# ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by NICOBAR TIMES

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# LG Participates in Chhath Mela Programme Organised at Corbyn's Cove Beach





**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, participated in the Chhath Mela Programme organised on Sunday on the occasion of Chhath Mahaparv and offered prayers to Lord Surya and Chhathi Maiya. He also extended greetings and best wishes to devotees celebrating the festival.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that Chhath Mahaparv is not merely a festival of worship but a unique confluence of faith, purity and discipline. He said the festival conveys the message of respecting

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# Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebrated in Sri Vijaya Puram to Mark 151st Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda



**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas was celebrated at the auditorium of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Pahargaon, Sri Vijaya Puram, on the occasion of the 151st birth anniversary of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The programme featured a tribal exhibition, cultural performances, felicitation of tribal achievers and distribution of Ayushman Bharat Cards to beneficiaries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the national-level programme as the chief guest, which was also attended virtually

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## Contd Pg1...LG Participates in Chhath Mela Programme Organised at Corbyn's Cove Beach

nature, expressing gratitude towards life and working for the welfare of society.

Highlighting the significance of offering Arghya to both the rising and setting Sun, Dr. Sharma said the tradition reflects the eternal truth of life that everything that rises is destined to set.

He further observed that mothers and sisters observe rigorous fasts and follow strict discipline over four days during Chhath Mahaparv, praying for the happiness, prosperity and well-being of their families, children, society and the nation. Describing the festival as a unique example of sacrifice, penance and dedication, he said it also reflects the importance of family values.

Member of Parliament Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Chief Secretary Mr. Gyanesh Bharti, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Ms. Purva Garg, Superintendent of Police, South Andaman, senior political leader Mr. Jai Prakash, Mr. Anil Tiwari, Secretaries of various Departments and senior officers of the Police and Administration were also present on the occasion.

For the first time, a public holiday was declared in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the occasion of Chhath Mahaparv. The Lieutenant Governor extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all devotees on the auspicious occasion.

## Contd Pg1...Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebrated in Sri Vijaya Puram to Mark 151st Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

by the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma. Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also participated virtually.

The programme commenced with floral tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The Lieutenant Governor subsequently inaugurated a Tribal Exhibition showcasing the rich art, culture, handicrafts and traditional lifestyles of tribal communities.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of preserving tribal heritage, promoting traditional skills and ensuring the participation of tribal communities in the country's development. He said the Government was committed to safeguarding their rights and improving their social and economic well-being.

Paying tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda, he recalled his contribution to India's freedom struggle and described him as a people's leader who challenged British rule at a young age.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted various initiatives undertaken for tribal welfare, including PM-JANMAN and the approval of Janjati Jan Dhan Kendras. He said efforts were being made to strengthen educational opportunities, healthcare facilities and employment prospects for tribal communities.

Referring to the Nicobar Islands, he said helicopter

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# Contd Pg3...Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebrated in Sri Vijaya Puram to Mark 151st Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

facilities would be provided to tribal patients requiring medical treatment in special circumstances, with the Government bearing the expenses. He further announced that one attendant accompanying a tribal patient would also be provided free helicopter services. The arrangement is expected to provide relief to tribal families residing in remote areas who need to travel for medical treatment.

Highlighting the cultural heritage of the Nicobar Islands, the Lieutenant Governor noted that traditional Nicobari products, including mats, had started receiving Geographical Indication (GI) tags. He also referred to traditional canoes, which continue to attract attention and reflect the historical and cultural identity of the Nicobari people.

Emphasising the relationship between tribal communities and nature, he said their traditional way of life reflected a unique harmony with water, forests and wildlife. He described tribal communities as important protectors of nature and said their cultural heritage must be preserved alongside their integration into the country's development process.

During the programme, tribal children and community members were felicitated for their outstanding contributions. Ayushman Bharat Cards were also distributed to beneficiaries, enabling them to avail free medical treatment of up to ₹5 lakh under the scheme.

Cultural performances by tribal communities formed another highlight of the celebrations, presenting glimpses of their traditional dances, music and cultural practices.

Member of Parliament Bishnu Pada Ray, Chief Secretary Gyanesh Bharti, senior officers and other dignitaries attended the programme, according to a press release issued by Lok Niwas.

