Hon'ble Lt. Governor arrives on a two-day visit to Swaraj Dweep.....

(Contd. from page 1)

development works, strengthening basic infrastructure, promoting tourism and addressing the concerns of local residents. Special attention was given to healthcare, education, transportation, tourism, water supply, roads and electricity. The Hon'ble Lt. Governor directed the officers to accelerate development activities by according the highest priority to public welfare and to ensure the timely resolution of citizens' grievances.

Towards the concluding phase of the first day of his visit to Swaraj Dweep, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor laid the foundation stone for the construction of three additional classrooms at the Government Secondary School, Krishna Nagar, with the objective of strengthening educational infrastructure. The initiative will expand the school's infrastructure and help provide students with a better learning environment.

Thereafter, he inspected Radhanagar Beach, the only Blue Flag-certified beach in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He directed the concerned officers to address issues relating to parking, public amenities and safety to ensure a better experience for tourists.

The Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray; Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman; Secretary (Transport); Secretary (Tourism); Secretary (Education); Superintendent of Police, South Andaman; Director (Rural Development); Sub-Divisional Officer; Gram Pradhan, Shri Ajit Kumar Ray; and other public representatives and officers were present on the occasion, a press release from Lok Niwas said.









Durga Puja Celebrations-2026: Directives for Puja Committees & Organizers in South Andaman District

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 9

In view of the ensuing Durga Puja Celebrations-2026, commencing from 18th October 2026 and culminating with the immersion of idols, the District Administration, South Andaman, has issued the following directives to all Durga Puja Committees and organizers to ensure the peaceful, safe and orderly conduct of the festival.

All Puja Committees and organizers are directed to strictly comply with the prescribed safety norms, statutory regulations and instructions issued by the competent authorities.

Important Directives for Strict Compliance:

◆ **Prohibition of Alcohol and Intoxicants:** No person under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating substances shall be permitted to participate in the idol immersion procession. The consumption of alcohol and intoxicants by Puja Committee members, volunteers, drivers and other participants is strictly prohibited. Committee members shall ensure adequate deployment of volunteers to maintain discipline throughout the celebrations and immersion procession.

◆ **Restriction on Loudspeakers:** The use of loudspeakers shall strictly cease by 10:00 PM (2200 hours). The sound level shall remain within the prescribed permissible limits and only devotional music shall be played. Any violation shall invite appropriate legal action.

◆ **Limited Participation in Immersion Processions:** Only a limited and necessary number of persons, shall be allowed to accompany each idol for immersion. The Puja Committees shall ensure that unnecessary gathering and overcrowding are avoided and that the immersion procession is conducted in an orderly manner.

◆ **Height of Durga Idols:** The height of Durga idols shall be restricted to below 16 feet to prevent accidents involving overhead high-tension electrical lines.

◆ **Fire Safety Arrangements:** Adequate fire-fighting equipment, including fire extinguishers, sand and water buckets shall be kept readily available at all Puja pandals. Kitchens shall be located at a safe distance from the pandals, and all necessary fire safety precautions shall be followed.

◆ **Electrical Safety:** All electrical installations shall use ISI-marked insulated wiring with proper earthing. Puja Committees shall obtain the required No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Electricity Department. Decorative lighting shall not be hung across roads and adequate lighting and necessary power backup arrangements shall be ensured.

◆ **Traffic and Immersion Route Management:** All Puja Committees shall coordinate with the Police Department regarding the designated immersion routes and inform the authorities in advance about the date and time of immersion.

◆ **Compliance with Official Permissions:** All Puja Committees shall obtain the requisite permissions and clearances from the concerned departments before conducting the celebrations and immersion processions. A single-window facilitation counter is being established at the District Control Room to facilitate the receipt and processing of applications and the issuance of consolidated permissions after obtaining the necessary departmental clearances, a press release from AC (HQ) said.

