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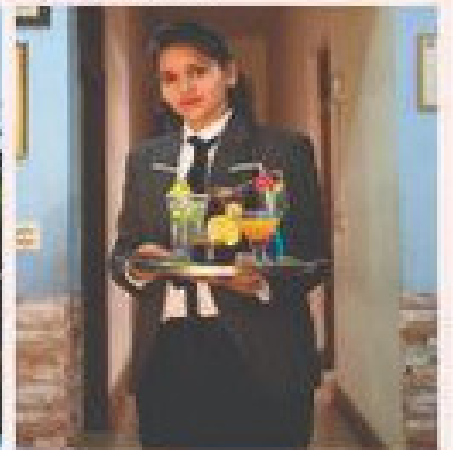
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Dweep Janta Party Demands Assembly or Pradesh Council for A & N Islands



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[Tarun Karthick](#)

Campbell Bay, 19 October
2021

Mr. Govind Ram, General Secretary & Spokesperson of Dweep Janta Party, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Amit Shah requesting the establishment of a Legislative Assembly or Pradesh Council for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In the memorandum submitted to Mr. Amit Shah, Mr. Govind Ram has mentioned that Andaman and Nicobar Islands

is probably the only place that does not fit into the provisos of the democracy in a real sense, even after 74 years of Independence.

Mr. Govind Ram further has presented a brief history of the events leading to the cessation of the Pradesh Council which existed in the Islands earlier. He informed the Union Home Minister :

1. With the declaration of the Republic of India, the Island territory was given the status of Part 'D' State which was later changed to a Union Territory with the 7th Amendment Act, 1956 of the Constitution of India.

2. The Chief Commissioner appointed vide Article 239 of the Constitution of India was designated as the Administrator to work on behalf of the President of India. The status of the administrator was later upgraded to Lt. Governor w.e.f 12/11/1982. The administrator was initially advised for governance by an Advisory Committee named CCAC and the Union Home Minister enjoyed the advice of another Advisory Committee called HMAC.

3. Port Blair Municipal Board was established in the year 1958 under the Andaman and Nicobar

Islands (Municipal Boards) Regulation, 1957. Gram Panchayats in the rural areas of the UT came into existence after the promulgation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Gram Panchayats Regulation, 1961.

4. With the Establishment of Port Blair Municipal Board and Gram Panchayats the CCAC had gone defunct, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Administration) Regulation, 1979 was promulgated by the President of India in the 13th year of the Republic of India, under which 'Pradesh

Council' was established on 20th Day of June 1981 with the role and responsibility of counselling the Administration in respect of good governance and policy framing for the Union Territory.

5. The Pradesh Council proved to be highly effective as it resulted in 'peoples representation' as well as transparency in the administration of the Islands Territory due to open house discussion on policy framing, planning, and execution of works. The Counselors enjoyed and exercised much more autonomy and power than

the Gram Pradhans and Municipal Board Members and were also accountable for every success and failure on the part of the Administration.

6. The Pradesh Council effectively functioned for more than a decade but consequent upon the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India and resultant establishment of the three-tier panchayat namely (i) Gram Panchayats (ii) Panchayat Samities (iii) Zilla Parishad under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayats) Regulation, 1994, the Pradesh Council was unceremoniously and

illogically scrapped for reasons better known to the Congress Ruled Govt. at the Centre, Congress Member of the Lok Sabha of the UT of A & N Islands and the then Lt. Governor of the UT.

7. No formal notification dissolving the Pradesh Council of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was ever issued but elections to Pradesh Council have not been conducted thereafter. No doubt, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Administration) Regulation, 1979 was repealed vide Section 209 (1) of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal Council) Regulation,

1994 but there is neither any relevance nor logic behind it as Port Blair Municipal Council is a Civil Body with its jurisdiction limited to Port Blair city only, whereas Pradesh Council was a Local Self Governance Institution with its jurisdiction extending to the whole of the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Govind Ram after highlighting all the facts in his memorandum has also informed the Union Minister that there is no Legislative Assembly in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and with the

cessation of the Pradesh Council there is no scope of peoples participation in policymaking and governance of the Islands.

