

Volume I-March 2025

## DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, PUBLICITY AND TOURISM

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION

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## INTERNATIONAL FAME FOR NICOBARI VIRGIN COCONUT OIL

"**Friends**, there is another piece of very good news from Andaman and Nicobar Islands too. Virgin coconut oil in Nicobar district has recently received the GI Tag. After the GI Tag, another new initiative has been undertaken for Virgin Coconut Oil. Self-Help Groups are being formed by organizing the women associated with the production of this oil. They are also being imparted special training in marketing and branding. This is a big step towards economically empowering our tribal communities," said Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi while addressing the countrymen through his 118th Mann Ki Baat radio programme on 19th January, 2025. "I am sure that in future, the Virgin Coconut Oil of Andaman Nicobar is going to be a newsmaker in the world and the biggest contribution in that will be of the Women Self-Help Groups of Andaman and Nicobar," he added.

The grant of GI tag to the traditional, organic and authentic products of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a landmark achievement for these Islands. It has the potential to promote the local producers on the world stage.



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In a first, seven products of any Union Territory have received the GI tags at one go -- Nicobari Mat (Chatrai-hileuoi), Nicobari Hut (Chanvi Pati-Nyi hupul), Nicobari Hodi (Outrigger Canoe), Padauk Wood Craft, Andaman & Nicobar Coconut, Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich (Virgin Coconut Oil), & Andaman Karen Musley Rice. Other products are also in the process of receiving the GI tag.

## BENEFITS OF GI TAG

The GI tagged virgin coconut oil is made from organic coconuts using traditional technique by Nicobarese tribal families, tuhets and Self Help Groups. VCO is not subjected to high temperatures, solvents procedures and therefore retains the fresh scent and taste of coconuts. The VCO has great demand during the traditional feasts and festivals, and amongst tourists also. With the grant of GI tag, it will help the producers to reach the wider market and customers to buy the authentic products of the Islands.



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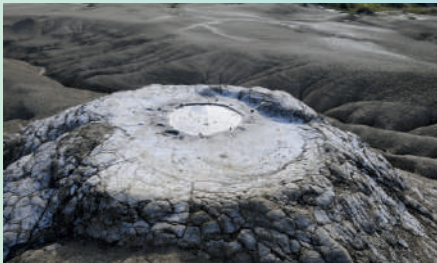
## TABLE OF CONTENTS



**HLG's Speech on  
Republic Day**



**History**



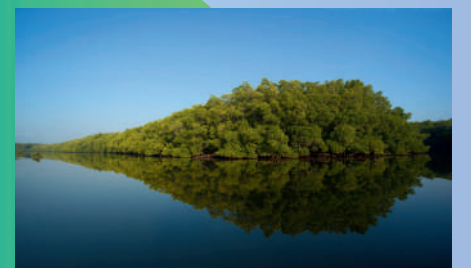
**Island**



**People**



**Culture**



**Nature**



**Event tracker**



**Snippets from the  
Districts**



**Social Media  
Reviews**

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## REPUBLIC DAY SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

On the Auspicious Republic Day of 2025, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Admiral D. K. Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM(Retd), delivered a comprehensive address outlining significant initiatives across various sectors, emphasizing the Administration's commitment to holistic development. He emphasized that the A&N Administration is committed towards timely implementation of major decisions regarding 100% power generation from renewable energy by the year 2029, 100% coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme by the year 2027, study of health condition and need of medical experts in the Islands to be completed in the next 2 months, Odisha-Diglipur Optical fiber project, flag hoisting and drone photography on all the Islands.

He also informed that the first flight operation between Kuala Lumpur-Sri Vijaya Puram started in 16th November 2024. Under RCS-UDAN, service will commence soon in Sri Vijaya Puram - Shibpur and Car Nicobar sector. The construction work of the Civil Passenger Terminal building at Campbell Bay Airport is likely to be completed by April, 2025. To strengthen Air Connectivity in the Islands and to connect Sri Vijaya Puram with Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Long Island, Sea-Plane demo was successfully carried out on Nov. 17, 2024.

For the upcoming tourist season, he also expressed appreciation for release of policies to promote bird watching, caravans and luxury tents as tourism activities and SoP to introduce Day Tourism in Cinque Island.

