ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by NICOBAR TIMES

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Andaman and Nicobar Islands Poised to Become a Centre of India's Economic Growth: LG Dr. Dinesh Sharma



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 10, 2026

Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, has said that the Islands possess immense potential for economic and tourism development and are poised to emerge as a centre of India's economic growth in the coming years.

Dr. Sharma was speaking at a seminar titled "Opportunities for Tourism Development and Prospects for Economic Growth in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands", organised at the Department of Commerce, University of Lucknow.

Describing the strategic

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Man Posing as Census Official Assaults Elderly Woman, Robs Her of Gold Chain in Diglipur



Diglipur | November 11, 2026

An unidentified man allegedly posing as a census official entered a house at Kerlapuram in Diglipur, assaulted a 77-year-old woman and robbed her of a gold chain on November 9, 2026. The accused allegedly pushed the woman to the floor, pressed her mouth and neck to prevent her from raising an alarm, and threatened to kill her if she made any noise before fleeing with the gold chain.

According to an FIR registered at Diglipur Police Station, the incident took place at around 2:30 PM when the elderly woman was alone at her residence.

The woman had

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TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Contd Pg1...Andaman and Nicobar Islands Poised to Become a Centre of India's Economic Growth: LG Dr. Dinesh Sharma

importance and natural beauty of the Islands, Dr. Sharma said that while the British had turned Andaman into 'Kala Pani', the Islands have now become 'Amrit Pani' for the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that out of the 836 islands in the Andaman and Nicobar group, only 31 are inhabited, while the remaining islands offer considerable opportunities for tourism development. He described the beaches of the Islands as among the most beautiful in the world, highlighting their blue waters and lush green surroundings.

He also indicated that international flight connectivity could be introduced in the future to promote tourism. Representatives from 10 Asian countries have been invited to the Islands in December for discussions, while the number of flights connecting the Islands has also been increased.

Dr. Sharma said that efforts are underway to develop Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a preferred destination for weddings alongside promoting conventional tourism. Cultural activities will be encouraged to attract more visitors, while an action plan is being prepared to attract foreign tourists and strengthen international tourism.

Referring to the historical significance of the Islands, he highlighted the Cellular Jail and the sacrifices made by freedom fighters during India's struggle for independence. He recalled how the British established penal settlements and prisons in the Islands to isolate Indian revolutionaries from the mainstream freedom movement and subjected them to severe torture.

He mentioned that Veer Savarkar and his brother were imprisoned in Cellular Jail at the same time but could not meet each other due to the prison's design. He also recalled Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's visit to the Islands, where he unfurled the Indian Tricolour and gave a clarion call for freedom.

The Lieutenant Governor further stated that the Light and Sound Show at Cellular Jail continues to narrate the moving stories of freedom fighters. He said that permissions for water sports and day tourism have been digitised, while birdwatching and caravan tourism are also being encouraged to diversify the tourism sector.

Emphasising infrastructure development, Dr. Sharma said that efforts are being made to develop tourism infrastructure with a focus on sustainability. The use of solar energy is being encouraged with the objective of making tourism infrastructure green by 2047. He also referred to plans for developing new airports and a port modelled along the lines of the Strait of Hormuz, which he said would serve as the centre of a wider economic cycle.

Dr. Sharma stressed that development initiatives must go hand in hand with the protection of tribal communities, maintaining ecological balance and generating new employment opportunities. Promoting fisheries and strengthening healthcare services are also among the priorities.

He further highlighted the cultural diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, stating that people belonging to different castes, religions, communities and States live together in the Islands and contribute towards strengthening the nation.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lucknow, Professor J.P. Saini; Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Professor Archana Singh; Head, Department of Commerce, Professor Audhesh Kumar; former Head of the Department, Dr. Ram Milan; Professor Rajiv Maheshwari; Dr. Anoop Singh; Dr. Vimal Jaiswal and others were present on the occasion, a press release issued by Lok Niwas said.



Contd Pg1...Man Posing as Census Official Assaults Elderly Woman, Robs Her of Gold Chain in Diglipur

reportedly returned from the bathroom when she noticed an unfamiliar man sitting on an ornate chair inside the drawing room of her house. Surprised to find a stranger inside, she questioned him about why he had entered the house instead of waiting outside.

In response, the man allegedly introduced himself as someone who had come from an office to collect census-related information. He was carrying a folder and also enquired whether the woman was receiving an old-age pension. When she informed him that she did not want any pension and asked the man to leave, the man reportedly did not immediately leave the premises.