He added that the middle tier of the Three-Tier Panchayats i.e. 'Panchayat Samiti' has also been abolished by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration vide Notification dated 30th June 2020 thereby clearly paving the way for a convenient space for Pradesh Council in the setup.

He suggested that the Gram Panchayats and Zilla Parishads should continue

at the level of Village and District respectively and the Pradesh Council should be restored at the level of the Union Territory. He added that while the Pradesh Council shall bear the responsibility of people's participation in policy framing for good governance and planing, the other two institutions the Gram Panchayats and Zilla Parishad will be responsible for the implementation of the works for development.

He requested the Union Minister to consider granting a Legislative

Assembly for Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the pattern of the already existing Legislative Assembly in the UT of Puducherry or restore the Pradesh Council with some modifications and improvements in its constitution.

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ABVP Delegation Apprises Home Minister of Important Education Related Issues of the Islands



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[Rohit Kumar](#)

Port Blair, 19 October 2021

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Andaman and Nicobar Islands chapter recently met the Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs during his visit to the Islands and raised important issues related to the Education Sector and overall development of the Islands with him.

The twelve-member delegation of the ABVP also submitted a charter of demands to the Home Minister which includes the establishment of a Central University in Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, separation of B.Tech and Diploma Engineering courses in Dr. B.R Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Port Blair, allotment of land for Andaman Law College, filling up of vacant posts of teaching and non-teaching staff through UPSC for all schools and colleges of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The delegation of ABVP also requested the Home Minister for the overall improvement of the quality of Education in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad has been raising the demands for improvement of the education sector in the Islands with all visiting authorities. They are also active in raising their demands before the Administration for the benefit of the student community of the Islands.

The Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Mr. Amit Shah reportedly assured the members of the delegation that the demands of the ABVP for the development of the Islands will be taken care of.

