



Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping, Shri Pon Radhakrishnan called on the Lt Governor, Prof Jagdish Mukhi at Raj Niwas on 27-01-2017. The First Lady of these Islands, Smt. Prem Mukhi was also present.

## Republic Day celebrated befittingly in Isles LG reiterates commitment to serve people; gives away Commendation Certificates & Medals



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Port Blair, Jan.27 The Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi has reiterated the Administration's commitment to serve the people of the Islands and to bring greater joy and betterment in their lives. He was addressing the Islanders on the auspicious occasion of the 68th Republic Day-2017 at the historic Netaji Stadium here yesterday. The Lt. Governor unfurled the National Tricolour amidst a large gathering of officers from the Administration, Defence, public representatives, freedom fighters' family and people from all walks of life. Spectacular parade, display of tableaux by Departments, showcasing their developmental activities and colourful cultural programme also marked the celebration of the 68th Republic Day. The Lt. Governor took the salute from the marching contingents. Addressing the gathering, the Lt. Governor appealed to one and all to come together for nation building, under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji. He assured that all stakeholders will be consulted and all sections of society will get benefits from the Government's schemes being implemented in the Islands. The Lt. Governor earlier paid tribute to the heroes of freedom struggles, who made supreme sacrifices for the

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## MoS for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping visits Isles Highlights importance of digital transactions & status of various developmental projects in Isles

Port Blair, Jan 27 The Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan visited the Islands today in connection with the Digi Dhan Mela that was organised by the A&N Administration, at the instance of the NITI Aayog, Govt. of India, at ITF Ground today. Soon after his arrival, the Minister visited the Digi Dhan Mela at ITF Ground. He also went around the stalls put up at the ground and interacted with the SHG members. The Minister also handed over a free LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to a beneficiary on



the occasion. He also appreciated the initiatives of the A&N Administration towards achieving cashless economy, a national goal and vision set by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Advisor, NITI Aayog, Shri Jitendra Kumar, Special Secretary (IT), Dr. Utpal Sharma was also present on the occasion. Thereafter, the Minister held a press conference at Megapode Resort. The Minister, at the outset, paid his tributes to the freedom fighters viz. Veer Savarkar and others who were

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## 'Sugamya Seva' Lt. Governor flags off Urban Centric Bus Service

Port Blair, Jan 27 To cater to the needs of urban population of Port Blair city, the Transport Department has introduced Urban Centric Bus Service 'Sugamya Seva' which was flagged off by the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi from Mohanpura Bus Terminus yesterday in the presence of Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar and other senior officers of the Administration. Addressing the gathering, the Lt. Governor expressed happiness that Urban Centric Bus Service 'Sugamya Seva' has been introduced in Port Blair city on the occasion of Republic Day. He said, with developments taking place in the city, the population has also increased and the need for proper internal transport system for people to commute from place to place has been felt.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi inaugurating the Sugamya Seva Service introduced by the State Transport Department at Bus Terminus on 26-01-17.

Transport Department has introduced the internal these challenges in mind and taken timely initiative in transport facility and keeping

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## MP inaugurates 'Digi Dhan Mela'

The Lt. Governor remarked that day by day, the number of private vehicles have also increased giving rise to a challenging situation in Port Blair city. In big cities across the globe, the biggest problems pertain to internal transport facility and with more people purchasing two and four wheelers, the problems of congestion, traffic jams, pollution, and wastage of time in commutation etc are regular scenes, he said. However, the situation in Port Blair city is comparatively better and the

Port Blair, Jan 27 The Fifth Day of 'Andaman Bazaar', a quarterly event 'Buyer-Seller Meet', was observed in ITF Ground, Port Blair as 'Digi Dhan Mela' by A&N Administration with an objective to promote and infiltrate the adoption of 'Digital payment method by educating the citizens about its advantages and usage of various digital mode of payment available as of now. Shri. Bishnu Pada Ray, the Member of Parliament inaugurated the mela in the



presence of Shri. Anindo Majumdar, Chief Secretary, A & N Administration at ITF Ground. The programme was also attended by PCCF, Secretary (Agriculture/Fisheries/AH/ Transport) and

