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SRI VIJAYA PURAM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 RNI REGN. NO. ANDENG/2006/19155 ::: PAGES: 6 ::: RS. 5/-

Jarawa Facts

It is illegal for outsiders to enter the Jarawa reserve. However, with lack of awareness among the settler community and intrusion of foreign poachers, poaching continues.

Your Nature Guide

Can Coral Reefs Grow Anywhere?

No!! Corals are very sensitive, specialized animals. They grow in warm (23-25C), clear, and shallow tropical waters where sunlight penetrates to the bottom. These conditions are all present in the seas around our islands. And so we are indeed very lucky to have our very own coral reefs almost in our backyards!

Even around our islands, corals do not grow everywhere. Sometimes, the area may not be quite right for a coral colony to establish itself. At other times, severe monsoon rains and cyclones may churn up the waters killing the corals and leaving only the skeletons over which algae grow. Even more dangerous is the way soil from the open areas inland is washed down to the sea. It clogs the coral openings and kills them. This soil usually comes from areas where forests have been chopped down and the soil is exposed.

Corals are greatly harmed by sewage, pesticides, and chemicals from industries reaching the reef from the land. Oil spills are also harmful to the reef. Another threat to coral growth is the over population of the Crown-of-Thons starfish due to nutrients from sewage, fertilizer, and detergents flowing into the sea. This starfish actually eats polyps and thus kill coral colonies. In the summer of 1998, the warming up of ocean waters resulted in the death of over 95% of corals worldwide. Thus is called coral bleaching. We have to see how the reef recovers from a tragedy like this.

The Inter-Tidal Area:

From rocky outcrops, to sandy shores, to mangrove swamps, land and sea meet to form different kinds of coasts.

Coastal Conditions:

Many factors shape the look of a coast-the material that makes up the land, the waves that hit the shore, and the tides. The nature of a coastal area influences the kinds of plants and animals that can live there.

Treasured Islands - By Sunita Rao. Courtesy: Kalpavriksh, ANET (MCBT)

77th Republic Day Celebrated with Gaiety & Patriotic Fervour in the Isles

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 27: Impressive parade, colourful cultural programme, presentation of Medals and Lt. Governor's Commendation Certificates marked the 77th Republic Day celebration in A&N Islands yesterday. The main function for the Republic Day was held at the Marina Park Road stretch wherein the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency, Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.) unfurled the National Flag. The function was attended by the First Lady of the Islands, Smt. Chitra Joshi, the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, A&N Islands, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, CINCAN, Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, AVSM, NM, the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, DGP, Shri H.G.S Dhaliwal, IPS, Senior Officers of Defence & Civil Administration, public representatives and general public.

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Padma Shri Dr K. Thangaraj Delivers Lecture on Human Origin at ICMR-RMRC Sri Vijaya Puram

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan 27: Dr K. Thangaraj, a renowned geneticist, who was honoured with a Padma Shri for the year 2026, today delivered a lecture today on Human origin, including various genetic aspects related to health as ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Sri Vijaya Puram. During the talk he touched upon the work carried out on the Negrito tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



Dr K. Thangaraj is best known for his pioneering research on the genetic diversity of Indian populations, particularly his work on tribal and indigenous communities. Through

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MOS Nityanand Rai Unfurls National Flag at Viper

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 27: On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, yesterday unfurled the National Flag at Viper Island in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, marking a significant moment of national pride and unity.



In line with the vision and directives of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to strengthen coastal security, and under the able guidance of Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has been consistently undertaking a special campaign over the past few years to hoist the National Flag on all 836 islands of the archipelago on occasions of

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Directorate of Education Conducts Republic Day Open Blitz Chess Tournament 2026

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan 27: The Republic Day Open Blitz Chess Tournament 2026 was successfully organized in connection with the celebration of the 76th Republic Day 2026 by the Directorate of Education, in collaboration with the Andaman Nicobar Chess Association (ANCA), at Flag Point, Sri Vijaya Puram, yesterday evening. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 chess players, reflecting the growing interest in chess across the islands.



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Directorate of IP&T Introduces Non-Motorized Watersports Activities at RK Pur Dam Site in LA

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 27: The Directorate of IP&T, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, has taken proactive steps to promote recreational tourism and enhance visitor experience by introducing non-motorized watersports activities at the RK Pur Dam site in Little Andaman.



In this regard, a comprehensive risk assessment study has been conducted in coordination with the National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS), Goa, MoT, GoI. Based on the recommendations of the said study, the operation of non-motorized watersports activities such as Kayaking, Stand-Up Paddle

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TSG Bhasker Donates Cold Mortuary Box to Sabari Panchayat

Rangat, Jan 27: On the auspicious occasion of Republic Day, Shri TSG Bhasker Chairman, TSG Foundation donated a cold mortuary box to Sabari Panchayat, Rangat, marking a significant step toward ensuring dignified cremation of the deceased.

The mortuary box was officially handed over to Smt. Madhuri Ekka, Pradhan, Sabari Panchayat, in a dignified



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