ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by NICOBAR TIMES

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Diglipur Mein Boat Operators Pareshan, NH-4 Ki Badhali Se Kamai Thap, Tourists Ka Aana Hua Bahut Kam

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PANI Project to Connect Eight Islands Through Sub-Sea Cable Network; 4G Connectivity Planned for 87 Uncovered Villages



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

In a significant move to strengthen telecommunications and digital connectivity in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, held an important meeting with Secretary, Department

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Sanjay Kumar Singh Raises Key Issues of Great Nicobar Residents During Meeting with Lt. Governor



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Zilla Parishad Member representing the Govind Nagar/Campbell Bay constituency, recently met the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, and submitted a representation highlighting several long-pending issues and developmental concerns affecting the residents of Great Nicobar Island.

In his representation

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TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Contd Pg1...PANI Project to Connect Eight Islands Through Sub-Sea Cable Network; 4G Connectivity Planned for 87 Uncovered Villages

of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, Mr. Amit Agrawal, and other senior officials to discuss proposals for improving network infrastructure across the Islands.

During the meeting, special emphasis was laid on accelerating the proposed PANI Project of the Central Government, under which eight islands — Diglipur, Mayabunder, Shaheed Dweep, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, Nancowry and Little Nicobar — will be connected through a sub-sea cable network.

The proposed network, originating from Puri in Odisha, is expected to provide an alternative connectivity route to the existing Chennai-Andaman and Nicobar Islands (CANI) submarine cable network. This redundancy will help ensure continuity of internet services in the event of any disruption or damage to the existing CANI cable.

The Lieutenant Governor also suggested including Dugong Creek in the proposed network and establishing a Cable Landing Station (CLS) there to further strengthen connectivity.

The meeting also discussed the implementation of the 4G Saturation Scheme under the Digital Bharat Nidhi, through which 87 villages in the Islands that currently lack mobile network connectivity are proposed to be connected with 4G services. Priority will be given based on population to extend mobile network facilities to residents of remote and inaccessible areas.

Further, the progress of the revised BharatNet Programme was reviewed, particularly the provision of Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) connectivity to 174 villages that remain uncovered. So far, 70 Gram Panchayats have been covered under the programme. Of the seven Tribal Councils in the Islands, four have already been connected, while the remaining three are planned to be covered shortly.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised expediting the fibre connectivity work to ensure that the remaining uncovered villages also receive reliable internet services.

The discussions highlighted the Administration's priority of ensuring reliable telecommunications and internet connectivity across all islands and remote areas, enabling residents to access digital services, online facilities and emergency communication systems.

Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, Mr. Amit Agrawal, Secretary (IT), Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Ms. Purva Garg, Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Ms. Jyoti Kumari, and other senior officials were present during the meeting, according to a press release issued by Lok Niwas.



Contd Pg1...Sanjay Kumar Singh Raises Key Issues of Great Nicobar Residents During Meeting with Lt. Governor

dated November 18, 2026, Singh sought the intervention of the Lieutenant Governor for addressing key issues related to healthcare, transportation, administrative oversight, public services and the livelihood of local residents.

Among the major demands raised was the introduction of free emergency medical airlift services for critically ill patients from Campbell Bay to G.B. Pant Hospital in Sri Vijaya Puram for advanced treatment. He also highlighted the non-functional ultrasound facility at the local health centre due to the absence of an operator or technician, despite the availability of an ultrasound machine, and requested the immediate appointment of a qualified technician.

Singh further urged the Administration to organise specialist medical camps at Campbell Bay at least once a month to improve access to specialised healthcare services for residents of the remote island.

The representation also sought the resumption of the issuance of Islander Cards, stating that the process has remained suspended for a long time, leaving several eligible residents deprived of the benefits associated with the card.

On connectivity, Singh pointed out that the construction of the new Air Passenger Terminal Building at Campbell Bay has been completed and requested the Administration to commence flight operations under the UDAN scheme at the earliest to ensure affordable and regular air connectivity for the residents.

Highlighting the condition of public transportation, he stated that the buses operated by the State Transport Service (STS), which serve as the primary mode of public transport for many residents, have deteriorated considerably and frequently break down. He requested the replacement of old buses with new or properly maintained vehicles to ensure reliable public transportation.

The Zilla Parishad Member also called for regular visits by senior administrative officials to Campbell Bay to assess ground-level conditions, understand local challenges and review the progress of developmental works.

