ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by NICOBAR TIMES

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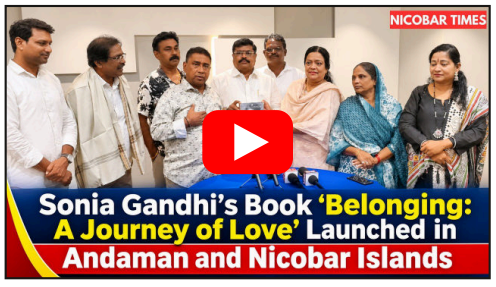
Fishermen Welfare Association Celebrates World Fisheries Day, Felicitates Fishermen and Media

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Karmatang Ward 3: Pani, Bijli Aur Sadak Ki Samasya; Bachche Naali Paar Kar School Jaate Hain

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Sonia Gandhi's Book 'Belonging: A Journey of Love' Launched in Andamans

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Mayabunder Mein 3 Mahine Baad Mila LPG Cylinder; Abdul Siddique Ne Regular Supply Ki Mang Ki

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BJP Sri Vijaya Puram District President Seeks Immediate Improvements in Andaman Guest Houses in Chennai



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

BJP Sri Vijaya Puram District President has sought immediate improvement in the condition of Andaman Guest Houses at Anna Nagar and K.K. Nagar in Chennai, citing poor maintenance, inadequate facilities and difficulties faced by islanders, particularly those visiting the city for medical treatment.

District President of BJP Sri Vijaya Puram District, Mr. Jitendra Narayan, has written to the Lieutenant Governor

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Fifth Skill Convocation Held at ITI Dollygunj; Meritorious Trainees Felicitated



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

The Fifth Skill Convocation Ceremony was held at the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Dollygunj, Sri Vijaya Puram, on Saturday, with the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, attending as the Chief Guest.

The Lieutenant Governor distributed certificates to trainees who had successfully completed their training under the Crafts Instructor Training Scheme and Craftsmen Training Scheme. He also felicitated meritorious trainees, toppers and award winners, and wished them success in their future endeavours.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated an exhibition showcasing the work of

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TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Contd Pg1...BJP Sri Vijaya Puram District President Seeks Immediate Improvements in Andaman Guest Houses in Chennai

of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, the Member of Parliament for Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and the Assistant Secretary (AR Wing), seeking urgent intervention to improve the facilities at both Guest Houses.

In his letter, Mr. Narayan stated that the Guest Houses serve as an important accommodation facility for islanders visiting Chennai for medical treatment, education and other urgent personal work. He highlighted several deficiencies in basic amenities, including damaged bathroom accessories and light fittings, non-functional geysers, damaged bathroom tiles and improperly functioning air conditioners. He also called for regular repairs and proper cleaning of bathrooms.

He pointed out that bed sheets and pillow covers are not changed regularly and that guests are often provided with old and unclean bed linen, which is particularly unsuitable for patients. He also raised concerns over the non-availability of basic toilet items and instances where guests are required to clean toilets themselves.

The letter further highlighted the presence of cockroaches and rats in rooms and toilets, describing the situation as unhygienic and potentially harmful to the health of guests, especially patients, children and elderly persons. Mr. Narayan called for regular pest control and deep cleaning of the premises.

He also drew attention to the poor maintenance of balconies and side corners of the buildings, stating that the latter are being used for keeping dustbins and waste, resulting in an unpleasant and unhygienic environment.

The quality of food served at the canteen was also raised as a concern. Mr. Narayan stated that the food quality and overall canteen service were unsatisfactory, causing inconvenience to patients and their attendants who may not be in a position to eat outside regularly.

Raising concerns over staff management, he stated that some employees deployed at the Guest Houses have been working there for more than 10 to 12 years and alleged that the transfer policy of the UT Administration was not being followed. He further alleged that the staff lacked a helpful attitude towards islanders and that reception and security personnel were often unavailable to assist guests during emergencies at night.

Mr. Narayan also requested the provision of basic support facilities for sick and elderly guests, including wheelchairs, stretchers and assistance for patients with mobility difficulties. He called for first-aid facilities and an emergency contact arrangement to ensure the safety and convenience of visitors.