The accused subsequently asked the woman for some water, following which she proceeded towards the kitchen to fetch it. However, as she was about to leave the drawing room, the man allegedly attacked her from behind and pushed her forcefully.

The woman fell to the ground after her head struck against a wall. As she began making noise, the accused allegedly pressed her mouth and neck with his hands to silence her. He also threatened to kill her if she raised an alarm or attempted to call for help.

Taking advantage of the situation, the accused allegedly grabbed the gold chain worn around her neck and pulled it with force. The chain, weighing approximately 20 grams, broke during the incident. The larger portion of the chain reportedly came into the accused's possession, while a smaller broken piece fell to the floor.

After snatching the chain, the accused allegedly fled from the house with the stolen portion, leaving the elderly woman injured and lying on the floor.

The FIR further states that the woman sustained injuries during the assault, including injuries to her body and the breaking of two teeth. She remained on the floor for some time and was unable to get up immediately. After managing to gather herself and get back on her feet, she contacted a family member residing nearby and informed them about the incident.

Upon receiving the information, the family member reached the residence and subsequently contacted the police.

The injured woman was later taken to the Sub-District Hospital at Diglipur for medical examination and treatment. Her statement was recorded at the hospital at around 8:00 PM on November 9, 2026, in the presence of a family member. The medical examination reportedly noted injuries to her body and broken teeth.

Based on the complaint, Diglipur Police registered FIR No. 0088/2026 on November 9, 2026, under Sections 204, 309(2), 309(6), 332(b), 333 and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

The accused has been recorded as unidentified in the FIR.

TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178



South Andaman District Planning Committee Meeting Begins to Finalise Action Plans for 2027-28





Sri Vijaya Puram | November 10, 2026

The two-day District Planning Committee (DPC) meeting of South Andaman District commenced on Tuesday at the Conference Hall of Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, under the chairmanship of Mr. P. Ummer, Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman.

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

Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, A&N Islands; Mr. Hemant Kumar, IAS, Secretary (Planning & Finance); members of Zilla Parishad; councillors of Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council; Pramukhs of Panchayat Samitis of Little Andaman, Prothrapur and Ferrargunj (Special Invitees); and officers of the Administration attended the meeting.

At the outset, Mr. Rajanish Kumar Singh, IAS, Chief Executive Officer and Ex-Officio Secretary of the DPC, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, welcomed the Chairperson, the Member of Parliament, Secretaries of Planning and Finance, DPC members and other participants. He confirmed that the required quorum for conducting the meeting had been fulfilled and requested the members to deliberate on and finalise the prioritised action plans.

Mr. P. Ummer also welcomed the Member of Parliament, DPC members and officials present and briefed the gathering on the objectives and significance of the District Planning Committee meeting.

During the first day's proceedings, the prioritised District Action Plan for 2027-2028 of various departments and institutions, including Education, JNRM, ANCOL, DBRAIT, Tagore College, Law College, Sports and Youth Affairs, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Fisheries, Disaster Management, Social Welfare, APWD, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Information Technology, Electricity, and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, was discussed in detail.

The Member of Parliament, Chairperson and other DPC members put forward various recommendations and suggestions for incorporation into the final action plans of the respective departments to facilitate their early implementation.

The first day's meeting concluded with a vote of thanks. The two-day meeting is scheduled to continue on Wednesday.



Transport Department Warns Commercial Vehicle Operators Against Tampering with Speed Limiters, Tracking Devices



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 10, 2026

The Transport Department of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has warned owners and operators of commercial vehicles against removing, disconnecting, tampering with or disabling mandatory Speed Limiting Devices (SLDs), Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTDs) and emergency buttons after obtaining fitness certificates or permits.

The Department stated that the Government of India, under Rule 118 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, has mandated the installation of Speed Limiting Devices in specified categories of transport vehicles to prevent overspeeding and improve road safety.

As prescribed under the Rule, the maximum preset speed limit is 80 kmph for notified goods and passenger-carrying vehicles, subject to applicable exemptions. A maximum preset speed of 60 kmph applies to specified categories, including dumpers, tankers, school buses and vehicles carrying hazardous goods.

The Department observed that certain vehicle owners and operators remove or disconnect these devices after obtaining fitness certificates, defeating the purpose of the mandatory safety requirement. It clarified that transport vehicles must continue to comply with the applicable provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the rules framed thereunder to remain fit for operation.

