ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by NICOBAR TIMES

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Prime Land in Sri Vijaya Puram Allotted for N&M Zilla Parishad Niwas; Adhyaksh Thanks LG & Officials

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Fire & Emergency Services Issues Diwali Fire Safety Advisory



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 3, 2026

The Andaman & Nicobar Fire & Emergency Services has issued a fire safety advisory ahead of the upcoming Diwali festival, appealing to the general public, shop owners, fireworks sellers, organisers and concerned authorities to strictly adhere to prescribed safety measures to prevent fire accidents, injuries and loss of property.

The department has emphasised that improper handling and storage of firecrackers, negligence while lighting fireworks and lack of adequate safety precautions could lead to fire accidents and injuries. It has urged Islanders to celebrate Diwali with joy and happiness while ensuring the safety of people and

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Two Accused Arrested in Neya Katai Murder Case in Diglipur



Diglipur | November 4, 2026

Two persons have been arrested in connection with the murder of Ritesh Ekka, who was found unconscious with visible injuries at Neya Katai, Radha Nagar, on the night of November 2.

According to police, information regarding a person lying unconscious with visible injuries was received at Diglipur Police Station on the night of November 2. Acting promptly, a police team rushed to the spot and shifted the injured person to PHC Radhanagar, where the attending doctor declared him brought dead.

In connection with the incident, a case vide Cr. No. 84/26 dated

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TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Contd Pg1...Fire & Emergency Services Issues Diwali Fire Safety Advisory

property.

As part of the advisory, the general public has been advised to purchase only quality and legally approved firecrackers from authorised sellers and burst them exclusively in open spaces, such as parks and large grounds, away from buildings, vehicles and inflammable materials. People have been urged to keep buckets of water and sand readily available, wear cotton clothes while bursting crackers and ensure that children engage in the activity only under the close supervision of adults.

The Fire & Emergency Services has further advised people to maintain a safe distance while lighting firecrackers and avoid holding them in their hands unless specifically designed for such use. Used firecrackers should be soaked in water before disposal, while the direction of the wind should be checked to prevent sparks from reaching nearby houses, people or combustible materials.

The advisory cautions against bursting firecrackers inside houses, near windows, balconies or confined spaces, as well as near dry leaves, gas cylinders, fuel storage areas, vehicles and other combustible materials. People have also been advised not to attempt to relight unexploded firecrackers and instead allow sufficient time before carefully disposing of them after soaking in water. Bursting crackers near entry points, exits and emergency escape routes, or bursting multiple crackers simultaneously, has also been discouraged.

The department has stressed that oil lamps, candles and diyas should never be left unattended, particularly near curtains, furniture or other combustible materials. In the event of a fire accident, burn injury or emergency, the public has been advised to immediately seek assistance from the concerned emergency services and obtain proper medical attention, while avoiding unsafe rescue attempts or unverified home remedies.

With regard to temporary firecracker shops and fireworks sellers, the department has directed all persons engaged in the possession, storage and sale of fireworks to comply with the provisions of the Explosives Rules, 2008, particularly Rules 84 and 85, as applicable.

The advisory stipulates that fireworks must be kept only in sheds constructed of non-flammable materials, which should be properly closed and secured against unauthorised access. Temporary firecracker shops must be located at least three metres away from one another and at least 50 metres away from protected works and other places specified under the Explosives Rules, 2008, including educational institutions, hospitals, theatres, markets, factories, places of worship, highways, public roads and overhead high-tension power lines. Temporary shops shall not face each other, and a single cluster shall not exceed 50 shops.

The department has also prohibited the use of oil-burning lamps, gas lamps and naked flames inside the sheds or within the prescribed safety distance. Electrical lighting, wherever used, must be properly installed, with lights fixed to walls or ceilings and switches rigidly mounted. A master switch must be provided

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Contd Pg3...Fire & Emergency Services Issues Diwali Fire Safety Advisory

for each row of sheds. The display of fireworks within 50 metres of any firecracker shop is also prohibited.

Fireworks shall not be stored in shops where other goods are displayed and must be kept in spark-proof receptacles or their original outer packaging, away from combustible materials and regular shop traffic. Fireworks opened for sale must immediately be placed in clean, dust-free and spark-proof containers.

