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Andaman and Lucknow Share Legacy of Courage, Sacrifice and Patriotism: Lt. Governor



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lucknow share a rich legacy of courage, sacrifice and patriotism in the struggle against British rule, said the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, while addressing a seminar on the significance of the Islands in the freedom movement.

The seminar was organised at Kalicharan Degree College, Lucknow, where Dr. Sharma highlighted the historical significance of the Cellular Jail in Andaman and Lucknow's role in the Revolt of 1857.

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MP Bishnu Pada Ray Raises Issues of Jetty Reconstruction, Acquisition of Four New Ships and Shipyard Construction



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament representing the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, has urged the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to expedite the reconstruction of 13 jetties, acquisition of four new passenger-cum-cargo vessels and construction of a shipyard at ATI land in Bambooflat.

The MP raised these issues during the Consultative Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways held on November 3, 2026, at Puri, Odisha, under the chairmanship of Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

During the meeting, Ray

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Contd Pg1...Andaman and Lucknow Share Legacy of Courage, Sacrifice and Patriotism: Lt. Governor

He said that while the Cellular Jail stands as a testament to the repression, torture and sacrifices endured by freedom fighters, Lucknow was a major centre of the Revolt of 1857, which posed a formidable challenge to British rule. He added that the spirit of freedom ignited in 1857 continues to be remembered through the sacrifices of countless revolutionaries imprisoned in the Andaman Islands.

The Lt. Governor said that the British used the naturally beautiful and resource-rich Andaman Islands as a penal settlement to suppress and torture revolutionaries. Freedom fighters, including Veer Savarkar and Batukeshwar Dutt, were imprisoned in the Cellular Jail and subjected to inhuman treatment.

He explained that the British administration established the penal settlement to isolate revolutionaries from the mainstream and inflict severe punishments upon them. The prison, which became synonymous with the harsh treatment of political prisoners, came to be known as ‘Kala Pani’.

Dr. Sharma also highlighted the literary connections between Andaman and Lucknow. He mentioned the book Black Water: The Strange History of Port Blair, written in 1892 by Lucknow resident Mohammed Zafar, which chronicles the penal settlement in Andaman and the torture endured by prisoners. The book was published by the renowned Munshi Nawal Kishore Press in Lucknow.

He further stated that of the 585 revolutionaries imprisoned in the Cellular Jail between 1909 and 1938, 18 were residents of Uttar Pradesh, reflecting the contribution of the State to the freedom struggle in the Andaman Islands.

Manager of the College, Er. V.K. Mishra, Principal Anil Kumar Mishra, Principal Prof. Chandramohan Upadhyay and local Councillors were also present on the occasion.

Contd Pg1...MP Bishnu Pada Ray Raises Issues of Jetty Reconstruction, Acquisition of Four New Ships and Shipyard Construction

highlighted three major pending proposals concerning maritime infrastructure and inter-island shipping connectivity in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and sought priority action from the Ministry.

The MP urged the Ministry to accord priority to the reconstruction of 13 jetties across the Islands and provide the necessary financial sanction. The proposals, based on detailed surveys conducted by the Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW), along with Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), have already been submitted to the Ministry. The estimated cost of the reconstruction works is approximately Rs. 750 crore.

Highlighting the urgency of the matter, Ray pointed out that the jetties are in a highly dilapidated and dangerous condition, posing serious risks to public safety and causing inconvenience to islanders. He emphasised that jetties serve as lifelines for the Islands, as shipping remains the principal mode of transportation for essential commodities, goods, materials and passengers, particularly to remote and far-flung islands.

The MP also submitted a list of 13 jetties requiring immediate reconstruction, along with photographs depicting their existing conditions. The jetties include Long Island Jetty, Swaraj Dweep Jetty, Yeretta

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Contd Pg3...MP Bishnu Pada Ray Raises Issues of Jetty Reconstruction, Acquisition of Four New Ships and Shipyard Construction

Jetty, Diglipur Jetty, East Island Jetty, Champin Jetty, Rangat Jetty, Chatham Wharf, Panighat Jetty, Mayabunder Wharf, NSCB Jetty, Chain Nallah Jetty and Aberdeen Jetty. He requested the Ministry to expedite the necessary approvals and release of funds.

