ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by NICOBAR TIMES

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Ramakrishna Gram Pradhan Shymal Bhowmik Highlights Health Sector Issues in Diglipur Region

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Congress Organises 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' Public Meeting in Diglipur

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Around 2,000 Reportedly Join BJP in South Andaman Under R. Shiva Kumar's Leadership



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

In a major political development, around 2,000 people from different parts of South Andaman joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at a programme held at the party office in Middle Point, Sri Vijaya Puram, under the leadership of social worker and businessman R. Shiva Kumar, according to a press release issued by the BJP's Andaman and Nicobar Islands unit.

Along with Shiva Kumar, several prominent individuals, including Mr. Thirukumar, Mr. M.

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Tourism Department Invites Local Stakeholders to Participate in 'ASEAN-India Conference on Maritime Adventure Tourism & Cultural Linkages'



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

The Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, has invited applications from local tour operators, cruise operators and hoteliers to participate in the ASEAN-India Conference on Maritime Adventure Tourism & Cultural Linkages, scheduled to be held on December 3 and 4, 2026, at Swaraj Dweep.

The international

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TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Contd Pg1...Around 2,000 Reportedly Join BJP in South Andaman Under R. Shiva Kumar's Leadership

Vignesh, Mr. C. Selva Kumar and Mr. Suresh, also joined the party.

The induction programme was held in the presence of BJP National Secretary and Prabhari of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Jai Prakash, and State President Mr. Anil Kumar Tiwari.

Addressing the gathering, Mr..Jai Prakash welcomed Shiva Kumar and his supporters into the BJP, stating that the party considers public service its primary political mission. He said the induction of people committed to serving the needy would further strengthen the party.

Highlighting various welfare and development initiatives of the BJP-led government, he referred to schemes and projects such as toilet construction, Ayushman Bharat, PM-KISAN, road and airport infrastructure, AIIMS and free LPG connections. He also criticised opposition parties, alleging that they were indulging in negative politics and creating unrest.

He highlighted India's economic growth, stating that the country was recording a growth rate of around 7.8 per cent, while several developed economies were witnessing a slowdown.

Referring to the appointment of Dr. Dinesh Sharma as Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, he described it as a positive development for the Islands and expressed confidence that the Union Territory would witness significant development and economic growth under his leadership. He also appealed to people to support the BJP in the forthcoming elections and work towards making the Islands "Congress Mukt".

Addressing the gathering, BJP State President Mr. Anil Kumar Tiwari alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was unable to accept the continued popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was attempting to destabilise the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

Responding to Rahul Gandhi's call to "Save Democracy", Tiwari said the BJP posed no threat to democracy and referred to the Emergency imposed in 1975 during the Congress government, alleging that opposition leaders were subjected to atrocities during that period.

He further alleged that certain elements were attempting to create unrest in India, drawing comparisons with developments in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and France. He asserted that people continued to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that the BJP could not be defeated electorally.

Tiwari also referred to bomb blasts and terrorist incidents during previous Congress-led governments and highlighted the government's response to terrorism, including the action taken by Indian Defence Forces following the Pulwama terrorist attack. He claimed that terrorism, stone-pelting incidents, Naxalism, corruption and dynastic politics had been significantly addressed under the Modi government.

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Contd Pg3...Around 2,000 Reportedly Join BJP in South Andaman Under R. Shiva Kumar's Leadership

Speaking after joining the BJP, Shri R. Shiva Kumar expressed happiness at becoming a member of what he described as the world's largest political party. He said he had not joined the BJP with any expectation of a post or electoral ticket but was impressed by the functioning of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the national level and Shri Anil Kumar Tiwari's leadership in the Islands.

He also appreciated Tiwari's efforts in streamlining and disciplining the party organisation and expressed confidence that the Islands would witness considerable growth under the leadership of the BJP and the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor. He said these factors had motivated him to join the party along with his supporters.

Earlier, BJP State General Secretary Mr. G. Paramasivam delivered the welcome address, while State Vice President Mr. Mohan Haldar proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was conducted by State Vice President Mr. R. Vimod.

