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Maiden BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise Culminates at Sri Vijaya Puram





Sri Vijaya Puram | November 5, 2026

The maiden BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise culminated successfully at Sri Vijaya Puram on November 3, following a series of coordinated maritime engagements conducted from October 30 to November 3 under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).

The exercise witnessed the participation of naval ships from BIMSTEC member states, including Indian Naval Ships INS Taragiri, INS Karmuk and INS Saryu, Myanmar Navy Ship UMS King Aung Zeya and Sri Lanka Navy Ship SLNS Gajabahu.

The exercise brought

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Climate Change Could Pose Threat to Very Existence of Island Territories: LG Dr. Dinesh Sharma



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

Climate change could pose a threat to the very existence of island territories, with rising temperatures, sea levels and increasing intensity of cyclones aggravating the crisis, Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Dr. Dinesh Sharma has said. He stressed the need for special action plans for low-lying islands to address the emerging challenges.

Addressing a seminar on "The Future of Islands in the Era of Climate Change – With Special Reference to Andaman and Nicobar" at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Government Girls Postgraduate College located in Aliganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Sharma said development must be redefined to ensure that it

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TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Contd Pg1...Maiden BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise Culminates at Sri Vijaya Puram

together senior dignitaries and representatives from BIMSTEC member countries, including BIMSTEC Secretary General Indra Mani Pandey, National Maritime Security Coordinator Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta (Retd.), Commander of the Central Naval Command of the Myanmar Navy Rear Admiral Kyaw Kyaw Htoo, Director (Monitoring and Evaluation) of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Ports and Civil Aviation Air Vice Marshal MDR Prasad (Retd.), and Commanding Officer of BNS Prottoy, Bangladesh, Captain Mohammad Monzurul Islam.

Conducted in the spirit of the Delhi Declaration and in furtherance of the outcomes of the 4th BIMSTEC Experts Group Meeting on Maritime Security Cooperation held in November 2025, the exercise aimed to enhance interoperability among participating navies, strengthen professional interactions and foster mutual understanding through collaborative maritime engagements.

The harbour phase at Sri Vijaya Puram featured high-level engagements, professional interactions and cultural exchanges, providing opportunities for participating delegations to strengthen institutional ties and foster friendship.

The subsequent sea phase, conducted off Sri Vijaya Puram from November 2 to 3, involved coordinated maritime deployments and collaborative operational activities aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation among BIMSTEC member states.

The exercise also sought to reinforce the shared vision of a prosperous, resilient and open Bay of Bengal, while promoting collective efforts to address common maritime challenges and safeguard shared maritime interests.

The successful culmination of the maiden exercise marks a significant step towards strengthening and institutionalising maritime engagement among BIMSTEC member states. The Andaman and Nicobar Command, India's only operational tri-service command, hosted the exercise under the leadership of Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command.

The exercise is expected to provide a foundation for future collaborative maritime security initiatives under the BIMSTEC framework, contributing to peace, security and stability across the Bay of Bengal region.

Contd Pg1...Climate Change Could Pose Threat to Very Existence of Island Territories: LG Dr. Dinesh Sharma

goes hand in hand with the conservation of nature.

He described the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as not only the guardians of India's borders but also a reminder of the responsibility towards nature. He emphasised that human civilisation could remain safe not by confronting nature but by establishing harmony with it.

Dr. Sharma said climate change was also affecting the social life and traditions of island communities. While the natural beauty of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and other island territories made them major tourist attractions, the changing climate was increasingly threatening these natural assets.

Describing the Islands as a symbol of India's strategic strength, natural wealth and cultural diversity, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the close relationship between coastal

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Contd Pg3...Climate Change Could Pose Threat to Very Existence of Island Territories: LG Dr. Dinesh Sharma

communities and the sea. He said rising sea levels could affect not only land areas but also drinking water availability, agriculture and fisheries.

He stressed the importance of conserving forests and coral reefs, which act as natural protective barriers against sea waves and cyclones. Maintaining a balance between development activities and environmental conservation, adopting clean energy and establishing effective rainwater harvesting systems were also identified as essential measures to address climate change.

The Lieutenant Governor further emphasised the significance of the traditional knowledge and experiences of local and tribal communities in mitigating the impact of climate change.