Ray also pursued the pending proposal of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration for the construction and acquisition of four new passenger-cum-cargo vessels, each with a capacity of 500 passengers and 150 MT of cargo. The proposed vessels are estimated to cost Rs. 450 crore each, taking the total project cost to Rs. 1,800 crore.

The four vessels proposed for replacement are MV Bharat Sheema, MV Sentinel, MV Chowra and MV Dering, which are scheduled for decommissioning between 2027 and 2029. The MP requested the Ministry to expedite the approval and financial sanction for the proposed vessels based on the MV Nalanda model.

He emphasised that the acquisition of new vessels would strengthen inter-island shipping connectivity and ensure reliable transportation facilities for the people of the Islands.

Ray stressed that the timely reconstruction of jetties and augmentation of the shipping fleet are crucial for ensuring safe, reliable and uninterrupted transportation services and improving overall connectivity and development in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

South Andaman District Police Makes Elaborate Security Arrangements for Peaceful Diwali Celebrations



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 6, 2026

South Andaman District Police has made comprehensive security arrangements across the district to ensure peaceful, safe and incident-free celebrations of Diwali.

As part of the preparations, Peace Committee Meetings have been conducted at all police stations with the participation of representatives of various communities, market associations, religious leaders and prominent members of the public. The meetings aimed at promoting communal harmony and strengthening police-public coordination.

To ensure public safety and maintain law and order during the festival, intensive mobile patrolling is being carried out across market areas, residential localities and other sensitive locations. Dedicated police teams are also conducting foot patrolling in crowded areas with high public footfall and vulnerable pockets to enhance police visibility and prevent anti-social activities.

South Andaman District Police is maintaining heightened vigilance across the district, with personnel deployed to ensure effective security arrangements and prompt response to any

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Contd Pg4...South Andaman District Police Makes Elaborate Security Arrangements for Peaceful Diwali Celebrations

untoward incident. Close coordination is also being maintained with the Police Control Room.

The police have urged the general public to cooperate with the security personnel and celebrate Diwali responsibly while maintaining peace, harmony and public safety.

South Andaman District Police has extended its warm wishes to the public for a safe, peaceful and joyous Diwali.

In case of any emergency or assistance, the public has been advised to dial 112 for prompt response.

2nd CRC Primary Level Annual Athletic Meet to Be Held on November 13 at Netaji Stadium



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

The Sports Section of the Deputy Education Office, South Andaman, will organize the 2nd CRC Primary Level Annual Athletic Meet for boys and girls on November 13 at Netaji Stadium, Sri Vijaya Puram. The event will commence at 8:30 AM.

The athletic meet aims to promote physical fitness, sportsmanship and the overall development of young students. Participants from various primary classes will compete in a range of athletic and recreational events under different categories.

Under Group A, comprising Balvatika-I and Balvatika-II students, boys and girls will compete in the 50-metre sprint and Sweet Collection event.

Group B, comprising Balvatika-III and Class I students, will feature the 75-metre sprint, Frog Race and Get Ready for School event for boys, while girls will compete in the 75-metre sprint, Frog Race and Balloon Bursting event.

Group C, comprising Classes II and III, will include the 100-metre sprint, 200-metre sprint, long jump and 4 x 100-metre relay race for both boys and girls. A mixed 4 x 100-metre relay race will also be conducted, with two boys and two girls representing each CRC.

Group D, comprising Classes IV and V, will feature the 100-metre sprint, 400-metre sprint, long jump and 4 x 100-metre relay race for both boys and girls. A mixed 4 x 400-metre relay race will also be organized, with two boys and two girls from each CRC.

In addition, a Tug of War competition will be open to students of Classes III to V, with each CRC fielding six boys and six girls.

The annual athletic meet is expected to provide young students with an opportunity to showcase their sporting abilities while fostering teamwork, discipline and a spirit of healthy competition.



South Andaman District Planning Committee Meeting Scheduled for November 10 and 11



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

The District Planning Committee (DPC) meeting of South Andaman District, including the Campbell Bay revenue area, is scheduled to be held on November 10 and 11 at the Conference Hall of Zilla Parishad, South Andaman.