Contd Pg1...Tourism Department Invites Local Stakeholders to Participate in 'ASEAN-India Conference on Maritime Adventure Tourism & Cultural Linkages'

conference will bring together delegates, diplomats and industry leaders from ASEAN Member States and India to promote regional cooperation in various areas, including cruise and air connectivity, diving destinations, blue economy, maritime adventure tourism, sustainable ecology, Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE), and shared cultural heritage.

The event will feature thematic sessions, Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings, a Tourism Trade Expo, cultural performances and networking dinners. It will provide local tourism stakeholders an opportunity to showcase their products and services and interact with international and domestic travel buyers.

The participating organisations have been encouraged to depute their Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Managing Directors (MDs) or senior representatives authorised to take business decisions during the B2B meetings.

As per the fee structure, the delegate/participation fee has been fixed at ₹10,000 per participant, while the exhibition stall or travel desk fee will also be ₹10,000. Stakeholders opting to set up an exhibition stall or travel desk will be exempted from paying

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Contd Pg4...Tourism Department Invites Local Stakeholders to Participate in 'ASEAN-India Conference on Maritime Adventure Tourism & Cultural Linkages'

the separate delegate participation fee.

Interested tour operators, cruise operators and hoteliers are required to submit duly filled application forms along with the prescribed fee through a Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Chief Financial Officer, ANIIDCO Ltd.

Applications, along with the Demand Draft, must be submitted to the Planning Section, Directorate of Tourism, Sri Vijaya Puram, on or before November 25, 2026.

The Administration has stated that the number of delegate and exhibition stall slots is limited and allocation will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Application forms and further information can be obtained from the Planning Section, Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

LG Approves Grant-in-Aid of Rs. 56.16 Crore to SVPMC for Salary Payments



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, has approved a Grant-in-Aid of Rs. 56.16 crore for the Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC) under the salary head to address delays in salary payments to its employees.

The issue of salary delays due to a shortage of funds was raised by the Member of Parliament, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, and the Chairperson of SVPMC, Ms. Vasantha, during the DISHA meeting.

Taking note of the matter, the Lieutenant Governor approved the financial assistance and directed that the matter be settled at the earliest to facilitate timely payment of salaries to SVPMC employees.

TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178



Science Centre to Organise State-Level Science Project Competition on December 5



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

The Science Centre, Sri Vijaya Puram, will organise a State-Level Science Project Competition for school students studying in Classes VIII to XI on December 5, with the objective of promoting scientific temper, creativity, innovation and scientific inquiry among young minds.

The competition will be held at the Science Centre from 12.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Students will get an opportunity to showcase their scientific ideas, innovations and creativity through working models and science-based projects.

Each school may nominate a maximum of two working projects, with one student representing each project.

Interested schools and students have been requested to forward their nominations along with brief details of the working model or project through WhatsApp to 9434263302 by 2 pm on December 2.

For further information and clarification, participants may contact the Science Centre at 9434263302 or 9434288627.

SVPMC Organises Hindi Competitions to Promote Use of Official Language



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

With the objective of promoting the use of Official Language Hindi in day-to-day administrative work, the Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC) organised various Hindi competitions for its employees.

The competitions included translation, quiz and story-writing events, aimed at generating interest in Hindi among employees and encouraging its wider use in official correspondence and other administrative activities.

Addressing the employees on the occasion, Secretary, SVPMC, Mr. Kamaleshwar Rao, IAS, emphasised that the use of Hindi should not remain confined to a mere formality but should become an integral part of routine official work. He urged employees to make maximum use of Hindi in Government work and incorporate it into their daily correspondence and other official activities.

Employees who excelled in the competitions were awarded prizes by the Secretary, SVPMC, the Executive Engineer (In-charge), Water Section, and the Administrative Officer.

A cash award was also presented to an employee in recognition of consistent use of Hindi in official work, having completed more than 20,000 words of official work in the language.



CITU Organises Two-Day Mass Demonstration at Municipal Council Headquarters



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

The Nagarpalika Shramik Sangh (CITU) organised a two-day mass demonstration on November 18 and 19 in front of the Municipal Council Headquarters at Aberdeen Bazar, raising various demands concerning the welfare and service conditions of Municipal Council workers.