Under Section 56 of the Motor Vehicles Act, action may be taken against vehicles that cease to satisfy the prescribed fitness requirements. Contraventions may also attract penalties under relevant provisions of the Act, including Section 177A, wherever applicable.

Similarly, Rule 125H of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, mandates the installation of Vehicle Location Tracking Devices and one or more emergency buttons in eligible public service vehicles, subject to specified exemptions. These include eligible buses, motor cabs, maxi cabs, luxury cabs, omni buses, private service vehicles and taxis covered under the Rule.

The Department emphasised that these devices must conform to applicable standards and remain properly installed, activated and functional. Their removal, disconnection or tampering after obtaining a fitness certificate or permit may invite enforcement action.

The Department further referred to an order dated May 13, 2026, passed by the Supreme Court of India in S. Rajaseekaran v. Union of India, directing all States and Union Territories to strictly enforce Rules 125H and 118 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The directions require the installation of VLTDs and emergency buttons in new and existing eligible public service vehicles in a time-bound and verifiable manner.

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Contd Pg6...Transport Department Warns Commercial Vehicle Operators Against Tampering with Speed Limiters, Tracking Devices

In this regard, the Transport Department is undertaking enforcement measures to identify vehicles violating these requirements. Inspections and verification will be conducted during fitness testing and other enforcement activities. Vehicles found non-compliant may face appropriate action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, including action relating to fitness certificates and permits, besides applicable penalties.

The Department has advised all owners and operators of commercial vehicles, particularly those operating eligible public service vehicles, not to remove, disconnect, tamper with or disable any mandatory safety device. Defective devices must be repaired or replaced promptly through authorised agencies.

It has also clarified that obtaining a fitness certificate or permit does not authorise vehicle owners or operators to subsequently remove or disable mandatory devices.

The Transport Department has appealed to the general public to cooperate with its enforcement and verification initiatives, stating that the measures are aimed at preventing overspeeding, improving passenger safety, facilitating emergency response and ensuring effective vehicle monitoring across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Lost Gold Chain Worth ₹1.2 Lakh Returned to Owner by Humfrygunj Police



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 10, 2026

Humfrygunj Police successfully traced and returned a lost gold chain valued at approximately ₹1.2 lakh to its rightful owner following the prompt action of police personnel and cooperation from local residents.

On the evening of November 8, 2026, a gold chain found in the parking area of Wandoor Beach was handed over to the personnel of Police Station Humfrygunj by Ajay Kumar Baroi, a resident of New Wandoor, and Sukhalata Pahan, Ward Member of Wandoor.

Upon receiving the ornament, the Station House Officer (SHO) of PS Humfrygunj initiated efforts to identify its rightful owner with the assistance of local PRI representatives.

Through prompt enquiries and coordinated efforts, the owner was identified as Revati, a resident of Guptapara. The gold chain was subsequently handed over to her on the evening of November 9, 2026, after due verification.

Revati and her family members expressed gratitude to the personnel of PS Humfrygunj for their prompt action and sincere efforts in ensuring the safe return of the valuable ornament.

South Andaman Police appreciated the civic responsibility

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Contd Pg7...Lost Gold Chain Worth ₹1.2 Lakh Returned to Owner by Humfrygunj Police

demonstrated by Ajay Kumar Baroi and Sukhalata Pahan in handing over the lost property to the police. The police reiterated its commitment to prompt public service, professional conduct and strengthening public-police cooperation.

South Andaman Police has also urged the general public to dial 112, the toll-free Police Emergency Helpline, in case of any emergency. The service remains available round the clock for prompt assistance and timely police response.

Tsunami Awareness Programme Conducted at Kakana Village in Car Nicobar



Car Nicobar | November 10, 2026

An Outreach Tsunami Awareness Programme was conducted on Tuesday at the Kakana Village Community Hall in Car Nicobar to strengthen tsunami awareness and enhance disaster preparedness among local communities.

The programme was organised by the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), under the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar District.

During the programme, participants were sensitised about tsunami hazards, their causes and potential impacts, natural warning signs, early warning systems, tsunami alerts and emergency communication mechanisms.

