

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter (2nd Edition)



कल्याण दर्पण

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION

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Poshan Pakhwada & Posan Maah

POSHAN (08th April to 22nd April) PAKHAWADA

The Department of Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, observed Posan Pakhwada 2025 under the Posan Abhiyaan with a focus on promoting community nutrition and behavioural change. Various activities were conducted across all ICDS Projects, including Posan Walkathons, Anaemia and Growth Monitoring Camps, Recipe Demonstrations, Posan Vatikas, and Awareness Sessions on Millets and Local Nutritious Foods. The fortnight-long celebration emphasized the importance of a balanced diet, maternal and child health, and community participation in achieving the vision of a Suposhit Bharat.



POSHAN MAAH

Launched on 17th April 2025

The “8th Rashtriya Posan Maah 2025” and “Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan” were jointly launched at the UT level by the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, in collaboration with the Health Department on 17th September 2025 at the Conference Hall, DBRAIT, Sri Vijaya Puram. The event marked the beginning of a month-long campaign promoting nutrition, health, and empowerment across the Islands.



“Suposhit Gram Panchayt Abhiyaan”

Suposhit Gram Panchayat - Peer Review

Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 emphasize the pivotal role of Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) in addressing the challenge of malnutrition across India. In line with this, the Government of India has launched the Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan to enhance nutritional outcomes and overall well-being of the target population.

Under this initiative, the top 1000 Suposhit Gram Panchayats will be identified during September–October 2025, and each will receive an incentive of ₹1 lakh. Additionally, the top three districts with the highest number of Suposhit Gram Panchayats will also be recognized for their outstanding performance.

As part of the peer-review process, a team of nine officers from the Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services, West Bengal, visited the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and reviewed 19 eligible Gram Panchayats. Similarly, a team of 04 officials i.e. CDPO (Urban), CDPO (Diglipur), along with Consultant (CB&BCC) and Consultant (PM&E), Poshan 2.0 from the Andaman & Nicobar Administration visited the State of Himachal Pradesh, where they assessed 32 Gram Panchayats and uploaded their findings on the Poshan Tracker portal.

West Bengal Team visiting Ferrargunj Gram Panchayats, Namuna Ghar (Fisheries colony)



A&NI Team visited AWCs Hamirpur District, under Suposhit Gram Panchayat Peer Review



A&N I Team visited AWCs, Mandi District, Himachal Pradesh, under Peer Review



“Nourishing Hope: A Story of Recovery from Malnutrition”

Healthy Future Restored: A Success Story from Nicobar District

In the remote and geographically challenging Nicobar District, consistent efforts have been made to improve the nutritional status of children through focused community initiatives. In April 2024, a growth monitoring survey conducted by the ICDS Department identified two children—one each in Car Nicobar and Katchal Island—as Severely and Moderately Malnourished (SAM/MAM). Through dedicated interventions, both children have now fully recovered and moved into the Normal Nutrition category.

To strengthen this progress, a coordinated, community-based intervention plan was implemented under the guidance of Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), with on-ground support from Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs, ANMs, and active participation of the Health Department and local Panchayats.

Key interventions included weekly home visits, hot cooked meals through Anganwadi Centres, monthly health check-ups and referrals, Village Health & Nutrition Days (VHNDs) focusing on maternal counselling, and the establishment of “Poshan Vatikas” (Nutrition Gardens) at select centres.

By June 2025, through persistent efforts and strong community engagement, 100% recovery was achieved among the identified children. This success reflects the resilience of the community, the dedication of frontline workers, and the power of departmental convergence in improving child nutrition.

The transformation story under the Tribal Project is more than a statistical milestone – it stands as a testament to collective action, health equity, and community empowerment under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Posan 2.0.

Recovered from Malnourished, Milder-A Katchal Island



Recovered from Malnourished, Perka-II Car Nicobar



Poshan Kit Distribution to Malnourished Children



“From Andaman to Ladakh: A Journey for a Drug-Free India”

As part of the observance of the 5th Anniversary of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the Directorate of Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), flagged off an awareness vehicle driven by solo volunteer **Mr. Shekar Rao**.