Seeking immediate action, he requested the authorities to inspect both Guest Houses and direct the concerned officers to ensure regular changing of bed linen, availability of basic toilet items, proper cleaning and pest control, repair of damaged facilities, and improvement of canteen services.

He also urged the Administration to strictly implement its transfer policy for staff deployed at the Guest Houses and appoint a responsible officer to address complaints from visitors.

Mr. Narayan expressed hope that the authorities would take necessary action to improve the facilities and ensure that islanders visiting Chennai receive proper care and support during their stay.



Contd Pg1...Fifth Skill Convocation Held at ITI Dollygunj; Meritorious Trainees Felicitated

trainees from 22 vocational courses.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the importance of skill development, technical proficiency and vocational training in empowering youth and building an Atmanirbhar Bharat. The programme also featured a live telecast of the address delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the youth of the country from Lucknow.

The Lieutenant Governor said the success of an educational institution lies in ensuring that its youth are connected with employment opportunities. He noted that ITI Dollygunj receives applications in excess of its available seats, reflecting the quality of training imparted by the institute.

He informed that training is being provided to youth in around 22 trades across the Islands and that the capacity under the Craftsmen Training Scheme has increased from 200 to 1,416 seats.

Emphasising that a convocation marks the beginning of a new professional journey rather than the end of education, the Lieutenant Governor urged trainees to uphold the dignity of labour and remain committed to discipline, honesty and dedication.

He also highlighted the achievements of the Islands' youth in the IndiaSkills Competition, stating that they had won 13 medals at the regional level and four medals at the national level.

The Lieutenant Governor said skill development and employment generation would play a crucial role in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 envisioned by the Prime Minister.

He observed that tourism, hospitality, transportation, construction and technical services would offer wide-ranging employment opportunities in the coming years. With the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital technology and renewable energy, he stressed the need for youth to continuously upgrade their skills to remain competitive.

Highlighting the expansion of digital connectivity, the Lieutenant Governor informed that work is underway for an alternative submarine cable connectivity from Puri in Odisha, in addition to the existing connectivity from Chennai.

He further stated that various development projects in Car Nicobar, Great Nicobar and other areas would generate substantial employment opportunities. The Administration, he said, is making efforts to ensure that no youth remains unemployed.

The Lieutenant Governor also appreciated the efforts of Member of Parliament Bishnu Pada Ray for consistently raising issues concerning the development of the Islands and public amenities.

Concluding his address, the Lieutenant Governor shared an anecdote from his student life and advised trainees to cherish their certificates and awards as sources of inspiration. He expressed confidence that skilled and empowered youth would make a significant contribution towards achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The ceremony was attended by Member of Parliament Bishnu Pada Ray; Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Ms. Purva Garg; Secretary, Labour, Employment and Training Department, Ms. Vandana Rao; Superintendent of Police, South Andaman, Ms. Shweta Sugathan; Principal, ITI Dollygunj, Mr. Venkatesh C.H.; besides officers, teachers, trainees and parents.



Temporary Airfield Closure to Affect Flight Operations at VSI Airport in Sri Vijaya Puram on Nov. 23-25



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

Flight operations at Veer Savarkar International Airport in Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) are expected to be affected during specified time slots on Nov. 23, 24 and 25 due to temporary airfield closure.

According to a press release issued by the Airport Director, VSI Airport, Sri Vijaya Puram, some flights operating to and from the airport may be rescheduled, delayed or otherwise affected during the specified periods.

Passengers travelling to and from the airport have been advised to check the latest flight schedules and status with their respective airlines before proceeding to the airport.

Passengers have also been requested to stay updated on any changes to their travel plans and plan their journeys accordingly.

The airport authorities have expressed regret over the inconvenience caused and sought the cooperation of passengers.

Man Sentenced to 2 Years and 3 Months for Case Involving Harassment, Torture and Abetment of Suicide



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

The Hon'ble Additional Sessions Judge, Sri Vijaya Puram, has sentenced P. Krishna Rao, a resident of Aberdeen Village, to imprisonment for two years and three months in connection with a case involving the harassment of his wife and abetment of suicide.

