ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by NICOBAR TIMES

13 NOVEMBER 2026 | FRIDAY | SRI VIJAYA PURAM | WWW.NICOBARTIMES.COM

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Ramnagar Beach Gets Blue Flag Certification, Pradhan Mithun Das Thanks All Officials Involved

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Andhra Association Election Announced; Returning Officer Briefs Media on Poll Process

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Draft 'Merchant Shipping (Fishing Vessels) Rules, 2026' Open for Stakeholder Comments Until November 30



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 12, 2026

The Department of Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, has invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders on the draft Merchant Shipping (Fishing Vessels) Rules, 2026, which are currently being finalised by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying,

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Livestock Insurance Scheme Operationalised in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for 2026-27



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 12, 2026

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS), Andaman & Nicobar Administration, has operationalised the Livestock Insurance Scheme under the National Livestock Mission (NLM) for the financial year 2026-27, aimed at providing financial protection to livestock farmers against losses caused by diseases, accidents and natural calamities.

Under the scheme, insurance coverage is available for milch cattle, milch buffaloes, goats and pigs. The initiative is intended to reduce the financial vulnerability of livestock farmers and

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TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Contd Pg1...Draft 'Merchant Shipping (Fishing Vessels) Rules, 2026' Open for Stakeholder Comments Until November 30

Government of India, in coordination with the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi, and the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS).

The draft Rules have been uploaded in five languages, namely English, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil and Bengali, on the official websites of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration (https://andamannicobar.gov.in/) and the Department of Fisheries (https://anifisheries.andamannicobar.gov.in/) to facilitate stakeholder participation.

Comments and suggestions can be submitted up to November 30, 2026. Stakeholders may submit their inputs either physically to the Directorate of Fisheries, located opposite Andaman Law College, Mohanpura, Sri Vijaya Puram, or through email at dirfish.and@nic.in.

The Department will also organise a stakeholder consultation meeting at Sri Vijaya Puram, with participation from fishermen, fishermen's associations, cooperatives and other stakeholders. The date, time and venue of the meeting will be announced separately through a press release.

Stakeholders have been requested to go through the draft Rules and keep their suggestions and inputs ready for discussion during the consultation meeting.

Contd Pg1...Livestock Insurance Scheme Operationalised in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for 2026-27

encourage investment in animal husbandry as a sustainable source of livelihood.

The scheme provides substantial financial assistance towards the insurance premium, with the Central Government bearing 85 per cent of the premium amount, while beneficiaries are required to contribute only 15 per cent. The subsidised premium structure is expected to benefit small and marginal farmers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and women livestock rearers who depend on animal husbandry for their livelihoods and household nutrition.

Livestock owners interested in availing the benefits can register through the official Livestock Insurance Portal by visiting bharatpashudhan.ndlm.co.in and selecting the Insurance Portal, or directly accessing rashtriyapashubima.dahd.gov.in.

For registration, applicants are required to provide their NDLM-registered mobile number and the ear tag number of the animal. The application can subsequently be submitted online. Farmers may also approach their nearest Veterinary Hospital or Dispensary for guidance and assistance with the enrolment process.

The Department of AH&VS has appealed to all eligible livestock

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Contd Pg3...Livestock Insurance Scheme Operationalised in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for 2026-27

farmers across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to enrol their animals under the scheme to safeguard their livestock assets, protect their livelihoods and strengthen the animal husbandry sector in the Islands.

SVPMC Organises PM SVANidhi Mahotsav Programme at Bhatubasti to Create Awareness Among Street Vendors



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 12, 2026

The Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC) organised PM SVANidhi Mahotsav on Thursday at the Councillor's Office in Ward No. 19, Bhatubasti, to create awareness among street vendors about the benefits of the PM SVANidhi Scheme and encourage them to avail the financial assistance and other benefits offered under the scheme.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Mr. V. Vetrivel, Senior Vice-Chairperson, SVPMC, encouraged street vendors to stay informed about various welfare schemes launched by the Government and concerned ministries and make the best use of these initiatives to improve their livelihoods and strengthen their businesses.

During the programme, the Community Organiser of SVPMC briefed the vendors on the key features and benefits of the PM SVANidhi Scheme, including the availability of collateral-free working capital loans and the application procedure. The vendors were also sensitised about the importance of timely loan repayment and adopting digital transactions.