The key demands included regularisation of daily-rated mazdoors working under the Municipal Council, grant of 1/30th of pay plus DA benefits to all daily-rated mazdoors (DRMs), and reinstatement of all retrenched workers, among other issues.

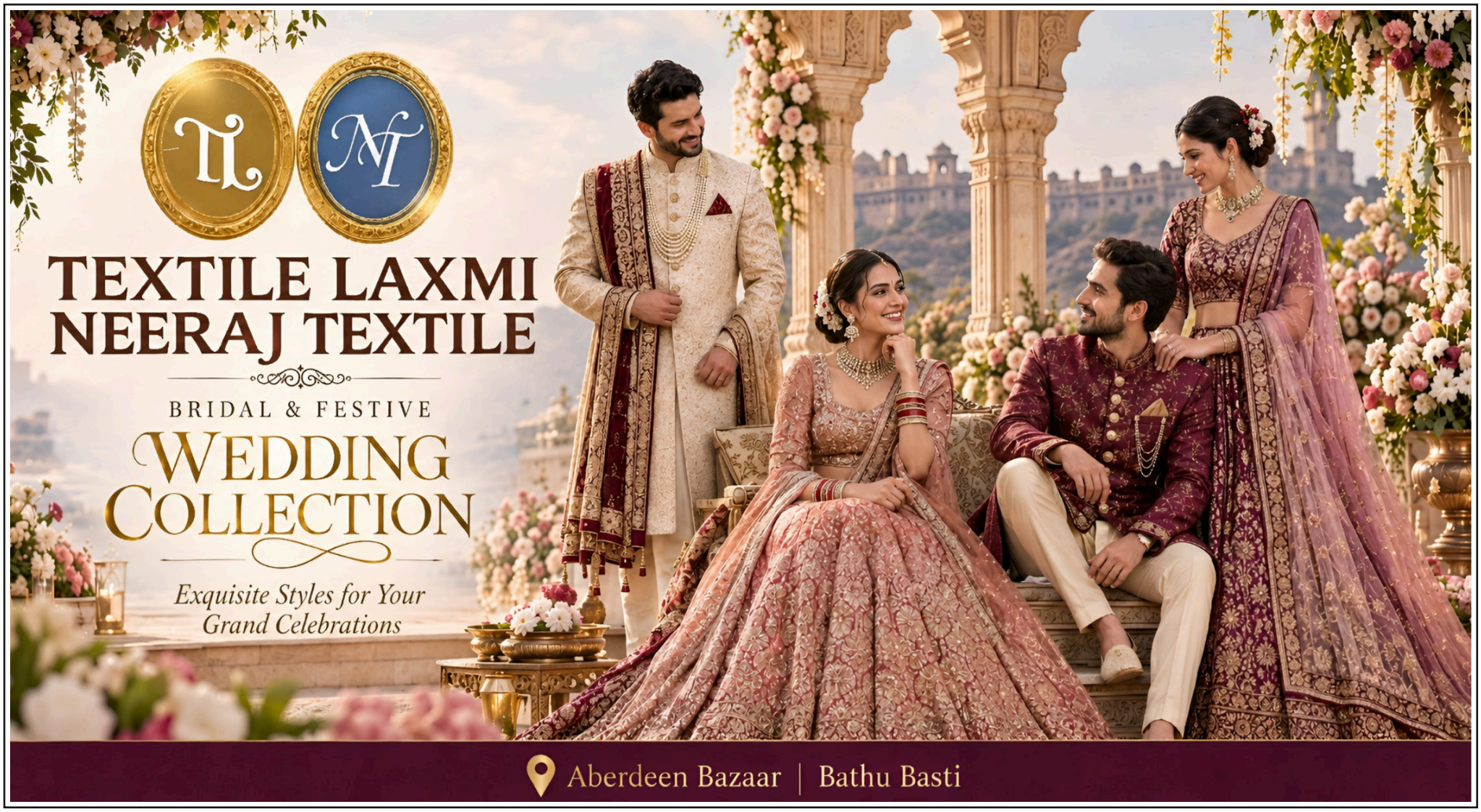
Inaugurating the demonstration on November 18, B. Chandrachoodan, General Secretary of the CITU State Committee, alleged that successive Municipal Council administrations led by the BJP and Congress had neglected the genuine demands of workers. He claimed that not a single daily-rated mazdoor had been regularised by the Municipal Council in the last ten years and accused both parties of betraying the workers.