Dr. Sharma stated that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands would emerge as a major centre for maritime trade in the coming years and contribute to India's progress towards becoming one of the world's prosperous nations. He added that the development activities planned for the Islands would also strengthen the country's strategic capabilities.

Eminent scientists Dr. C.M. Nautiyal, Dr. Mukund Sharma, Dr. Dhruv Sen Singh, Dr. Atma Prakash Misra, Dr. Venkatesh Dutta, Prof. Kanchan Lata, Prof. Shalini Srivastava, Councillor Swadesh Singh and Prof. Poonam Verma, among others, attended the seminar.

A&N Administration Urges Citizens to Participate in NeSDA 2025 Citizen Survey



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has appealed to citizens and beneficiaries of Government services across the Islands to actively participate in the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025 Citizen Survey, being conducted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.

The Citizen Survey is an integral part of the NeSDA 2025 Assessment and aims to gather feedback from citizens on their experiences in availing Government services through online platforms. The feedback will help assess the effectiveness, accessibility and quality of digital service delivery and identify areas requiring further improvement.

The Administration has requested citizens, Government employees and beneficiaries of various Government services to participate in the survey and submit their responses online. Efforts are also being undertaken to ensure wide publicity and maximum participation through various Departments and media platforms.

Citizens can participate in the survey through the direct

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link: https://forms.gle/MPDGVJ6tKPBnMKsEA

Alternatively, the survey can be accessed through the NeSDA Way Forward Portal at https://nesda.gov.in/wayforward/citizen-survey. The links are also available on the official A&N Administration State Portal at https://andamannicobar.gov.in/.

The last date for submission of responses is November 15, 2026.

The Administration has urged all citizens to come forward and participate in the exercise, stating that every response will contribute towards making Government services more accessible, transparent, efficient and citizen-friendly.

Six-Day Training Programme for Homestay Operators to Be Held from November 16



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

The Department of Tourism, in association with the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition (IHM), Mumbai, will organise a six-day Training and Certification Programme for homestay operators under the RAMP Scheme from November 16 to 21.

The training programme will be conducted at the Hotel Management Department of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT), Dollygunj.

The initiative aims to equip existing and aspiring homestay operators, along with their staff, with essential skills in culinary practices, presentation and hygiene to enhance the quality and standards of homestay operations.

All registered and aspiring homestay operators and their staff have been encouraged to avail themselves of this opportunity to improve their service skills and standards.

Interested participants have been requested to register at the earliest through the online registration link: https://forms.gle/mnePf5YkffAUE7bJ8.

For further details, participants may contact the Planning Section of the Department of Tourism at tourismplanning2013@gmail.com.



ANPCC Chairman Appeals to Islanders to Celebrate Deepawali Responsibly



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

Kamaleshwar Rao S, IAS, Secretary (Science & Technology)-cum-Chairman of the Andaman and Nicobar Pollution Control Committee (ANPCC), has appealed to the people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to celebrate Deepawali responsibly, taking all necessary precautions to minimise pollution, fire hazards and accidents.

In his appeal, Rao stated that Deepawali is a festival of light, joy and happiness. However, he noted that the joyous occasion is not always celebrated with due caution and sometimes turns into a festival of noise and fire hazards.

He appealed to everyone to avoid bursting firecrackers, particularly in prohibited zones such as hospitals, educational institutions, places of worship, petrol pumps and on roads.

He further stated that firecrackers should be burst only between 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM.

Rao said that public cooperation would go a long way in ensuring that fellow citizens could also celebrate the festival in an atmosphere of joy, peace and happiness.

He urged everyone to celebrate the festival of lights in its true spirit and extended his wishes for a happy and prosperous Deepawali.

Deadline for ITF-2026 Cultural Programme Applications Extended Till November 10



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

The Art & Culture Department, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, has extended the last date for submission of applications from local cultural associations and organisations interested in participating in the cultural programmes of the Island Tourism Festival (ITF)-2026 till November 10, 2026, up to 4 PM.

The Island Tourism Festival-2026 is scheduled to be organised by the Tourism Department from December 27 to 31, 2026. As part of the festival, the Art & Culture Department will present cultural programmes at various venues across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Each participating group is required to submit details of at least four to six cultural programmes. Dance performances must have a minimum duration of 30 minutes, while singing performances should be of 45 minutes to one hour per occasion. The Programme Selection Committee will assess the submissions and select a diverse range of performances for presentation at different venues.