During the interaction, some beneficiaries shared their success stories and expressed satisfaction with the assistance received under the scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic. They highlighted how the timely availability of micro-credit loans had helped them restart their businesses, which had been severely affected by the lockdown.

As part of the Mahotsav, the top three best-performing PM SVANidhi beneficiaries were felicitated in recognition of their performance and contribution towards the objectives of the scheme.

The programme concluded with an appeal to street vendors to actively participate in the PM SVANidhi Scheme and avail its benefits.



Traffic Restrictions Announced in Sri Vijaya Puram for Chhath Puja Celebrations



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 12, 2026

The District Magistrate, South Andaman District, has announced traffic restrictions in the vicinity of Corbyn's Cove Beach in view of the forthcoming Chhath Puja celebrations, during which a large number of devotees are expected to gather at the beach.

As per a notification issued by the District Magistrate under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the road from Corbyn Chowk Junction to Mazar Pahad via Corbyn's Cove will operate as a one-way route. Vehicles will be permitted to enter from Corbyn Chowk Junction and exit through Mazar Pahad. Vehicles travelling from Mazar Pahad towards Corbyn's Cove Beach will not be allowed, except two-wheelers.

The notification further states that Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) will not be permitted on this road during the restriction period. However, vehicles engaged in providing essential services will be exempted.

Additionally, the road from Children's Park, Chakkargaon, to Corbyn's Cove Road will remain closed to all vehicles, except two-wheelers.

These traffic restrictions will remain in force from 2:00 PM on November 15, 2026, to 8:00 PM on November 16, 2026.

The general public has been requested to cooperate with the Traffic Police and adhere to the prescribed traffic arrangements to ensure the smooth movement of vehicles and the safety of devotees during the celebrations.



ECI Revises Special Summary Revision Schedule for Electoral Rolls in Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 12, 2026

The Election Commission of India (ECI), New Delhi, has revised the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Photo Electoral Rolls in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date. The revised schedule supersedes the earlier schedule issued on October 15, 2026.

The revision aims to ensure the accuracy and inclusiveness of the Electoral Rolls by facilitating the enrolment of all eligible citizens, particularly those left out, young voters and first-time electors.

As per the revised schedule, the integrated draft Electoral Rolls will be published on November 17, 2026. The period for filing claims and objections will be from November 17 to December 16, 2026. The disposal of claims and objections will be completed by December 28, 2026, while the final publication of the Electoral Rolls will take place on January 4, 2027. The dates for disposal of claims and objections and final publication remain unchanged.

The Special Summary Revision is being conducted under Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to facilitate the enrolment of eligible electors with reference to January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date. Advance applications will also be accepted from prospective electors who will attain the age of 18 years with reference to the subsequent qualifying dates of April 1, July 1 and October 1, 2027.

Citizens who attain the age of 18 years on or before January 1, 2027, and fulfil the prescribed eligibility criteria have been encouraged to apply for enrolment if their names are not already included in the Electoral Rolls.

Claims for inclusion of names, objections to the inclusion of any name and requests for correction of particulars in existing entries can be submitted in the prescribed Forms 6, 7 and 8, as applicable, on or before December 16, 2026.

Applications and objections can be submitted to the concerned Designated Officers or Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at designated polling stations. They may also be sent by post to the Electoral Registration Officer, A&N Islands Parliamentary Constituency, or the concerned Assistant Electoral Registration Officer. Online submissions can be made through the ECINET App or the ECI Voters' Services Portal at

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Contd Pg6...ECI Revises Special Summary Revision Schedule for Electoral Rolls in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

https://voters.eci.gov.in. Electors can also seek assistance through the toll-free helpline number 1950.

To facilitate the process, special camps will be organised at all polling stations across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Parliamentary Constituency on November 21 (Saturday) and November 22 (Sunday), 2026, from 9 AM to 5 PM. Booth Level Officers will remain available at their respective polling stations on both days to assist electors.

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Andaman & Nicobar Islands, has appealed to all eligible citizens, particularly young and first-time electors, to ensure that their names are included in the Electoral Rolls during the prescribed period for claims and objections. Political parties have also been urged to extend their cooperation in facilitating the enrolment of eligible citizens who may have been left out.