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10.01.2025  
ALEXANDRA ISLAND

## FLAG HOISTING ACROSS ISLANDS

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprises a total of 836 islands—533 in the North and Middle Andaman, 159 in South Andaman, and 144 in the Nicobar. In a historic tribute to India's armed forces, Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi renamed 21 islands in honor of Param Vir Chakra recipients. Among these are Ekka Dweep, Hoshiar Dweep, and Banna Dweep—a gesture that embeds the valour and legacy of India's military personnel into the very geography of the nation.

The 76th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2025, were marked by extensive flag-hoisting events throughout the islands. Commencing on January 7, the flag hoisting activities culminated on January 26, with the data from each island subsequently uploaded to the PM Gati Shakti portal. Out of the 836 islands in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, flags were successfully hoisted on 744 islands. This initiative was undertaken by teams from the Administration Department, Forest Department, Police, Coast Guard, and Revenue Department. On some islands, logistical challenges posed by high tides and natural barriers necessitated flag hoisting from boats, with drone photography capturing these moments. On 26 January, Flag Hoisting was done in all the inhabited islands of A & N Islands.

Today, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands stand as a symbol of resilience, national pride, and environmental splendour, with the 76th Republic Day celebrations marking yet another historic moment in their enduring legacy.

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## A JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE AND TIME

CNN Travel's has curated a list of 25 must-visit destinations for 2025, featuring the Andaman & Nicobar Islands at an impressive second place among global hotspots. This just confirms what already is a known secret to all the tourists and locals alike. Andaman and Nicobar Islands is packed with stories of breathtaking geographical beauty and awe-inspiring historical insights. Be it brimming with life in the underwater world or lifeless Barren Island, spatially, these Islands are a never waning charm for the visitors.

As many as 270 species and sub-species of birds have been reported existing in these islands, 106 of them being endemic. The Andaman Wood Pigeon, Andaman Padauk and Dugong are declared as State Bird, State Tree and State Animal respectively. There are about 96 Wildlife Sanctuaries, nine National Parks and one Biosphere Reserve in the islands. Sandy beaches are the natural choice for turtles to nest. The Islands are covered by dense forests with innumerable species of orchids, ferns, exotic flowers and also serve as a home to many endemic birds. The wild life includes spotted deer, wild boar, gecko and crab-eating macaque and python in the southern Islands.

Sri Vijaya Puram- the capital and gateway to the islands lies in South Andaman Island and falls under South Andaman District. These islands also have historically significant landmarks viz. Cellular Jail, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, Viper Island, Hopetown and Mount Manipur.

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The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are a haven for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike. The Radhanagar beach in Swaraj Dweep, the pride of these Islands is one among the eight beaches of the country that has been awarded the prestigious 'Blue Flag Certification'. This certification is also a global recognition of India's conservation and sustainable development efforts. Visitors can soak in the serene beachside atmosphere and for those craving adventure, the islands boast a plethora of watersports, including snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking, and jet skiing.

With the launch of the first-ever scheduled international passenger flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Sri Vijaya Puram—the capital of Andaman & Nicobar Islands—on November 16, 2024, accessibility to this tropical haven has significantly improved. This milestone marks a new era in tourism for the region, opening doors for international travelers seeking an unspoiled paradise. The tourist footfall in the Islands has surpassed the pre-Covid level in the current tourism season and the numbers are on an upward trend. The operationalization of night landing facilities at Sri Vijaya Puram airport also has eased flight operations and made travel to these pristine islands more comfortable.


With its unspoiled beaches, rich marine biodiversity, historical significance, and improved connectivity, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are set to become one of the top global travel destinations in 2025. Whether you're looking for a peaceful retreat, an adventure, or a unique cultural experience, these islands promise something for every traveler on every visit.

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## CAR NICOBAR'S CYCLING REVOLUTION

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands have long been known for their scenic beauty, but now they are making waves in the world of sports—particularly in cycling. At the 38th National Games, the Islands' cyclists delivered a groundbreaking performance, winning an impressive 9 medals, including 5 Gold medals. This remarkable success has put the spotlight on Andaman & Nicobar as an emerging hub for cycling, with Car Nicobar playing a crucial role in producing top-tier talent.


