



स्वास्थ्य सुधा

Department of Health & Family Welfare
Andaman & Nicobar Administration



Strengthening Healthcare in Andaman & Nicobar Islands: A Step Towards Universal Health Coverage

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are committed to achieving the highest possible level of health and well-being for all, at all ages. Guided by the vision of "Universal access to good and quality healthcare services at affordable and free of cost," the region is making significant strides in preventive and promotive healthcare. Aligning with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, which aims to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" by 2030, various initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen the healthcare system across all levels.

At the primary healthcare level, Health & Wellness Centers (HWCs) are enhancing access to comprehensive primary care services, focusing on prevention, early diagnosis, and health promotion. Community Health Centers (CHCs), District Hospitals serve as pillars secondary health care, providing essential medical treatments. Meanwhile, G.B. Pant Hospital in Sri Vijaya Puram also serves as a tertiary care center, offering specialized and advanced medical services. To reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures, the administration ensures: Free treatment at all public hospitals, ensuring healthcare remains accessible to all.

IN THIS EDITION

- Transforming Healthcare: A Step towards Sustainable Development
- From the Secretary (Health)'s Desk
- Message from Director of Health Services & ANIIMS
- Health Indicators of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Health Infrastructure
- ANIIMS in spotlight
- DHS: Beacon for Health
- AYUSH: Pioneering Holistic Health Care

Transforming Healthcare: A Step Towards Sustainable Development



Under the leadership of **Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Chief Secretary, A & N Administration, and Chairman-Executive Council, ANIIMERS**, the Health Department excels with a focus on quality healthcare, innovation, and community well-being. His strategic vision and hands-on approach drive robust public health initiatives, enhancing accessibility, equity, and excellence across healthcare services in the islands.



**SHRI A.S.P.S. RAVI PRAKASH, IAS
COMMISSIONER CUM SECRETARY
A & N ADMINISTRATION**

Ensuring good health and well-being for all is fundamental to sustainable development. Achieving this goal requires not only strengthening medical infrastructure but also addressing the social, economic, and environmental determinants of health through a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach. A healthy population is not just a necessity—it is an asset that enables communities to thrive, economies to prosper, and societies to flourish.

In the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, where geographical constraints and diverse health challenges exist, strengthening our healthcare system is a top priority. We must focus on universal access to healthcare, disease prevention, maternal and child health, and the reduction of out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures to ensure equitable health outcomes for all. By fostering a culture of health awareness, strengthening partnerships across sectors, and investing in a robust healthcare system, we can ensure a healthier, more resilient Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Let us continue our commitment to transforming healthcare for a sustainable and prosperous future.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first edition of our Health Newsletter, a step towards strengthening communication and awareness about the healthcare landscape in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This initiative aims to keep you informed about key developments, achievements, and ongoing efforts in our mission to ensure "Health for All."

Health is the foundation of a thriving society, and our administration remains committed to providing accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services to every citizen, regardless of their location free of cost. Over the years, we have worked towards building a robust healthcare system, with a strong network of primary, secondary, and tertiary care facilities catering to the unique geographical and demographic needs of these islands. The influx of tourists presents a significant challenge to the healthcare system, as their numbers frequently rival or surpass the local population. This surge places added pressure on medical services, emergency care, and disease surveillance, requiring a proactive and adaptable healthcare response.

A key pillar of our healthcare ecosystem is ANIIMS (Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences), which plays a vital role in medical education, training, and advanced healthcare services. Alongside ANIIMS, the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) ensures the smooth functioning of healthcare facilities across the islands, providing essential medical services, public health programs, and emergency care.



DR. ANIL AGARWAL
SECRETARY (HEALTH)
MD(NHM/NAM)

Additionally, AYUSH services have been seamlessly integrated into our general health system, offering holistic and traditional healing options that complement modern medicine.

Our vision is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, aiming to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages."

I encourage all stakeholders to actively participate in this journey and contribute towards making Andaman & Nicobar Islands a model of excellence in healthcare. Let us continue our commitment to Universal Health Coverage, ensuring that no one is left behind in these remote but pristine islands.

Message from Director of Health Services & ANIIMS

The Directorate of Health Services (DHS) is committed to ensuring quality healthcare for all residents of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, despite the unique challenges posed by our scattered geography. Our goal is to strengthen the healthcare system at all levels—primary, secondary, and tertiary care—to provide accessible, affordable, and comprehensive medical services to every individual.

At the primary and secondary healthcare levels, we continue to expand and upgrade Health & Wellness Centers, Primary Health Centers (PHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs), and District Hospitals, ensuring that essential healthcare services reach even the most remote communities. For tertiary care, ANIIMS – G.B. Pant Hospital in Sri Vijaya Puram provides specialized and advanced medical treatment.