The meeting will be chaired by Mr. P. Ummer, Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, and will be attended by DPC members, special invitees and Secretaries/Heads of Departments (HoDs) of plan-implementing departments under the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

The meeting will discuss and finalise the prioritised District Action Plan for 2027-2028 and prioritise the Action Plan for 2026-2027 of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) of South Andaman District, including the Campbell Bay revenue area.

As per the schedule, discussions on November 10 will cover the Departments of Education, JNRM, ANCOL, DBRAIT, Tagore College, Law College, Sports and Youth Affairs, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Fisheries, Agriculture, Disaster Management, Social Welfare, APWD, Rural Development and PRIs, District Administration, IT, Power (Electricity), and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

On November 11, discussions will be held with the Departments of Shipping, Port Management Board, Transport, Environment and Forest, Industries, IP&T, Government Press, Health, Labour, Employment and Training, Tribal Welfare, Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC), Science and Technology, Police and Fire Brigade, Arts and Culture, Civil Aviation, Personnel (Cash), Accounts and Budget, Law, Economics and Statistics, and Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS).

Andaman & Nicobar Cycling Team Wins 11 Medals at National Track Cycling Championships



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands' Cycling Team has secured a provisional tally of 11 medals, comprising 4 Gold, 2 Silver and 5 Bronze, at the 78th Senior, 55th Junior and 41st Sub-Junior National Track Cycling Championships, 2026, held at Sidhu Kanhu Velodrome, Khelgaon (Mega Sports Complex), Hotwar, Ranchi, Jharkhand, from October 30 to November 4.

The team's performance was highlighted by I. S. Bridney, who set a New National Record in the Girls' Sub-Junior Individual Time Trial with a timing of 37.479 seconds, winning the Gold Medal.

Esow delivered an impressive performance in the Men's events, winning Gold in the 200m Sprint and the Men's Team Sprint alongside Chamberlain and David Beckham. He also secured Silver in the Men's Keirin.

David Beckham won three Bronze Medals in the Men's Time Trial, Sprint and Keirin events. Celestine secured Bronze in the Women's Elite Time Trial.

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Contd Pg6...Andaman & Nicobar Cycling Team Wins 11 Medals at National Track Cycling Championships

In the Junior category, Namita Violet won Gold in the Women's Junior 200m Sprint. The Men's Junior Team Sprint team comprising Lionald Backer, Saw Zecheriah and Derickson won Bronze, while Faith, Britney and Namita Violet secured Bronze in the Women's Junior Team Sprint.

Messi Kartson won Silver in the Boys' Sub-Junior Individual Time Trial with a timing of 35.112 seconds.

The medal tally reflects the dedication, discipline, perseverance and sporting excellence of the Island cyclists. The achievement of setting a New National Record has further added to the sporting achievements of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs has extended its heartfelt congratulations to all the medal winners, coaches, support staff and others associated with the team's success at the national championships.

SVPMC Opens Aquarium at Corbyn's Cove Showcasing Local Fish Species of A&N Islands



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

The Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC) has opened an Aquarium at Corbyn's Cove, offering islanders, tourists and visitors an opportunity to explore the diverse local fish species found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The initiative aims to promote public awareness about the unique marine biodiversity of the Islands while providing an educational and recreational attraction for residents and tourists.

The Aquarium will remain open to visitors from 8 am to 8 pm, with a lunch break from 12 noon to 2 pm.

The entry fee has been fixed at Rs. 25 per person for children aged between 5 and 12 years, while visitors above 12 years of age will be charged Rs. 50 per person. Entry will be free for children below 5 years of age.

According to SVPMC, the nominal entry charges are intended to meet the operational and maintenance expenses of the Aquarium, ensuring its proper upkeep and continued availability for the public.

The Municipal Council has invited islanders and tourists to visit the Aquarium and experience the rich marine diversity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



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

ANIIMS Granted 20 MD/MS Seats; Applications Invited from NEET-PG Qualified Candidates



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences (ANIIMS), Sri Vijaya Puram, has been granted 20 postgraduate (MD/MS) seats by the National Medical Commission (NMC) for the academic session 2026–27.