Science Centre Celebrates Dr. Salim Ali's Birth Anniversary with Bird Watching Programme



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 12, 2026

The Science Centre, Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated the birth anniversary of renowned Indian ornithologist Dr. Salim Ali, popularly known as the 'Birdman of India', on Thursday by organising a bird-watching programme at Chidiyatapu Biological Park.

Around 30 students from various Government and private schools participated in the programme, which aimed to create awareness about bird diversity, conservation of avian species and the importance of protecting their natural habitats.

Following the bird-watching tour, a feedback test was conducted to assess the participants' understanding. Based on their performance, Anisha Kumari of RGT Public Vidyalaya secured the first prize, followed by Parvesh of VKV Lamba Line in second place and Daksh Kumar of Invent Public School in third place. Rahul of Government Secondary School, Junglighat, received the consolation prize.

TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Tourism Department Launches 8-Day Photography Training Programme in Shaheed Dweep



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 12, 2026

The Department of Tourism, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in association with the Indian Institute of Photography (IIP), Noida, launched an intensive eight-day Training and Certification Programme on Photography and Camera Handling in Shaheed Dweep on Thursday. The initiative is being conducted under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, a flagship programme supported by the World Bank to strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The comprehensive training programme covers various aspects of photography and visual media, including camera handling, professional photography, videography, post-production, drone imaging, underwater photography and astrophotography. Renowned faculty members from IIP Noida, Mr. Aasif Khan and Ms. Garima Chaudhary, are conducting hands-on sessions for 68 participants from Shaheed Dweep.

The first day of the programme began with an introductory session covering the fundamentals of camera techniques, the exposure triangle comprising aperture, shutter speed and ISO, camera handling ergonomics and practical exposure metering. Participants were also introduced to how cameras respond to light under different ambient conditions, with practical sessions providing hands-on learning from the outset.

The capacity-building initiative aims to enhance the technical skills of local youth and equip them with the expertise required to establish viable enterprises. It also seeks to facilitate their transition into the organised sector through formal MSME registration, in line with the objectives of the RAMP scheme.

The programme is also expected to strengthen tourism-related services in the islands by developing a pool of professionally trained local photographers and videographers. This will enable visiting tourists to access professional photography services to capture their experiences across the islands' scenic landscapes and marine destinations.



Capacity-Building Workshop on ONDC Held to Help Sagarika Take Products Online



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 12, 2026

The Directorate of Industries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, organised a one-day, hands-on Capacity-Building Workshop on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) on Thursday at its Conference Hall in Sri Vijaya Puram, with the objective of helping the Sagarika team take its products live on the ONDC platform.

The workshop was attended by officials and staff of A&N Emporium Sagarika, along with beneficiaries and sellers associated with the emporium.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Ritu Singh, Director of Industries, said that joining ONDC would enable the Sagarika Government Emporium to transform from a locally focused, tourist-dependent marketplace into a digital storefront accessible to customers across the country.

She highlighted that local artisans engaged in making handicrafts from wood, coconut shells and seashells have traditionally depended largely on seasonal tourist footfall to sell their products. Through ONDC, these artisans would be able to overcome geographical barriers and reach customers across India through ONDC-compatible applications, potentially creating year-round market opportunities and improving livelihood stability.

Mr. Praveen Choudhary, Vice-President, ONDC, and Ms. Tamanna Sharma, Programme Manager, ONDC, also addressed the gathering and extended their good wishes to the initiative. They explained that ONDC offers a cost-effective alternative to conventional e-commerce platforms by reducing dependence on high commission-based models and providing multilingual digital support. This would help island artisans market their handicrafts at fair prices while retaining a larger share of their earnings.

The technical sessions began with a recap of the recommended operational model for Sagarika, envisaging it as an umbrella brand and aggregator supported by a seller application and mainland warehousing facilities.

Five sessions were subsequently conducted, covering product cataloguing and packaging, marketing and visibility, logistics and warehousing, pricing strategies, and a live demonstration of the white-label seller application.

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Contd Pg9...Capacity-Building Workshop on ONDC Held to Help Sagarika Take Products Online

Participants received practical guidance on preparing product listings, complying with labelling and other requirements, improving product visibility across the ONDC network, transporting stock from Sri Vijaya Puram to the mainland, and developing pricing strategies that safeguard producers' earnings. The demonstration also familiarised the Sagarika team with the functioning of the seller application.

