The electoral roll of this UT has been purified and made error free by the Election Department, the Lt Governor commented adding that during the General Elections to Lok Sabha, in 2014, there was an average voters' turn out of 70.71percent in A&N Islands Parliamentary Constituency, of which, 82.65 percent was highest polling in Car Nicobar Tehsil. "This is very healthy as compared to rest of the country and speaks well of the democratic Institutions here", he said. The Lt Governor, while acknowledging that the roots of democracy are very deep in our country and our brothers in rural areas are very much aware of their rights in a democracy and are capable of making appropriate decisions, reminded the gathering about how the people voted for change soon after Emergency in India.

The Lt Governor also urged everyone to take conscious steps to make democracy really meaningful, successful, vibrant and strong. He stressed the need for spreading awareness among the people of India so as to make them more responsible, disciplined besides encouraging them to actively participate in the democratic process which is the essence of democracy. He called upon the people, especially youth, to exercise their franchise with pride in every election. Through increased participation, the electoral process and democracy in India will continue to grow in strength and vibrancy.

The Lt Governor also felicitated Booth Level Officers, Shri Subhash Mandal, (Port Blair Tehsil) and Smti Urvasini Bala (Ferrargunj Tehsil), for their performances, with certificates and cash awards. The winners of essay writing contests were also awarded by the chief guest. Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Chief Electoral Officer, A&N Islands, Shri Udit Prakash Rai, informed about the significance of the day. In the last 66 years, our democracy and election process has evolved and elections today have become transparent, giving level playing field to all people and political parties, he said. Shri Rai also informed that in A&N Islands, Electoral Rolls have been revised and published. The number of polling booths has gone up from earlier 386 to 401 now, with 2.78 lakh total voters. The students of JNRM also presented a cultural programme on the occasion.

**LG makes fervent ..**  
*(Contd. from page 1)*

social evil unless it is supported by mass participation", the Lt. Governor said.

The Lt. Governor said that students are the powerful instrument for achieving such social objectives. "At this age", he said, "you have to save yourselves from the liquor consumption, and if you succeed, you will be safe anywhere you go. This will not only save you, but will protect the coming generation from becoming addicted to liquor consumption", he said appealing them to contribute towards eradication of this social evil. He advised the Principal of the College to organize symposium among the students about the ill effects of liquor and the need to eradicate it from the Islands.

Stating that the Administration has taken various initiatives for reducing liquor consumption in the Islands, the Lt. Governor informed that all the bars and liquor shops that are operating alongside state and national highways will be closed down by March 31, 2017. Apart from this, the Administration has added 13 more dry days to the existing three dry days (Jan. 26, Aug. 15 and Oct. 02) in the Islands, making it a total 16 days now. These included public holidays of religious significance, he said. Similarly, issue of liquor by ANIIDCO wine shops has been limited to two bottles per person per day besides bars and liquor shops have also been directed to introduce cashless payment for sale of liquor. This will lead to 50% reduction in liquor consumption in the Islands by the next one year, he said. The Lt. Governor also informed that a separate Directorate, 'Directorate of Prohibition' has been established and is now carrying out activities for creating awareness about the ill effects of alcoholism. These include street plays (nukkad natak), seminar, film show, cultural programme etc, he said. The Lt. Governor also informed that he will convene a meeting on 30th of January this year, inviting all heads of institutions, including primary, secondary, senior secondary schools, colleges, PBMC, PRIs, religions, socio-cultural organizations, school/college students' unions and other organizations, to discuss various measures in curbing the menace of liquor consumption in the Islands.

**ANC to illuminate ships**

Port Blair, Jan 25

As part of Republic Day celebrations, Naval and Coast Guard Ships along with two DSS Ships will be berthed at anchorage off Marina Park on Jan 26 and 29, 2017 for illumination. Naval and Coast Guard ships participating in this event are INS Cheetah, INS Kumbhir, ICGS Rajveer and ICGS Bhikaji Cama. All six ships will remain illuminated from 1720 hrs to 2200 hrs on both the days, an ANC communiqué said.

**Reiterates Administration's ..**

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The Lt. Governor said, the telecommunication facilities in these Islands will witness a sea change in two years time from now as the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for laying of submarine Optical Fibre Cable between the Islands and Chennai at a cost of Rs.1,102.38 crore for improving the telecom connectivity. Once the undersea cable project is complete, the tele-connectivity problems will be eliminated once and for all resulting in overall socio-economic development of the Islands. The Optical Fibre Cable project will stimulate establishment of IT based Industry & IT enabled services besides help improving e-Governance in the Isles, he said.

About the tourism sector, the Lt. Governor said tourist arrivals in A&N Islands has touched the 4 lakh mark for the first time in 2016 recording an overall increase of 38% over the arrival figures of 2015. He also mentioned about the Administration's effort in promoting tourism in North & Middle Andaman.

