



SAVE WATER



Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands meets Hon'ble Prime Minister & Hon'ble Union Home Minister

Central Govt. taking sustained measures to explore and identify crude oil & hydrocarbon reserves in Andaman-Nicobar Basin

New Delhi, Mar. 22

The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral (Retd.) D K Joshi met Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on Mar. 20. In a post on X, the Prime Minister's Office wrote, "Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Admiral D K Joshi, (Retd.) met Prime Minister @narendramodi." Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral DK Joshi (Retd.) also met Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah on Saturday in the national capital. Taking it on X, the Home Minister's office wrote, "The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral (Retd.) D K Joshi met Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, @AmitShah."

Meanwhile, it is worth noting that the Central Government is taking sustained measures to explore and identify crude oil and hydrocarbon reserves in the Andaman-Nicobar Basin, aiming to contribute to the country's long-term energy security and



Representative image

reduce import dependence.

Following the introduction of the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), the Government has allocated four

blocks for oil and gas exploration in the Andaman-Nicobar Basin, covering approximately 23,261 square kilometres (SKM).

Exploratory efforts have

resulted in the acquisition of 8,501-line kilometres of 2-Dimensional (2D) seismic data and 3,270 SKM of 3D seismic data in these blocks, and three wells have been drilled in these blocks so far. Furthermore, under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) - X, four blocks with a total area of 47,058 sq. km have been offered in the Andaman Basin.

India's Hydrocarbon Resource Assessment Study (HRAS) estimates hydrocarbon resources of 371 million Metric Tons of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE) in the AN Basin. Subsequent to HRAS 2017, a 2D broadband seismic survey was completed in 2024 covering approximately 80,000 line kilometres of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (including in Andaman offshore). This has helped acquire the essential sub-surface data required for identifying prospective hydrocarbon reserves. The government, through Oil India Limited (OIL) has also acquired a total of 22,555 Line Kilometres (LKM) of 2D seismic data in the Deep Andaman Offshore Survey during 2021-22. (Source: ANI)

Marathon Cross Country Event conducted under Fit India Tribal Sports Festival at Car Nicobar

Car Nicobar, Mar. 22 (PIB) The Sports Authority of India (SAI), STC Car Nicobar, successfully organized a Marathon Cross Country Event under the Fit India Tribal Sports Festival - Car Nicobar 2026 yesterday in association with Fire Service Department. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation with 104 participants in the Men's & Boy's category and 150 participants in the Women's & Girl's category. The Women's & Girl's race was flagged off by Shri Derick Jacob, 1st Headman of Kinyunka Village, followed by the Men's & Boy's race flagged off by Lt. Col. Shrihari Kugaji,



Company Commander, 172 Infantry Battalion (TA) Madras. "A key highlight of the event was the ceremonial Water Salute presented by the Fire Department, adding dignity and grandeur to the occasion. The arrangement was carried out under the supervision of Shri Bimal Roy, ASI, Fire Service Department, Car Nicobar. The marathon saw an overwhelming response from the public, with large crowds lining the roads across the island, cheering and motivating the participants. The prize distribution ceremony was held at Perka Community Hall, where Shri Solomon Samuel, DYSP (Police),

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DSS announces summer vacation sailing schedule April-June 2026

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22 The Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS), Andaman and Nicobar Administration, has released the tentative sailing schedule for passenger vessels for the summer vacation period (April-June 2026), bringing relief and convenience to island residents, students, families, and tourists planning their travel.

The schedule includes sailings of MV Swaraj Dweep, Vessel

Nalanda, and MV Campbell Bay, connecting Sri Vijaya Puram with mainland ports such as Vizag, Chennai, and Kolkata, along with important inter-island routes via Nancowry, Campbell Bay, and Mayabunder, ensuring improved accessibility across the islands.

MV Swaraj Dweep is scheduled to commence its summer vacation voyages from 25th April, 2026, operating regular services to Vizag and

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SAI to organize 'Fit India Waves & Warriors Beach Festival' on March 25

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22 The Sports Authority of India (SAI), STC Netaji Stadium, Sri Vijaya Puram, is set to energize the shores with a vibrant one-day 'Fit India Waves & Warriors Beach Festival' on 25th March, 2026 at the picturesque Corbyn's

Cove Beach. Organized in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Directorate of Education & Sports, A&N Administration, and the Andaman Association of Tour Operators (AATO), this unique beachside celebration is

(Contd. on last page)

Naresh Chander Lal nominated as General Council member of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22 Shri Naresh Chander Lal Padmashri Awardee has been nominated as a member in the General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi with effect from 22nd March, 2026. Shri Lal will be proceeding to Delhi on 23rd March to attend the first



General Council meeting of his term, a press release received here said.