The Fire & Emergency Services has further directed temporary firecracker shop owners and organisers to ensure adequate firefighting arrangements in consultation with the department. Shop owners have been advised to arrange basic training for their staff in the proper operation and handling of firefighting equipment through the nearest Fire Station to enable them to respond promptly during emergencies.

The Andaman & Nicobar Fire & Emergency Services has appealed to all Islanders, shop owners, organisers and concerned authorities to extend their cooperation and strictly follow the prescribed fire safety measures to prevent accidents and ensure a safe and happy Diwali for everyone.

Contd Pg1...Two Accused Arrested in Neya Katai Murder Case in Diglipur

November 3, 2026, under Sections 103/3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, was registered at Diglipur Police Station.

During the course of investigation, the involvement of two persons, both residents of Neya Katai, Radha Nagar, was established. Acting on the findings, police arrested both accused. They are scheduled to be produced before the court on November 4.

Police stated that the swift response, dedication and professional commitment of the team played a significant role in the prompt detection of the case and the arrest of the accused.

Further investigation is underway to ascertain all facts and circumstances surrounding the incident.

TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178



Dakshin Foundation Conducts Three Phases of Teacher Training on Treasured Islands Resource Book



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

Dakshin Foundation, in collaboration with the Directorate of Education, DDE Science Wing, and with support from Axis Bank Foundation, has conducted three phases of teacher training workshops on Treasured Islands, a place-based environmental education resource book designed specifically for middle school teachers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Through the three phases of workshops, Dakshin Foundation has trained 58 teachers from 49 schools in South Andaman. The training sessions were held at the Andaman and Nicobar Environment Team (ANET) field station at North Wandoor.

Place-based learning connects classroom concepts with students' local environment, culture and lived experiences, helping them develop a deeper understanding of the unique ecosystems of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and their significance.

Originally published in 1996 by Kalpavriksh and ANET, Treasured Islands laid an important foundation for environmental education in the islands. The fourth edition of the book was launched in September 2025 by Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, former Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The revised edition, developed by Dakshin Foundation and Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, with inputs from the Directorate of Education, is aligned with the CBSE curriculum and presents environmental concepts in a more engaging and locally relevant manner.

The two-day workshops comprised indoor and outdoor sessions focusing on the importance of place-based and contextual education, highlighting how connecting classroom learning with local ecosystems can make education more meaningful for students.

A key highlight of the first day was a guided tree walk around the ANET campus, during which teachers explored local biodiversity and learned how textbook concepts such as forest ecology, food webs and nutrient recycling could be taught through the islands' forests. Several participants shared that the walk helped them reconnect with nature and brought back memories of their childhood.

Dedicated sessions were also conducted to familiarise teachers with the structure and content of Treasured Islands. Participants explored various chapters, discussed effective ways of using the resource and identified overlaps with existing NCERT textbooks to facilitate classroom integration.

Teachers worked in groups to prepare and present sample lesson plans using island-based

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Contd Pg5...Dakshin Foundation Conducts Three Phases of Teacher Training on Treasured Islands Resource Book

examples for NCERT topics. They also exchanged ideas and reflected on ways to adapt the activities to suit the specific contexts of their respective schools.

At the conclusion of the workshops, teachers expressed greater familiarity and confidence in using the resource. They said they were motivated to incorporate island-specific examples into their teaching to make learning more relatable and meaningful for students. Participants also highlighted that Treasured Islands helps address gaps in the existing curriculum by providing a rich collection of locally grounded examples and activities.

The resource is expected to be widely used in Environmental Studies classes, Eco Clubs and subjects such as Science and Social Science across schools.

Through initiatives such as these, Dakshin Foundation and the Directorate of Education aim to strengthen environmental learning in the islands and foster a deeper connection between young learners and the unique ecosystems they call home.

ANTCC Campaign Committee Chairman Urges Administration to Protect Tenure of Municipal Councillors and PRI Members



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

Mr. TSG Bhasker, Chairman of the Campaign Committee of the Andaman and Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC), has urged the Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to ensure that the prescribed tenure of elected Municipal Councillors and Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members is protected in accordance with the applicable provisions, amid reports that fresh elections are tentatively scheduled for January 2027.

In a representation submitted to the Chief Secretary, Bhasker pointed out that the last Municipal and Panchayat elections were held on March 6, 2022, and the elected representatives assumed office by the end of March 2022. He stated that the elected members are entitled to a full five-year tenure and that their term should not be curtailed.