Accordingly, tented accommodation will be set up at Lalaji Bay in Long Island with facilities like Watch Tower, Office, Restaurant, kitchen. Sanction has also been accorded to position Floating jetties at Ross & Smith Island with an estimated cost of Rs. 1.98 cr. The Ministry of Tourism has already sanctioned project proposals worth Rs. 42 Cr. under 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme'. The projects include, Up-gradation of facilities and conservation of Cellular Jail, provision of tourist facilities at prominent beaches (Kalapathar, Elephant, Bharatpur, Iaxmanpur, Baludera, Ramnagar, Ross & Smith, Lalaji Bay Beach), way side amenities at Baratang etc.

NITI Ayog is taking up holistic development of Ross Island & Smith Island, Avis Island, Long Island, and Little Andaman Island, he said.

The Lt. Governor mentioned that an advanced lazer show at Radha Nagar Beach in Havelock would be set up while the Administration would be promoting 'Wellness Tourism' by introducing Ayurvedic spa.

The Lt. Governor also spoke about the provisions under Excise Policy of the Islands that aims at curbing the alcoholism issue in the Islands. The Administration has also set up a separate Directorate of Prohibition. As per the new excise policy, the Administration, has decided to check the alcoholism by way of taking measures in a systematic manner to curb the tendencies, said the Lt. Governor adding that the new policy will be implemented strictly in the Islands while the Administration will also generate awareness through various NGOs/Voluntary agencies, Police and Social Welfare department and carry out sustained campaign by way of educating people on the harmful effects of alcohol in families and society.

Speaking about the ban on chewing tobacco in the Islands, the Lt. Governor said, in the larger interest of public health, on 2nd October 2016, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti, the Administration imposed a total ban on the manufacture, storage, sale and consumption of all forms of chewing tobacco products like gutka, packed/unpacked zarda etc in the Islands. This step has been hailed by the society at large.

Turning to digital payment and cashless transactions in the Islands, the Lt. Governor said the Administration has effectively handled the situation after the decision of demonetization taken by the Central Govt. and appreciated the people of these Islands who have adapted rather well to the changes brought in by demonetization and are helping themselves moving towards a cleaner and cashless economy. The Administration in co-ordination with banks is imparting necessary training and conducting awareness programme on Digital payment and Cashless Transaction to the general public, office staffs, shopkeepers, students, PRI members etc. All shopkeepers, traders are being educated and prompted for installation of POS Machines for Digital payment, he said.

About the health sector, the Lt. Governor said the Administration will set up a Cath lab for angioplasty (Stents) in the G B Pant Hospital by June, 2017. Medical facilities for Knee & Hip replacement along with spinal surgery would also be made available at GB Pant Hospital by that time. A New Primary Health (PHC) Centre Building at Teresa has been completed and made functional while a long pending demand of the people of Bambooflat and its adjoining area has also been fulfilled, he said also mentioning about the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhyan (PMSMA) that started in Isles on 9th September, 2016 to provide quality Antenatal Care (ANC) services to all pregnant women so as to ensure that no high risk pregnancy goes undetected.

Regarding the Civil Aviation sector, the Lt. Governor said the Administration is making best efforts to provide relief to the Islanders and the tourists alike from high airfare in Andaman sector. The number and frequency of flights to Port Blair have increased over the last few months and new companies like Vistara and Indigo have launched their services to Port Blair. Similarly, Go Air has also introduced flight services from Mumbai and Bengaluru to Port Blair which has led to a competitive scenario and slashing down of airfare on mainland-Island sector. Besides, the chartered flights operated by A&N Administration on Chennai-Port Blair- Chennai and Kolkata-Port Blair- Kolkata sectors has proved to be very successful in providing affordable air-connectivity to Islanders. Turning to the Shipping sector, the Lt. Governor said, the ship acquisition process for procurement of new ships for A&N Islands is progressing under the "Make in India" initiative of the Central Government. Under this initiative, the A&N Administration has already ordered four big ships (two mainland and two inter-islands) with Cochin Shipyard Ltd. Similarly 10 smaller Harbour Crafts have been ordered with two shipyards at Goa, the delivery of which would commence in the middle of 2017 in a phased manner. Apart from this, in order to meet the urgent requirement of a vessel for inter-island sector, the A&N Administration has concluded an agreement for chartering a 450 pax-cum-100 ton cargo vessel namely M.V Coral Queen which is likely to be inducted into service by the end of this month.