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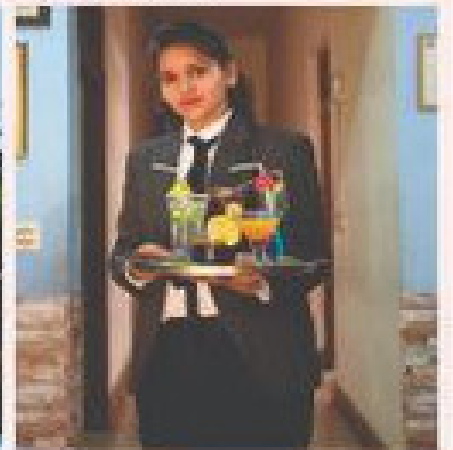
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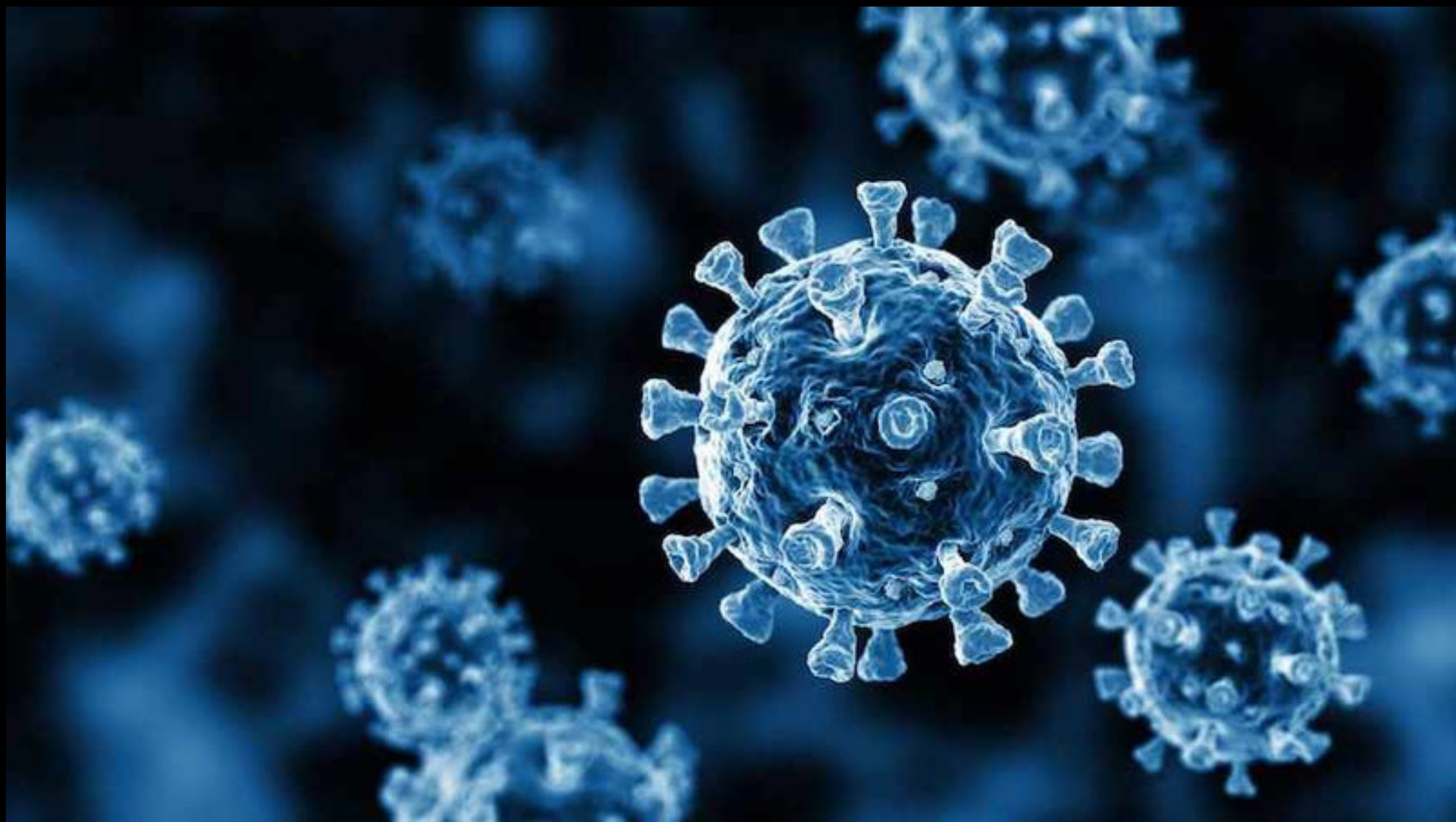
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Andaman and Nicobar Reports 04 New Confirmed Cases of COVID-19



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Rohit Kumar

Port Blair, 19 October 2021

Andaman and Nicobar Islands has reported 04 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 on 19th of October 2021. Two out of the four new cases of COVID-19 reported in the Islands are passengers who travelled recently to Port Blair by air. There are 08 active cases of COVID-19 in the Islands now. 2652 total cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the Islands during the second wave from 1st of March 2021.

Out of the total cases reported during the second

wave, 2577 have recovered and 67 people have also lost their lives.

All active cases of COVID-19 have been reported from South Andaman District and the other two districts of the Islands are currently COVID-19 free.

In total 4,70,203 doses of COVID-19 Vaccines have been administered in the Islands till 19th of October 2021. 2,92,383 people have been inoculated with the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine in the Islands.

1,77,820 people have also received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine till 19th of October 2021.

Altogether 5,81,843 COVID-19 tests have been conducted in the Islands so far. The Cumulative Test Positivity Rate of the Islands stands at 1.31%.

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