Bhasker also highlighted that the Chairperson of the Municipal Council and the Adhyaksh of the two Zilla Parishads were elected in May 2026 and, as per the applicable constitutional

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Contd Pg6...ANTCC Campaign Committee Chairman Urges Administration to Protect Tenure of Municipal Councillors and PRI Members

provisions, are entitled to a one-year tenure.

Emphasising the need to respect the prescribed tenure of elected representatives, Bhasker stated that their terms must be protected irrespective of whether fresh elections are conducted earlier than anticipated.

He has requested the Chief Secretary to ensure that the tenure of all elected Municipal and PRI representatives is maintained in accordance with the applicable constitutional provisions. He has also urged that the process of constituting new bodies and making appointments be undertaken only after due consideration of the prescribed tenure of the existing elected representatives.

CITU Seeks Disbursement of October Wages to Daily Rated Workers Before Diwali



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

Sri Vijaya Puram, November 4, 2026

The CITU Andaman & Nicobar State Committee has urged the Andaman & Nicobar Administration to disburse the monthly wages for October 2026 to all daily rated workers employed in various departments before the Diwali festival.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, B. Chandrachoodan, General Secretary of the CITU State Committee, highlighted the importance of Diwali, which falls on November 8, 2026, stating that the festival is celebrated across the Union Territory by people cutting across religious and regional boundaries.

Chandrachoodan pointed out that the monthly wages of daily rated workers employed in various departments under the Administration are normally drawn and paid only after the 10th day of the succeeding month. He expressed concern that any delay in payment of wages beyond the festival could prevent these workers from celebrating Diwali.

He stated that most of the daily rated workers belong to economically weaker families and are usually the sole earning

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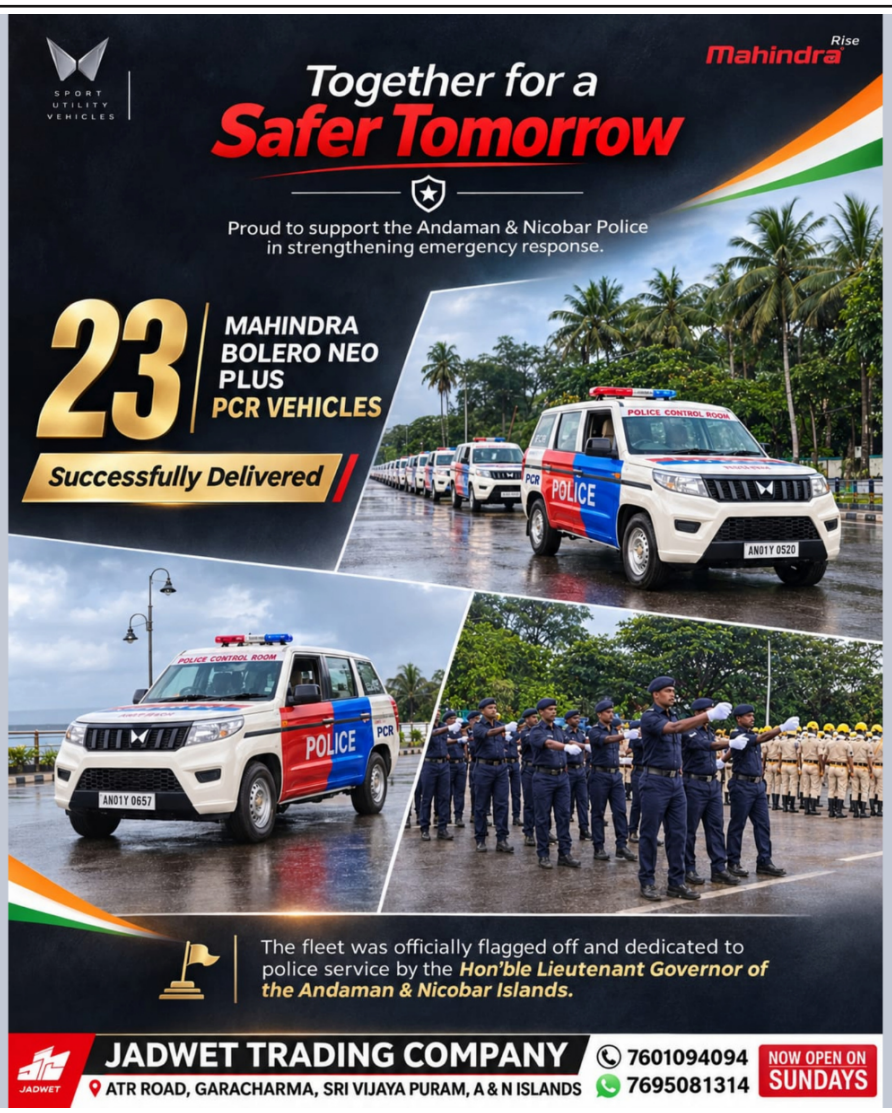

