

## **DIGITAL PAYMENTS TO ENSURE REAL PROGRESS IN COUNTRY: JAVADEKAR**

Panaji: April 7, 2017

Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar underscored the need to encourage digital mode of payments to ensure real progress in the country by bringing in transparency and getting rid of corruption.

Shri Javadekar was speaking after picking up the lucky winners of Grahak Yojana & Digi Dhan Vyapar Yajana draw organised by the Collectorate of South Goa in association with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, GoI at Ravindra Bhavan Margao today.

Speaking further, The Union Minister for HRD said that the government led by Prime Minister intends to bring in total change in the country by undertaking major development works and making the nation big.

Cash is used relative less the world over compared to India where 80% transactions are cash, Shri Javadekar pointed and added that in India the cash component is 12% of GDP while it is just 4% the world over.

Shri Javadekar said that infrastructural is improved through the tax collected as various levels. Cash payments at times lead to tax evasion by some traders, thereby denying the government the tax amount due, he remarked and said digital mode of payments will do away with such tax evasion.

Town & Country Planning Minister, Shri Vijay Sardessai said Goa can leap forward showing the way to others in digital mode of payment as the parameters in all connected sectors are relatively high.

He said Government has been providing incentives to boost the digital payment system to encourage and change the mindset to make it a cashless economy. Goa being a cosmopolitan state, challenges if any will be dealt with by the Government and the administration, he remarked.

Shri Ameya Abhyankar, IAS , Secretary(IT) also spoke on the occasion.

Shri Nilesh Cabral, MLA was also present on the occasion.

The 98<sup>th</sup> lucky winners of Grahak Yojana & Digi Dhan Vyapar Yajana were also held at the hands of the dignitaries. The Rupay card of leading banks were also handed over to the concerned beneficiaries at the hands of the Union Minister for HRD and the TCP Minister.

The prizes of the slogan and poster competition organised on the Digital Modes of payments were handed over to the winners.

Earlier in the day, Chief Secretary, Goa, Shri Dharmendra Sharma, IAS inaugurating the day long Digi Dhan Mela stressed the need for using knowledge for the betterment of the society by creating the requisite platform and opportunity to implement the same.

Shri Sharma called upon the banking sector not to load any unfair cost on the consumer for acceptance by the general public and smooth transition to the Digital system. The need to address difficulties, if any, in implementing the same to ensure that people use it by choice.

Smt. Shailini Naik, Lead Bank Manager underlined the advantages of various modes of electronic payment and to create awareness among all concerned assured converting Goa into 99 percent digital mode.

Stalls by various leading banks, fertiliser companies, oil companies, etc displaying and promoting digital mode of payments were set up at the mela.

Smt. Babita Angle Prabhudessai, Chairperson, Margao Municipal Council also spoke on the occasion.

Shri Swapnil Naik, IAS, Collector, South Goa District giving the vote of thanks said that teething problems would soon be overcome as the volume of business increases. He also felt that with the improvement in infrastructure the system will get a fillip and acceptance.

Additional Collectors, Shri L.S. Roncon Pereira, Shri Johnson Bedy Fernandes; Member Secretary, Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, Shri Y.B. Tawde were amongst those prominent persons present for the function.