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## Lucky draw under 'Lucky Grahak Yojana' & 'Digi-dhan Vyapar Yojana' held Lt. Governor appeals all Islanders to adopt digital transactions to check black money & corruption



Port Blair, Jan 27 As part of the Digi Dhan Mela that was held at the ITF Ground today, the lucky draw under the 'Lucky Grahak Yojana' for the consumers & 'Digi-dhan Vyapar Yojana' for the merchants, was held at ITF ground here this evening. The mela was organized with an aim to enable citizens and merchants to familiarize and adopt real time digital transactions. The Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi was the chief guest on the occasion. The Member of Parliament,

Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Smti Rupa Ray, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar, Advisor, NITI Ayog, Shri Jitendra Kumar, Director, NPCI, Shri Sanjay Saxena, Chairperson, PBMC, Shri B. Eshwar Rao, Adhyaksh ZPSA, Shri Jaydeep Kumar Dey, Chairperson, SSWB, Dr. Poonam Arora, Senior officers of the Administration and entrepreneurs were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Lt. Governor informed that the

unprecedented move in curbing corruption in the country, taken up by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was a positive step to boost the country's economy. In the last many years, despite availability of modern technology, and man power, the country's economy could not be developed in the manner it could have been. The main reason was corruption, he said. But the Prime Minister's decision to end corruption has tremendously improved the Indian economy. The many

schemes, the Prime Minister launched one after the other including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, linked about 4 crore poorer of the poor with banks, with bankers visiting door to door to open their account, he said. Referring to 'Digi-Dhan Mela', the Lt. Governor said, the introduction of digital payment has made transactions transparent and will ultimately check corruption. People must extend their cooperation to encourage cashless

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Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away trophies to the best Marching Contingents, at the 'State Reception' function at Raj Niwas on 26.01.2017. Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi and the First lady of these Islands, Smt. Prem Mukhi interacting with the invitees of 'State Reception' at Raj Niwas on 26.01.2017.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away LG's Commendation Certificate to Shri M. Mahmood, Police Constable A&N Fire Services on the occasion of 68th Republic Day Celebration at the historic Netaji Stadium, Port Blair on 26.01.2017.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away LG's Commendation Certificate to Shri Ghyas James, Police Constable A&N Police on the occasion of 68th Republic Day Celebration at the historic Netaji Stadium, Port Blair on 26.01.2017.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away LG's Commendation Certificate to Shri T. Johnson, Revenue Inspector, Deputy Commissioner's Office on the occasion of 68th Republic Day Celebration at the historic Netaji Stadium, Port Blair on 26.01.2017.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away LG's Commendation Certificate to Dr. Solomon Marc Paul, Medical Officer(i/c), Primary Health Centre Teresa on the occasion of 68th Republic Day Celebration at the historic Netaji Stadium, Port Blair on 26.01.2017.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away President's Fire Service Medal to Shri Dilip Karmakar Inspector, A&N Fire Services on the occasion of 68th Republic Day Celebration at the historic Netaji Stadium, Port Blair on 26.01.2017.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away President's Fire Service Medal to Head Constable, Shri Alban A&N Fire Services on the occasion of 68th Republic Day Celebration at the historic Netaji Stadium, Port Blair on 26.01.2017.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away LG's Commendation Certificate to Shri Mohammed Ismail, Camp Officer, Environment & Forest Department on the occasion of 68th Republic Day Celebration at the historic Netaji Stadium, Port Blair on 26.01.2017.



Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi giving away LG's Commendation Certificate to Shri Gupteshwar Singh, PST, Govt. Primary School Mayabunder on the occasion of 68th Republic Day Celebration at the historic Netaji Stadium, Port Blair on 26.01.2017.



The National Flag was unfurled in the premises of District & Sessions Court by District and Sessions Judge, A&N Islands, Shri Siddhartha Kanjilal on 26.01.2017.



The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar unfurled the National Tri-colour at the premises of Secretariat on 26.01.2017.

**Lt. Governor appeals..**

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transaction to materialise the vision of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in transforming India into digital nation and be part of the nation's economic development, he said.

The Lt. Governor also congratulated the prize winners of the 'Lucky Grahak Yojana', and 'Digi -dhan Vyapar Yojana' Lucky Draws, which were conducted during the 'Digi-Dhan Mela'. He expressed happiness that the Islanders are not lagging behind in adopting digital transactions and appealed to one and all to adopt digital transaction and help in curbing corruption.