Contd Pg7...CITU Seeks Disbursement of October Wages to Daily Rated Workers Before Diwali

members of their respective households, making timely disbursement of wages essential for their festival preparations.

The CITU General Secretary has requested the Chief Secretary to issue necessary directions to all Heads of Departments and Heads of Offices under the Administration to ensure that the October wages are disbursed before Diwali, enabling the workers to celebrate the festival with joy and enthusiasm.

AATO Seeks Lt. Governor's Intervention Over Repeated Last-Minute SpiceJet Flight Cancellations



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

The Andaman Association of Tour Operators (AATO) has expressed serious concern over repeated last-minute cancellations of SpiceJet flights operating to and from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, stating that the disruptions are adversely affecting the tourism industry and damaging the reputation of the Islands as a tourist destination.

In a representation to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, AATO President M. Vinod has sought intervention to address the recurring issue and ensure greater accountability by the airline.

The Association stated that the tourism industry is already facing considerable challenges due to persistently high airfares, while sudden flight cancellations at the last moment have further aggravated the situation, causing inconvenience to tourists and tourism stakeholders.

Tourists visiting the Islands make their travel plans well in advance and book hotels, cruises, transportation, sightseeing and other tourism-related activities. Unexpected flight cancellations disrupt their entire travel itinerary, resulting in financial losses, inconvenience and disappointment.

AATO cautioned that such incidents not only affect individual tourists but also create a negative impression of Andaman tourism, potentially discouraging future visitors and adversely impacting the livelihoods of thousands of people dependent on the tourism

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Contd Pg8...AATO Seeks Lt. Governor's Intervention Over Repeated Last-Minute SpiceJet Flight Cancellations

sector.

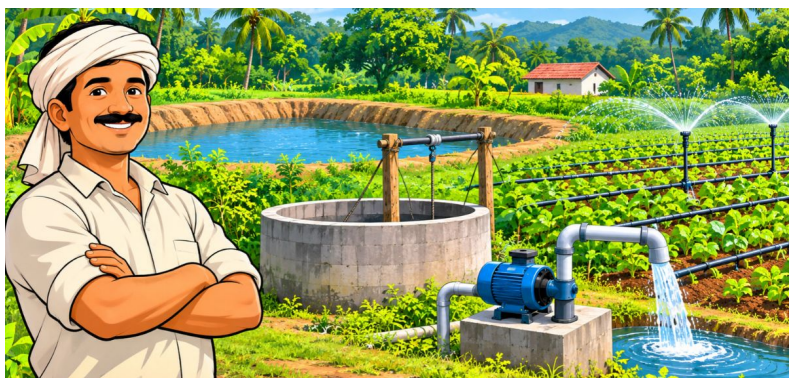
The Association stated that the issue is not an isolated incident, as similar cancellations have reportedly been taking place repeatedly. It has previously taken up the matter with the concerned authorities, seeking a lasting solution.

While appreciating the efforts of the Administration towards promoting and developing tourism in the Islands, AATO expressed concern that repeated last-minute cancellations by SpiceJet are undermining these initiatives and creating a negative perception among tourists.

The Association has requested the Lt. Governor to facilitate appropriate action through the concerned authorities to minimise last-minute cancellations, ensure greater accountability by the airline and provide suitable alternative arrangements and relief to affected passengers in accordance with applicable regulations.

AATO expressed hope that the Administration would take necessary steps to protect the interests of tourists and tourism stakeholders and safeguard the image of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a leading tourism destination.

Agriculture Department Offers Subsidies for Minor Irrigation Facilities in Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

Sri Vijaya Puram, November 4, 2026

The Department of Agriculture, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, is implementing the scheme 'Development of Minor Irrigation' under the UT Plan to support individual farmers and co-operative farming societies by strengthening irrigation infrastructure through financial assistance.