The judgment was passed on November 20, 2026, in connection with FIR No. 209/2013 dated August 24, 2013, registered at Aberdeen Police Station under Sections 498(A) and 306 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The case pertained to allegations of harassment and torture inflicted upon the accused's wife. The investigation was conducted by Inspector Vikas Singh, whose efforts and collection of evidence contributed to establishing the prosecution's case before the court.

Following the conclusion of the trial, the court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to imprisonment for two years and three months, along with a fine of ₹10,000.

South Andaman District Police reiterated its commitment to investigating crimes professionally, upholding the dignity and safety of citizens, and ensuring that offenders are brought to justice.

The police also urged citizens to resolve disputes through lawful means and extend their cooperation in maintaining peace, public safety and the rule of law.



TSG Charitable Foundation Donates Blood Testing Kit and Washing Machine to PHC Tugapur



Mayabunder | November 22, 2026

The TSG Charitable Foundation has donated a blood testing kit and a washing machine to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Tugapur in North and Middle Andaman, in a significant step towards strengthening healthcare facilities in the rural area.

The donation addresses a long-pending requirement of the health centre and is expected to provide relief to patients and medical staff.

The blood testing kit will help improve diagnostic facilities at the PHC, while the washing machine is expected to support hygiene and sanitation practices within the healthcare facility.

The items were formally handed over by Mr. TSG Bhasker, Chairman of the TSG Charitable Foundation, to the Medical Officer of PHC Tugapur in the presence of several PRI members and social workers from Mayabunder and Sri Vijaya Puram.

LG Urges ITI Limited CMD to Expedite BharatNet Connectivity to Remaining Three Tribal Councils



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

Mr. Rajesh Rai, Chairman and Managing Director of ITI Limited, India, paid a courtesy visit to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, at Lok Niwas, Sri Vijaya Puram.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor urged him to expedite the completion of work to connect the remaining three Tribal Councils with internet connectivity under the Revised BharatNet Programme.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the need to connect every school with Smart Class facilities, along with Panchayats, Police Stations and Hospitals, through BharatNet.

A fruitful discussion was also held on expediting the next phase of individual internet connections being implemented by BSNL.

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World Fisheries Day 2026 Celebrated at Sri Vijaya Puram; Participatory Planning for Fisheries Sector Development Emphasised



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

World Fisheries Day 2026 was celebrated at the Fisheries Training Centre, Marine Hill, on Saturday, with the participation of fishermen, fish traders, representatives of fishermen's associations, fisheries cooperative societies and officials of the Department of Fisheries.

Ms. Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Secretary (Fisheries), graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Mr. Nilesh Nishikant Gurav, Director of Fisheries, was the guest of honour.

Addressing the gathering, the Secretary (Fisheries) underscored the importance of participatory planning in the development of the fisheries sector. She emphasised that fishermen and other stakeholders should be actively consulted and involved in the formulation of developmental plans and programmes to ensure that initiatives undertaken by the Administration are practical, need-based and aligned with the actual requirements of the fishing community.

During the programme, the Department of Fisheries highlighted various developmental initiatives and ongoing projects being undertaken by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for the holistic development of the fisheries sector, with particular emphasis on strengthening fisheries infrastructure and improving facilities for the fishing community.

An interactive session was also organised, during which representatives of fishermen's associations and other stakeholders shared their concerns and suggestions on issues relating to fishermen's welfare, infrastructure development, insurance coverage and the implementation of the Group Accident Insurance Scheme.

The Secretary (Fisheries) interacted with the participants and heard their views and suggestions.

The celebration provided a platform for constructive dialogue between the Administration and fisheries stakeholders, reaffirming the importance of collaborative efforts, stakeholder participation and need-based interventions for the sustainable growth of the fisheries sector in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Six-Day Culinary Skills and Hygiene Training for Homestay Operators Concludes at DBRAIT



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

A six-day Training and Certification Programme on “Culinary Skills, Presentation & Hygiene” for homestay operators concluded on Saturday with a valedictory session at the QTK Lab, Hotel Management Department, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT), Dollygunj.

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. The training was conducted from November 16 to 21, 2026.

The sessions were conducted by Mr. Amol Balkawade, Lecturer-cum-Chef from IHM, Mumbai. The programme aimed to equip existing and aspiring homestay operators and their staff with practical culinary skills and professional food service standards.