The Lt. Governor, the Member of Parliament and the Chief Secretary gave away mementoes and certificates to ANIIDCO, PBMC and two FPS Dealers for adopting cent per cent cashless transaction. Prizes and certificates were also presented to the winners of the various contests held at colleges and school level as part of digitalisation.

In his address, the Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray informed about the projects pertaining to National Highways and Bridges for A&N Islands for which the works have been awarded by the Govt. of India and will be initiated soon.

The Special Secretary (IT), Dr. Utpal Sharma also read out the speech of Minister of State (Road Transport, Highways & Shipping), Shri Pon. Radhakrishana.

The Lt. Governor, Member of Parliament and the Chief Secretary also logged on to the NPCI Portal for the lucky draw & announcement of transaction IDs of the winners.

Shri Naresh Chander Lal, Ambassador, Swachh Bharat Mission, A&N Islands also demonstrated a digital transaction on the occasion.

In his introductory speech, the Advisor, NITI Ayog, Shri Jitendra Kumar said, the Digi Dhan Melas are being organized across the country everyday and it is the 34th mela here in A&N Islands. He appealed to all to come forward and embrace digital transaction and help achieve the vision of the Govt. in making our country a cashless society in the coming days.

In his address, the Director, NPCI, Shri Sanjay Saxena, through a video presentation highlighted the initiatives taken by the Govt. in promoting cashless transaction. He also explained about the Digi Dhan Mela (Lucky Grahak Yojana & Digi-dhan Vyapar Yojana) and urged people to adopt one of the means of cashless transaction.

A video presentation on Digital Payment was screened on the occasion.

At the outset, a fashion show under the banner 'Khadi Paridhan Utsav' organized by KVIB, A&N Islands and Department of Industries, A&N Administration in collaboration with Islands Progressive Women Cooperative Society showcased beautiful khadi outfits with the message 'Say yes to Khadi and go digital, promoting khadi products as well as creating awareness on various digital transaction modes drew huge applause from the gathering.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Special Secretary (IT), Dr. Utpal Sharma said post demonetization; the Govt. of India has come up with many initiatives and schemes for promoting digital transaction. Digi Dhan Melas are being organized across the country to educate people about digitization, he said and along with the rest of the country, the A&N Islands are also switching to a digital world despite connectivity issue. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Shri Udit Prakash Rai.

**MP inaugurates ..**

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other senior Officials of Administration in the presence of Smti. Rashmi Singh, Secretary (Ind).

During the Visit, the Member of Parliament and Chief Secretary, in the presence of Secretary (Ind) and Director of Industries, inaugurated the Point of Sale (POS) machine set up in Sale counter of Sagarika Govt Emporium at Industries Stall and interacted with all the participants about their products. The Dignitaries also visited Stall No. 12, set up by Directorate of Industries in association with State Social Welfare Board, Coir Board, Port Blair under the theme 'Gateway to Coconut Industries', wherein local coconut products manufactured by Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed by various NGO/Agencies were showcased to inspire and motivate others to take up the Coconut based activities. The Dignitaries took keen interest in the depicted products and emphasised on development of much more value added products out of Coconut.

**Highlights importance..**

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imprisoned in the Cellular Jail here. "Because of their sacrifices we are enjoying freedom today", the Minister said, while addressing the local media.

Congratulating the A&N Administration, NPCI and Banks for organising the huge 'Digi Dhan Mela' here, the Minister said, the mela aims at enabling citizens and merchants to familiarize and adopt real time digital transactions. He mentioned about the two schemes namely 'Lucky Grahak Yojana & Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana', which have been designed to promote cashless transactions among the common masses.

Speaking about the country's move towards digital economy, the Minister said, our economy had several problems till Nov. 8, 2016 when our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi declared the demonetization plan for the country. In India, 95% personal consumption were being done through cash payments while 24 lakh people out of the 50 lakh who filed their IT returns, pay tax. Due to this informal economy, less taxes were being paid, tax evasion and black money etc. were the issues to handle, the Minister said.