Admissions to the postgraduate courses will be conducted through All India Quota (AIQ) and State Quota counselling based on the merit of NEET-PG 2026. Of the total 20 seats, 10 seats under the All India Quota will be filled through online counselling conducted by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC), while the remaining 10 seats under the State Quota will be filled through counselling conducted by ANIIMS.

Only candidates who have qualified NEET-PG 2026 and are residents of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be eligible for the 10 State Quota seats. These seats will be allotted based on combined merit among local candidates belonging to Category I (Tribes), Category IIIA (Settlers who were settled prior to 1942), Category IIIB (those settled under various rehabilitation schemes introduced after the reoccupation of the Islands) and Category IV (other locals who have completed 10 years of education in the Islands).

ANIIMS has invited applications from eligible NEET-PG 2026-qualified candidates for admission to its postgraduate courses. The prospectus-cum-application forms will be available on the Institute's official website, https://aniims.andamannicobar.gov.in, from November 7, 2026. The last date for submission of duly filled application forms is November 17, 2026.

The provisional merit list of eligible candidates will be published on November 18, followed by the submission of appeals and grievances on November 19. The final merit list is scheduled to be published on November 20, 2026.

As per the admission schedule, the second round of counselling and document verification will be held on November 23, with the last date for joining being November 30. The third round of counselling and document verification is scheduled for December 12, while the last date for joining in this round is December 18.

A stray vacancy round, if required, will be conducted on December 24, 2026, with the last date for joining fixed for December 31. The commencement of the academic session for postgraduate courses for 2026–27 is scheduled for November 20, 2026.

Candidates seeking further information may contact the Admission Cell, ANIIMS, at 03192-230258 during office hours.



Legal Metrology Officials Conduct Surprise Inspections of Firecracker Outlets at ITF Ground



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to ensure consumer protection and prevent unfair trade practices during the ongoing festive season, the Legal Metrology Wing of the Department of Consumer Affairs & Civil Supplies (CS&CA) conducted extensive surprise inspections at major firecracker retail and wholesale outlets at ITF Ground on November 5, 2026.

The special inspection drive focused on enforcing compliance with the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, and ensuring that consumers are not subjected to overcharging or misleading package declarations.

During the inspections, the enforcement team verified compliance with mandatory provisions, including the Maximum Retail Price (MRP), to check overcharging beyond the declared MRP and prevent the use of stickers or re-stickers to inflate prices. The team also examined firecracker packages to ensure that mandatory declarations, such as the manufacturer's name and address, net quantity, month and year of manufacture or packing, and consumer care details, were properly displayed.

The team further checked for instances of dual pricing and tampering with printed package declarations.

Several establishments were inspected and booked for violations of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. Improvement notices were also issued to non-compliant traders, directing them to rectify the violations under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

The Department of CS&CA has directed all manufacturers, importers, packagers and retailers of firecrackers to ensure that packages carry all mandatory declarations and are sold at fair prices. The Department has warned that violations will invite stringent penal action under the law.

Consumers have been urged to carefully inspect firecracker packages for mandatory declarations before making purchases.

To report non-compliance or lodge complaints regarding overcharging or missing package declarations, consumers may contact the Department in writing or through the Consumer Helpline Toll-Free Number 18003453197 or Telephone Number 03192-230337.



Labour Department Invites Objections and Suggestions on Draft Rules Under Four Labour Codes



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

The Labour Department of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has invited further objections and suggestions from stakeholders and other concerned persons on the Draft Rules under all four Labour Codes, providing a final opportunity before the Rules are finalized and notified.

The Department had earlier published the Draft Rules under the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, on its official website on January 28, February 16, April 13 and June 2, 2026, respectively.

The publications had invited objections and suggestions from persons likely to be affected by the proposed Rules within 45 days from the respective dates of publication. However, no objections or suggestions were received within the stipulated period.

The Labour Department is now in the process of finalizing and notifying the Rules under all four Labour Codes. With a view to providing one further opportunity to stakeholders, including employers, employees, trade unions, establishments and other concerned persons, the Department has invited fresh objections and suggestions on the Draft Rules.