# National Book Week 2026 Begins with Book Exhibition at State Library



**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

The observance of National Book Week 2026 commenced on Saturday with the inauguration of a Book Exhibition at the State Library, Middle Point, Sri Vijaya Puram. The exhibition has been organised by the Education Department as part of the nationwide celebrations being held from November 14 to 20 to promote reading habits, particularly among children and young adults.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms. Bindu Varma, District Education Officer (DEO), South Andaman, who highlighted the importance of cultivating a strong reading culture. She described books as powerful instruments of knowledge, inspiration and personal transformation.

The exhibition features a collection of books covering diverse subjects and interests, including the heritage of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As part of the celebrations, the State Library is showcasing 820 books, offering visitors an opportunity to explore different areas of knowledge and develop an appreciation for reading.

The State Library, which has around 28,000

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# Contd Pg4...National Book Week 2026 Begins with Book Exhibition at State Library

registered members, continues to serve as an important centre of knowledge and learning for students, researchers and the general public.

The exhibition will remain open to the public from November 15 to 20, between 9.30 am and 7 pm.

As part of the National Book Week celebrations, various literary and creative competitions, including elocution, drawing, essay writing and storytelling, will also be organised for school students to encourage their participation and provide a platform to showcase their talents.

National Book Week also recalls the vision of the National Book Trust in promoting books and spreading the message that “Books are our best friends.”

# South Andaman District Police Inducts 11 New PCR Vehicles, Ensures Coverage at All Police Stations



**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

South Andaman District Police has inducted 11 new Police Control Room (PCR) vehicles into its fleet, ensuring the availability of PCR vehicle support at every Police Station across the district.

The new vehicles are expected to enhance police mobility, expand patrolling coverage and facilitate a prompt response to emergencies. They will also strengthen surveillance and monitoring of vulnerable and isolated locations across the district.

South Andaman District Police has urged the public to immediately dial 112 or 03192-232100 to report any suspicious activity, unlawful incident or situation requiring police assistance.

The police have also appealed to citizens to identify poorly illuminated and isolated locations, commonly referred to as dark spots, in their respective areas and bring them to the notice of the nearest Police Station. Such inputs will help the police identify vulnerable stretches and undertake focused patrolling and preventive measures to deter unlawful activities.

Emphasising the importance of public participation in maintaining law and order, South Andaman District Police has called upon citizens to remain vigilant, promptly report suspicious activities and extend cooperation to the police in maintaining peace, security and a safe environment across the district.



# Aberdeen Police Station Promptly Recovers Bag Left Behind in Auto-Rickshaw by Gujarat Tourist



**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

Police Station Aberdeen successfully recovered a tourist's missing bag after he inadvertently left it behind in an auto-rickshaw, following prompt action and coordination by South Andaman District Police.

On November 13, 2026, at around 6:30 PM, Goutam P. Soni, a tourist visiting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from Gujarat, approached Police Station Aberdeen and reported that he had inadvertently left his bag in an auto-rickshaw.

Acting promptly on the information, police personnel initiated efforts to trace the missing belongings. The police contacted the Chairperson of the Auto-Rickshaw Union and various auto-rickshaw stands, circulating information about the missing bag and seeking assistance in locating it.

Subsequently, an auto-rickshaw driver contacted Police Station Aberdeen and informed the police that a bag left behind by passengers had been found. The bag was subsequently recovered and handed over to its rightful owner.

The tourist expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the personnel of Police Station Aberdeen for their prompt response, dedication and assistance in ensuring the safe recovery of his belongings.

South Andaman District Police has urged the general public to immediately dial 112, the toll-free Police Emergency Helpline, in case of any emergency. The service is available round the clock to facilitate prompt police assistance and ensure public safety.

# Refresher Training on CPR and First Aid Conducted for Lifeguards at Radhanagar Beach in Swaraj Dweep



**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

A refresher training programme on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid was recently conducted for lifeguards deployed at Radhanagar Beach to strengthen their emergency response capabilities and enhance beach safety.

The programme was organised in coordination with the Medical Department, Fire & Emergency Services and the Police Marine Force (PMF), with a focus on improving the preparedness of lifeguards to handle medical emergencies and water-related accidents.

Considering the large number of domestic and international tourists visiting Radhanagar Beach throughout the year, the training focused on equipping lifeguards with essential skills to respond effectively to drowning incidents, sudden cardiac emergencies and other medical situations along the coastline.