Regarding sports in the Islands, the Lt. Governor expressed great happiness that the Islands have produced sportsperson of International level. Ms Deborah, ace cyclist from these Islands has brought laurels by securing medals in International events. Our sportspersons have always done well in the National sports meets. To further enhance sports skills of our children, the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs has started Andaman & Nicobar Sports Academy for boys and girls under age group of 12 to 14 Years in three disciplines - Basket ball, Cycling and Swimming. To promote sports activity in rural area, a multipurpose Indoor Sports hall at Nayapuram with sports facilities such as Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis and Gymnasium at a cost of Rs.4.61 crore is complete, he said.

Highlighting rural development activities in the Islands, the Lt. Governor mention about the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin, being implemented in these Islands' in letter & spirit. Under this scheme, it has been proposed to construct 157 new houses in the first phase with assistance of Rs. 1,30,000/- each. Similarly, Swatch Bharat Mission is also being implemented in these Islands in true sense, he said. Under this, altogether, 659 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) and one Community Sanitary Complex has been completed. No household in the Isles will remain without toilet by March 31, 2018, he said.

The Lt. Governor also said that Administration attaches great importance to supply of hygienic water to its people. A Water Treatment has been completed at Tirur which will ensure safe water to people in that area.

The Administration is also committed to providing better road connectivity to North & Middle Andaman, said the Lt. Governor mentioning that tenders have been called by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for the two bridges at Middle Strait and Humphery Strait. National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) has taken up the construction of these two major bridges. After declaration of ATR as National Highway, tenders for widening and strengthening of part of roads has been done.

Following the vision of our Prime Minister, "Less Government and more governance", the District Administration South Andaman has simplified the procedure for issuing sale permission of land and processing at Sub-Divisional level. Besides, regular eviction drives are being carried out to stop fresh encroachment at various places of South Andaman District, said the Lt. Governor.

Referring to the power scenario in the Islands, the Lt. Governor said the Power Ministry has decided to convert A&N Islands into 'Green Islands' and total 'Green Power' in the Island by 2018 is our vision. As part of this initiative, the Administration has signed agreement between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Central Public Sector Undertakings for setting up 5 Solar PV Plants at five different locations. Apart from this, 1MWp Grid connected Rooftop SPV Plants will be established in 13 Govt. buildings through M/s Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). An MoU has been signed with M/s Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL), to carryout feasibility study for establishment of 30 MW LNG Based Power Plant in Hope town, South Andaman as well, he said.

The Lt. Governor also mentioned that the Police continues to play a major role in the security of the Islands. Under the Coastal Security Scheme Phase-II, the MHA has sanctioned 10 Large Vessels and 23 Inflatable Boats for carrying out enhanced coastal security. The construction work of these vessels is under progress at Goa, he said.

Turning to education, the Lt. Governor said, the Administration is committed to provide quality and better education to the students of these Islands. To provide higher education for the students of these Islands, for the first time, a new Law College has been established in the Isles while the Administration is making efforts to open a Central University in the Islands, he said.

The Lt. Governor also stated that the Administration is concerned about protection and welfare of women. The Social Welfare department has setup a unique innovative centre called 'Wellness centre' which provides services for woman facing physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse due to sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking etc.

Speaking about the Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs sector, the Lt. Governor said e-PDS project has been implemented in South Andaman District ensuring transaction of PDS commodities through Smart Ration Card. e-PDS will start in North & Middle Andaman from February 2017 followed by Nicobar District from 1st of April 2017. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna has been launched in the Islands in association with IOCL under which 1175 LPG connections to the BPL families have been provided. The agency is committed to achieve the target of 5,000 connections by the end of this financial year and another 9,000 connections in the following year.

The Lt. Governor also expressed his gratitude to the Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Chairperson of PBMC, Zilla Parishad Chairpersons, Councillors, PRIs and the members of the Tribal Council for their support in taking up development activities for the benefit of the people. He also thanked all the political parties for their support and contribution to take the islands on the path of progress, the Andaman & Nicobar Command for their invaluable contribution and support to the Civil Administration.

The Lt. Governor also thanked the media for their significant contribution in projecting the development activities that happened in the last one year with a positive attitude.

The Lt. Governor also appreciated the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, led by the Chief Secretary and all his officers, the Andaman & Nicobar Police, led by the DGP, for ensuring peace and harmony in these Islands and also for undertaking the daunting task of providing security in the far flung areas and the scattered Islands.

**Padma awardees' list announced**

New Delhi, Jan 25

Politician Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Muri Manohar Joshi and singer Shri Yesudas and spiritual leader Shri Jaggi Vasudev are among the seven prominent personalities who will be awarded Padma Vibhushan, the country's prestigious civilian award.

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Sunder Lal Patwa and former Lok Sabha Speaker Shri P A Sangma have also been selected for this award posthumously.