Participating artists must be at least 8 years of age. Each group must comprise a minimum of 8 members and a maximum of 15 members

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Contd Pg6...Deadline for ITF-2026 Cultural Programme Applications Extended Till November 10

per venue. Applicants are also required to submit a self-certificate confirming their willingness to perform at any designated venue allotted by the Department during the festival. Non-compliance may result in withdrawal from participation in the ITF cultural programmes and may be considered by the Department while evaluating the group for future programmes.

Applications can be submitted in person at the Directorate of Art & Culture, Cellular Jail Complex, Atlanta Point, Sri Vijaya Puram, or via email at artand.culture@and.nic.in by 4 PM on November 10, 2026. The prescribed application form (Annexure-I) is available for download at https://andaman.gov.in and https://artculture.andamannicobar.gov.in.

The Programme Selection Committee will conduct selection rehearsals at Andaman Club from 2 PM to 7 PM. Dance groups will be assessed on November 11 and 12, while singing groups will be assessed on November 13, 2026.

The Department has encouraged the presentation of classical, semi-classical, traditional and folk dances, along with related musical forms such as bhajans, qawwalis and folk songs from different States.

Participating groups have been asked to appear before the Selection Committee and showcase their performances on the specified dates and times. Any change in date, time or venue after selection will be at the discretion of the Department.

For queries, interested organisations may contact the Directorate of Art & Culture at 03192-234775 during working hours.

ANPCC Conducting Special Air and Noise Pollution Monitoring from November 1 to 15



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

The Andaman and Nicobar Pollution Control Committee (ANPCC) is conducting short-term monitoring of ambient air quality and noise levels from November 1 to 15, 2026, in connection with the Deepawali festival, which is falling on November 8 this year. The monitoring programme is assessing pollution levels and the impact of firecracker bursting on air and noise quality in the Islands.

The monitoring programme is being conducted in accordance with the protocol of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), New Delhi, and in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order dated October 23, 2018, in the matter of O.A. No. 728 of 2015.

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration is taking various steps to control air pollution caused by firecrackers by restricting their bursting to a two-hour window from 8 PM to 10 PM during Deepawali. The restriction is aiming to minimise pollution and reduce health risks, particularly for people suffering from respiratory

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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...ANPCC Conducting Special Air and Noise Pollution Monitoring from November 1 to 15

ailments and other vulnerable groups.

ANPCC is operating three monitoring stations at Aberdeen Bazaar, Dollygunj and Mithakari. The stations are covering a 15-day period, including seven days before and seven days after Deepawali.

The monitoring programme is covering pollutants such as Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2), Particulate Matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), and metals including Lead (Pb), Nickel (Ni) and Arsenic (As) in PM_{10}. Selected metals and elements such as Aluminium (Al), Barium (Ba) and Iron (Fe) are also being monitored in $PM_{2.5}$. Noise levels are being continuously monitored on pre-Deepawali and Deepawali days.

Ambient air quality is being assessed through the Air Quality Index (AQI), which is classifying air quality into six categories based on pollution levels and their potential health impacts.

The AQI categories are ranging from Good (0–50), indicating minimal impact, to Severe (above 400), which is affecting healthy people and seriously impacting those with existing diseases. Satisfactory (51–100) is indicating minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people, while Moderate (101–200) is indicating breathing discomfort to people with lung diseases, asthma and heart conditions. Poor (201–300) is indicating breathing discomfort to most people on prolonged exposure, while Very Poor (301–400) is indicating respiratory illness on prolonged exposure.

Based on the data being recorded during the monitoring period, the AQI is being computed for each monitoring location. During the previous year (2025), the AQI was assessed as “Satisfactory” at both Aberdeen Bazaar and Dollygunj monitoring stations.

ANPCC is continuing its efforts to maintain and improve air and noise quality during the festive season, with the aim of ensuring a safe, clean and healthy environment for residents of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

South Andaman District Administration Holds Janta Darshan at Shaheed Dweep to Address Public Grievances



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

As per the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the District Administration, South Andaman, conducted a Janta Darshan at Gram Panchayat, Neil Kendra, Shaheed Dweep, on Wednesday under the chairpersonship of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, to provide an accessible platform for residents to raise their grievances and concerns and facilitate their timely redressal.