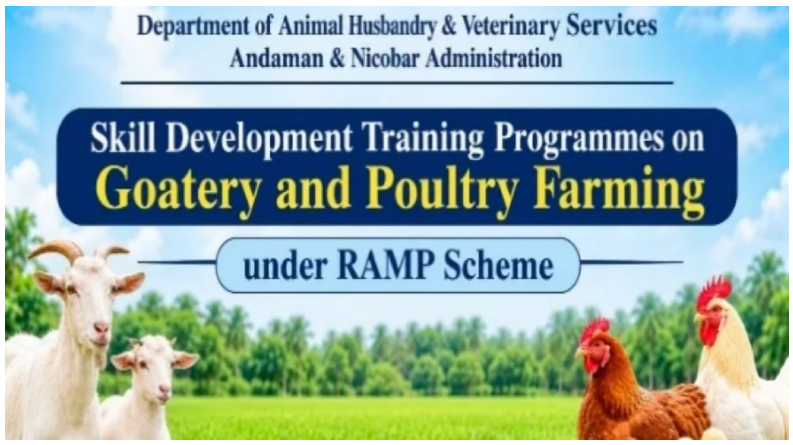
The sessions also focused on familiarising community members with designated evacuation routes, safe locations, emergency response procedures, family preparedness and the importance of maintaining emergency kits. Interactive sessions were held to address participants' queries and encourage active community participation.

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 undertaking these activities to strengthen disaster risk reduction at the grassroots level.

The initiative aims to ensure that coastal communities are better informed and prepared to respond promptly to tsunami threats.



Free Skill Development Training in Goatery and Poultry Farming to Begin in Third Week of November



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 10, 2026

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH&VS), in association with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-CIARI and the Industries Department, will organise sector-focused skill development training programmes in Goatery and Poultry Farming from the third week of November 2026 onwards under the RAMP Scheme, approved by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

The training programmes will be conducted at KVK-CIARI and are aimed at rural youth, farmers, women Self-Help Group (SHG) members and unemployed youth interested in starting enterprises in goatery or poultry farming.

Interested candidates have been requested to register their names with their respective local Senior Veterinary Officer on or before November 14, 2026.

Selected candidates will be provided free-of-cost training, followed by registration on the Udyam Portal for MSMEs to facilitate the establishment of their own enterprises.

For further information, interested candidates may contact the Senior Veterinary Officer at the Animal Husbandry Training Institute, Livestock Farm Complex, Dollygunj.

Adverse Weather Likely to Prevail in A&N Islands Till November 16



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 10, 2026

Heavy rain, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are likely to occur at isolated places across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands over the next six days, from November 11 to 16.

Heavy rainfall, ranging from 7 to 11 cm, is very likely at one or two places over the Islands on November 11, 12, 13 and 14. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40 to 50 kmph are also very likely at isolated places during this period.

On November 15 and 16, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching speeds of 30 to 40 kmph are likely at one or two places over the Islands.

Meanwhile, squally weather with wind speeds of 40 to 50 kmph, occasionally gusting up to 60 kmph, is likely to prevail along and off the Andaman and Nicobar coasts.

In view of the prevailing weather conditions, fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea along and off the Andaman and Nicobar coasts till November 14.



CIARI Opens Essential Oil Distillation Facility for Island Farmers at Nominal Charge



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 11, 2026

The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, has launched an incubation facility for the extraction of essential oils from spices and aromatic plants, aimed at providing island farmers with opportunities for value addition and income diversification.

The distillation facility has been established under the CSS-MIDH (NHM) Project on Spices of the institute. Farmers and other interested stakeholders can bring quality raw materials of spices and aromatic plants to the institute's Bathu Basti campus and get essential oils extracted at a nominal charge of Rs. 100 per batch.

The facility was formally declared an incubation facility for island stakeholders by Dr. Jai Sunder, Director (A), ICAR-CIARI, during the valedictory session of an exposure visit-cum-training programme conducted on November 9, 2026.

The programme was organised under the theme 'Systematic Cultivation and Value Addition Opportunities in Spice and Plantation Crops' as part of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, under the CSS-MIDH (NHM) Project on Spices and the AICRP on Plantation Crops Project. It aimed to familiarise farmers with scientific cultivation and management practices for spices and plantation crops, along with opportunities for value addition.

The programme commenced at the Horticulture Research Farm, Sippighat, where live demonstrations were conducted by Dr. Ajit Arun Waman and Dr. Pooja Bohra, Senior Scientists and Course Directors. The demonstrations covered scientific cinnamon harvesting using Dweep CinnRub, coconut dehusking using a mechanical dehusker and the use of a coconut climbing device.