During the six-day training, participants attended hands-on sessions and interactive demonstrations covering food preparation, plating and presentation, kitchen hygiene and pantry management.

The training modules included designing balanced and nutritious menus using locally available Andaman produce and Ayurvedic principles, food costing, portion control and strategies to minimise wastage. Participants were also trained in understanding food labels, allergen warnings and FSSAI safety standards suited to the humid island conditions.

Practical demonstrations were conducted on the preparation of international desserts, base gravies and sauces.

Addressing the gathering during the valedictory session, Ms. Akanchha Singh, IAS, Director (Tourism), emphasised that homestay operators are in direct contact with tourists and that their conduct and hospitality reflect the image of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

She observed that positive guest experiences, where visitors appreciate both the natural beauty of the islands and the warmth of the local people, generate valuable word-of-mouth publicity and help promote the destination globally.

Urging participants to put their newly acquired skills into practice, she also encouraged them to train and upskill their staff in all aspects of homestay operations to ensure consistent service quality.

Following the final assessment, the top performers—Ms. Shashita, Ms. Sandhya

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Contd Pg8...Six-Day Culinary Skills and Hygiene Training for Homestay Operators Concludes at DBRAIT

Kumari and Ms. Shabnam Bibi—were awarded professional chef knives by Mr. Amol Balkawade.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participating homestay operators and staff.

The training forms part of the Directorate of Tourism's ongoing efforts under the RAMP Scheme to strengthen grassroots tourism entrepreneurship and improve hospitality standards across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

ANIIMS Inaugurates World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2026 at GB Pant Hospital



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

The Department of Microbiology, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences (ANIIMS), inaugurated World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) 2026 on Nov. 18 at the OPD and Registration Complex of GB Pant Hospital, Sri Vijaya Puram.

The programme was organised under the global theme of WAAW 2026, 'One Health, One Action: Prevent AMR Now', highlighting the need for collective efforts across human, animal and environmental health sectors to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Dr. Mukesh Tripathi, Director, ANIIMS; Dr. Pragtheesh, Medical Superintendent, GB Pant Hospital; and Dr. Ajay Raj, Dean Academics, ANIIMS. Heads of Departments, faculty members, Nursing Officers, staff, MBBS and nursing students, and other healthcare professionals also attended the programme.

The dignitaries formally inaugurated the programme by placing their AMR awareness pledges on the specially designed 'Go Blue Campaign – Pledge Wall', symbolising their commitment to combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the responsible use of antibiotics.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mukesh Tripathi shared his insights on antimicrobial resistance, highlighting the growing public health concern and emphasising the importance of responsible antibiotic use and collective efforts to

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Contd Pg9...ANIIMS Inaugurates World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2026 at GB Pant Hospital

combat AMR.

Dr. Shwetha V. R., HoD In-charge, Department of Microbiology, highlighted the significance of World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week and the need to raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance.

Dr. K. Snehaa, AMR Nodal Officer, ANIIMS, emphasised the importance of promoting responsible antibiotic practices and combating antimicrobial resistance through a collaborative One Health approach.

A major highlight of the programme was an impactful Nukkad Natak (street play) performed by the staff of the Department of Microbiology to create awareness about antimicrobial resistance. A poster competition was also organised on the inaugural day.

SARAS Aajeevika Mela Records Sales of Rs. 3 Lakh on Eighth Day; Cultural Performances Draw Visitors



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

The eighth day of the SARAS Aajeevika Mela-2026 witnessed continued public enthusiasm, with the mela recording sales of approximately Rs. 3 lakh and an estimated footfall of 1,200 visitors.

Organised by the Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, the mela continues to provide a platform for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), rural women entrepreneurs and traditional artisans to showcase their products, promote local craftsmanship and explore wider marketing opportunities.

Visitors showed keen interest in the diverse range of locally produced goods, handicrafts and traditional products displayed at the stalls.

The evening's cultural programme featured eight performances, including solo singing, group dances and musical presentations by participants from Prothrapur, Little Andaman, Rangat and Car Nicobar.

Through its exhibitions and cultural activities, SARAS Aajeevika Mela aims to promote rural entrepreneurship, strengthen the livelihoods of SHGs and encourage cultural exchange.