The vehicle commenced its inspiring journey from the **Andaman Islands** to **Ladakh**, symbolizing a national call for a Drug-Free India. This initiative aims to spread awareness on the ill effects of substance abuse and motivate individuals—especially the youth—to actively participate in creating a healthier, addiction-free society.

During this extensive awareness drive, Mr. Rao has engaged with communities, educational institutions, State Administrations and local organizations along the route, promoting the vision of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan. His journey stands as a remarkable example of individual commitment complementing collective national efforts toward reducing drug demand and building a safer, more resilient nation.



5th Anniversary of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan,

On the observance of the “**5th Anniversary of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan**”, the NAPDDR under the Directorate of Social Welfare organized awareness programmes to raise awareness among the public about the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse. The main aim of the campaign was to encourage people, especially youth, to lead a healthy and drug-free life. During the event, various activities such as rallies, speeches, and pledge-taking with the tagline ‘Nasha Mukt Bharat, Khushaal Bharat’ were conducted. Participants were motivated to stay away from drugs and to help others do the same. The campaign emphasized that with collective effort and community support, a safe and drug-free society can be achieved.



On the observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, the Directorate of Education organized a marathon to promote fitness and a drug-free lifestyle among students and youth. The event encouraged physical well-being, discipline, and positive engagement, reinforcing the message that a healthy body and mind help keep one away from substance abuse



On the observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, under NAPDDR, the Directorate of Social Welfare organized a three-day painting and wall painting competition in collaboration with RD, PRIs & ULBs, the Municipal Council, and Human Touch NGO. Through these activities, and A&N Police Department organized a skit at Marina Park. children creatively expressed their understanding of the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of living a healthy, drug-free life.





Finding a Forever Family: The Safe Path to Legal Adoption

State Adoption Resource Agency

The right to grow up in a loving and caring atmosphere is fundamental for every child. For orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children in the Islands, adoption provides the most appropriate and permanent program for rehabilitation.

The Nodal Agency: SARA (State Adoption Resource Agency)

The State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), functioning under the Directorate of Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, is the unit responsible for coordinating and monitoring the Adoption Program in this Islands. SARA works with the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) to ensure that every adoption adheres to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and provides the adopted child with all the rights and privileges of a biological child.

Impact: Connecting Families

Total Adoptions Facilitated (So Far)	Adoption Enquiries Received (April-June)
05 - In Country (OAS)	
08- In Country Step Parent Adoption	26 PAPs Enquired from SARA & District Child Protection Unit
18 - In country Relative Parent Adoption	

The Legal Adoption Process: Your First Steps

The entire process is conducted through a centralized online system, guaranteeing transparency and safety:

- Online Registration (PAPs):** Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) must register themselves on the Mission Vatsalya unified Portal earlier use to be the CARINGS (Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System) portal.
- Documents Required:** Essential documents, including proof of identity, income statements, Marriage Certificate and medical fitness certificates, must be uploaded to the portal.
- Special Categories:** The legal route also facilitates **relative adoption** or the adoption of a spouse's child from an earlier marriage (**step-parent adoption**).



Warning: Avoid Illegal Adoption

Taking custody of a minor without following the legal procedures is **illegal adoption** and is a serious, punishable offence under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

It is punishable with imprisonment up to **three years or a fine of ₹1 Lakh, or both.**

The Department urges the public to obtain authentic information and procedures by contacting SARA for Authentic Adoption Information: Room No 308, Directorate of Social Welfare, South Andaman.



WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT CONTROL ROOM (WCD-CR)

A 24x7 dedicated WCD Control Room (WCD-CR) has been setup at VIP Road, Junglighat, Sri Vijaya Purum for Child Helpline and integrated with ERSS-112

Women Helpline- 181



The Essential Numbers for Safety



Child Helpline-1098



Raising Awareness for Safety

The WCD-CR team also conducted awareness programs in schools and communities, empowering students and teachers to recognize risks and confidently access helpline support when needed.

We urge all citizens to save these lifeline numbers and use them without hesitation to safeguard the safety, dignity, and rights of women and children in our community.