During the interactive sessions, experienced

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# Contd Pg6...Refresher Training on CPR and First Aid Conducted for Lifeguards at Radhanagar Beach in Swaraj Dweep

officials and medical personnel from the participating departments conducted live demonstrations and supervised practical exercises. The lifeguards received hands-on training in CPR techniques and Basic Life Support (BLS), essential first aid procedures for water-related accidents and injuries, and safe methods of rescuing and handling victims before shifting them to hospitals.

The training also emphasised immediate life-saving measures during the crucial first few minutes of an emergency, before the arrival of an ambulance or medical team.

Lifeguards actively participated in the practical drills and interacted with the trainers to clarify their doubts. The joint exercise also aimed at strengthening coordination and communication among lifeguards, police personnel, fire services and medical teams to ensure a coordinated response during emergencies.

The initiative was undertaken to enhance the overall preparedness, confidence and response capabilities of lifeguards, contributing to safer conditions for tourists and local visitors at Radhanagar Beach.

The Andaman & Nicobar Police reiterated its commitment to public safety and stated that regular training programmes would continue to be organised to ensure that emergency response teams remain prepared to deal with unforeseen situations.

# First Andaman Cultural Festival Brings Together Over 60 Artists from Nine States and UTs




**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

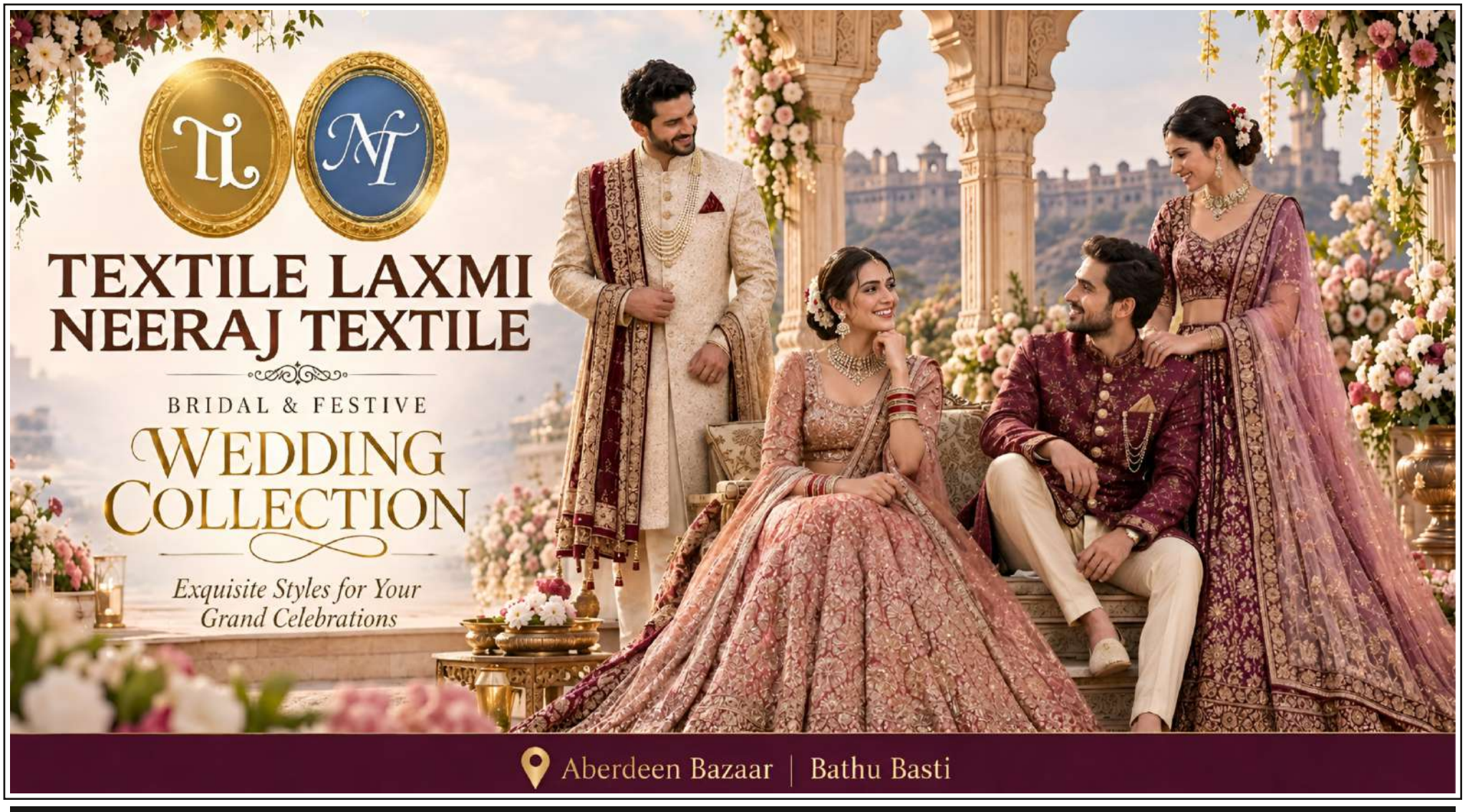
The first edition of the Andaman Cultural Festival was organised on November 14 at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium, Sri Vijaya Puram, bringing together more than 60 participants from nine States and Union Territories across the country, including local performers from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Organised by Discover Andaman Holidays Pvt. Ltd. in association with Ram Setu World, the festival provided a platform for artists and performers to showcase their talents through dance, singing, music and other cultural presentations, celebrating India's diverse artistic traditions.