The Government decided to take stern action to curb the bad practices in the country. To do this, a stable Government and a dynamic & people friendly Government was required and our Prime Minister, who has a clear and concrete vision to revamp the country's economy, brought in demonetization, which is also the need of hour, said the Minister. This, he said, will make all money transactions accountable leading to proper tax payment. It will make bank loans easy, all money transactions centralized and monitored by Govt. The merchants will be able to transfer large volume of money and need not carry cash at all. Similarly, the labours will get their payments through digital the system, free from any violation of their rights. Thus, cash will enter into formal banking and money can be used for development of our country. The digital transactions will also enable education of youth on the basis of merit as capitation fee will be stopped, real estate price will come down and more people will be able to buy homes, the Minister said.

In order to monitor all these, the Govt. has taken several steps, said the Minister explained that we have over 100 crore mobile subscribers and the Govt. has created 1 billion Aadhaar biometric, while 73.9 crore debit and credit cards are functional. Under PMJDY, 66 crore people have been enrolled so far while the Govt. has issued 30 crore RuPay cards while the switching charge for RuPay card has been waived. The Govt. is also giving concessions for various uses, discounts on fuel purchase, highway tolls, railway tickets etc. All these are being done to encourage people to switch to cashless transaction, the Minister said.

He also mentioned about the launching of BHIM App by the Prime Minister on December 13, 2016. This, he said, is a people friendly App and does not need internet connection, and work on simple feature phones too. "Our Prime Minister is an ardent believer of rapid transformer rather than gradual evolution and he works with the noble concept of 'nation first'", said the Minister.

He also congratulated the A&N Administration, banking fraternity and other stakeholders for their active participation in this historic movement. He also congratulated the winners of the lucky draw.

The Minister also spoke about the various projects for the A&N Islands under the Shipping and Highways sector, for the last two years. The Govt. has invested Rs.100 crore in 4 major projects for A&N Islands. These include Marine hall and jetty at Chowra Island at a cost of Rs.14.98 crore, jetty at Bengali Village, Teressa at a cost of Rs.23.6 crore, RCC jetty for inter-island vessel at Katchal at Rs.38.20 crore, extension and RCC berthing jetty at Havelock at Rs.11.56 crore, reconstruction of berthing head and approach jetty at Strait Island at a cost of Rs.5.77 crore. The Minister also informed about the various projects being implemented by the ALHW in A&N Islands. The ALHW has procured 36 cargo handling equipments at the cost of Rs.40.93 crore which have been installed in various Islands and are operational. ALHW has also procured two tugs at a cost of Rs.63.55 crore, of which, MT Andaman has been handed over to PMB while the other will be handed over by May 2017, the Minister informed. He also mentioned about the two passenger vessels of 500 pax capacity each, which are under construction at Cochin Shipyard while two cargo-cum-passenger ships have been approved for construction. The Minister also stated that the sea route to Baratang will be completed by December 2017.

He also stated that the upgradation of ATR, NH-12-45 km will be awarded by Feb. 2017 at an estimated cost of Rs.136 crore. Construction of bridge at Humphrey Strait between Gandhi Ghat and Uttara Jetty will be awarded by Feb 2017 at a cost of Rs.270 crore, the Minister stated. The Minister assured of considering other projects as the Govt. accords priority to development of A&N Islands. "By the end of another two years, the A&N Islands will see a vast change in shipping and highways sector", the Minister assured.

The Chief Secretary, while speaking, thanked the Minister for paying a visit to the Islands and said, the Ministry of Shipping has been considerate to our requirements. He informed that during his recent visit to these Isles, the Secretary Shipping, GoI, has advised the Administration to include more projects under the Sagarmala Scheme of the Govt. The Chief Secretary also informed that the Shipping Ministry has sanctioned chartering of a ship for the Isles. Accordingly, MV Coral Queen has been chartered and will start operation by month end. In addition, ferry boats for the Islands are also under various stages of construction, said the Chief Secretary.

Earlier, the Advisor, NITI Aayog, Shri Jitendra Kumar informed the scribes that this is the 34th Digi Dhan Mela of the GoI, being organised at Port Blair. He mentioned that the aim of the mela is to encourage people to switch to cashless transactions and also informed about the lucky prizes that are being given under the schemes- 'Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana'.