2-days Mangrove Workshop organized by Department of Environment & Forests concludes

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22 The two-day Mangrove Workshop organized by the Department of Environment & Forests concluded today at Megapode Resort, Haddo, Sri Vijaya Puram. The valedictory programme was attended by Shri Sanjay Kumar Sinha, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-Cum-Chief Wildlife Warden as the chief guest in the presence of Dr. B. Nagarajan, Scientist-G and Group Coordinator (Research), Institute of Forest genetics (IFGTB), Coimbatore along with senior officers of Forest Department, eminent



scientists, guest speakers, research scholars, students, teachers, and other distinguished guests. The programme commenced with the welcome address cum-report presentation by Shri Joju P. Alappatt, IFS, the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Working Plan). In his address, the chief guest expressed his appreciation for

successfully organizing the Mangrove Workshop by the Forest Department. He urged the students and research scholars to gain deeper insights on the mangrove ecosystems which support a variety of life forms besides local livelihood. He also emphasized on the need of organizing such

(Contd. on last page)

Success story: From Retirement to Resilience: 70-Year-Old Manindra Nath Joydhar builds thriving duck farming enterprise in Chouldari

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22 Shri Manindra Nath Joydhar, a 70-year-old resident of Chouldhari, has set a shining example of how retirement years can be transformed into a productive and fulfilling phase of life through passion, dedication, and timely support from the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS).



After retiring from service, Shri Joydhar decided to channel his energy into farming. With constant encouragement and technical guidance from the AH&VS Department, he began his journey on a small scale by procuring 50

ducklings from the Central Hatchery, Dollygunj. Through meticulous care and proper management, he quickly started earning profit, which motivated

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SVPMC urges citizens to save water

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22 All citizen's and visitors of Sri Vijaya Puram have been urged to do their part to save water. Lets work together in conserving the precious resources by adopting the do's and don't given.

- Do's**
1. Ensure the taps are fully closed.
 2. Limit shower times.
 3. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving, face washing.
 4. Check your toilets and wash basins for leakages.
 5. Do install water saving toilets and shower heads.
 6. Do use self-closing nozzle on your hose.
 7. Use washing machine when there is full load.
 8. Sweep your drive way and side walk.
 9. When it rains collect rain water and use it for watering your gardens lawn and, washing your vehicle

- Don'ts**
1. Avoid dripping of taps.
 2. Don't run the water while shaving and washing your hands or brushing your teeth.
 3. Don't flush your toilet unnecessarily.
 4. Don't water your side walk or drive way.
 5. Don't let the water run while washing dishes.

(Source: SVPMC)

SEVA SUCHNAYEIN SHIPPING HELPLINE NO. 245555
ALL THE SAILINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS
NOTE: FOR SHIPPING RELATED QUERIES PLEASE DIAL TO TOLL FREE NUMBER 1800452714.

Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules of Foreshore Sector vessels is being issued to the general public from 20.03.2026 (Friday) at 0900 Hrs onwards.

Tickets can be booked through the DSS e-Ticketing Portal at <https://dss.andamannicobar.gov.in/eticketing>, which is available 24x7 on all days. For user convenience, a QR code linking directly to the portal has also been provided.

Tickets can also be booked from the STARS Ticketing Counter on all working days from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.



SRI VIJAYA PURAM – MAYABUNDER & DIGLIPUR
Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules w.e.f. 23rd March, 2026 onwards is being issued from 20.03.2026.

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Rani Lakshmi	23.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	24.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
2.	MV Rangat	25.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	26.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
3.	MV Long Island	27.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	28.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
4.	MV Sentinel	28.03.2026 1830 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	29.03.2026 1400 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder

SRI VIJAYA PURAM – LITTLE ANDAMAN
Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules w.e.f. 24th March, 2026 onwards is being issued from 20.03.2026.

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Bharat Seema	24.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	24.03.2026 2000 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
2.	MV Bharat Seema	26.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	26.03.2026 2000 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
3.	MV Bharat Seema	27.03.2026 2000 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	28.03.2026 0900 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
4.	Nalanda	29.03.2026 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	29.03.2026 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram

SRI VIJAYA PURAM – CAR NICOBAR via LITTLE ANDAMAN
Passenger tickets for the following sailing schedules will be issued from 20.03.2026.