Farmers were also introduced to nursery raising in coconut, improved varieties, plantation-based intercropping systems, and harvesting and post-harvest management practices in spices. The participants were further sensitised to opportunities for integrating agriculture with tourism through agro-ecotourism.

During the second session, farmers visited the institute's Field Distillation Unit, where the process of essential oil extraction, packaging and its various uses was demonstrated. Techniques for grafting to obtain quality planting material in dioecious and perennial horticultural crops, along with protected cultivation of woody pepper, were also demonstrated.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Jai Sunder urged farmers to utilise the facility and adopt value addition technologies to diversify their income sources. Dr. Raj Narayan,

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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...CIARI Opens Essential Oil Distillation Facility for Island Farmers at Nominal Charge

Head (Horticulture), was also present during the declaration of the facility.

The programme was attended by 61 participants, including 40 women and 21 men, from nine villages of South Andaman. It was coordinated by Mr. T. Yaghambaram, Pradhan, Calicut; Ms. Ramya, PRI Member; Fr. Arokyasamy, DISHA-SURABI; and Ms. Baby Rani Biswas, ATMA, along with institute staff members Mr. Ujjwal Kumar, Ms. Shyamlawathi, Mr. Dilip Kumar and Mr. Sandeep Kujur.

Jawahar Bal Manch Celebrates Children's Day, National Chairman Graces Event



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 11, 2026

Jawahar Bal Manch (JBM) celebrated Children's Day on November 9, 2026, at TSG Emerald View Hotel, Phoenix Bay, as part of its national-level celebrations, with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands selected among seven states across the country to host the special programme.

The event marked the third day of the celebrations in the Islands and was organised under the leadership of Ms. S. Sita Lakshmi, Chairperson, Jawahar Bal Manch, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The selection of the Islands among seven states for the national-level celebrations marks a significant achievement for the JBM's Andaman and Nicobar Islands unit and reflects its efforts to strengthen the organisation's presence at the national level.

Dr. G.V. Hari, National Chairman, Jawahar Bal Manch, attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Cyril Prabhu, National Coordinator, Jawahar Bal Manch, was the Guest of Honour.

The programme was also attended by Mr. Rangalal Halder, President, ANTCC; Mr. TSG Bhasker, Chairman, Campaign Committee–ANTCC; Ms. Zubaida Begum, State President, Mahila Congress; and Mr. Mohd. Zubair, President, City Congress.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. G.V. Hari appreciated the work being carried out by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands unit of Jawahar Bal Manch. He informed that the organisation is functioning in 23 states across the country and that, based on its ratings, the Islands unit ranks among the top three states. He described this

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Contd Pg11...Jawahar Bal Manch Celebrates Children's Day, National Chairman Graces Event

as a significant achievement and commended the state leadership for its dedication and commitment towards strengthening the organisation and promoting children's participation and development.

Children participated enthusiastically in the celebrations and showcased their talents through a variety of colourful cultural dances and other performances.

The programme concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, during which participating children were recognised and appreciated for their efforts and performances.

HRS Seeks Public Holiday in A&N Islands on Chhath Puja on Lines of Delhi



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 11, 2026

Mr. Rakeshwar Lall, State President of Hindu Rashtra Shakti, has urged the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to declare Chhath Puja (Pratihar Shashthi / Surya Shashthi) as a public holiday in the Islands, on the lines of Delhi.

In a letter addressed to the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Member of Parliament representing the Islands, Lall stated that Chhath Mahaparv is one of the most sacred and deeply revered festivals of the Hindu community, particularly among people belonging to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and other States. He noted that a large number of people from these States have been residing in the Islands for decades and have made significant contributions to their development.

The letter highlighted that Chhath Puja is observed through strict fasting, purity, devotion and offerings of Arghya to Lord Surya.

Citing a notification issued by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Lall pointed out that November 16, 2026 (Monday), has been declared a holiday in all Government offices,

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Contd Pg12...HRS Seeks Public Holiday in A&N Islands on Chhath Puja on Lines of Delhi

autonomous bodies and public sector undertakings under the Delhi Government on account of Pratihar Shashthi or Surya Shashthi (Chhath Puja).

He further stated that Hindu Rashtra Shakti has been requesting the Administration for the past three years to declare Chhath Puja a public holiday in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and has renewed its demand this year.

The organisation has urged the Administration to declare the occasion a public holiday for all Government offices, schools, colleges, autonomous bodies and public sector undertakings in the Islands, enabling devotees to observe the fast and perform the associated rituals without difficulty.

