ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by NICOBAR TIMES

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High Level Review Meeting Held at Niti Aayog to Deliberate on Overall, Inclusive and Strategic Development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

A high-level review meeting was held at NITI Aayog in New Delhi under the chairmanship of its Vice Chairman, Mr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri, to deliberate on key issues concerning the overall,

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Police Seek Details from Investors in Alleged QNET/Vihaan Fraud Case in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

The Police Station Crime & Economic Offences, CID, Sri Vijaya Puram, has appealed to investors and victims of the alleged QNET/Vihaan business fraud across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to come forward and provide details of their investments to assist in the ongoing investigation.

FIR No. 73/2026, dated October 14, 2026, has been registered under Sections 318(4) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, read with Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Prize Chits and

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TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Contd Pg1...High Level Review Meeting Held at Niti Aayog to Deliberate on Overall, Inclusive and Strategic Development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

inclusive and strategic development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The meeting was attended by Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. R. Subrahmanyam; CEO, NITI Aayog, Mr. Anurag Jain; Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Mr. Gyanesh Bharti; Secretaries to the Government of India representing the Ministries of Civil Aviation, Health, Jal Shakti, Tourism, Shipping, Fisheries, Road Transport and Highways, and Power; along with senior officials of NITI Aayog and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, presented a detailed roadmap outlining various developmental initiatives for the Islands.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the meeting noted that the archipelago is not only an integral part of India's maritime boundaries but also a vital centre for the country's strategic presence in the Indo-Pacific region and maritime trade. Considering the unique geographical conditions of the 31 inhabited islands spread across approximately 8,249 sq. km., the need for an island-specific approach in formulating development policies and schemes was emphasised.

The issue of increased transportation costs for construction materials and essential commodities from the mainland was also discussed. A request was made for suitable flexibility in the cost norms and eligibility conditions of various schemes to address the geographical and logistical challenges faced by the Islands. The significance of the proposed projects in Great Nicobar was also deliberated upon.

On the connectivity front, concerns over declining flight frequencies and high airfares were raised. Emphasis was laid on expediting the upgradation of National Highway-4 and the construction of the Middle Strait Bridge. The reconstruction of 13 jetties under Sagarmala 2.0 and the strengthening of regular cargo vessel services were also discussed.

Several issues directly affecting the day-to-day lives of islanders were taken up, including the replacement of old water supply pipelines under the Jal Jeevan Mission, improvement of water storage and distribution systems in 265 villages, strengthening of healthcare services, creation of essential medical posts at ANIIMS, expansion of MRI facilities and promotion of renewable energy.

To provide fresh impetus to the island economy, discussions were held on the better utilisation of deep-sea tuna fishery resources to enhance local employment and export potential. Accelerating tourism development at Netaji Subhas Chandra

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Contd Pg3...High Level Review Meeting Held at Niti Aayog to Deliberate on Overall, Inclusive and Strategic Development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Bose Island, Viper Island and Swaraj Dweep was also emphasised.

The meeting further deliberated on issues relating to agriculture, cold storage facilities, agricultural mechanisation and pending rural road proposals under PMGSY-IV.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the objective is to develop an integrated, sustainable and time-bound development model in accordance with the specific needs of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. NITI Aayog and the concerned Central Ministries were requested to ensure time-bound decisions on pending proposals, provide suitable flexibility in schemes, establish clear nodal responsibilities and conduct regular high-level reviews.

Towards achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat @2047', strengthening the Andaman and Nicobar Islands strategically, economically and environmentally was highlighted as a collective priority.

Contd Pg1...Police Seek Details from Investors in Alleged QNET/Vihaan Fraud Case in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978. The investigation is currently in progress.

According to the police, allegations have surfaced that representatives of QNET/Vihaan business allegedly induced members of the public across the Islands to join the business by promising regular or weekly income, commissions and high returns. Individuals were allegedly encouraged to purchase products and introduce new members in anticipation of monetary benefits.

Substantial amounts of money were reportedly collected from investors, with some individuals allegedly paying approximately Rs. 3.50 lakh. Meetings and promotional activities were reportedly conducted at various hotels and other locations in Sri Vijaya Puram and surrounding areas.