All concerned have been requested to submit their objections and suggestions within 10 days from the date of publication of the Press Release to the Office of the Labour Commissioner, Labour Department, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Supply Line, Sri Vijaya Puram – 744101.

Suggestions and objections may also be submitted through email at lcdet@and.nic.in.

The Department has clarified that submissions received after the expiry of the 10-day period may not be considered. All stakeholders and concerned persons have been urged to avail themselves of this final opportunity to submit their views and suggestions to facilitate the finalization of the Rules under the four Labour Codes.



Poultry Hatcheries Advised to Adopt Humane Infrared Beak Treatment



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

Commercial poultry hatcheries and chick suppliers have been advised to discourage routine hot-blade beak trimming and adopt humane, welfare-oriented poultry farming practices, with emphasis on Infrared Beak Treatment (IRBT).

Hot-blade beak trimming is commonly practised in poultry farms to control injurious pecking and cannibalism. However, the procedure causes pain, tissue damage and stress, besides potentially leading to long-term complications, including chronic pain and impaired feeding.

The practice has been cited as a violation of Section 11(1)(l) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which prohibits the mutilation of animals.

As a comparatively humane alternative, Infrared Beak Treatment involves the use of automated machinery at hatcheries to treat day-old chicks with a focused infrared beam. The treated beak tip sloughs off naturally within two to three weeks without leaving an open wound.

Infrared-treated birds have also been reported to demonstrate better body weight, feed intake and feed conversion compared to birds subjected to conventional hot-blade trimming.

Commercial hatcheries and poultry chick suppliers have been advised to adopt IRBT wherever beak treatment is considered necessary, subject to applicable legal requirements.

The guidelines further emphasise the promotion of bird welfare and productivity through humane beak treatment practices, which can help improve feed intake, body weight gain and overall flock performance while minimising avoidable pain and suffering.

Poultry farmers have also been advised to adopt improved husbandry and management practices to prevent injurious pecking and cannibalism. These include ensuring adequate space, appropriate stocking density, balanced nutrition, suitable lighting and proper environmental management.

The advisory aims to encourage humane and welfare-oriented poultry farming practices while addressing the management challenges associated with injurious pecking and cannibalism.

Car Nicobar's I S Bridney Sets New National Track Cycling Record in Sub-Junior Girls' 500m Time Trial



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

I S Bridney, a young cyclist from Car Nicobar, has created a new national record in the Sub-Junior Girls Individual Time Trial (500 metres) event at the 41st Sub-Junior National Track Cycling Championship held at Khelgaon, Ranchi, Jharkhand, from October 30 to November 4, 2026.

Bridney clocked an impressive 37.479 seconds, breaking the seven-year-old national record of 38.700 seconds set by Triyasha Paul of West Bengal in 2019. Her outstanding performance against cyclists from across the country has brought pride to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The daughter of a coconut farmer, Bridney began her cycling journey in 2023 at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) STC Car Nicobar under the guidance of coach Vishwajit Balkrishna Sutar. Her dedication and consistent performances earned her

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Contd Pg11...Car Nicobar's I S Bridney Sets New National Track Cycling Record in Sub-Junior Girls' 500m Time Trial

selection to the SAI National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) at IG Stadium, New Delhi, around three months ago. She is currently training under foreign coach Mark Pakker.

Bridney has previously achieved several notable milestones in national-level cycling competitions. At the National Track Cycling Championship held in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand, in December 2025, she secured Silver Medals in the Under-16/Sub-Junior Girls Individual Time Trial and Team Sprint events.

In November 2024, she won a Gold Medal in the Youth Girls Individual Time Trial (500 metres) event at the National Track Cycling Championship held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She was also awarded the LG Commendation Award for her outstanding performance in cycling on Republic Day, January 26, 2025.

Additionally, Bridney won one Gold, one Silver and one Bronze Medal at the SGFI National Track Cycling Championships held in Ranchi, Jharkhand, during January 2025 and January 2026.

Her remarkable journey from Car Nicobar, a remote island, to national sporting excellence reflects her determination, hard work and the immense sporting potential of the Islands. Her achievement is expected to inspire aspiring sportspersons, particularly young girls from remote communities.