The scheme provides back-end assistance under Loan-cum-Subsidy, Shramdan-cum-Subsidy and Cash-cum-Subsidy patterns. Under the Loan-cum-Subsidy pattern, the beneficiary's share can be availed as a loan from a nationalised bank.

The financial assistance is available for the following irrigation-related components:

Excavation of Ponds: Bonafide individual farmers having a minimum of 0.50 hectares of cultivable land and co-operative farming societies are eligible for assistance of 50% of the

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Contd Pg9...Agriculture Department Offers Subsidies for Minor Irrigation Facilities in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

estimated cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.50 lakh per pond.

Construction of RCC Ring Wells: Bonafide individual farmers, irrespective of landholding size, and co-operative farming societies can avail assistance of 50% of the estimated cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh per well.

Purchase of Pumpsets (0.5 HP to 5.0 HP): Bonafide individual farmers and co-operative farming societies, irrespective of landholding size, are eligible for assistance of 50% of the purchase cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per pumpset.

Installation of Micro Irrigation Systems (Drip/Sprinkler): Bonafide individual farmers having a minimum of 0.05 hectares of cultivable land and co-operative farming societies are eligible for assistance of 75% of the system cost, including the pumpset, or Rs. 93,750 per hectare, whichever is less. A 100% transport subsidy will also be provided.

Interested farmers have been advised to contact the Zonal Office in their respective areas to obtain the prescribed application form. The duly filled application form, along with the requisite documents, should be submitted to the respective Zonal Office.

The documents required for availing the scheme include a duly filled application form in the prescribed format, the latest land record obtained from a Common Service Centre (CSC) in original or attested by a Gazetted Officer or Revenue Officer, a copy of the Aadhaar Card and a copy of bank details issued in the name of the farmer.

MY Bharat Rangat Organises Block-Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament 2026 at MGGC Mayabunder



Rangat | November 4, 2026

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Rangat, organised the Block-Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament 2026 on the theme 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat' at the Conference Hall of Mahatma Gandhi Government College (MGGC), Mayabunder, on October 31.

Dr. V. R. Murthy, Principal of MGGC, attended the programme as the chief guest and encouraged young people to contribute towards the vision of a drug-free India.

During the programme, Mr. Peter Barla from MY Bharat briefed the participants about the organisation and its activities. Mr. Atish Gopichand Khobragade, District Youth Officer, MY Bharat, highlighted the objectives of the Block-Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament.

The programme featured four informative and interactive sessions conducted by distinguished resource persons. An engaging slogan-writing activity was also organised for

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MG ANDAMAN (Legacy Automobiles Pvt. Ltd.)

SHOWROOM: MB-46, Aberdeen Bazar, Near Clock Tower, Sri Vijaya Puram - 744101

WORKSHOP: Near School Line School, School line, Sri Vijaya Puram - 744103

Contd Pg10...MY Bharat Rangat Organises Block-Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament 2026 at MGGC Mayabunder

students, who enthusiastically composed creative and meaningful slogans on the theme 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat'.

The programme aimed to engage young people in discussions on the vision of a drug-free India and encourage their active participation in nation-building, a press release from MY Bharat Rangat said.

TB Screening Camp Held at Forest Department in Mayabunder; 65 Individuals Participate



Mayabunder | November 3, 2026

An Ayushman Arogya Shivir was organised by the District TB Centre, Dr. R.P. Hospital, Mayabunder, North & Middle Andaman, at the Forest Department, Mayabunder, in pursuance of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands during the launch of the TB-Free Workplace Initiative on October 28.

The programme was conducted in the presence of Mr. A. C. Tilak, Divisional Forest Officer, Mayabunder, with the objective of raising awareness about tuberculosis (TB), promoting early diagnosis and encouraging timely treatment among employees.

Dr. Rekha Dhali, Medical Officer, and Mr. Y. Madhava Rao, District Programme Coordinator (NTEP), addressed the gathering and sensitised participants about the symptoms of TB, the importance of early detection, and the availability of free diagnostic and treatment services.

A total of 65 persons participated in the programme. Chest X-ray screening was conducted for 48 vulnerable individuals using a handheld X-ray machine. Of those screened, 10 individuals were found to have abnormal X-ray findings and were advised to undergo sputum examination for further diagnosis.