The mela will continue until November 29, 2026, inviting the public to visit the stalls and support rural women entrepreneurs and artisans.



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

45 Participants Trained in Commercial Nursery Techniques under RAMP Scheme



Sri Vijaya Puram | November 22, 2026

The Department of Agriculture, in association with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South Andaman, conducted a four-day Sector-focused Skill Development Training Programme on Commercial Nursery Techniques under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme from Nov. 17 to 20 at ICAR-KVK, Sippighat, South Andaman.

A total of 45 participants took part in the programme and gained theoretical knowledge and practical skills related to establishing and managing commercial nurseries as a viable entrepreneurial activity.

The training covered various aspects of commercial nursery management, including pest and disease management, potting, pruning, plant maintenance, grading and handling of plants for sale. Participants also received hands-on training and were introduced to input costing, pricing and preparation of commercial nursery business plans.

The RAMP Scheme is a flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India.

A valedictory function was organised on the successful completion of the training programme in the presence of Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI; Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head, KVK; Dr. S. C. Rekha, Assistant Director (Agriculture), South Andaman; and Smti. Pitchammal Beevi, Assistant Director (Agriculture), Marketing.

Addressing the participants, the Director, ICAR-CIARI, appreciated the concerted efforts of the Department of Agriculture and ICAR-KVK in successfully organising and conducting the training programme.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates and agricultural inputs to the participants in recognition of their successful participation and to encourage them to adopt the practices and skills acquired during the training.



Four-Hour SSBSK Training Conducted at Dr. R.P. Hospital in Mayabunder



Mayabunder | November 22, 2026

A four-hour capsule training programme on Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) was conducted at the Conference Hall of Dr. R.P. Hospital, Mayabunder, on Friday under the supervision of Dr. S. Sunil Kumar, Medical Officer In-Charge of the hospital.

The session was conducted by Dr. Priyanka Iqbal, Medical Officer (Ayurveda), as part of a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme through the ECHO India platform.

The training focused on SSBSK and the continuum of care for children from birth to three years, including Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care for Young Children (HBYC) visits, the responsibilities of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), and essential newborn and child care practices.

The programme was attended by ASHA workers, ASHA Facilitators, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Lady Health Visitors (LHVs), Public Health Nurses (PHNs), Community Health Officers (CHOs) and other frontline health personnel. Particular emphasis was laid on strengthening the knowledge and field-level responsibilities of ASHAs.

Other topics covered during the training included Anaemia Mukt Bharat, Community-Based Assessment Checklist (CBAC), SUMAN, VHSNC+, Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND), Jan Arogya Samiti (JAS), tuberculosis (TB), vector-borne diseases and digital and IT interventions.

The programme aimed to enhance the knowledge, skills and confidence of frontline health workers, particularly ASHAs, to strengthen effective healthcare delivery at the community level.

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Divya Kala Mela and Divya Kala Shakti Organised for Children with Special Needs in Diglipur



Diglipur | November 22, 2026

The Block Project Office, Diglipur, under Inclusive Education, Samagra Shiksha, organised a two-day programme comprising Divya Kala Mela and Divya Kala Shakti on Nov. 18 and 19 respectively, providing Children with Special Needs (CwSN) an opportunity to showcase their talents, creativity and abilities.

Divya Kala Mela was organised at the Panchayat Hall, Subhashgram, on Nov. 18, with enthusiastic participation from Children with Special Needs, their parents and teachers. The event featured a variety of exhibits and creative activities.

Students displayed their handmade items and creative works, while craft instructors showcased their craft products. Parents of Children with Special Needs also actively participated by setting up food stalls. The programme provided a platform for children and their families to display their talents, creativity and skills.

The event was graced by Dr. M. Malika as the chief guest, Mr. Singaram, Pradhan of Subhashgram Gram Panchayat, as the guest of honour, and Dr. C. Pushpavalli, Block Project Officer.

Divya Kala Shakti was organised at the Multipurpose Hall, Diglipur, on Nov. 19. The programme provided a vibrant platform for Children with Special Needs to showcase their cultural and artistic talents.

Children participated enthusiastically in various activities, including fancy dress, singing, solo dance, yoga and other cultural performances.

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