Addressing the participants, R. Surendran Pillai, President, and P. Sathyapal, Secretary of the CITU State Committee, alleged that successive Municipal Council administrations had failed to address the aspirations of Sri Vijaya Puram's residents. They highlighted drinking water scarcity, unhygienic conditions in the town and the dilapidated condition of urban roads and footpaths as major issues that had remained unaddressed.

The CITU leaders also expressed concern over the alleged large-scale misuse of labourers by Municipal Councillors, officers and others. They alleged that despite complaints, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration had failed to take action against such practices.

Speaking at the

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Contd Pg7...CITU Organises Two-Day Mass Demonstration at Municipal Council Headquarters

demonstration, Anand Rajan, Treasurer of the CITU State Committee, said that several demands raised by Municipal Council workers remained unfulfilled. M. Yugander, Secretary, CITU State Committee; D. Ramakrishna, Treasurer, Nagarpalika Shramik Sangh; Venkat Rao, Arulandan, P.K. Sharfudeen, R. Selvam and G. Vijay Bharathi, members of the CITU State Committee, were also present.

Consumer Advocacy Club of ALC to Organise Essay Writing Competition on November 21



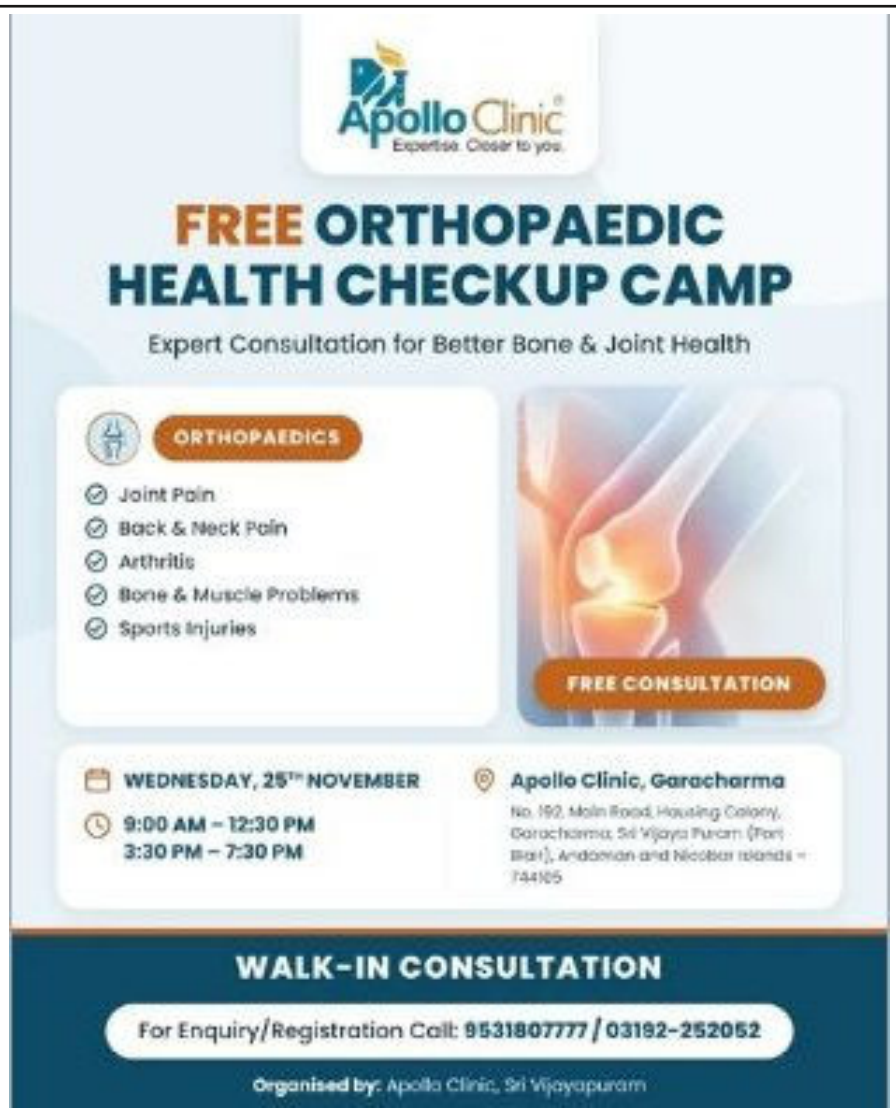
Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