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Sentinel	23.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar via Little Andaman	24.03.2026 1600 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram via Little Andaman
2.	MV Bharat Seema	31.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar via Little Andaman	01.04.2026 1600 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram via Little Andaman

SRI VIJAYA PURAM – CAMPBELL BAY via ALL PORTS

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Kalighat	26.03.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, & Nancowry.	29.03.2026 1200 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry, Katchal, Teressa, Chowra, Car Nicobar & Little Andaman

SRI VIJAYA PURAM - CAMPBELL BAY – NANCOWRY – KATCHAL

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	Nalanda	24.03.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry	26.03.2026 0800 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry
2.	Nalanda	31.03.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry & Katchal	02.04.2026 0600 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal & Nancowry

Note: Embarkation of passengers will commence 02 Hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the vessel and boarding will be closed 30 Minutes before departure time. Passengers arriving late will not be allowed to board the vessel. The vessel will sail only after completion of survey procedure which will commence on completion of embarkation of passengers for issuance of 'B' Certificate as per MS Act. Further, with regard to cargo all the consignees are hereby advised to book actual quantity of cargo to be transhipped, as no excess cargo will be allowed.

FORESHORE SECTOR
23.03.2026 (MONDAY)

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Rani Changa	23.03.2026 0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	23.03.2026 1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep
2.	MV Kamorta	23.03.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	23.03.2026 0830 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
3.	MV Bambooka	23.03.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	23.03.2026 0845 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
4.	MV North Passage	23.03.2026 1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	23.03.2026 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Swaraj Dweep
		--	--	--	23.03.2026 1430 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
5.	MV Hut Bay	23.03.2026 1130 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	23.03.2026 1400 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Shaheed Dweep
		--	--	--	23.03.2026 1530 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
6.	MV Long Island	23.03.2026 1430 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	23.03.2026 1630 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
7.	MV Rangat	23.03.2026 1700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	24.03.2026 0530 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram via Shaheed Dweep

Marathon Cross Country Event conducted

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Nicobar District graced the occasion as the chief guest. Lt. Col. Shrihari Kugaji, was the Special Guest in the event and Shri Paul David, 1st Headman of Perka Village was the Guest of Honour. Other dignitaries present were Dr. Sylvester Titus (Medical Officer, BJR Hospital) and Shri John Valliant, former footballer of the island. The event concluded successfully with winners being felicitated and all participants appreciated for their sporting spirit. The Tribal Council of Car Nicobar demonstrated strong commitment and interest towards the development of sports in the island, especially in fostering and encouraging tribal youth participation.

Success story: From Retirement to

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him to expand his duck shed and scale up the operation.

Encouraged by the early success, he introduced the high-performing Khaki Campbell breed of ducks, known for excellent egg production. He sells adult male ducks at Rs. 600 per bird, while the female ducks are highly productive, generating more than 1,000 eggs per month, providing him with a steady and reliable monthly income.

Taking his enterprise to the next level, Shri Joydhar invested in a 500-capacity incubator. This has allowed him to hatch his own ducklings, sell them in the market, and further expand his duckery unit. Additionally, he diversified into meat production by introducing Vigova ducks (a meat-type variety). These ducks attain a body weight of 2.2 to 2.5 kg within just three months and are sold at Rs. 800 to Rs. 900 per bird, significantly boosting his earnings.

Shri Joydhar proudly shares that duck farming has not only become a sustainable source of income but has also kept him physically active and mentally engaged in his post-retirement life. His inspiring journey demonstrates how small initiatives, backed by proper training and departmental support, can lead to meaningful and profitable livelihoods even at an advanced age.

The Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department continues to encourage farmers, rural youth, and senior citizens to take up livestock and poultry activities by providing quality inputs, technical training, and ongoing guidance. Shri Manindra Nath Joydhar's success story stands as a powerful motivation for many, proving that age is no barrier when passion meets opportunity and institutional support. (Source: Deptt. of AH&VS)

Demonstrations on scientific piglet management & teeth cutting conducted in Great Nicobar Island under UTATMA

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22

The Department of AH&VS in collaboration with UT-ATMA, successfully conducted two practical demonstration programmes on 'Management of Piglet and demonstration of teeth cutting in piglets' at Rajiv Nagar village in Great Nicobar Island.

The demonstrations were held at the agricultural fields of Shri Nathaniel, son of Shri S. Moses, and Smti Geeta Flourance, daughter of Late Marcus. The sessions focused on proper scientific management of piglets and the technique of teeth cutting to prevent damage to the sow's teats, reduce the risk of mastitis



in mother pigs, and minimize fighting-related injuries among the piglets. Farmers were educated on how timely teeth cutting and improved piglet management practices lead to better health, higher survival rates, and increased productivity in pig farming.