Through the implementation of various national health programs, we are actively working on maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, immunization, and public health initiatives. Our frontline health workers—ASHAs, ANMs, and CHOs—are the true strength of our community health system, working tirelessly to bring healthcare services directly to the people.

ANIIMS (Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences), the only medical college in the Union Territory. ANIIMS plays a crucial role in medical education, training, and research, shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals. Over the years,



DR. SUJA ANTONY
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES &
DIRECTOR (ANIIMS)
A & N ADMINISTRATION

four batches of MBBS students have successfully graduated, and postgraduate courses have commenced in select departments, further strengthening specialized medical care. With a dedicated team of doctors engaged in teaching, research, and clinical practice, ANIIMS strives for academic excellence while contributing to high-quality patient care in the region. Healthcare is a shared responsibility, and only by working together—health professionals, government agencies, and communities—can we achieve "Health for All" in these scattered islands. Let us continue to strive towards a healthier, stronger, and more resilient Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Health Indicators of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Indicators	Source	Target	Unit	2022	2023
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	Sample Registration System 2020	SDG Target <22 by 2030	Per 1000 live birth	7	7
Percentage of Institutional Deliveries out of Total estimated deliveries	Civil Registration System (CRS)	100 %	percentage	99.01 %	99.38 %
Percentage of Full Immunization Coverage	State Immunisation Unit (SIU)	100 %	percentage	90.6%	92.9%
Total TB Case Notification	NIKSHAY	screen	Target	530	520
			Achievement (number, %)	536 (101%)	540 (104%)
Reduce the no. of deaths due to TB	NIKSHAY	3 per lakh by 2025	Target	3 Per Lakh by 2025	3 Per Lakh by 2025
			Achievement	13 deaths (3.31 per lakh)	10 deaths (2.54 per lakh)



Health Infrastructure

Health Institutions	Total	Upgraded / converted to Health and Wellness Centre (HWC): Ayushman Aarogya Mandir
Sub Centre (SC)	126	126
Primary Health Centre (PHC)	22	22
Urban Health Centre (UHC)	05	05
Community Health Centre (CHC)	04	–
District Hospital	02	–
Ayush Hospital	01	–
Referral Hospital (Medical College)	01 ANIIMS & G B Pant Hospital	



ANIIMS: In Spotlight



A 71 year old male traveller from New York, was admitted at G B Pant Hospital after an RTA in Havelock, sustaining pelvic diastasis; sacroiliac joint, and vertebral fractures. He was successfully managed non-operatively by the **Department of Orthopaedics, ANIIMS**, conservatively, He remained stable ,was

Curative & Cosmetic plastic surgery procedures, by Dr. Suparna PN (in-house plastic surgeon), **Assistant Professor, Plastic Surgery, ANIIMS**



Treatment of Gynecomastia



Reduction Chelioplasty



Glabellar Flap Post Basal Cell Carcinoma Excision



Management of Post Burn Contractures

ANIIMS: In Spotlight

Curative & Cosmetic Dermatological Procedures, by Dr Arisha Salam, Department of Dermatology, ANIIMS



Autologous Mini Punch Grafting for Vitiligo Vulgaris



Surgical Ear Lobe Repair



Surgical Compound Nevus Excision

Inauguration and Operationalization of new state of the ART 128 Slice CT Scan Machine by Dr. Anil Agarwal, Secretary (Health), MD (NHM/NAM) on 25th February 2025



ANIIMS: In Spotlight

Multi-speciality Camp: Prashsan Apke Dwar Camp at PHC Katchal

Dr. Mohammed Suliman (Surgeon, DHS), Dr. Anjali (AP, Ophthalmology, ANIIMS), Dr. Raju (AP, Obstetrics & Gynaecology)



Management of Critically-ill Swedish National by Department of Surgery, ANIIMS

A 60-year-old Swedish national, fell in a hotel bathroom at Swaraj Dweep on January 20, 2025, losing consciousness. He was admitted to G.B. Pant Hospital in critical condition with poor GCS and respiratory distress. Successfully managed by the **Department of Surgery**, he was intubated and placed on ventilatory support in SICU. As per embassy directives, he was transferred via air ambulance to Bangkok, with information conveyed to the Medical Superintendent.



Directorate of Health Services: Beacon for Health

National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP):

- **Source Reduction Activities** for mosquito control - domestic & peri domestic breeding places across all three districts.
- **Malaria and other Vector Control Response (MVCR) training** for Surveillance Workers, Insect Collectors, District Malaria Officer, Assistant Malaria Officer and Malaria Inspector.
- **Night Filaria Survey** of Random site & Sentinel site, and **Transmission Assessment Survey (TAS II)** completed at Nicobar District November 2024



National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP):

- **Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign** on 30th January 2025
- MCR footwear distributed for 11 leprosy patients
- One leprosy patient with hand deformity was referred to the Central Leprosy Training & Research Institute, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu for Reconstructive Surgery (RCS). The surgery was successfully performed, and the patient has returned to his native village.