The Consumer Advocacy Club of Andaman Law College will organise an essay writing competition on November 21 on the theme "Caveat Emptor—Let the Buyer Beware on Consumer Rights". The competition will be held at the college auditorium from 3 pm onwards.

The event is being organised to commemorate the Formation Day of the Consumer Advocacy Group, a national-level body with a presence in all States and Union Territories of India.

The competition aims to sensitise students about consumer rights and responsibilities while promoting awareness of informed consumer choices and consumer protection laws. Students from any college are eligible to participate.

Meanwhile, the Consumer Advocacy Group has been formed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with a membership of 75. The group also plans to establish a women's group and a youth group to strengthen consumer awareness among islanders.



Rangat Police Investigation Leads to Conviction in Drunk-Driving Accident Case



Mayabunder | November 19, 2026

The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Court, Mayabunder, on November 12, 2026, convicted an accused in a drunk-driving accident case registered at Rangat Police Station, in which a woman sustained serious injuries.

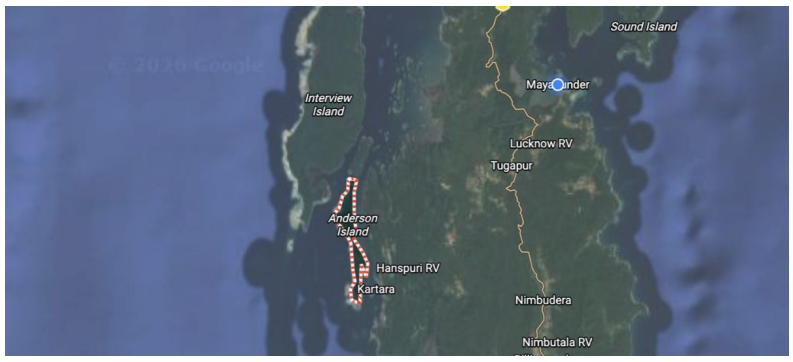
The case pertains to Case Crime No. 02/26, registered on January 8, 2026, in connection with a road accident allegedly caused by rash and negligent driving under the influence of alcohol.

Following a detailed investigation conducted by HC/221 Sheebu under the supervision of Inspector Mohd. Sameer, Station House Officer (SHO), Rangat Police Station, the accused was convicted by the court.

The court imposed a fine of ₹17,000 on the accused, with six months of simple imprisonment in default of payment.

North and Middle Andaman District Police stated that the conviction reflects its commitment to ensuring accountability for reckless and drunk driving, promoting road safety and securing justice for victims through professional and evidence-based investigations.

Public Hearing on Draft Integrated Island Management Plan for Anderson Island on November 26