During the Janta Darshan, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), departmental officials and members of the public and heard various grievances and issues raised by them. The concerned Heads of Departments were directed to take appropriate action for their expeditious redressal and ensure effective delivery of essential public services to the residents of Shaheed Dweep.

To expedite the disposal of pending subdivision,

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Contd Pg8...South Andaman District Administration Holds Janta Darshan at Shaheed Dweep to Address Public Grievances

demarcation and land set-apart cases, a Surveyor has been deputed at Patwarkhana, Shaheed Dweep, for necessary field-level action. An Islander Card Correction Camp will also commence from November 6 at Patwarkhana to facilitate corrections in the records of eligible residents.

Discussions were also held on the proposed Bharatpur and Sitapur Beach Management Plans, during which the concerns and suggestions of the public were heard for appropriate consideration by the concerned departments.

As part of the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Government Senior Secondary School (GSSS), Shaheed Dweep, and interacted with the school authorities to assess issues concerning the institution. She subsequently visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Neil Kendra, where she interacted with the medical and supporting staff and reviewed issues and requirements related to the functioning of the health facility.

The requirements and concerns highlighted during both visits were duly noted, and the Deputy Commissioner assured that necessary follow-up action would be taken in coordination with the concerned departments.

The Janta Darshan reflects the District Administration's commitment to accessible, responsive and citizen-centric governance. The District Administration, South Andaman, will continue to undertake such public outreach initiatives to facilitate direct interaction with citizens, address their grievances and ensure time-bound delivery of public services.

South Andaman District Administration Removes Fresh Encroachments from Government Land



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

The District Administration, South Andaman, has carried out eviction drives at Atam Pahar, Garacharma, Brookshabad and Austinabad villages in Sri Vijaya Puram Tehsil, removing unauthorised structures and fencing from Government land and reclaiming encroached areas.

During an inspection conducted on November 3 at Atam Pahar in Garacharma Village, Revenue authorities found four temporary sheds along with fencing unauthorisedly erected on Government land. An eviction drive was subsequently conducted, resulting in the removal of the structures and fencing and the retrieval of approximately 1,000 square metres of Government revenue land.

Further eviction drives were conducted on November 5 at Brookshabad and Austinabad villages to prevent unauthorised occupation of Government revenue land. During the drives, one temporary structure each was removed from Government land in both villages. Unauthorised fencing was also removed

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Contd Pg9...South Andaman District Administration Removes Fresh Encroachments from Government Land

from the encroached areas. Altogether, approximately 0.10 hectares of Government land was cleared and restored to its original status.

The District Administration has reiterated its zero-tolerance policy towards encroachment on Government land and cautioned the general public against such unauthorised activities. Citizens have been advised to strictly adhere to the legal provisions governing land use and ownership and are encouraged to report instances of encroachment to the Administration.

Information regarding encroachments may be shared with the District Control Room through helpline numbers 03192-240127, 238881 or 1070, or via WhatsApp at 9531888844. The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential, and appropriate action will be initiated on all genuine complaints received.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Records First Three Female Calves Through Embryo Transfer Technology



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS), Andaman & Nicobar Administration, has achieved a significant milestone in livestock development with the birth of the first three female calves through Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The pioneering initiative, launched in February 2026 in collaboration with NDDB Dairy Services, marks the first successful implementation of advanced Embryo Transfer Technology under island conditions.

Under the scheme, the Department of AH&VS has entered into an agreement with Natern Dairy Services, a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), to establish high-genetic-merit crossbred pregnancies in local cattle through the transfer of embryos produced using in vitro techniques. The programme is being implemented under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, with a target of establishing 220 pregnancies over a period of two years.

The calves produced through this technology are expected to have the potential to yield an average of 15 litres of milk per day. The initiative aims to enhance the productivity of local cattle and increase the availability of fresh milk in the Islands.

The Department has been implementing cattle crossbreeding programmes through artificial insemination to improve the genetic potential of local cattle, a process that generally takes three to four generations or 10 to 12 years. However, the adoption of ETT has

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Contd Pg10...Andaman & Nicobar Islands Records First Three Female Calves Through Embryo Transfer Technology

reduced this period to three to four years. The high-genetic-merit cattle and their offspring are expected to help establish a dairy herd with higher milk-yielding capacity and gradually replace low-yielding animals.