The hands-on demonstrations received enthusiastic participation from local pig rearers, who appreciated the practical

knowledge and its direct benefits for their animals. This initiative reflects the Department's continued commitment to imparting modern scientific techniques to farmers in remote islands like Great Nicobar, ultimately aiming to reduce losses, enhance productivity, and improve livelihoods through better livestock management practices, a press release from Deptt. of AH&VS said.

Continuing crackdown on Narcotics
Anti-Narcotics Police Station apprehends drug peddler; 1.375 Kg Ganja seized at Scout Hut Junction, Sri Vijaya Puram

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22

Demonstrating its firm commitment to combating drug trafficking and substance abuse in the islands, the Anti-Narcotics Police Station (ANPS), Andaman & Nicobar Police, achieved another success in its ongoing drive by apprehending a drug peddler and seizing ganja on 21st March, 2026 at Scout Hut Junction (India Map), Sri Vijaya Puram, resulting in the recovery of 1.015 Kg of illicit ganja.

Acting on specific and credible intelligence inputs, a dedicated police team from the Anti-Narcotics Police Station, led by Inspector K. Binoj, SHO, Anti-Narcotics Police Station, conducted the operation.

During the operation, the team intercepted Habiiulla Mondal @ Rinku, S/o Shri Elahe Mondal, age 25 years, Private Labourer, originally from South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, presently residing at Prem Nagar near Murdhakhari, Sri Vijaya Puram, who had come to Scout Hut Junction (India Map), Sri Vijaya Puram to strike a deal, carrying illicit ganja concealed in his backpack. Acting on the credible information, the raiding team conducted a swift



operation. During the search, 1.015 Kg of illicit ganja was recovered and seized from his possession at the spot. The contraband was seized and the accused was arrested on the spot after observing all codal formalities under the NDPS Act, 1985.

The investigation of the case has been entrusted to ASI Surya Narayan of Anti-Narcotics Police Station. During the course of investigation, a further 360 grams of illicit ganja was recovered from the accused, thereby making the total seized quantity 1.375 Kg.

The raid was conducted under the supervision of Smti. Yogita Sharma, DANIPS, Dy.SP (Narcotics) and the overall supervision of Shri Jitendra Kumar Meena, IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police (CID), A&N Islands. The team

comprised ASI Surya Narayan, ASI Thimmi Raj, ASI Sanjay Yadov, HC Laxman Rao, HC (SG) Tamil Selvam, PC M. Raja Rao and PC B. Santhosh Kumar of Anti-Narcotics Police Station.

This successful operation reflects the continued commitment and vigilance of Andaman & Nicobar Police in curbing drug trafficking and safeguarding the community from the menace of narcotics.

The Andaman and Nicobar Police urges the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities related to drug trafficking or substance abuse to the police immediately. Together, we can create a safer, drug-free society. Please report such activities at the following numbers: 112, 234216, 94342 80055, and 9531856080, a press release CID said.

2-days Mangrove Workshop organized

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workshops on similar themes in the future.

Earlier, Dr. S. Dinesh Kannan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, (Research & Working Plan and Wildlife) appealed to students and research scholars to come forward and explore new avenues of research in coastal and marine ecosystem. He highlighted various opportunities available to research communities under National Coastal Mission, an initiative of Govt. of India.

Eminent scientists and subject experts from the mainland and the islands presented various themes during the 2-day workshop, followed by presentations of scientific papers by research scholars. Shri Sanjay Srivastava, IFS (Rtd), former PCCF, Tamil Nadu, Dr. B. Nagarajan, Scientist, IFGTB, Dr. Sivaperuman, Scientist & Dy Director, ZSI, Sri Vijaya Puram, Dr. Nehru Prabhakaran, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Dr. Ramanathan, Director, CAS in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu led various sessions under 5 themes of the workshop: Role of mangroves in coastal protection and climate change mitigation; Mangrove biodiversity and associated marine life; Scope of eco-tourism in mangrove forests; Mangrove restoration techniques and best practices; and Community participation and livelihood opportunities linked to mangroves.

The 2-days workshop witnessed a total of 17 research papers cum presentations by faculties of Colleges, Research scholars, NGOs and Teachers from the island and mainland together with presentations from Departments of A & N Administration. Altogether, 75 participants mainly, students, teachers and research scholars attended the 2-days training. Participation certificates and prizes for best paper presentations were given away by the chief guest during the valedictory function. The valedictory session of the workshop concluded with vote of thanks delivered by Smt. S. Simmi, Asst. Conservator of Forests (Working Plan), a press release from Deptt. of Environment of Forests said.

Annual Physical Verification of all godowns/PDCs of Deptt. of CS&CA

Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22

The Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs shall be conducting the Annual Physical Verification of all its godowns/PDCs located in different parts of the UT from 25th March, 2026 to 31st March, 2026.