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

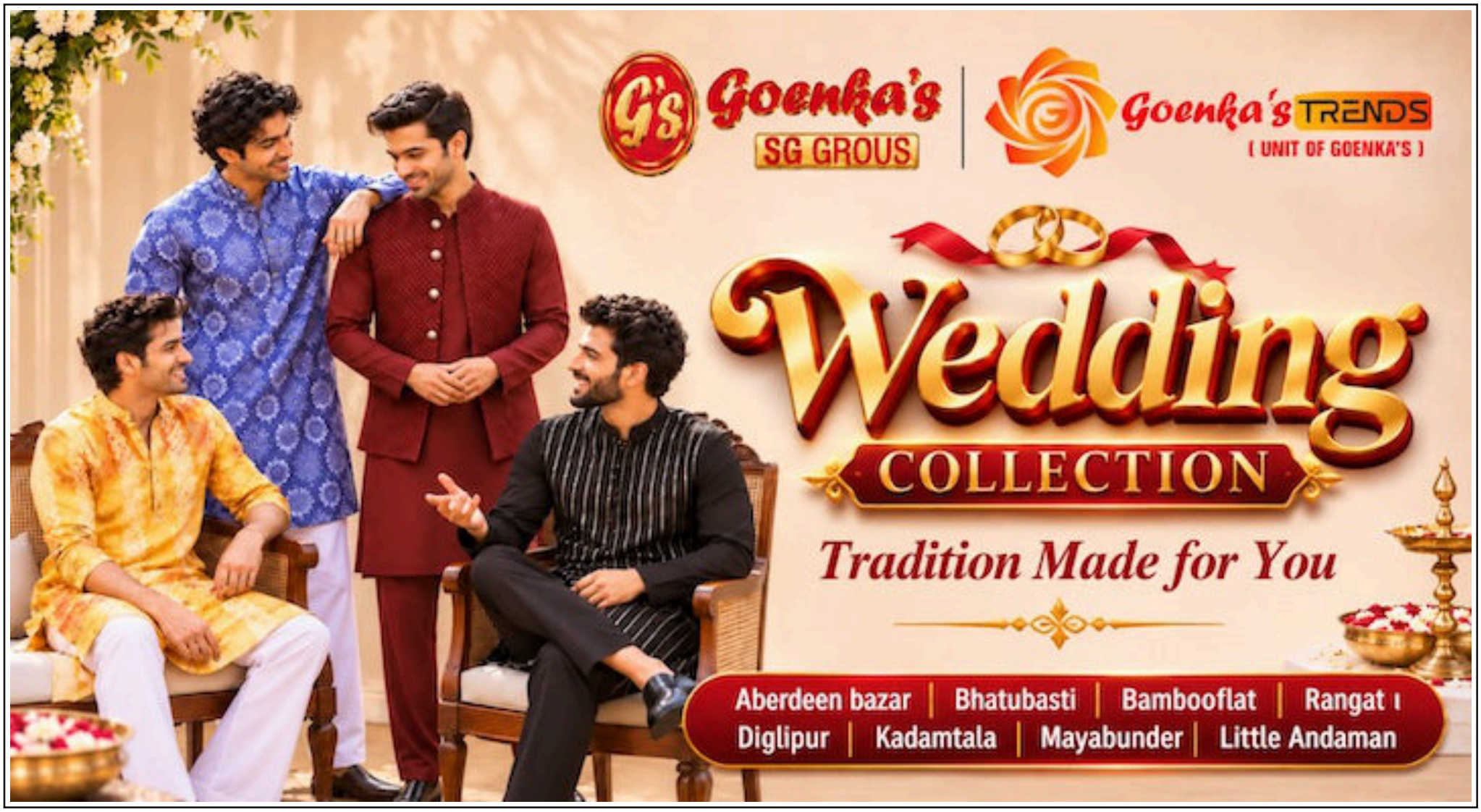
The Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, has scheduled a public hearing on the Draft Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP) for Anderson Island on November 26, 2026, at 11 AM.

The public hearing will be held at the Chainpur Community Hall in Mayabunder Tehsil of North and Middle Andaman District as part of the process for preparation of the Draft IIMP under the EIA Notification, 2006.

The Department had earlier published a notice in The Daily Telegram on July 28, 2026, inviting suggestions and comments from the public and other stakeholders within 30 days of its publication.

Soft copies of the Draft IIMP, Coastal Land Use Map and Geomorphology Map of Anderson Island have been made available on the official websites of

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Contd Pg9...Public Hearing on Draft Integrated Island Management Plan for Anderson Island on November 26

the Andaman and Nicobar Administration (https://andamannicobar.gov.in/) and the Department of Environment and Forests (https://forest.and.nic.in/).