Instrumentalist Shri Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and former Journalist Cho Ramaswamy are in the list of seven people who will be given the Padma Bhushan. Cho Ramaswamy will be awarded posthumously.

Besides, Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, Olympic medalist wrestler Sakshi Malik, Athlete Deepa Malik, Olympian gymnast Dipa Karmakar and singer Kailash Kher are among the 75 prominent names who will receive Padma Shri for their outstanding performance in different fields. Singer Anuradha Paudwal, Paralympic gold medalist Mariyappan Thangavelu, social activist Anuradha Koirala will also be conferred on the award. AIDS crusader Suniti Solomon will be awarded posthumously.

The awards are announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.

**Lucky draw under ..**

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transactions. The initiative plans to enable citizens and merchants to undertake real time digital transactions.

The Digi-dhan Mela will witness stakeholders of Islands digital payment ecosystem - Banks, IOC, BSNL, UIDAI, NABARD, CSCs, different Departments of A & N Administration etc. exhibit and provide actual hand holding to general public in adopting digital payments through their stalls.

The participants will be explaining various options available for digital payments; they will also be assisting visitors in downloading and installing various mobile apps for digital payments and help them do digital transaction. During the event, help will also be extended to citizens for opening their bank accounts, to enrol them into Aadhaar or corrections in name, date of birth and to enable their existing accounts into AEPS accounts. BSNL will provide WiFi service at the venue to enable citizens to download and install mobile apps for aiding on the spot digital payments. Citizens who wish to be enrolled in Aadhaar have been requested to carry a proof of identity with name and photo, proof of address, proof of date of birth (PAN card, Passport or Birth Certificate). Citizens should carry their bank account details to enable the apps. Merchants are requested to carry Company proof, PAN Card (of the proprietor and the company), KYC (Driving License/Passport/Aadhaar Card/Voter ID) - Any one, Bank account details and IFSC Code to digitally enable their accounts.

The Mela is primarily targeted to encourage the urban populace to embrace digital payments and looks to supplement the rural effort of promoting digital payments being led by the Common Services Centres.

A & N Administration invited citizens to turn up in the event in large number and avail the opportunities to be provided at single platform for making a positive move towards cashless transactions, an official communication said here tonight.

**Six persons, two ...**

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Department, Shri Gupteshwar Singh, Primary School Teacher, Govt. Primary School, Mayabunder, Shri T. Johnson, Revenue Inspector, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman and Dr. Solomon Marc Paul, Medical Officer (i/c), Primary Health Centre, Teressa.

Besides, two institutions, namely the Regional Centre of Indra Gandhi National Open University at Port Blair and the Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs will also get LG's Commendation Certificate this year. All the recipients have shown extraordinary sense of responsibility, professional skill, devotion of duty and have contributed to growth the Islands in their respective fields. The Lt. Governor will give away Commendation certificates to these persons during the main function to be held at Netaji Stadium tomorrow (Jan 26).

**Lt. Governor to flag ..**

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The intension of the service is to ensure availability of city public transport to the citizens at regular and fixed intervals from 5 am to 10 pm. The Sugamya Sewa service will ensure connectivity to all destinations inside the PBMC area. In addition to shuttle services between two points, there will be a circular service between Bus Terminus, Mohanpura and Bathu Basti connecting School Line and Chakkar Gaon. Initially, fare structure for the service will remain the same as that of the existing fare for ordinary buses, a communication received here said.

**Installation of idol of Lord Hanuman**

Port Blair, Jan 25

The Dweep Bharti Hindu Dharma Pratisthan (DBHDP), Wimberlygunj will install a 24 feet idol of Lord 'Sri Hanumanji' at the premises of Sri Radha Krishna Mandir, Wimberlygunj. The 'praan pratistha' pooja of Sri Hanumanji, along with the opening of renovated temple of 'Maa Durga' and 5th Sthapna Divas of Radha Krishna Mandir at the campus of DBHDP will be held from Jan 27 to 29, 2017. The programmes include vedi poojan, Gauri Ganesh poojan, havan on Jan 27 followed by vedi poojan, praan pratistha poojan of Hanumanji on Jan 28. Kumbh abhishek of Durga Mandir will also be held on Jan 28 while maha annadanam will be served on Jan 29.

**Special Gram Sabhas**

Port Blair, Jan 25

A special Gram Sabha meeting of Chouldari Gram Panchayat will be held at 8 am on Jan 26 at Panchayat Bhavan, Chouldari. Meanwhile, the Gram Sabha meeting of Gram Panchayat Gandhinagar, North Andaman will be held on Jan 26 at 8 am at Aerial Bay. Similarly, the special Gram Sabha meeting of Gram Panchayat will be held at 9 am on Jan 26 at Panchayat Bhawan, Tushnabad.