The general public

and all stakeholders have been informed that all transactions will be kept suspended during the course of Annual Physical Verification w.e.f 25th March, 2026 to 31st March, 2026, a press release from Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs said.

Street Chess event captivates Shaheed Dweep



Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 22

In an effort to connect chess with the wider community, a Street Chess event was successfully organized yesterday evening at the marketplace in Shaheed Dweep by the Andaman Nicobar Chess Association, with support from the local Gram Panchayat and Revenue Department.

Shri P. Jeevan, SHO of Shaheed Dweep, as the chief guest made the ceremonial first move to formally inaugurate the event. In his address, he highlighted the benefits of playing chess, stating that it enhances planning ability and foresight.

Players of all age groups took part in the

event and displayed their skills and passion for the game in front of an enthusiastic crowd. The busy marketplace was transformed into a lively chess venue, with games being played in the open and attracting many spectators. The event also attracted tourists, including foreign visitors, who gathered with great interest to witness the games.

The event provided a meaningful platform for people to come together and engage in a healthy and thoughtful activity. It also highlighted the growing interest in chess across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a press release from ANCA said.

SAI to organize 'Fit India Waves

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part of the nationwide Fit India Movement under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

The festival aims to promote fitness, community participation, and an active lifestyle among youth and the general public through a dynamic mix of sports, wellness activities, and fun-filled competitions all set against the scenic coastal backdrop.

Event Schedule – Beach Fitness & Fun Day	
Time	Activity
6:00 AM – 7:00 AM	Yoga Session
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Zumba Session
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Tug-of-War (Sand Edition)
	Beach Relay Race
	Sand Fitness Circuit (Planks)
	Fun Games (Spoon Race, Passing the Ball)
	Sea Kayaking (Singles, Mixed, Sea Kayak Tug-of-War)
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Challenge Games (Clock Push-Up, Collecting cones)
	Closing Ceremony & Prize Distribution

The event is open to individuals, teams, educational institutions, youth clubs, and fitness enthusiasts. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just looking for a fun day at the beach, there's something for everyone. For spot registration & details contact: Shri Manish Kumar Tiwari (Rowing Coach) - 9140891676 / 9451005745; Shri Karma Toppo (Coach - K&C) - 6297596680 / 9531956474 or Email: saibandaman88@gmail.com / Instagram: @sai.andaman, a press release from SAI said.

DSS announces summer vacation

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Chennai to meet the increased travel demand during the holiday season. Vessel Nalanda will serve passengers during May 2026 with sailings to Chennai and Kolkata via key island routes, while MV Campbell Bay will operate in June, strengthening connectivity to the Nicobar region.

All sailings are subject to weather and operational conditions, and ticket sale dates will be announced shortly. Tickets can be booked online through the DSS e-portal or at STARS counters. The schedule aims to ensure safe, reliable, and comfortable travel for all during the busy summer season, a press release from DSS said.

Circular Economy in Agriculture: Waste to Wealth

Key Takeaways

- ▶ India's agriculture residues have the potential to generate over 18,000 MW of power annually.
- ▶ Under the Crop Residue Management Initiatives, the Government provided Rs. 3,926 crore in support between 2018-19 to 2025-26.
- ▶ Additionally, more than 42,000 Custom Hiring Centres have been established and 3.24 lakh machines have been deployed to promote sustainable residue management.
- ▶ Under GOBARdhan, 979 biogas plants are operational across 51.4% of District (as of 14th January, 2026), converting dung, crop residues, and food waste into clean energy and organic manure.
- ▶ Circular agriculture supports SDGs, particularly by addressing the global food waste of 1.05 billion tonnes in 2022 of which 60% originated from households.

Introduction



The growing scale of waste generation has emerged as a critical environmental challenge with substantial economic implications. In India, as agriculture plays a pivotal role in ensuring food and nutritional security, it also generates significant waste during cultivation, harvesting, and processing. Inadequate management of agricultural waste has become a substantial source of environmental contamination affecting air, soil, and water. The country generates an estimated 350 million tonnes of agricultural waste annually, comprising crop residues, husk, straw, and by-products from food processing activities. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India's agricultural residues have the potential to generate over 18,000 MW of power annually. In addition to energy generation, these residues can be used to produce nutrient-rich organic fertilisers. Such fertilisers help enhance soil health and reduce dependence on chemical inputs in agriculture.

In addition, globally, an estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of food produced for human consumption are wasted annually, while nearly one-third of biodegradable municipal solid waste is generated in household kitchens. When organic waste, such as food waste, agricultural residues, and other biodegradable municipal waste, is inadequately managed, it decomposes in landfills, releasing methane and other greenhouse gases. This contributes to air and groundwater pollution, generates noxious odours, and accelerates environmental degradation, thereby intensifying the impacts of climate change. Therefore, land use, resource utilization, and sustainable waste management solutions have become both environmental priorities and economic necessities.