Cycling is not just about pedalling fast—it is a combination of speed, endurance, technique, and tactical intelligence. The sport requires rigorous training, mental toughness, and an exceptional ability to push beyond physical limits. Track cycling, in particular, has gained immense popularity, with events like the Sprint, Keirin, and Time Trial showcasing thrilling speed and strategy. Car Nicobar, one of the main islands in the Nicobar archipelago, has turned into a powerhouse for cycling, producing some of India's finest athletes in the sport. Known for its rich sporting culture and natural athleticism, the island has consistently produced cyclists who shine on national and international stages.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands have made history at the 38th National Games, with a spectacular performance that has placed them among the country's elite sporting regions. The Island team won 9 medals—5 Gold, 3 Silver, and 1 Bronze in cycling and have dominated the national stage, proving that they are a rising force in Cycling.

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SPORT	S.No.	EVENT	MEDAL	NAME OF THE MEDALIST
CYCLING MEN	1	Men's Individual Sprint	Gold	Mr. David Beckham
			Bronze	Mr. Esow Alben
	2	Men's Team Sprint	Gold	1. Mr. David Beckham 2. Mr. Esow Alben 3. Mr. Gourav Mondal 4. Mr. Subhash Sengupta
	3	Men's 1 km Individual Time Trial	Gold	Mr. David Beckham
	4	Men's Keirin	Gold	Mr. David Beckham
			Silver	Mr. Esow Alben
CYCLING WOMEN	5	Women's 500 Mts. Individual Time Trial	Gold	Ms. Celestina
	6	Women's Team Sprint	Silver	1. Ms. Deborah Herold 2. Ms. Nikita 3. Ms. Celestina
	7	Women's Individual Sprint	Silver	Ms. Celestina

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## CULTURAL SPLENDOUR OF NANCOWRY ISLANDS

Nestled in the heart of the Nicobar Islands, Nancowry group of Islands stand as a testament to the Nicobarese people's resilience and cultural pride, making it a fascinating place where tradition and heritage continue to thrive amidst changing times.

The Nicobarese tribe living in Nancowry (Nang-kauri or Muot) are known for their deep respect for nature, living in harmony with the environment. Their economy is primarily based on fishing, hunting, and horticulture, with coconut and arecanut cultivation playing a crucial role in their livelihoods. Traditional canoes, called Hodi, are expertly crafted from a single tree trunk, showcasing their remarkable maritime skills.

They follow a distinct socio-political system, where each village functions as an independent unit governed by an elected headman, known as the Captain or Chief. Elders play a significant role in decision-making, ensuring that traditions and customs are upheld across generations. In 1982, Rani Lachmi decided to introduce the system of electing village captains through the ballot box. In 1992 Tribal Councils (also referred to as "Island Councils") were established in the Nicobars. Functioning like a mini-government of an island, the Tribal Councils are the only institutions officially recognized by the Indian Government. The "TUHET" or large joint family is mostly prevalent in Car Nicobar island of Nicobars district.

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At the turn of the twentieth century, Nicobarese houses increasingly became rectangular due to the influence of Indian and Burmese traders who set up shops and trading posts in Car Nicobar. Their huts can be distinguished from standard ones by the presence of Kareau (ancestral statues), an assortment of Hentakoi (ritual objects), and the jaws of pigs sacrificed at the last feast. Kareau are human figures carved out of wood found mainly in the central and southern islands. Generally life-size, all Kareau represent a male figure who is mostly dressed in a loincloth called a Ning.

The Nicobarese most closely identify themselves with their name Tuhet or Kamuanse. These are not necessarily named for the founder (for example, a well-known Kamuanse in Nancowry is called Nyi-Halek, meaning "house of tremendous hospitality").

The Nicobarese community has several festivals of traditional as well as Christian origin, which is celebrated with a grand feast. Music & Dance are key components of Nicobarese festivals.

Dancing is always accompanied by singing. The Nicobarese dance is a circular dance performed near the houses. There is a leader in a monotonous concerted sound and then the dances step right and left under his direction, and jump in unison, coming down on both heels. The Nicobarese are musical people, and sing clearly and well in unison. The most popular musical instrument is Guitar.

The Ossuary or the Pig Festival is a much celebrated traditional festival, accompanied with Hodi (canoe) race, pig fighting and stick fighting. Christmas is the Nancowrie Island's month long celebration, where carol singing parties go for all night long carol rounds across the island and spread the festive spirit to all Islanders.