The police stated that several individuals have reportedly not received the promised returns and have faced difficulties in obtaining refunds. Complainants have also expressed apprehension that many more people may have been affected by the alleged scheme.

As part of the investigation, the police have stated that it is necessary to identify and examine all individuals who invested money in the business or associated schemes

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Contd Pg4...Police Seek Details from Investors in Alleged QNET/Vihaan Fraud Case in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

through the concerned individuals, firms, companies or their representatives. The exercise is aimed at establishing the extent of the alleged fraud, identifying other persons involved and tracing the flow of funds.

Accordingly, all investors and victims who have invested money in Vihaan Direct Selling (India) Pvt. Ltd., QNET and their associated marketing schemes, as well as individuals possessing relevant information regarding such transactions, have been requested to appear before the Investigating Officer at Police Station Crime & Economic Offences, CID Office, opposite Police Gurudwara, Sri Vijaya Puram.

The police have asked the concerned persons to visit the office between November 4 and November 20, 2026, from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, and furnish accurate details of their investments.

Investors have been requested to bring Fund Receipt Certificates/Bonds issued by Vihaan Direct Selling (India) Pvt. Ltd., bank account statements, payment receipts, transaction details, relevant communications and any other supporting documents available with them.

The police have urged all concerned individuals to cooperate with the investigation by providing relevant information and documents, which would assist in establishing the extent of the alleged fraud, identifying other affected persons and tracing the flow of funds.

The information and documents may be submitted to Assistant Sub-Inspector Mohd. Rafique, Investigating Officer, at Mobile No. 9476092160, or Inspector D. Jagdishwar Rao, Station House Officer, Police Station Crime & Economic Offences, CID, Sri Vijaya Puram, at Mobile No. 9474290250.

BJP to Organise Padyatra in Sri Vijaya Puram on November 5 Under Theme “Loktantra Bachao – Arajakta Hatao”



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 5, 2026

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will organise a padyatra in Sri Vijaya Puram on November 5 under the theme “Loktantra Bachao – Arajakta Hatao” (Save Democracy – Remove Anarchy).

According to a circular issued by the BJP’s Andaman and Nicobar Islands unit on November 4, the padyatra will commence at 3.30 pm from BJP Bhawan, Middle Point, and proceed to Tiranga Park, Aberdeen Bazar.

The party has stated that the programme is aimed at communicating its position on Special Intensive Revision (SIR), electoral roll integrity

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Contd Pg5...BJP to Organise Padyatra in Sri Vijaya Puram on November 5 Under Theme "Loktantra Bachao – Arajakta Hatao"

and addressing what it describes as misinformation being spread by the opposition regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the BJP-led government.

The circular also states that the campaign will seek to create awareness about the party's allegations concerning illegal infiltration and the opposition's stance on the issue.

BJP State President Anil Kumar Tiwari has called upon senior party leaders, State Committee members, Cell Convenors, District and Mandal Committee members, Morcha Committee members, Booth Presidents, Booth Committee members and party workers to participate in the padyatra along with supporters from their respective areas.

The party, in its circular, has appealed for large-scale participation to make the programme a success.

LG Dr. Dinesh Sharma Meets Union Health Minister JP Nadda in New Delhi



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, held a warm and cordial meeting with the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mr. JP Nadda, in New Delhi.

During the meeting, discussions were held on strengthening and improving healthcare services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and expanding healthcare facilities across the Union Territory.

Dr. Dinesh Sharma highlighted the unparalleled experience of the Union Health Minister in the field of healthcare.

The Union Minister directed that an early meeting be convened between officials of the Government of India and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to address health-related issues concerning the Islands.

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200 NCC Cadets Participate in Firing Practice at Chinte Firing Range



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

A total of 200 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets from various NCC-affiliated schools and colleges participated in a firing practice session at Chinte Firing Range, Brichgunj, on Tuesday.

The practice session aimed at developing discipline, concentration, confidence and a sense of responsibility among the cadets. Under the supervision and guidance of trained NCC instructors and authorised personnel, the cadets were introduced to the fundamental procedures of firing, weapon safety and the importance of adhering to safety protocols.

The firing practice was conducted in coordination with Col. K.Y. Singh, Commanding Officer, 1 (A&N) Independent Infantry Company NCC, Junglighat, Sri Vijaya Puram.