Another significant issue raised in the representation concerned farmers likely to be affected by the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project. With project-related activities expected to commence, Singh expressed concern over the potential impact on land and livelihoods and urged the Administration to ensure fair and adequate compensation along with all applicable rehabilitation benefits for affected local

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Contd Pg4...Sanjay Kumar Singh Raises Key Issues of Great Nicobar Residents During Meeting with Lt. Governor

farmers in a timely manner.

Emphasising the importance of administrative support for the people of Campbell Bay, Sanjay Singh expressed confidence in the Lieutenant Governor's leadership and sought prompt and positive action on the issues raised in the representation.

POSH Sensitisation Programme Held at Police Headquarters in Sri Vijaya Puram



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

A sensitisation programme on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (POSH) was conducted at Police Headquarters, Sri Vijaya Puram, on November 20, 2026, at 10:30 AM for officers and staff posted at the headquarters.

The programme was conducted by Ms. Rubina Siddiqui, President of Rights For All (RFA) and Certified POSH Master Trainer and Consultant.

At the outset, Ms. Suma Madda, DySP (HQ), welcomed the resource person and extended greetings to the participants.

During the session, Ms. Siddiqui sensitised the participants on the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. She explained various aspects of the legislation, including the prevention and prohibition of workplace sexual harassment, the responsibilities of employers and employees, the role and functioning of the Internal Committee, complaint redressal mechanisms and the importance of maintaining confidentiality.

The session also highlighted the significance of

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Contd Pg5...POSH Sensitisation Programme Held at Police Headquarters in Sri Vijaya Puram

professional conduct, gender sensitivity and mutual respect in the workplace. Participants were encouraged to remain aware of workplace rights and responsibilities and contribute towards fostering a safe, inclusive and harassment-free working environment.

The programme was attended by officers and staff of Police Headquarters and concluded with an emphasis on the collective responsibility of all personnel in ensuring a respectful, secure and dignified workplace.

Swaraj Dweep Police Organises Drawing and Painting Competition on Nasha Mukt Bharat



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

Police Station Swaraj Dweep organised a drawing and painting competition on the theme "Nasha Mukt Bharat" (Drug-Free India) at Government Senior Secondary School (GSSS), Govind Nagar, Swaraj Dweep, on November 19, 2026, with the participation of 30 students.

The competition was organised as part of the ongoing initiatives of South Andaman District Police under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan to raise awareness among students about the harmful consequences of drug abuse and encourage them to contribute towards building a healthy and drug-free society.

Through their drawings and paintings, students creatively highlighted the dangers of drug addiction, the importance of healthy living and the need to stay away from substance abuse. Their artworks conveyed meaningful messages on the importance of individual and collective efforts in creating a drug-free society.

At the conclusion of the competition, Mr. Kathiravan, IPS,

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Contd Pg6...Swaraj Dweep Police Organises Drawing and Painting Competition on Nasha Mukt Bharat

SDPO, Swaraj Dweep, distributed prizes and Certificates of Merit to the winners in recognition of their creativity and participation. He also interacted with the students, appreciated their enthusiasm and encouraged them to remain focused on their education, develop positive habits and stay away from all forms of substance abuse.

He emphasised the role of students in spreading awareness among their friends, families and the wider community, urging them to become ambassadors of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

The programme concluded with a message highlighting the importance of creating awareness among children and youth as a key step towards preventing drug abuse and building a healthier and safer society.

44 Grams of Ganja Seized from Motorcycle in Middle Point; One Apprehended



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

The Anti-Narcotics Police Station has arrested a 24-year-old man after allegedly recovering 44 grams of ganja concealed beneath the seat of his KTM Duke motorcycle near Bajaj Service Centre at Middle Point, Sri Vijaya Puram, on Friday evening.

According to the FIR, the Anti-Narcotics Police received credible information that a person identified as Sujay Bala, a resident of Garacharma, would arrive near Bajaj Service Centre on a KTM Duke motorcycle bearing registration number AN01 K-0143, allegedly carrying suspected contraband to strike a deal.