Camera-Based enforcement against over-speeding begins

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 9

As per the Notification of the Deputy Commissioner, District of Andamans, vide No. 4/27/DS/90/4460 dated 23.11.2001, the following category-wise speed limits have been prescribed in the municipal limits:

- Light Motor Vehicles (LMV): 40 km/h
- Scooters/Motorcycles/ Mopeds: 35 km/h
- Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)/Passenger Buses: 40 km/h
- Auto Rickshaws: 25 km/h

The Speed Violation Detection (SVD) Camera installed across various locations in Sri Vijaya Puram is now operational and will automatically detect and capture vehicles found exceeding the prescribed speed limits. Such violations will be processed for appropriate enforcement action in accordance with the law.

Motorists are strongly advised to strictly adhere to the prescribed speed limits. Over-speeding significantly reduces a driver's ability to react to sudden movements of pedestrians, other vehicles and road hazards. It can also result in loss of vehicle control, collisions, serious injuries and, in the worst cases, loss of life.

Over-speeding is punishable with a fine of Rs. 1,500 for LMV-class vehicles and Rs. 3,000 for medium and heavy vehicles, along with suspension of the driving licence for a period of three months.

A momentary attempt to save a few minutes can have serious and irreversible consequences, including road crashes, permanent disability or loss of life, besides attracting legal action and financial penalties.

Motorists are therefore urged to treat the prescribed speed limits as a mandatory road-safety requirement and not merely a recommendation, a press release from SP Traffic said.

Valedictory function marks culmination.....

(Contd. from page 1)

week-long programme and various activities. He commended the Department for its sustained initiatives towards environmental conservation, wildlife protection and the promotion of sustainable eco-tourism in the Islands.

The Chief Secretary also highlighted the significance of the publications released and the digital initiatives launched during the occasion. He further suggested that the books released on the occasion be made available in the libraries of schools and colleges to promote environmental awareness and inculcate a spirit of conservation among students and the younger generation.

Dr. S.Dinesh Kannan, CCF (WL) addressed the gathering and shared his valuable insights and emphasized the significance of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

A significant highlight of the function was the release of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Marine Turtle Conservation and the launch of Beach cleaning report.

The function also witnessed the launch of the official Eco-Tourism Portal of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, accessible at https://ecotourism. andamannicobar.gov.in. The portal has been developed to facilitate tourists in accessing essential information for planning visits to eco-tourism destinations across the Islands. It provides details regarding the opening and closing timings of tourist destinations, entry fees, favourable seasons for visits and other relevant information. The initiative is expected to enhance access to tourism-related information, facilitate informed travel planning and promote responsible and sustainable tourism.

On the occasion, the Van Prahari App was also launched to facilitate the monitoring of patrolling activities and other field-level operations, thereby strengthening surveillance and improving the efficiency of forest protection and enforcement activities.

The function also highlighted the outcome of the beach-cleaning drive conducted across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from Sept. 19 to Oct. 6 under the project Beyond Beach Cleaning (BBC). During the drive, approximately 120 beaches across the Islands were cleaned as part of the efforts to maintain coastal cleanliness, protect the marine environment and promote environmental responsibility. The initiative reflects the Department's continued commitment to coastal and marine conservation and to fostering public awareness regarding the importance of keeping the Islands' beaches clean and pollution-free.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Shri Jojo P Alapatt, CF (WL), who expressed gratitude to the chief guest, guests of honour, senior officers, participants, organizers and all those associated with the successful conduct of the programme, a press release from DCF (WL) said.

Hindi Fortnight organized for officers/staff of Akashvani & DDK concludes

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 9

The valedictory ceremony of Hindi Fortnight 2026 organised for officers and staff of Akashvani and Doordarshan Kendra was held on Oct. 7, in the Conference Hall of Akashvani, Sri Vijaya Puram. The Secretary (Personnel), Shri Satnam Singh, IAS, as the chief guest, emphasized the need to further promote and encourage the use of Official Language Hindi in day-to-day activities. The chief guest, also felicitated the winners of various competitions organised as part of Hindi Fortnight 2026 by presenting them with prizes and certificates of merit.