Building a Circular Economy to Balance Growth and Sustainability

The importance of adopting a "waste-to-wealth" approach lies in reimagining waste as a valuable resource rather than an economic burden and environmental issue. It necessitates a rethinking of



material flows within the economy, emphasizing the recovery, reuse, and reintegration of value. The circular economy has emerged as the most comprehensive and scalable approach for enhancing resource efficiency across the full lifecycle of products and processes.

At its core, circularity represents a systemic transformation in production and consumption patterns, aimed at minimizing the extraction of raw materials, water, and energy, while eliminating waste at every stage. This approach is guided by the principles of the six Rs—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refurbish, Recover, and Repair, ensuring that materials remain in productive use for extended periods. A defining feature of this model is "true recycling," in which waste is converted back to its original form without compromising quality, enabling higher-value recovery and avoiding the losses associated with downcycling.

Circular economy principles offer a viable, forward-looking solution that can help India balance between economic activity and ecological sustainability. By 2050, India's circular economy is expected to reach a market value of \$2 trillion and create 10 million jobs.

Realizing its potential will require aligning economic expansion with environmental stewardship, drawing inspiration from nature's efficient, regenerative recycling systems. Such systems exemplify optimal resource use and minimal waste, thereby providing a model for sustainable development.

Understanding Agricultural Waste from Production to Consumption

Agricultural waste is generated throughout the journey from farm to food plate. It includes crop residues, animal manure, processing by-products, and effluents produced during crop cultivation,



livestock rearing, post-harvest handling, and the processing of grains, fruits, vegetables, sugarcane, oilseeds, and dairy products. Crop Residues / Stubble: The agricultural waste cycle begins at the post-harvest stage, when crops leave behind residues such as stalks, straw, and stubble. A substantial proportion of this biomass is productively utilized as cattle feed, compost, biogas, mulch, or fuel. However, a significant share is still burned in situ to facilitate rapid land preparation for subsequent cropping cycles. Residue burning leads to the depletion of soil nutrients, degradation of soil health, and the emission of greenhouse gases.

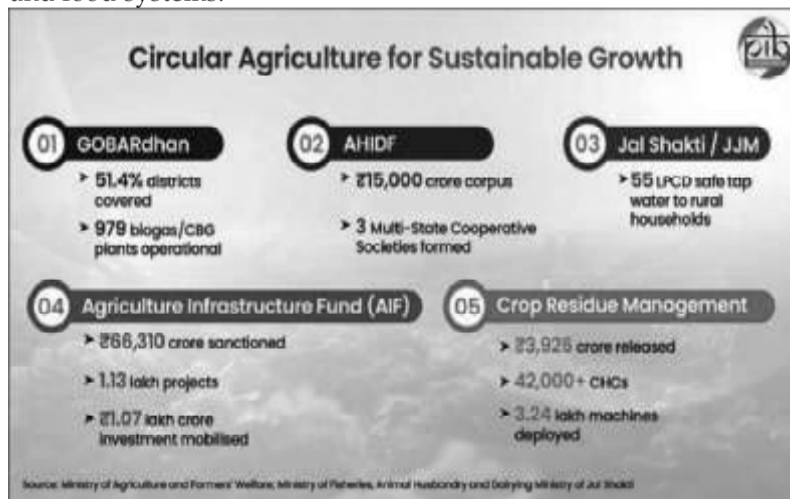
What is Biomass?

Biomass refers to organic material derived from living or recently living plants and animals that can be used as a source of energy, materials, or nutrients.

Animal Manure, By-products, and Carcasses: Livestock farming constitutes a significant source of agricultural waste, particularly in India, where large animal populations generate enormous quantities of dung and bedding waste. In the case of a disease outbreak, the safe and timely disposal of animal carcasses is essential to prevent the transmission of infectious and zoonotic diseases. Therefore, proper carcass management underscores the importance of expanding infrastructure, financing, and technical capacity to ensure environmentally sound and public health-safe disposal practices.

Post-Harvest Losses: Post-harvest losses refer to measurable reductions in both quantity and quality of a product. These losses can occur at any stage of the post-harvest system. Food losses may be quantitative, such as a decrease in weight or volume, or qualitative, including loss of nutrients and undesirable changes in taste, colour, texture, or appearance. Better post-harvest supply chain management would minimize waste, increase real consumption, and enhance income across the economy.