54th Batch of Forest Guards Passes Out from Forest Training Institute in Wimberlygunj



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

The Forest Training Institute (FTI), Wimberlygunj, organized the passing-out ceremony of the 54th Batch of Forest Guards on Wednesday, marking the successful completion of their training.

Dr. Dinesh Kannan, Chief Conservator of Forests (R&WP) and Chairman of FTI, attended the ceremony as the chief guest and congratulated the trainees on their achievement. He emphasized that protecting forests, conserving biodiversity, safeguarding wildlife and maintaining ecological balance require commitment, vigilance, teamwork and professional integrity.

The ceremony featured the Piping Ceremony, symbolizing the transition of the trainees into their professional responsibilities as Forest Guards. This was followed by the administration of the Oath of Allegiance by the Chairman of FTI.

Ms. Pandimeenal was declared the Overall

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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 Pg7...54th Batch of Forest Guards Passes Out from Forest Training Institute in Wimberlygunj

Topper of the 54th Batch and awarded the Gold Medal in recognition of her outstanding performance. She also secured five additional medals in different subjects. Certificates, medals and prizes were distributed among the successful trainees in recognition of their academic and practical achievements.

Addressing the gathering as the guest of honour, Mr. P.K. Paul, Conservator of Forests (Headquarters), encouraged the newly passed-out Forest Guards to remain committed to the protection and conservation of the rich forest and wildlife resources of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Ajit V. John, Director of FTI, presented the Annual Course Report, highlighting the training activities, academic achievements, field exposures and practical skills imparted to the trainees during their training period.

Tsunami Awareness Programme Held at Mus Community Hall in Car Nicobar



Car Nicobar | November 4, 2026

The District Administration, Nicobar, organised a tsunami awareness outreach programme at Mus Community Hall, Car Nicobar, on Wednesday, with the objective of creating awareness about tsunami hazards and strengthening disaster preparedness among the local community.

The programme was conducted as part of the ongoing Tsunami Ready Programme, being implemented in 30 identified coastal villages of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Directorate of Disaster Management, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in coordination with the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, and the District Administrations of South Andaman, North and Middle Andaman, and Nicobar, is conducting a series of outreach programmes across identified coastal villages.

During the programme, community members were sensitised about the causes and potential impacts of tsunamis, natural warning signs, early warning systems, tsunami alerts and emergency communication procedures.

Emphasis was also laid on identifying safe locations, understanding designated evacuation routes and following appropriate safety protocols during tsunami emergencies.

The initiative aims to enhance community awareness and preparedness, enabling residents of coastal villages to respond effectively to tsunami threats.

IP&T Invites Tourism and Hospitality Stakeholders to Participate in IITF 2026



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

The Directorate of Information, Publicity & Tourism (IP&T), Andaman and Nicobar Administration, has invited applications from registered and prominent stakeholders of the tourism and hospitality sector in the Islands for participation in the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026, scheduled to be held from November 14 to 27 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The trade fair will be organised on the theme ‘Vikas aur Virasat’.

Tourism stakeholders, including tour operators, boat operators, hotel associations, adventure and water sports service providers, travel agents and other recognised tourism-related organisations operating in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, have been requested to submit their written consent expressing willingness to participate in the event to the Directorate of IP&T on or before November 9, by 3 PM.

The allotment of space to interested stakeholders will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to availability within the Andaman and Nicobar Pavilion. The participation fee has been fixed at Rs. 30,000, which is to be paid through a Demand Draft (DD) in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer, Directorate of IP&T. The DD must be submitted along with the willingness letter.

Participation in IITF 2026 will provide an opportunity for tourism stakeholders from the Islands to showcase the unique tourism attractions, products, services and experiences of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on a prestigious national platform, enhancing the visibility of the Islands and promoting them as a preferred tourism destination.

The participating stakeholders will be required to make their own arrangements and bear all expenses related to transportation, boarding, lodging and other incidental expenditures.

For further details and clarification, interested stakeholders may contact the Manager (Tourism), Directorate of IP&T, at mobile number 9933255364.



A&NI SCERT Unveils Official Logo



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands State Council of Educational Research and Training (A&NI SCERT) unveiled its official logo on Wednesday at the ICT Lab of A&NI SCERT, Sri Vijaya Puram, marking a significant milestone in its institutional journey.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Sangeeta Chand, Director, A&NI SCERT, highlighted that the newly unveiled logo reflects the institution's vision and commitment to quality education, innovation and academic excellence.