Copies of the draft plan have also been made available for public reference at various government offices, including the Chairman's Office of the Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority (ANCZMA), the Member Secretary's Office of ANCZMA at Van Sadan, Haddo, the Deputy Commissioner's Office (North and Middle Andaman), Divisional Forest Officer, Mayabunder, Additional District Magistrate, North and Middle Andaman, and the Member Secretary's Office of the Pollution Control Committee.

The documents are also available at the offices of the Directors of Art and Culture, Information, Publicity and Tourism (IP&T), and Tribal Welfare, besides the Tehsildar's Office, Mayabunder, and the Range Officer's Office, Tugapur.

The public hearing will provide an opportunity for local residents and other stakeholders to present their views and suggestions on the proposed Integrated Island Management Plan for Anderson Island.

Mera Yuva Bharat Organises District-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 at Car Nicobar



Car Nicobar | November 19, 2026

Mera Yuva Bharat, Car Nicobar, recently organised the District-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 at the Conference Hall of ITI Arong, Car Nicobar, under the theme 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat'.

The programme was conducted as part of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027, an initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, aimed at promoting youth leadership, democratic awareness and active participation in nation-building. Students and teachers from ITI Arong participated in the programme.

Mr. Othaniel Solomon, Joint Secretary of the Tribal Council, Car Nicobar, attended the programme as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he encouraged young people to actively participate in democratic

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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...Mera Yuva Bharat Organises District-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 at Car Nicobar

processes and develop a responsible understanding of national issues.

Mr. Ramachandran Rao, In-charge, ITI Car Nicobar, and Dr. Anwar Moosa, Chief Medical Officer, BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar, attended as guests of honour. They motivated the participants to enhance their knowledge, confidence and communication skills through platforms such as the Youth Parliament. Smt. Johena, Lady Representative of the First Headman of Arong, Car Nicobar, was also present as the special guest.

The district-level round focused on the theme 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat', providing participants an opportunity to express their views, arguments and perspectives on the issue through parliamentary-style speeches and deliberations.

Selected participants from the district-level round will compete at the State Level in Sri Vijaya Puram. They may subsequently get an opportunity to participate in the national-level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament scheduled to be held in January 2027 at the historic Central Hall of Parliament of India in New Delhi.

Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in Sri Vijaya Puram



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated the 151st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas with enthusiasm and traditional fervour on November 15. Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, attended the programme as the chief guest.

The Lieutenant Governor was accorded a traditional welcome at the Ashram premises. He paid floral tributes and offered prayers at the statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda installed on the campus. The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a devotional recitation of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita by students of the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram hostel.

President of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Andaman and Nicobar, Rajesh Puriya, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the significance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.

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Contd Pg11...Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in Sri Vijaya Puram

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sharma said that the tribal community is an integral and glorious part of India's cultural heritage. Recalling the struggles of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the valuable contributions of tribal communities to the nation, he urged the youth to draw inspiration from their history, culture and the ideals of their ancestors. He also appreciated the Ashram's initiatives in education, values-based development, healthcare and self-reliance.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor also witnessed the exhibition titled Janjatiya Veer-Veeranganas, which showcased the struggles, sacrifices and contributions of tribal heroes from different parts of the country. The exhibition featured personalities including Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Tantya Bhil (Tantya Mama), Sidhu-Kanhu, Tilka Manjhi, Rani Durgavati, Rani Gaidinliu, Veer Narayan Singh and Alluri Sitarama Raju. He appreciated their contributions to the nation, particularly their spirit of patriotism, self-respect and resistance.

Following the Lieutenant Governor's departure, the programme continued with cultural performances and addresses by other dignitaries. Among those present on the dais were Duro, a descendant of the Great Andamanese community, Lieutenant Dr. Sao, a well-wisher of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Vice-President of the District Committee Ram Dayal and Ashram Secretary Sampati Khalkho.

The cultural session commenced with a traditional tribal dance presented by the Kanta Jungle cultural group. Artists in traditional attire showcased the vibrancy of tribal life through folk music and dance.

Addressing the gathering, Lieutenant Dr. Sao said Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas was not merely an occasion to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda but also an opportunity to remember the struggles, sacrifices and contributions of tribal heroes who dedicated their lives to the protection of the nation, faith and society. He paid tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Tantya Mama, Sidhu-Kanhu and the warriors of the Aberdeen War, highlighting their struggles against injustice and their commitment to self-respect and national interests.