Food waste: Food waste occurs later in the value chain, including markets, retail outlets, and households, where edible food is discarded. Such wastage contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. However, emerging technologies are increasingly converting food waste into value-added products, such as engineered biochar, which has the potential to sequester carbon, enhance soil health, and remove environmental contaminants. By transforming waste into a resource, food waste management is evolving into a crucial pillar of circularity within the agriculture and food systems.



Government Initiatives Driving Circularity in Agriculture

The government is implementing various policies to promote circularity in agriculture and allied sectors by converting waste into valuable resources. Initiatives such as Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) and Crop Residue Management are transforming agricultural, animal, and food waste into organic manure.

Complementing these schemes, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) support the development of infrastructure to convert agricultural waste into value. Additionally, the Jal Shakti Mission encourages the reuse of domestic and industrial wastewater for non-potable purposes, including agriculture, landscaping, and horticulture. All these initiatives are working towards the 'waste-to-wealth' approach by promoting resource recovery, reuse, and value addition across the agriculture and allied sectors.

Transforming Crop Residues and Biomass into Resources

Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan): The scheme brings together multiple ministries to convert cattle dung, crop residues, and food waste into compressed biogas (CBG) and organic manure. In 2023, the government launched the Unified GOBARdhan Portal to enhance transparency and functionality. By 14th January 2026, the scheme covered 51.4% of India's districts and had 979 operational biogas plants, indicating substantial progress in sustainable waste management. Additionally, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed crop-specific guidelines to help farmers use biogas slurry to enhance soil health.

Additionally, the government has eased regulations and introduced targeted incentives to enhance the scheme's impact. The inclusion of compressed biogas (CBG) in carbon credit trading, tax relief on CBG-blended fuels, and simplified norms for organic manure under the Fertiliser Control Order have accelerated biogas adoption, attracted private investment, and strengthened the national waste-to-wealth ecosystem.

Crop Residue Management (CRM): The CRM initiative aims to reduce the open burning of crop residues by promoting in-situ management, where residues are directly incorporated into the soil or used as mulch, and ex-situ management, where residues are collected for composting, biogas production, or bioenergy. These

practices help improve soil health, enhance farm productivity, and promote effective waste management.

Under the scheme, from 2018-19 to 2025-26, Rs. 3,926.16 crore has been released to the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, and ICAR. During this period, the states have set up over 42,000 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) for crop residue management machines, and more than 3.24 lakh machines have been supplied to these CHCs and individual farmers.

Building Infrastructure to Convert Agricultural Waste into Value

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF): The AIF plays a key role in strengthening the agricultural value chains, including those involved in organic agriculture. Organic farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and agri-entrepreneurs have leveraged AIF support to establish warehouses, cold storage facilities, sorting and grading units, and primary processing centres.

▶ Launched in 2020-21, the AIF provides medium to long-term institutional credit for the development of post-harvest infrastructure and farm-level assets.

▶ As of 2025, the AIF has supported 545 projects related to organic input production, with loan sanctions totaling Rs. 850 crore, underscoring the growing recognition of organic farming as both environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

▶ Additionally, Rs. 66,310 crore has been sanctioned across 1,13,419 projects, mobilising total investments of Rs. 1,07,502 crore in the agriculture sector. Major projects supported under AIF include:

- 30,202 custom hiring centres,
- 22,827 processing units,
- 15,982 warehouses,
- 3,703 sorting and grading units,
- 2,454 cold storage projects, and
- around 38,251 other post-harvest management projects, along with the creation of viable community farm assets.

These initiatives contribute to improved value addition, reduced post-harvest losses, and enhanced income opportunities for farmers.

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF): Launched in 2020, the Government has introduced the AHIDF under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, with a corpus of Rs. 15,000 crore to strengthen infrastructure across the livestock value chain. The fund is designed to catalyse private and cooperative investments in meat and dairy processing, animal feed manufacturing, and waste-to-wealth management, thereby enhancing value addition, efficiency, and resilience in the animal husbandry sector. To embed sustainability and circularity into the dairy ecosystem, the government has initiated the formation of three exclusive Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) with specific objectives: -

To supply cattle feed, mineral mixtures, and technical inputs that enhance livestock productivity.

To promote organic manure production and sustainable waste utilization through cooperative models, converting cow dung and agricultural waste into organic fertilizers and biogas.

To facilitate scientific management of hides, bones, and horns of fallen animals, ensuring responsible disposal while creating additional value streams within the livestock sector.

This approach supports natural farming practices, promotes circularity by minimizing waste, and addresses the rising demand for environmentally sustainable soil inputs, thereby enhancing the resilience and long-term sustainability of the livestock sector.