The SAI STC Sri Vijaya Puram Centre In-charge has attributed her success to the efforts and support of Sibananda Mishra, Regional Director, SAI Regional Centre Kolkata, along with her coaches Vishwajit Balkrishna Sutar and Anand V.

300 Youth Interact with MP Bishnu Pada Ray on Electoral Awareness and Developmental Issues at MY Bharat Yuva Samvad



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 7, 2026

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Sri Vijaya Puram, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, organised "Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvad – Know Your Vote" at the Lecture Gallery of Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM), Sri Vijaya Puram, on November 5. Around 300 students and MY Bharat NSS volunteers participated in the programme aimed at promoting electoral awareness, democratic values and responsible citizenship among youth.

Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while Ms. Perl Devdas, Principal of JNRM, Sri Vijaya Puram, was the Guest of Honour. Several prominent personalities and social workers of the Islands, including Mr. P. Yogesh, Mr. Baby Mathew, Mr. Vivekanand, Ms. Minu Prasad and Mr. Nalong Mize, were also present.

Mr. Deepak Kumar, District Youth Officer, MY Bharat, welcomed the dignitaries and participants and briefed them about the

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Contd Pg12...300 Youth Interact with MP Bishnu Pada Ray on Electoral Awareness and Developmental Issues at MY Bharat Yuva Samvad

objectives and significance of the Yuva Samvad initiative. Mr. Sukha Ranjan Biswas, Joint Director, MY Bharat, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, formally welcomed the Chief Guest.

During the programme, Mr. T. Harish Kumar, Youth Icon, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and the theme “Know Your Vote”. He explained the legal framework and significance of SIR, the importance of maintaining accurate electoral rolls, voter registration procedures and citizens’ responsibilities in strengthening electoral democracy. He also highlighted the need to identify duplicate entries, deceased voters and other ineligible entries while ensuring that no eligible citizen is deprived of the right to vote.

Dr. T.K. Jijith Rekh also addressed the gathering and sensitised the youth about the SIR process and the importance of informed participation in democracy.

Addressing the participants, the MP emphasised the importance of every vote, particularly for first-time voters. During his interaction, he enquired whether the participating youth had registered themselves as voters. On learning that several participants had not yet registered, he advised them to complete the process without delay and become responsible participants in the democratic process.

He stressed that every vote carries equal importance and that an informed and independent vote enables citizens to elect public representatives for the welfare and development of their constituency.

Referring to the ongoing SIR exercise, Mr. Ray explained that it aims to maintain genuine and accurate electoral rolls by identifying duplicate entries, multiple registrations and the names of deceased persons. He also stated that approximately 52,000 names had been removed during the SIR exercise in the Islands.

The MP advised those whose names were missing from the electoral rolls to approach their respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs) or apply through the online voter registration facility for necessary action, subject to the prescribed procedure.

The interaction also covered various developmental issues and concerns raised by the youth. These included educational stipends, hostel facilities for students, healthcare infrastructure, the proposed new hospital, maintenance of NH-4 and other public welfare-related matters. The MP advised the participants to submit matters concerning public health and other public grievances to him in writing for necessary follow-up. He also discussed the importance of placing the developmental requirements and aspirations of the Islands before the appropriate platforms for consideration.

As part of the programme, a “Know Your Vote” pledge was administered to the participants, encouraging them to become informed and responsible voters, uphold democratic values, respect the Constitution and actively participate in strengthening India’s democracy. The pledge also emphasised the importance of spreading electoral awareness and encouraging eligible youth to register as voters.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Deepak Kumar, District Youth Officer, MY Bharat. The event ended with the singing of “Vande Mataram”, followed by the National Anthem.

The interaction highlighted the role of youth in strengthening democracy through informed voting, raising genuine public concerns and engaging with elected representatives for the development and welfare of society. The programme reinforced the message “Your Vote, Your Voice – Protect the Vote, Respect the Constitution”.

The programme was organised by MY Bharat, Sri Vijaya Puram, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, in association with JNRM, Sri Vijaya Puram, to promote electoral literacy, responsible citizenship and meaningful youth participation in nation-building.