₹218 Crore Allocated for Fisheries Development in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Under PMMSY



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 11, 2026

The Government of India has allocated an investment of ₹218 crore for fisheries development in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with a focus on tapping the islands' marine resources and strengthening the fisheries-based economy.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying through PIB on November 10, the investment is part of the Centre's broader strategy to position India's island territories at the forefront of the country's Blue Economy initiatives. Lakshadweep has been earmarked ₹175 crore under the same initiative.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with their extensive coastline, diverse marine habitats and proximity to Southeast Asian maritime routes, have significant potential for sustainable fisheries, mariculture and value-added seafood production.

The development of tuna fisheries has emerged as a key component of the Government's strategy for expanding high-value marine fisheries. The waters surrounding the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to substantial underutilised stocks of Yellowfin, Skipjack and Bigeye tuna, offering opportunities for sustainable and export-oriented fishing.

In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a dedicated Tuna Cluster under PMMSY is

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Contd Pg13...₹218 Crore Allocated for Fisheries Development in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Under PMMSY

facilitating fleet modernisation and infrastructure development. The initiative includes the induction of new vessels, upgrading of fishing fleets and expansion of cold storage capacity. The strengthened presence of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is also expected to improve market access and facilitate direct exports from the islands.

Apart from tuna fisheries, the Government is also promoting seaweed cultivation and ornamental fisheries as complementary sectors to diversify livelihood opportunities in the island territories.

The coral-rich marine ecosystems of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands offer favourable conditions for sustainable seaweed cultivation, which has applications in food, nutraceuticals, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and bio-industrial products.

The broader fisheries development strategy also envisages modernisation of infrastructure, including fish landing centres, ice plants, cold-chain networks, onboard preservation systems, fish aggregating devices, boat-building yards and value-addition facilities.

These interventions are aimed at strengthening local capacities, reducing post-harvest losses and improving the ability of island-based fisheries to access domestic and international markets.

The press release further stated that the Union Budget 2025-26 had outlined an enabling framework for the sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources from India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas, with special emphasis on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

The Government's long-term approach seeks to link tuna fisheries, seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, infrastructure development and improved market access while ensuring ecological safeguards and greater participation of local fishers and island communities in emerging value chains.

Our Rights Organization Seeks Inquiry, Action Over Poor Toilet Facilities Along Sri Vijaya Puram–Diglipur Route



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 11, 2026

Our Rights Organization has urged the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to initiate a vigilance inquiry into the poor condition of public toilet facilities, lack of basic amenities, inadequate lighting and dangerous overhanging tree branches along the Sri Vijaya Puram–Diglipur convoy routes.

In a letter dated November 10, 2026, addressed to the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, C. Saravanan, Chairman of Our Rights Organization, highlighted the difficulties faced by residents of North and Middle Andaman, tourists and other passengers travelling along the route.

The letter states that hundreds of passengers and tourists travel through the convoy routes during each convoy movement. However, adequate and functional toilet facilities are reportedly unavailable at designated waiting points at Middle Strait and Baratang. Several existing toilet units are stated to be non-functional or poorly maintained.

The organization pointed out that the situation causes considerable hardship, particularly for women, children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities who have to wait for prolonged periods during convoy movements.

It also raised concerns over the condition of a toilet block at Gate No. 15, reportedly constructed or provided by the Lions Club for the convenience of passengers. According to the representation, the facility has damaged partition doors, unhygienic surroundings and inadequate maintenance, besides lacking a proper electricity connection and sufficient lighting.

The letter further highlighted that vehicles and buses travelling towards Sri Vijaya Puram reportedly halt at this location for more than an hour between 3:00 AM and 4:00 AM. During this period, around 8–9 buses, along with other vehicles, may stop at the location, increasing the demand for toilet facilities.

Apart from sanitation-related issues, the organization drew attention to dangerous, dry and overhanging tree branches along the convoy route, which could pose risks to passengers and vehicles, particularly during strong winds and adverse weather conditions.

Seeking urgent intervention, the organization has requested a vigilance inquiry into the maintenance and functioning of public toilet facilities at Middle Strait, Baratang and Gate No. 15, including identification of the agencies and officials responsible for their upkeep.

It has also sought immediate restoration of damaged and non-functional toilets, adequate electricity and lighting arrangements, sufficient separate toilet facilities for men and women, and a regular mechanism for cleaning, sanitation and periodic inspection.