Only the lucky few can experience all these elements as the Nancowrie Islands are prohibited area under PAT Regulations..

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## HARITAM – A WINDOW TO APPRECIATE OUR NATURE & BIO-DIVERSITY

Towards the fulfilment of its mandate to reach out to diverse stakeholders and residents of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Middle Andaman Forest Division has conceptualized and set up 'Haritam- the Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC) in Uttara Jetty, Kadamtala. Located amidst the salubrious backdrop of lush green mangrove forests the series of 7 eco-huts stand on stilts in the Humphrey Creek overlooking the Azad Hind Fauj Setu that connects Baratang Island to Middle Andaman Island. This is a significant step towards environmental conservation and sustainable tourism. The initiative is expected to become a cornerstone of ecological education and rural development in the Middle Andaman Region.

### 'HARITAM'

Featuring informative displays, interactive exhibits and easy to understand models, the NIC provides deep insights into the Forest ecosystem, conservation strategies, and indigenous communities, in particular, the Jarawas. The NIC is equipped with displays detailing the indigenous flora, as well as the marine and terrestrial fauna of the islands in eco-huts each highlighting a specific aspect. The exhibits provide visitors with a comprehensive understanding of the region's bio-diversity and the intricate balance between its land and aquatic habitats.

### INFO DISPLAY BOARD WALK

Another key attraction of the NIC is the exhibition on the culture, lifestyle, and

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traditional hunting methods of the indigenous Jarawa tribe. These exhibits offer visitors a rare opportunity to learn about the unique heritage of the Jarawas, their deep connection with nature and traditional way of life. The display includes their Hunting Equipment like arrows and fishing net and also day to day use items like Bamboo baskets and traditional torch (Mashaal).

Haritam also show cases the Timber Extraction process in the forests of Andaman giving a bird's eye view to various stages of timber extraction, from identification and felling of trees to transportation of logs for conversion. The exhibit highlights the sustainable practices adopted to ensure minimal environmental impact. Through these displays, visitors gain a deeper understanding of the role of the Forest Department in the region and the importance of responsible resource management.



Haritam has already grabbed the attention of residents and visitors to North & Middle Andaman Island in view of its location being very close to the National Highway-4. The local PRIs have welcomed this initiative of The Forest Department in bringing our Nature within easy reach.

It is foreseen that the NIC will grow into an important Centre of education and relaxation in the region. The Middle Andaman division aims to reach out to all the educational institutions in near future to promote the NIC as an enriching abode of learning and outing.

For any further information, please reach out to the Divisional Forest Officer, Middle Andaman, Rangat @ 03192- 274210 or the Range Forest Officer, Kadamtala @03192- 267019.

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13



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## EVENT TRACKER



1



2



3



4

1. "Beyond Horizon - Andaman Nicobar Litfest" - 27-29 March  
- Tagore College Auditorium, SVP
2. "Phaag" - 12 March, Andaman Club, SVP
3. "Commemoration of arrival of first batch of Freedom  
Fighters in the Islands in 1858" - 10 March, Chatham  
Memorial, SVP
4. "Holi" - 14 March, Corbyn's Cove, SVP



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## SNIPPETS FROM THE DISTRICTS



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1. Heritage Walk - Sri Vijaya Puram
2. Subhash Mela - Netaji Sports Complex, Mayabunder
3. Flag Hoisting - German Jetty, Mayabunder
4. Night Cricket Match - Tamaloo Stadium, Car Nicobar


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15





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## SOCIAL MEDIA REVIEWS



### #I LOVE ANDAMANS

Still dreaming of the Andaman Islands – white sandy beaches, vibrant coral reefs, and a tranquility like no other. Can't wait to go back! 🌞🌊

#wanderlust



### #IncredibleIndia

It was an unforgettable paradise – pristine beaches, turquoise waters, and endless adventure! 🌴🌊

#AndamanMemories

#TropicalEscape

#BucketList"

#Mini India



From the Cellular Jail to the ancient tribes, Andaman's heritage offers a glimpse into a fascinating past. Truly a journey through

time! ⌚ #AndamanHeritage  
#SwarajDweep #ScubaDiving

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