He also spoke about the various service initiatives undertaken by Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram in education, healthcare, cultural preservation and self-reliance, and called upon people from all sections of society to support these efforts. He said the occasion should inspire people to incorporate the ideals of great personalities into their everyday lives.

The programme featured several cultural performances by groups from different villages and communities. Artists from the Mathura group presented the traditional Karma dance, while performers from Brooksabad showcased Sarhul and Mundari dances, reflecting tribal traditions, nature worship and community life.

Members of the Van

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Contd Pg12...Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in Sri Vijaya Puram

Dhan group from Namuna Khori village presented traditional dances associated with prayers for good rainfall, a prosperous harvest and community well-being. Artists from Garacharma presented Jai Johar, conveying messages of tribal identity, dignity, self-respect and cultural awareness.

The performances highlighted the richness of tribal folk traditions and their role in preserving community memories, customs and cultural heritage while connecting younger generations with their roots.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by District Committee Vice-President Ram Dayal, who expressed gratitude to the chief guest, dignitaries, cultural groups from various villages, Ashram workers, volunteers and the gathering.

The celebration commemorated the contributions of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Tantya Mama, the warriors of the Aberdeen War and other tribal heroes, while highlighting the importance of tribal identity, cultural preservation and national unity.

Pondicherry University, ISRO's RRSC-East Sign MoU for Mangrove Research Project in Andaman Islands



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 19, 2026

Pondicherry University and the Regional Remote Sensing Centre–East (RRSC-East), under the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Kolkata, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake an advanced research and development project on mangrove forests in the Andaman Islands.

The project, titled "Characterization of Mangrove Forests of Andaman Using Multi-Frequency SAR Data, Optical Data, and Ground Measurements," has an estimated outlay of Rs. 54.03 lakh. It aims to strengthen scientific understanding and characterization of the mangrove ecosystems of the islands through satellite-based remote sensing technologies and ground-level observations.

The MoU signing ceremony was conducted in a hybrid format, with Mr. R. Gunasekaran, Registrar, Pondicherry University, and Dr. T. Ganesh, MoU Coordinator and Co-Principal Investigator of the project, participating in person at RRSC-East, Kolkata. Prof. P. Prakash Babu, Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University, joined virtually along with Prof. S. Victor Anandkumar, Dean (International Relations), Prof. D.S. Sharada, Deputy Dean (International Relations), and other faculty members.

The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. Arindam Guha, Deputy General Manager, RRSC-East, who highlighted the importance of building a strong research partnership between the two institutions. Dr. Tanumi Kumar, Scientist/Engineer SG, Head (Applications) and Principal Investigator of the project at RRSC-East, explained the background of the MoU and outlined the project's objectives, scope, institutional responsibilities and expected deliverables.

She highlighted that the project's outcomes would be particularly useful to the Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

Dr. S.K. Srivastav, Associate Director and Chief General Manager, NRSC-ISRO, appreciated the collaborative initiative and said the partnership would create opportunities for young researchers and Junior Research Fellows (JRFs) to develop expertise in remote sensing and pursue doctoral research.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. P. Prakash Babu highlighted the ecological importance of mangroves in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, particularly their role in carbon sequestration, coastal protection against cyclones and storm surges, and the provision of essential ecosystem services. He assured full institutional support from the Department of Ocean Studies and Marine Biology at Pondicherry University's Andaman Campus to facilitate field observations and laboratory analyses.

Ms. Aparna N., Deputy Director, NRSC, highlighted the key deliverables of the research project, while Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, NRSC, offered guidance on its implementation and encouraged the research teams to utilise the specialised facilities and expertise available at NRSC, Hyderabad.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Sharmistha B. Pandey, Co-Principal Investigator of the project at RRSC-East.

The MoU is expected to strengthen inter-institutional collaboration in environmental research, promote the application of advanced remote sensing technologies and provide opportunities for academic capacity building, with a focus on understanding and conserving the mangrove ecosystems of the Andaman Islands.