Mr. M. Vinod, President of the Andaman Association of Tour Operators, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. The performances were judged by Mr. Waheed Shah, General Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Artists Welfare Federation.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. M. Vinod congratulated the organisers for taking the initiative to promote cultural tourism in the islands. He appreciated their efforts to bring artists from different parts of the country to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and highlighted the potential of cultural events in enriching

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# Contd Pg7...First Andaman Cultural Festival Brings Together Over 60 Artists from Nine States and UTs

the tourism experience and showcasing the islands beyond their natural attractions.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Saikat Biswas, Director of Discover Andaman Holidays Pvt. Ltd. and General Secretary of the Andaman Association of Tour Operators, extended his greetings to the artists and their accompanying teams who had travelled from different States and Union Territories to participate in the festival. He also congratulated the winners and all participants for their performances and enthusiasm.

Mr. Waheed Shah appreciated the organisers, partners, judges, participants and others who contributed to the successful conduct of the inaugural edition. He emphasised the importance of creating platforms that encourage young talent, promote cultural exchange and bring people from different parts of the country together through art and culture.

The festival was envisioned as an initiative to strengthen the connection between tourism and cultural experiences in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. While the islands are widely known for their beaches, marine life and natural beauty, cultural events of this nature provide opportunities to promote them as a destination for artistic gatherings, cultural exchanges and experiential tourism.

The participation of artists from nine States and Union Territories, alongside local performers, made the inaugural edition a celebration of India's cultural diversity. The organisers expressed hope that the festival would develop into an annual platform for promoting talent, creativity and cultural connections in the islands.