Following the information, the police conveyed the details to Mr. Deepender Kumar Singh, DANIPS, Dy. SP (Narcotics), who directed the formation of a raiding team. The team, headed by SI Manoj Lal, proceeded to the location along with an investigation kit, electronic weighing

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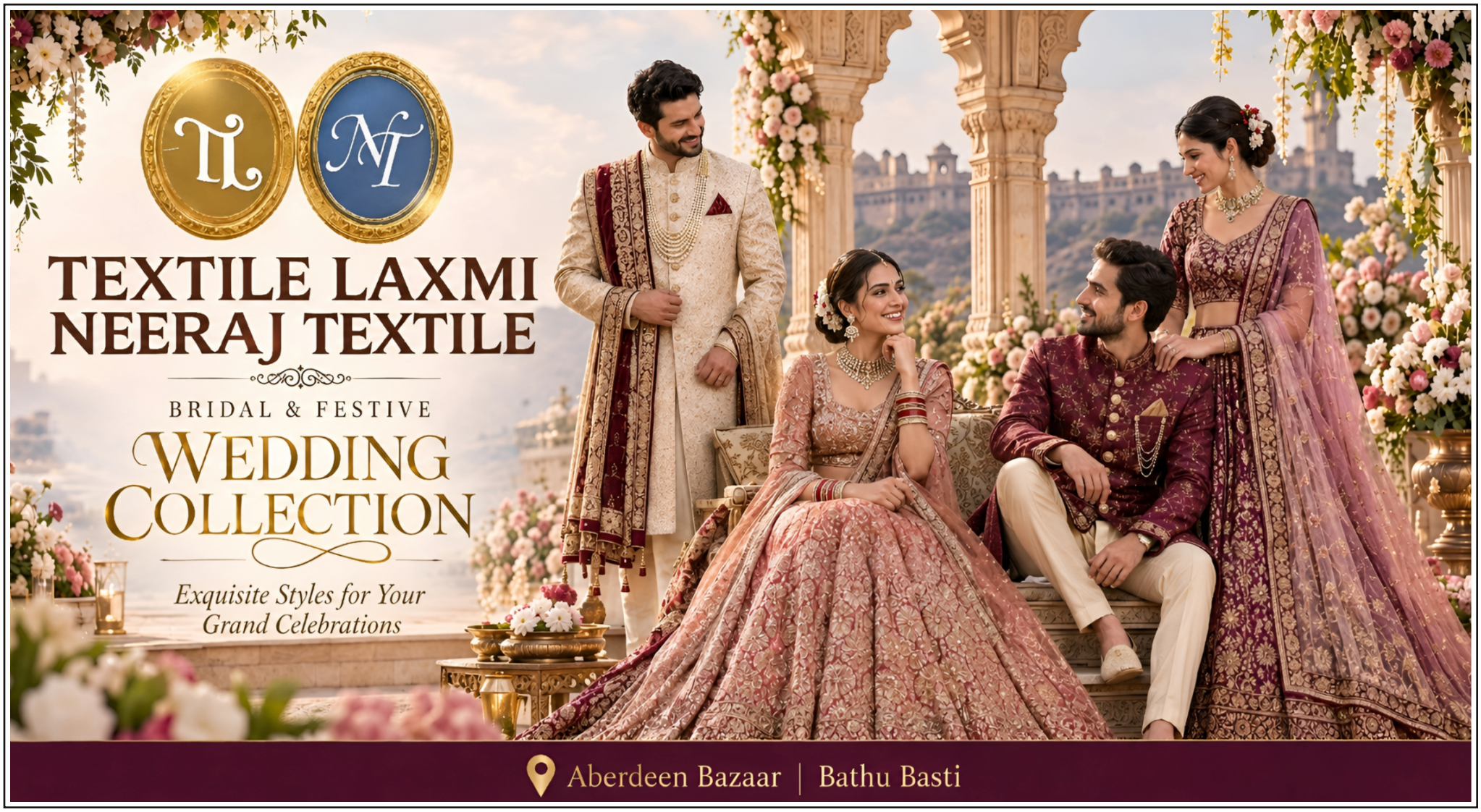

Contd Pg7...44 Grams of Ganja Seized from Motorcycle in Middle Point; One Apprehended

machine and drug detection kit.

Two independent witnesses were also associated with the search and seizure proceedings.The police intercepted the motorcycle near Bajaj Service Centre. The rider was identified as Sujay Bala, aged 24 years.

During the search of the motorcycle, the police allegedly recovered a small transparent polythene packet concealed beneath the seat. The rider reportedly identified the substance as ganja. A preliminary examination using a Drug Detection Kit confirmed it as ganja, weighing 44 grams.

The recovered substance was sealed in an envelope, and the motorcycle was also seized by the police. The total value of the seized items has been assessed at Rs. 82,200, including Rs. 2,200 for the ganja and Rs. 80,000 for the motorcycle.

The accused was arrested under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

A case has been registered as FIR No. 0020/2026 at the Anti-Narcotics Police Station.