In his address, Shri C. Subba Rao, Deputy Director General (Engineer), Cluster Head and Head of Office, emphasised the importance of giving greater significance to Hindi in the workplace. Shri Deepak Chandra Tewari, Assistant Director (Official Language) proposed the vote of thanks, a press release from DDK said.

Directorate of IP&T invites applications for skill development training prog.

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 9

The Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration conducting capacity building training programme for Coach, Cab & Auto Drivers/ Tourist Transport Operators on sustainable tourism practices under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Tourism Interventions 2026-27. Limited seats are available.

In this regard, the application form in the prescribed format may be submitted in the google link https://forms.gle/K5vnXZzLdzmqjYo79 on or before 23rd October, 2026 by 3 PM, a press release from IP&T said.

Sensitization workshop on health technology assessment held at ICMR-RMRC

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 9

The Resource Hub for Health Technology Assessment (HTA), ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services (DHS), and ICMR-RMRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, organised the 4th Sensitization Workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) yesterday in the Conference Hall of ICMR-RMRC, Sri Vijaya Puram.

In his keynote address by Dr. Aparup, Director, ICMR-RMRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, highlighted the importance of evidence-based approaches in strengthening healthcare delivery and supporting informed decision-making in public health.



The technical sessions featured expert presentations on various aspects of HTA. Dr. Balu Venugopal, Scientist C, HTA Secretariat, Department of Health Research (DHR), New Delhi, delivered a talk on 'HTA in India: An Overview and the Role of DHR in HTA,' providing insights into the national HTA framework and the role of DHR in promoting evidence-based healthcare decisions.

The main technical session, titled 'Health Technology Assessment: From Evidence to Decision-Making,' was delivered by Dr. M. Muniyandi, Scientist E, ICMR-NIRT, Chennai. Dr. Reshma Raju, Scientist D, HTA Secretariat, DHR, New Delhi, presented success stories of HTA.

An interactive discussion involving the resource persons and participating stakeholders explored the feasibility of initiating and institutionalising HTA activities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a press release from ICMR-RMRC said.

Special Camps at all Polling.. *(Contd. from page 1)*



voters.eci.gov.in/ or download ECI Net app for voter services.

For any assistance, citizens may contact their concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO) or call the Voter Helpline Number 1950, a press release from CEO, A&N Islands said.

CRC A&N Islands observes World Sight & Cerebral Palsy Day

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 9

The Composite Regional Centre (CRC), A&N Islands, Brookshabad, in association with PANKH NGO and Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, observed World Sight Day cum World Cerebral Palsy Day 2026 at its premises recently. The programme was graced by Shri Mohit Mishra, Director, Directorate of Social Welfare, as chief guest, while Swami Sudhananda Ji, Chinmaya Mission and Padmasri Shri Naresh Chander Lal, Ambassador, Swachh Bharat, attended as special guests. The programme witnessed the participation of around 95 persons, including Divyangjan, Children, Parents, Medical Professionals, dignitaries and CRC staff.



Addressing the gathering, Director (Social Welfare) appreciated the dedicated efforts of CRC A&N Islands in providing comprehensive rehabilitation, therapeutic services and skill development opportunities for Divyangjan across the Islands. Swami Sudhananda Ji blessed the children and emphasized the importance of compassion, patience and collective support in enabling every child to realize their potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Sumithamol S., Director, CRC A&N Islands, said that early identification, timely intervention and regular health screening are crucial for improving the quality of life of children with disabilities. She further emphasized that CRC remains committed to working collaboratively with parents, medical professionals and partner organizations to ensure accessible healthcare, rehabilitation and equal opportunities for every Divyangjan.

A key highlight of the programme was the Free Vision Screening Camp and Parent Training Programme, wherein scores of Divyangjan and their family members received eye screening, medical assessment and consultation. The programme also witnessed the recognition of President, Pankh NGO, Ms. Komal Anand and team for their valuable contribution to the CRC Vocational Training Unit through the donation of a lamination machine, supporting skill development and self-reliance among Divyangjan. The observance concluded with the Swachhta Pledge and vote of thanks, a press release from CRC A&N Islands said.

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