# LG Dr. Dinesh Sharma Addresses Climate Change Dialogue Programme in Aligarh



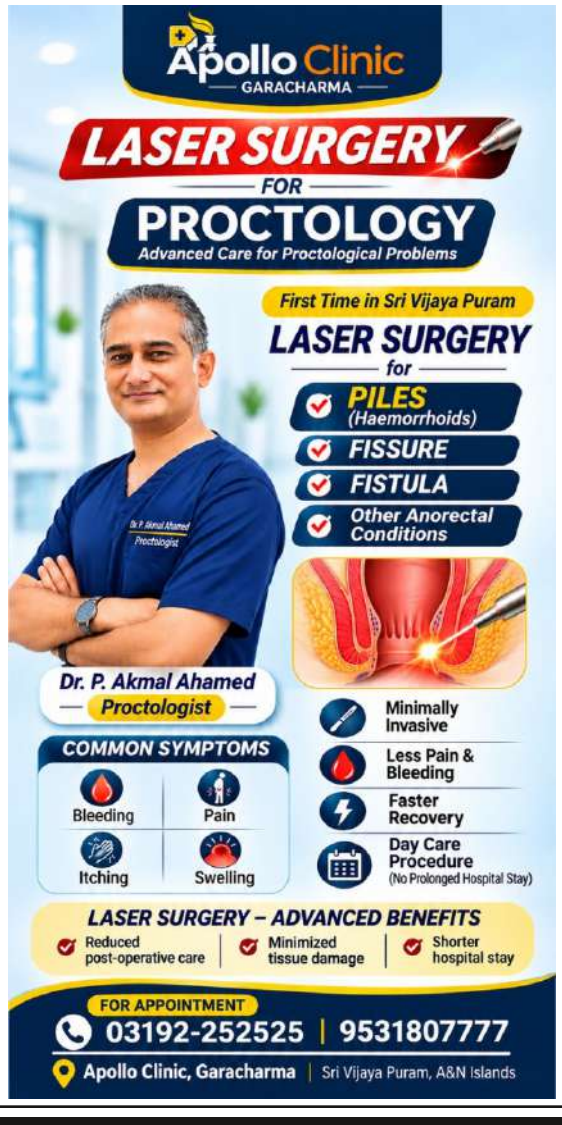

**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands are highly vulnerable to climate change, with rising sea levels, coastal erosion, increasing cyclone intensity and declining availability of fresh water emerging as major challenges, Lieutenant Governor Dr. Dinesh Sharma said while addressing a dialogue programme on climate change organised in Aligarh on Saturday.

Dr. Sharma, who is also a former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and former Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, said climate change has triggering various natural disasters, including cyclones, earthquakes and floods. He observed that the imbalance in nature was at the root of these disasters and that changing weather patterns were increasingly taking a destructive form.

Highlighting the vulnerability of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, he said rising sea levels, caused partly by melting glaciers, were

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# Contd Pg8...LG Dr. Dinesh Sharma Addresses Climate Change Dialogue Programme in Aligarh

increasing the threat of coastal erosion and inundation of coastal areas. He also pointed out that rising water temperatures were affecting mangrove ecosystems, which serve as natural protective barriers against tsunamis and storms and play a crucial role in maintaining marine biodiversity. Increasingly powerful cyclones and the growing threat to freshwater availability were among the other challenges facing the islands.

Describing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as the Guardian of the Nation's Borders, Dr. Sharma said comprehensive development works would be undertaken at a faster pace in the coming years. Connectivity through waterways and airways would be strengthened, along with the development of port areas. He emphasised that such development would be carried out while ensuring that the environment remained protected.

He also highlighted the islands' natural wealth, noting that more than 80 per cent of their geographical area is covered by forests. He said the adverse effects of climate change were also being experienced in mainland areas, with rising temperatures and drought being among the visible consequences.

Emphasising the importance of environmental conservation, Dr. Sharma said maintaining ecological balance was essential for human life. He observed that Indian culture and traditions have always been closely connected with nature, with the Earth, water and the Sun holding an important place in religious beliefs and festivals. Harmony among water resources, forests, animals and climate makes human life sustainable, he added.

He further said that pollution was contributing to the spread of various diseases and stressed that environmental protection required both preventing unnecessary tree cutting and undertaking large-scale plantation drives.

Referring to the tradition of planting trees in the names of ancestors during the Pitru Paksha period in Gujarat, he said people should also take responsibility for nurturing and protecting the trees they plant. Describing the cultural significance of Gau, Ganga and Dharti Mata, he said nature conservation had always been an integral part of India's traditions and that this spirit must be preserved.

Dr. Sharma also spoke about the social changes brought about by the increasing use of mobile phones. While acknowledging their role in transforming human life, he said excessive use had contributed to reduced communication among family members and changing social relationships. He expressed concern over declining interaction within families, shrinking family structures and diminishing respect for the elderly.

He stressed that alongside maintaining environmental balance, society must also preserve harmony in family relationships and traditional values.

Appealing to people to protect nature, the Lieutenant Governor urged everyone to pledge to plant trees in the names of their ancestors and ensure that the saplings were properly nurtured and protected.

Several public representatives and other dignitaries attended the programme, including Member of Parliament Satish Gautam, MLA and former Minister Thakur Jaivir Singh, MLAs Anil Parashar and Ravindra Pal Singh, Member of the Legislative Council Chaudhary Rishipal, Engineer Rajiv Sharma, Krishan Pal, MLC Manvendra Singh, former MLA Ramsakhi Katheria and Shiv Narayan Sharma, among others.



# Janta Darshan Scheduled at Lok Niwas on November 30; Applications Invited by November 20



**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 15, 2026**

A Janta Darshan programme will be held at Lok Niwas on November 30, 2026, as directed by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

According to a press release issued by the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, individuals interested in participating in the programme to submit their grievances or requests have been requested to register through the State Portal or the South Andaman District website.

People can also register for the Janta Darshan by submitting their requests in person at the chamber of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, between 3 pm and 4 pm.

Appointments will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Applicants have been requested to submit their applications by November 20, 2026.

Interested persons can register through the following websites – State Portal: https://andamannicobar.gov.in and South Andaman District Website: https://southandaman.nic.in.