CPCB Reiterates Mandatory Registration on Common EPR Portal for Entities Covered Under Plastic Waste Management Rules



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 3, 2026

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has reiterated the mandatory registration requirements under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended, for entities covered under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework for plastic packaging, directing all concerned entities operating in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to obtain the requisite registration without delay.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), through the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, dated February 16, 2022, introduced the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for Plastic Packaging under Schedule II of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, to facilitate the implementation of the EPR framework.

As per the CPCB advisory, the categories of entities required to register on the Common EPR Portal, wherever applicable, include Producers (P), including micro and small enterprises; Importers (I) of plastic packaging and plastic raw materials; Brand Owners (BO); Manufacturers (M) of plastic raw materials and items made from compostable or biodegradable plastics; Sellers (S) covered under the applicable provisions; and Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) engaged in recycling, waste-to-energy, waste-to-oil and industrial composting.

The CPCB has clarified that entities required to register shall not carry out business without obtaining the requisite registration.

The Board has also announced the strengthening of transaction-based reporting on the Common EPR Portal. Recording of purchase and sale transactions involving unregistered entities will be discontinued, except for transactions involving micro and small Brand Owners and PWP-related transactions, as applicable.

All concerned entities have been advised to register immediately on the Common EPR Portal, ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements for transactions involving plastic packaging and plastic waste, and duly report such transactions on the Portal.

They have also been advised to ensure that their unregistered suppliers and buyers, wherever applicable, obtain the requisite registration and fulfil the applicable EPR targets, transaction-reporting requirements and annual return-filing obligations.

Non-compliance with the prescribed requirements shall attract appropriate action under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended.



Sensitisation Programme on POSH Act Organised at Deputy Commissioner's Office South Andaman



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 3, 2026

A sensitisation programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act), was recently organised at the Conference Hall of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman.

The programme was chaired by Ms. Priyanka Kumari, Additional District Magistrate, South Andaman. Ms. Rubina Khatib Siddiqui, Founder President of Rights for All (NGO), attended the programme as the resource person.

During the session, Ms. Rubina Siddiqui delivered an informative presentation on the key provisions, objectives and significance of the POSH Act. She emphasised the importance of fostering a safe, respectful and inclusive working environment and sensitised participants on the prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace.

The session also highlighted the rights and responsibilities of employees and the mechanisms available for the redressal of complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace.

The programme was attended by officers and staff from the offices of the Assistant Commissioner (South Andaman), Assistant Commissioner (Settlement) and Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman.

Awareness Session on Drug Abuse Conducted at DBRAIT Under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 3, 2026

An awareness session under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan was conducted at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT) on Tuesday in coordination with the South Andaman District Police, with the participation of 80 students.

The session aimed to sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug abuse, tobacco consumption and alcohol addiction, their legal consequences, and the importance of adopting a healthy and substance-free lifestyle.

The programme was led by Sub-Inspector Ms. Masuma Begum along with her team, who interacted with the students and highlighted the significance of awareness, prevention and responsible decision-making in combating substance abuse.

The students enthusiastically enrolled themselves as members of the Anti-Drug Committee of the South Andaman District Police, demonstrating their commitment towards creating a drug-free society.

Applications for Andaman Club Bookings to Be Submitted One Week in Advance



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 3, 2026

The Directorate of Art & Culture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, has advised all Government Departments, autonomous bodies, cultural organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) intending to book Andaman Club for functions or programmes to submit their applications at least one week in advance of the proposed date of the event.

The instruction is in accordance with Office Order No. 146 dated November 27, 2017.

The Directorate has observed that applications for booking Andaman Club are frequently submitted just one or two days before the scheduled programme, resulting in delays in processing and obtaining approval from the competent authority. To facilitate timely processing and approval, all concerned have been requested to submit their applications well in advance.

The Directorate has also reiterated the conditions governing cancellation or postponement of bookings at Andaman Club.

As per the prescribed conditions, written intimation regarding cancellation of a booking or postponement of a programme must be submitted at least two days before the scheduled date of the function, excluding the date of the event.

In cases where the stipulated notice period is not adhered to, the security deposit will not be refunded. However, if written intimation of cancellation or postponement is received within the prescribed period, the full security deposit and advance rent paid will be refunded.

The Directorate has urged all Government Departments, autonomous bodies, cultural organisations and NGOs to strictly comply with the instructions and terms and conditions stipulated in the office order to ensure smooth and timely processing of applications for allotment of Andaman Club.