She emphasised that the logo symbolises the institution's role in strengthening the educational system and advancing educational development across the Union Territory.

JNRM Organises Expert Talk on Constitutional Values and Good Governance



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 4, 2026

Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM) recently organised an Expert Talk on the theme 'Constitutional Values, Civic Responsibility and Good Governance' under the initiative of Reform UTSAV.

The programme aimed to promote constitutional awareness, strengthen civic consciousness and sensitise students to the importance of responsible citizenship and accountable governance in a democratic society.

Delivering the presidential address, Dr. Pearl Devdas, Principal of JNRM, emphasised that effective governance rests on four fundamental pillars — transparency, accountability, responsibility and integrity.

The expert talk was delivered by Dr. Bitin Thakur from Tagore Government College of Education (TGCE), who elaborated on the three interconnected dimensions of the theme: constitutional values, civic responsibility and good governance.

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Applications Invited for Wild Card Entries to Khelo India Youth Games 2026



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 5, 2026

The Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, has invited applications from eligible boys and girls below 18 years of age for consideration of Wild Card Entries to represent the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2026, scheduled to be held in Telangana from December 11 to 22.

Applications have been invited in 15 sports disciplines, including Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics, Judo, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Thang-Ta, Weightlifting, Wrestling and Yogasana.

As per the official communication received from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India, the selection of athletes to represent States and Union Territories will be based on their performances in recognised international, national, state and district-level competitions held during 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Under the prescribed procedure for KIYG 2026, the best two boys and two girls among the applications received by the Directorate will be placed before the Wild Card Evaluation Committee (WCEC), KIYG 2026. The athletes recommended by the committee will subsequently be nominated for participation in the Games. The names of the recommended athletes will be communicated and published through print and electronic media.

Athletes must have been born on or after January 1, 2009, to be eligible for participation in KIYG 2026. For age verification, applicants must submit any two of the following documents: Aadhaar Card or Passport, Matriculation Certificate, or Birth Certificate issued by a Municipal Corporation or Gram Panchayat at least five years ago, on or before January 1, 2021.

To establish eligibility to represent a State or Union Territory, applicants must submit any one of the following documents: State Domicile Certificate, Passport, or a Bonafide Certificate indicating their place of posting, working or schooling.

Interested and eligible athletes are required to submit their applications to the Assistant Supervisor (Sports) of the concerned Zone on or before November 10, 2026. Applications must be submitted in the prescribed format (Annexure-A), duly filled in and signed by the applicant. Applicants are required to enclose self-attested copies of their sports achievements in recognised international, national, state, Union

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Contd Pg11...Applications Invited for Wild Card Entries to Khelo India Youth Games 2026

Territory or district-level tournaments and competitions held during 2023, 2024 and 2025, along with self-attested copies of all relevant documents supporting their candidature and eligibility.

The prescribed application format (Annexure-A) is available on the Sports Department Portal at https://sports.andamannicobar.gov.in and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands UT Portal at https://andamannicobar.gov.in.

Firefighting Mock Drill and Rescue Techniques Demonstration Conducted at Baratang Petrol Pump



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 5, 2026

A firefighting mock drill and rescue techniques demonstration was conducted at the ANIIDCO Petrol Pump in Baratang on Oct. 31 to assess emergency response time and familiarise personnel with emergency firefighting and rescue operations.

The live mock drill was conducted by firefighters of Fire Station Baratang at 3.25 pm in the high-hazard area of the petrol pump. The exercise simulated a fire outbreak in a diesel generator set due to a prolonged power cut in the locality. Staff of the ANIIDCO Petrol Pump also participated in the drill.

During the exercise, firefighters laid a hose line and discharged foam, while petrol pump staff operated fire extinguishers. The entire vicinity was cordoned off to restrict the entry of vehicles and members of the public.

Following the mock drill, a debriefing session and training programme were conducted to familiarise participants with various safety concerns at petrol pumps and the operational techniques of first-aid firefighting equipment during emergencies.

A total of six staff members and 11 members of the general public were present during the exercise, which concluded at around 4.30 pm.

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