# Two-Day Island Beach Games 2026 Concludes at Ramnagar Beach in Diglipur



**Diglipur | November 15, 2026**

The two-day Island Beach Games 2026, organised by the District Administration, Diglipur, in association with the Tourism Department and Rural Development Department, concluded successfully on Sunday at the picturesque Ramnagar Beach, Diglipur, with enthusiastic participation from local residents, youth, Government staff and sports enthusiasts.

Held on November 14 and 15, the event featured a range of sporting competitions, including volleyball, kabaddi, tug of war, 100-metre sprint and musical chairs exclusively for female participants. The games provided a platform for participants to showcase their sporting abilities, teamwork and sportsmanship while promoting community participation in outdoor sporting activities.

The closing ceremony was attended by Dr. C. Pushpavalli, Deputy Education Officer, Diglipur, as the chief guest. The Assistant Commissioner, Diglipur, Pradhans of Ramnagar and Subashgram, officers from various departments, participating athletes and members of the general public were also present.

During the ceremony,

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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...Two-Day Island Beach Games 2026 Concludes at Ramnagar Beach in Diglipur

winners and runners-up of the various sporting events were felicitated with prizes and certificates in recognition of their performances.

The District Administration, Diglipur, expressed gratitude to all participating departments, the N&M Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Panchayati Raj Institutions, officials, volunteers, athletes and supporting agencies for their cooperation and contribution towards the successful conduct of the event.

# Six-Day Training Programme on Homestay Operations and Sustainable Tourism Management Concludes in Sri Vijaya Puram




**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 16, 2026**

A six-day comprehensive Training and Certification Programme on “Homestay Operations – Rooms Division and Sustainable Tourism Management” concluded on Saturday with a valedictory session at the Training Hall of the Directorate of Disaster Management.

The programme was organised by the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in association with the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition (IHM), Mumbai, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme. Held from November 9 to 14, 2026, the training was conducted by Ms. Chandrokala Biswas.

The initiative aimed to strengthen the operational, managerial and entrepreneurial capabilities of local homestay owners and tourism stakeholders, while enhancing hospitality standards and promoting responsible tourism across the islands.

During the six-day programme, participants attended practical sessions and case-based activities covering various aspects of hospitality and rooms division operations. The training included guest service fundamentals, front office procedures, reservation management, housekeeping standards, room preparation and inspection. Special emphasis was laid on maintaining hygiene, sanitation, linen care, pest control and guest safety, keeping in view the tropical island conditions.

A major component of the programme focused on sustainable and responsible tourism

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# Contd Pg11...Six-Day Training Programme on Homestay Operations and Sustainable Tourism Management Concludes in Sri Vijaya Puram

management. Participants were familiarised with eco-friendly practices, including water and energy conservation, waste segregation, elimination of single-use plastics and the use of environmentally safe cleaning agents.

They were also sensitised to the ecological fragility of the islands' coral reefs, mangroves and coastal biodiversity, and the important role of homestay operators in educating visitors about conservation and responsible travel practices.

The training also covered digital marketing and brand development to help homestay operators expand their businesses independently and reduce their reliance on third-party Online Travel Agencies (OTAs). Participants received guidance on developing distinct business identities, designing experience-based tourism packages showcasing local cuisine and culture, and enhancing online visibility through Instagram and other social media platforms using engaging photographs and short-form videos.

Practical sessions also addressed the management of guest enquiries, improving booking conversions, effective communication, complaint resolution and providing personalised hospitality services.

The programme sought to equip local homestay operators with practical skills and knowledge to improve service quality, strengthen their business prospects and contribute towards sustainable tourism development in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

# LG Participates in Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebrations at Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram



**Sri Vijaya Puram | November 16, 2026**

Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, participated in a programme organised at Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Sri Vijaya Puram, to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and celebrate Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.

During the programme, the Lieutenant Governor witnessed the chanting of Vedic mantras and traditional tribal dance performances. He also addressed the gathering, highlighting the inspiring life, struggles and contributions of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda to the nation.

He described the life of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as an immortal symbol of sacrifice, courage, self-respect and the protection of tribal identity.

Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Ms. Purva Garg; Joint Secretary, Mr. Apurva Sharma; Mr. Jai Prakash; Mr. Anil Tiwari; President of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Mr. Rajesh Puriya; representatives of the Gau Samvardhan Samiti; and Mr. Vishal Jolly were among those present on the occasion.