North & Middle Andaman DPC Meeting Concludes; District Action Plan for 2027–28 Recommended



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

The two-day meeting of the District Planning Committee (DPC) of North & Middle Andaman District, held on November 18 and 19, concluded with deliberations on various developmental proposals and the recommendation of the District Action Plan for the financial year 2027–28.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands; Mr. R. Alagarswamy, Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad, North & Middle Andaman; Mr. Sushant Padha, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman; and Mr. Krishna Chaitanya, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, North & Middle Andaman, along with Zilla Parishad Members and representatives of various departments.

During the two-day meeting, the Committee examined developmental proposals, sector-wise

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Contd Pg8...North & Middle Andaman DPC Meeting Concludes; District Action Plan for 2027–28 Recommended

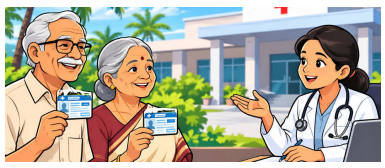
requirements and priority interventions for the district. Zilla Parishad Members highlighted pressing developmental needs and infrastructure requirements in their respective constituencies and called for appropriate departmental interventions to address local concerns.

Representatives of various departments made presentations on their respective proposals and planned activities. Following detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended the District Action Plan for 2027–28, incorporating the plans and proposals of various departments and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) functioning in the district.

The meeting also provided a platform for interaction and coordination among elected representatives, the District Administration and departmental officials to ensure that local developmental priorities and public requirements are considered in the district-level planning process.

The recommendations are expected to facilitate the prioritisation of developmental activities, coordination among departments and PRIs, and balanced development across North & Middle Andaman. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment from all stakeholders to work towards the effective implementation of the recommended action plan and the overall socio-economic development of the district.

Additional Director CGHS Chennai Designated Nodal Officer for Eligible A&N Pensioners



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has designated the Additional Director, Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Chennai, as the Nodal Officer for CGHS beneficiaries and pensioners of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The designation was made through an Office Memorandum dated November 19, 2026, issued by the Ministry's EHS Section, pursuant to a request from the Secretary (Health), Andaman and Nicobar Administration, and in compliance with the orders dated October 5, 2026, passed by the

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Contd Pg9...Additional Director CGHS Chennai Designated Nodal Officer for Eligible A&N Pensioners

Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta (Circuit Bench at Port Blair) in WP.CT/27/2026 (Union of India vs. Shri Ramesh Chander Nath) and WP.CT/37/2026 (Union of India vs. Shri V.P. Babu).

The designated Nodal Officer will facilitate the issuance of CGHS cards to eligible retired employees of the A&N Administration in accordance with the prevailing rules and procedures. The officer will also address grievances and difficulties faced by pensioners in availing CGHS facilities and coordinate with the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to ensure the smooth implementation of scheme benefits.

The Ministry has further requested the Additional Director, CGHS Chennai, to circulate dedicated helpline numbers and email details for the convenience of pensioners in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

All eligible retired employees and pensioners of the A&N Administration have been advised to take note of the development to avail CGHS facilities.

Tourism Department and IIP Noida Concludes 8-Day Photography and Videography Training Programme at Shaheed Dweep



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

The Department of Tourism, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in association with the Indian Institute of Photography (IIP), Noida, has successfully concluded an eight-day Training and Certification Programme under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme at Shaheed Dweep.

Held from November 12 to 19, the programme aimed to equip local youth with industry-relevant creative and technical skills in photography and visual media.

The training covered various disciplines, including photography, videography, drone imaging, camera handling and post-production techniques. Participants also received specialised training in underwater photography and astro-photography.

The sessions were conducted by expert faculty members from IIP Noida, Ms. Garima Chaudhary and Mr.

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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...Tourism Department and IIP Noida Concludes 8-Day Photography and Videography Training Programme at Shaheed Dweep

Aasif Khan, who provided practical and technical guidance to the participants.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session during which certificates were distributed to participants who successfully completed the training. Pradhan of Shaheed Dweep Gram Panchayat, Ms. Pinkey Das, and Pramukh of Prothrapur Samiti, Ms. Champa Das, were also present on the occasion.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Moves Towards Global Dark Sky Certification for Five Astro-Tourism Sites



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 20, 2026

In a major step towards positioning the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a global astro-tourism destination, the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s CSTERC Techno Science LLP, Coimbatore, for technical assistance in securing international dark-sky recognition for five locations across the Islands.

The MoU will facilitate the preparation and submission of Stage 1 applications under the International Dark Sky Places (IDSP) Programme of DarkSky International for the five identified locations.

The sites selected for the initial phase of certification are Prabhash Mundi in Little Andaman, Baludera Beach in Baratang, Chidiyatapu and Shoal Bay 19 in South Andaman, and Ramnagar Beach in Diglipur.