The workshop further provided clarity to the Sagarika team and departmental officials on the support to be extended by ONDC during the onboarding process.

The Department of Industries expressed its appreciation to the ONDC team for visiting the Islands and extending support towards creating awareness about the initiative among local artisans and helping them explore wider digital market opportunities.

Adverse Weather Likely in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Till November 18



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 13, 2026

Heavy rain, thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds and lightning are likely to affect parts of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands over the next six days, from November 13 to 18.

According to the weather forecast, heavy rainfall of 7 to 11 cm is very likely at one or two places over the islands on November 13, 14, 15 and 16. Thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds of 40 to 50 kmph and lightning are also very likely at one or two places during these four days.

On November 17 and 18, thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds of 30 to 40 kmph and lightning are likely at one or two places over the islands.

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

In view of the prevailing weather conditions, fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea along and off the Andaman & Nicobar coasts till November 16.



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

Shipping Services in Harbour, Foreshore and Inter-Island Sectors May Face Disruptions at Short Notice Due to Inclement Weather



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 13, 2026

The Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) has cautioned the general public and tourists about possible disruptions to ferry services across the Harbour, Foreshore and Inter-Island sectors due to prevailing inclement weather conditions and strong winds.

According to DSS, the operation of Harbour and Vehicle Ferry Services connecting Chatham, Bambooflat, Phoenix Bay, Dundas Point and Panighat (Hopetown) has become difficult due to the prevailing weather conditions and may pose safety concerns.

Consequently, the sailing schedules of vessels operating in the Harbour Sector are likely to be delayed, temporarily suspended or cancelled at short notice, depending on weather conditions.

Ferry services operating in the Foreshore and Inter-Island sectors may also experience delays, disruptions, temporary suspension or cancellation at short notice.

The Directorate has advised the general public and tourists to plan their journeys accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

DSS has regretted the inconvenience caused and sought the cooperation of passengers, reiterating that passenger safety remains its utmost priority.

Over 70 People Join Congress at Karyakarta Sammelan in Bambooflat



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 13, 2026

More than 70 people joined the Congress party during a Karyakarta Sammelan (Workers Conference) organised by the Bambooflat Block Congress Committee at Stewardgunj Panchayat Hall recently.

The conference was held under the leadership of Mr. Sunder Rao, Block President, and Mr. M.K. Hussain, Pradhan, Stewardgunj. Mr. TSG Bhasker, Chairman, Campaign Committee, Andaman and Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC), attended the programme.

Among those present were Mr. Rangalal Halder, President, ANTCC; Mr. P. Ummer, Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad; Mr. John Robert, District President, South Andaman; Mr. Mohd. Zubair, City President; Ms. Zubaida Begum, State President, Mahila Congress; Mr. Laxmi Narayan, Chairman, Fishermen Congress; Mr. O. Bashir, Chairman, RGPRS; Mr. K.P. Aboobacker, General Secretary, INTUC; Ms.

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Contd Pg11...Over 70 People Join Congress at Karyakarta Sammelan in Bambooflat

Padmawathi, Pramukh, Ferrargunj; and Mr, Y. Joga Rao, Councillor, Ward No. 14, along with other party leaders and functionaries.

During the conference, Mr. A.R. Kumar, Pradhan, Shoal Bay, returned to the Congress party along with his team. Mr. A.P. Husainar, former Pradhan of Bambooflat-II, also joined the party along with his supporters. According to the party, more than 70 people joined the Congress during the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. TSG Bhasker spoke about party unity, strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level, the role of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and election campaigning. He urged party workers to work in coordination and strengthen their engagement with the public. He also welcomed the returning leaders and new members to the party.

Seven Convicted in Cattle Theft and Illegal Transportation Case Registered at Kalighat Police Station



Mayabunder | November 13, 2026

The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Mayabunder, has convicted seven accused in a cattle theft and illegal transportation case registered at Kalighat Police Station in 2023.

The case was registered vide FIR No. 08/23 dated May 20, 2023, under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

In a judgment dated November 5, 2026, the CJM convicted all seven accused and sentenced each of them to six months of Simple Imprisonment along with a fine of Rs. 3,100.

The conviction follows the investigation conducted by Kalighat Police in the case. North and Middle Andaman Police stated that the outcome reflects its commitment to curbing crime, protecting animal welfare and upholding the rule of law.

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