Since the launch of the programme in February 2026, five phases have been completed, involving 112 embryo transfers. Pregnancy has been confirmed in 29 recipient animals, while another 34 animals are awaiting confirmation.

The first female calf produced through ETT in the Islands, named “Shri,” was born on November 1, 2026, at Kamraj Nagar. The second calf, “Navya,” was born at Manglutan, while the third, “Sasi,” was born at Port Mout. All three calves have been reported to be healthy, with the calvings taking place normally.

The Department of AH&VS has congratulated the beneficiary farmers and veterinary teams involved in the successful embryo implantation, pregnancy monitoring and calving.

The Department has also encouraged livestock farmers to come forward and avail themselves of the benefits of Embryo Transfer Technology and other advanced breeding services available at their nearest veterinary institutions.

The programme is expected to be expanded to more areas in the coming phases as the Department continues its efforts to strengthen dairy development and improve livestock productivity across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Ayushman Arogya Shivir Conducted at Assistant Commissioner’s Office in Diglipur



Diglipur | November 6, 2026

As part of the TB-Free Workplace initiative under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, an Ayushman Arogya Shivir was organised at the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Diglipur, on Thursday by the TB Unit of Sub-District Hospital, Diglipur, under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner, Diglipur, and the Chief Medical Officer, Sub-District Hospital, Diglipur.

The health camp witnessed active participation from staff members of various departments functioning under the Administrative Building. A total of 79 staff members underwent health examinations and screening for parameters, including blood pressure (BP) and blood sugar levels.

A portable handheld X-ray machine was also utilised during the camp for rapid screening and generation of diagnostic data.

The workplace-based health initiative aims to promote a healthy working environment and strengthen collective efforts towards achieving the vision of a TB-Free India.

The initiative also seeks to extend similar health screening facilities to staff members of other Government departments to ensure wider coverage and promote health and wellness across the Administration.



Our Rights Organization Seeks Probe into Persistent 'Full' Booking Status of Andaman Guest House in Anna Nagar at Chennai



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

Our Rights Organization (ORO), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has raised concerns over the persistent non-availability of rooms at the Andaman Guest House in Anna Nagar, Chennai, and has sought an investigation into its online booking system and room allotment process.

In a letter dated November 4, 2026, addressed to the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, C. Saravanan, Chairman of Our Rights Organization, stated that the online booking status of the guest house frequently and almost invariably displays "FULL," making it difficult for genuine applicants from the Islands to secure accommodation.

The organization pointed out that the Andaman Guest House serves as an important welfare facility for Islanders travelling to Chennai for specialised medical treatment, follow-up consultations, surgeries, higher education, competitive examinations and other essential purposes.

According to the letter, the persistent non-availability of rooms forces patients, their attendants, students and other needy Islanders to seek private accommodation at considerably high costs, adding to the financial burden of families already facing medical, educational and travel expenses.

Seeking the Lieutenant Governor's intervention, ORO has called for a comprehensive examination of the functioning of the guest house and its booking system.

The organization has requested an investigation into whether technical malfunctions, administrative deficiencies or other issues are responsible for the booking portal frequently displaying the "FULL" status. It has also sought independent verification of the actual room capacity, occupancy records, booking registers and allotment details to ascertain whether rooms are being utilised and allotted in accordance with established rules and procedures.

ORO has further called for greater transparency in the online booking process, ensuring that the system reflects the actual availability of rooms and that allotment remains fair and accessible to all eligible applicants. It has also suggested safeguards to prevent irregularities or preferential allotment.

The organization has urged the authorities to consider providing priority or a dedicated accommodation quota for Islanders travelling to Chennai for medical treatment, particularly patients requiring repeated consultations, specialised treatment and hospitalisation-related assistance, as well as students pursuing higher education.

The letter also calls for examining the feasibility of constructing additional rooms or expanding the existing infrastructure to meet the growing accommodation requirements of Islanders visiting Chennai.

ORO has sought the establishment of an effective public grievance redressal mechanism through which applicants can report difficulties in securing accommodation, seek clarification regarding room availability and receive timely responses from the concerned authorities.

Describing the Andaman Guest House as an important public welfare institution intended to provide affordable support to the geographically isolated Islands, Saravanan appealed for a time-bound investigation into the persistent "FULL" booking status and appropriate corrective measures.