Directorate of Health Services: Beacon for Health

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP):

The District TB Centre, South Andaman, conducted a TB awareness programme at Mohanpura. Dr. Dency Tony highlighted TB symptoms, treatment, and government initiatives. Attendees were screened, and presumptive cases were referred for evaluation. The event promoted early detection and treatment, aligning with India's TB elimination efforts.



Immunization of Shompen Tribe (PVTG) at LAFUL

On October 23, 2024, the PHC Campbell Bay medical team, in collaboration with Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS), visited Laful/Trinket Bay to provide healthcare for the Shompen tribe. Two newborns received vaccinations under the Universal Immunization Program (UIP), including OPV 0, while postnatal mothers underwent health check-ups as part of the outreach camp.



Directorate of Health Services: Beacon for Health

Reproductive, Maternal , Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCHA+N)

- Mini Reproductive & Child Health Camp and aswareness session was organised at Bada Khadi, Rut land under PHC Manglutan
- Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and postnatal care provided through home visits by frontline health workers, including ASHAs and ANMs, play a crucial role in reducing maternal and infant mortality by ensuring regular check-ups, early identification of complications, and promoting newborn care practices at the community level.



Special Vaccination Drive in A & N Islands:

With a focus to improve vaccination coverage of missed cases a pan UT drive was conducted between 2-8 December 2024. 26 Anetnatal Mothers and 69 children were vaccinated during this drive. Also, 120 children who were prior vaccinated with pentavalent vaccine and 720 children vaccinted with MR vaccine in private health clinics were registered in Health Management Information System (HMIS).



AYUSH: Pioneering Holistic Health Care

Ayush Service: Infrastructure

1. **Ayush Dispensaries:** Integrated with General Health System under Health Dept, NHM & NAM for holistic healthcare across PHCs, CHCs, and DHS:

A) Ayurveda Dispensaries co-located with:

02 District Hospitals
03 Community Health Centres
12 Primary Health Centres

B) Homeopathic Dispensaries co-located with:

02 District Hospitals
04 Community Health Centres
10 Primary Health Centres

C) Yoga Wellness Centres co-located with:

02 District Hospitals
03 Community Health Centres.
03 Primary Health Centres.

2. 6 Ayush HWCs/AAMs at Health Sub-Centres (HSCs).

3. **30-Bed AYUSH Hospital** Functioning at Sri Vijaya Puram, offers Ayurveda Panchakarma, Homoeo and Yoga Therapies.

4. **Yoga & Naturopathy Unit** at Integrated AYUSH Hospital at Junglighat (Phase-I).



AYUSH: Pioneering Holistic Health Care

Upcoming Projects: 50 bedded Ayush Hospital

50 bedded AYUSH Hospital has been planned at Junglighat, Sri Vijaya Puram to cater the increasing service of people in the Islands.

- The Foundation Stone of the project was laid down by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- A land has been allotted for the Project.
- The Phase I building of the Project having of Yoga Therapies, Yoga Practice Halls (Male & Female), Medicine Stores, Seminar Hall, Admin block has been completed and made functional by Hon'ble Union Home Minister.



In-Situ Yoga Sessions for PVTG



Upcoming Projects

To start Postgraduate (MD/MS) courses in all specialties at the institute.

The proposal for Upgradation of G.B Pant Hospital through APWD in process.

Hiring of Super-specialist Doctors-proposal for 13 posts creation sent to MoHFW, GoI.

Procurement of new MRI machine in the next Fiscal Year

03 more new modular OTs procurement is in process subject to availability of fund of Rs. 5.00 Cr. in next Fiscal Year.

Establishment of nursing college & hostel in co-location with ANIIMS under MoHFW scheme



"Glimpses of the pan-district 'Cataract & Eye Care Camp' conducted in 2024 with Collaboration of MoHFW, ANIIMS, DHS, NPCBVI and VMMC & SJH Medical College, New Delhi in which 462 patients were treated for Cataract at G B Pant Hospital, Sri Vijaya Puram"



Home Based Care for Young Child (HBYC)

Strengthening of Health and Nutrition through Home visits

Do you know?

Exclusive breastfeeding for first six months satisfies all the nutrition needs of your baby

First
visit

at 3
months



Second
visit

at 6
months



Third
visit

at 9
months



Fourth
visit

at 12
months



Fifth
visit

at 15
months



ASHA TO CHECK AND COUNSEL THE FAMILY TO ENSURE:



Mother to exclusively breastfeed till 6 months



Mother receives adequate diet



Use of MCP card for regular monitoring of child's growth & development



Child receives timely vaccination



Age appropriate play and communication



Handwashing using soap by all care givers

CONTINUE BREASTFEEDING EVEN IF CHILD IS SICK. IT HELPS IN FAST RECOVERY

Under JSSK, free treatment and referral for sick children up-to one year of age