Water Management for Sustainable Agriculture: Initiatives under Jal Shakti Mission

The Ministry of Jal Shakti promotes the treatment and reuse of domestic and wastewater for non-drinking purposes, such as agriculture, landscaping, and horticulture, through schemes such as the National Mission for Clean Ganga, PMKSY-Watershed Development, and Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

The Ministry also focuses on water conservation and source sustainability by supporting watershed development, rainwater harvesting, revival of traditional water bodies, and groundwater recharge. These efforts improve water availability for irrigation, reduce pressure on groundwater, and encourage a resource-efficient and sustainable approach to water management in agriculture and allied sectors.

Complementing wastewater reuse initiatives, the Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Jal (launched in August 2019), focuses on ensuring universal access to safe and adequate drinking water in rural areas. The mission provides functional household tap water connections supplying 55 litres per capita per day of potable water, thereby reinforcing India's long-term objectives of water security and sustainable water governance.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)-aligned Circular Agriculture Practices

Circular agriculture is closely aligned with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. It supports SDG 2, which aims to "end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture".

In particular, SDG indicator 2.4.1 emphasises the need for resilient farming systems that improve soil health and reduce dependence on chemical inputs. In India, practices such as composting, biochar use, and biomass recycling contribute to these objectives by enhancing soil fertility, improving productivity, and promoting environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Moreover, circular agriculture supports the SDGs by reducing global food waste, which reached 1.05 billion tonnes in 2022, of which 60% generated at the household level.

Conclusion

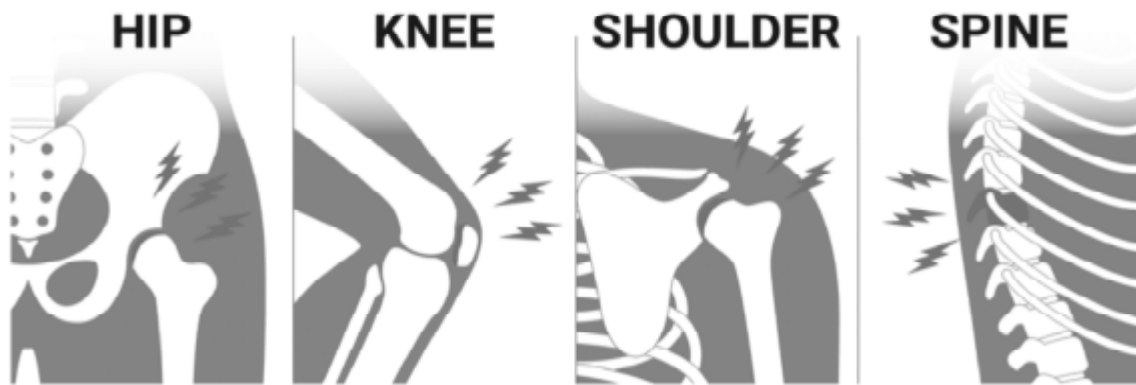
India's shift towards a circular economy in agriculture demonstrates that environmental sustainability and economic growth can be mutually reinforcing. While the scale of agricultural and food waste poses a significant concern, targeted policies, strategic infrastructure investments, and coordinated institutional action are increasingly converting waste into energy, organic inputs, water resources, and livelihood opportunities. Flagship initiatives such as GOBARdhan, crop residue management programmes, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), and the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) represent the potential of circular agriculture to enhance soil fertility and water security, and to strengthen farm resilience. By scaling proven interventions, strengthening local institutions, and aligning economic incentives with ecological outcomes, circular agriculture can play a pivotal role in ensuring long-term food security, climate resilience, and inclusive rural development, turning agricultural waste into a cornerstone of sustainable prosperity.

(Source: PIB)

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The General Public are hereby informed that my client Smti. Venkatakshmi S. Wife of Late Panneerselvam resident of Haddo Village under Sri Vijaya Puram Tehsil has filed a Civil Suit being other Suit No.26 of 2026 before the Ld. Court of Civil Judge Senior Division, Port Blair against Mr. S. Balaguru for Specific Performance of the Contract in respect of the land bearing Survey No. 2A/7/1 measuring an area of 144 Sq. Mtrs. situated at Haddo Village Ward No. 1 under Sri Vijaya Puram Tehsil wherein the Hon'ble Court after hearing the plaintiff passed an ad-interim order on 17.03.2026 and thereby directed all the parties are directed not to change the nature & character of Suit property & not to convey, transfer or dispose of the same to any third party. If any person despite issuance of this Public Notice tried to purchase the above said property then he may do so at his / her risk and to face the legal consequences.

Sd./- (K. Vijay Kumar) Advocate

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On 23.03.2026

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