Under the agreement, CSTERC Techno Science LLP will provide specialised technical and applicati on-development support over an indicative period of 8 to 10 weeks. The scope of work includes baseline night-sky assessments, scientific observations at the field level, preparation of artificial light inventories, site

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Contd Pg11...Andaman & Nicobar Islands Moves Towards Global Dark Sky Certification for Five Astro-Tourism Sites

boundary mapping, photographic documentation and submission of Stage 1 eligibility applications to DarkSky International.

The initiative forms part of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration's Astro-Tourism Policy, which aims to promote responsible astro-tourism, conserve natural dark skies and encourage sustainable management of the night-time environment.

The Islands are considered to have significant potential for astronomical observation, with pristine Bortle Class 1 dark skies, minimal artificial light pollution and a near-equatorial geographical location that offers visibility of celestial objects across both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

The Administration has also undertaken several initiatives to develop an ecosystem for astro-tourism under its policy. These include the official notification of prime astro-tourism locations, specialised training of more than 200 local astro-guides, organisation of island-wide stargazing festivals and provision of capital subsidies for telescope procurement under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme.

The proposed accreditation of the five locations under the DarkSky International programme is expected to enhance the Islands' visibility as an international dark-sky destination and promote high-value, low-impact tourism while supporting dark-sky conservation.

Senior BJP Leaders Meet LG, Raise Road Conditions, LPG Shortage and Water Issues of N&M Andaman



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 21, 2026

The BJP In-charge of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Jai Prakash, along with BJP President Mr. Anil Tiwari, paid a courtesy visit to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, at Lok Niwas, Sri Vijaya Puram.

During the meeting, the BJP leaders raised several public issues, including the poor condition of roads in Diglipur and adjoining areas, shortage of LPG cylinders, and water scarcity in Kadamtala and Uttara.

Following the discussion, the concerned officers were asked to take necessary steps to address the issues and ensure their resolution.



St. Mary's School Celebrates Pearl Jubilee; Lt. Governor Highlights Family Values, Expansion of Higher Education Opportunities



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 21, 2026

St. Mary's School, Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated its 30th Anniversary (Pearl Jubilee) on Friday, with the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, formally inaugurating the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt. Governor emphasised the importance of Indian family culture, traditions and moral values in shaping the personality of children. He observed that the family is the first school for children and plays a vital role in instilling good values. He stressed that alongside formal education, children must also develop discipline, respect for elders, social responsibility and strong family values.

The Lt. Governor expressed gratitude to the management of St. Mary's School for contributing Rs. 1 lakh to the LG Relief Fund. He also appreciated the school's decision to expand its scholarship scheme to support students, describing it as a commendable initiative to encourage needy and meritorious students.

Highlighting efforts to strengthen higher education opportunities in the Islands, Dr. Sharma stated that the Administration is working towards providing students with access to more higher education facilities locally. He mentioned that the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) course is currently available and that efforts would be made to introduce more higher-level and professional courses in the future.

He further informed that the Administration is planning to introduce free coaching classes for students with the support of retired teachers, scholars and experienced experts. The initiative aims to provide academic guidance and support to students preparing for various competitive examinations.

Expressing hope that these initiatives would help students from the Islands compete at the national level, the Lt. Governor said such efforts would open opportunities for them in professional fields, including medicine, engineering and management, and enable them to bring laurels to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Congratulating the management, teachers, students and parents on completing 30 years of the school's academic journey, the Lt. Governor extended his best wishes for the institution's continued contribution to education, moral values and social service.

Among those present at the occasion were Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray; Superintendent of Police, Ms. Shweta K. Sugathan; Metropolitan of Madras Diocese, His Grace Dr. Geevarghese Mar Philoxenos; and Vice President, S.M.C.E.S., Father Shinu K. Thomas, along with teachers, parents and students, a press release from Lok Niwas said.

Lt. Governor Approves Release of Rs. 18.62 Crore Matching Grant for Gram Panchayats in A&N Islands



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 21, 2026

The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, has approved the release of a Matching Grant of Rs. 18.62 crore for Gram Panchayats across the Islands.

The demand for the release of the Matching Grant was raised by elected Pradhans during a courtesy meeting with the Lieutenant Governor. The issue was also highlighted by Member of Parliament, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, during the State-level DISHA meeting.

According to a press release issued by Lok Niwas, the Lieutenant Governor accorded priority to the matter and approved the grant, recognising its importance in strengthening grassroots-level governance and promoting rural development.