Since April to June 2025, total calls landed in WHL-181 is 368, out of which 171 calls are to women assisted and 16 calls are case relevant. To strengthen community vigilance 13 awareness program has been organized to aware toll free helpline of women in distress.

Empowering Women, Transforming Communities

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)



PMMVY – Quick Update

The Directorate of Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Islands has launched special registration drives across the UT under the during the Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2025 to enroll eligible pregnant and lactating women into PMMVY. As of September 2025, 580 beneficiaries were paid under PMMVY in the Islands.

State HUB for Empowerment of Women (SHEW)



The Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) is a key initiative under the central government's Mission Shakti scheme which is being implemented by the Department of Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration. It acts as the state-level platform to combine and coordinate all government services.

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration has taken the lead in implementing HEW through structured programs tailored to local needs. The Department of Social Welfare has established state and district hubs that actively coordinate with Anganwadi centers, self-help groups, and block-level officers to reach out to women in both rural and urban areas. These hubs also act as monitoring bodies, maintaining data on outreach, grievance redressal, and outcomes, which are then reported back to the state and national levels for policy refinement.



State Level Consultation with Stakeholders

State-Level Consultation on “Early Childhood Education- Laying the Foundation” under the 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries



In preparation for the 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries, scheduled to be held in November 2025, the Directorate of Social Welfare organized a State-Level Consultation on 19th August 2025 at the Mini Conference Hall, Secretariat, A&N Administration. The overarching theme of the Conference is “Human Capital for Viksit Bharat”, with the Directorate of Social Welfare entrusted with Sub-theme 1: “Early Childhood Education – Laying the Foundation.”



The consultation brought together key stakeholders, including local NGOs, line department officials, and ICDS functionaries, to deliberate on critical issues and challenges in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), exchange best practices, and propose policy interventions to further strengthen ECCE initiatives across the Islands.

The insights and recommendations from the consultation have served as valuable inputs for the State-Specific Note and Feedback Note to be presented at the 5th Chief Secretaries’ Conference.



Various Activities at AWCs in collaboration with Health Department

Distribution of Albendazole Tablets to children at AWCs



Anemia Screening Camp



National Deworming Day- 8th August 2025



World Breast Feeding Week - 1st August to 07th August 2025



Outreach and Awareness Activities



National Senior Citizen Day Celebrated at Mithakhadi Community Hall in collaboration with Elderline & Ration Rasheed Foundation



Yoga Session for Senior Citizens



Awareness program on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao(BBBP)

Toy Donation Drive in association with NGO “With You”

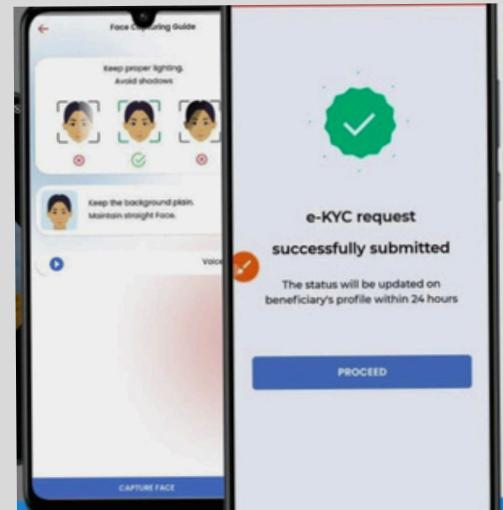
DIGITAL INSIGHTS



Implementation of Facial Recognition System (FRS) Module in Poshan Tracker Application

To enhance transparency and accuracy in beneficiary verification, the Directorate of Social Welfare has initiated the implementation of the Face Recognition System (FRS) under the Poshan Tracker as per the Ministry's Direction. The FRS ensures two-way authentication through photo capturing and e-KYC, followed by real-time face matching during beneficiary onboarding.

As part of this initiative, the **State Coordinator, NeGD**, conducted training and an FRS drive in **Nicobar District**, providing hands-on guidance to field functionaries on the use of the new module. The drive aimed to familiarize Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors with the process of digital authentication, ensuring smooth and effective implementation of the system across the Islands.



Aadhar Updation Camp for FRS at AWC Protrapur in Collaboration with Department of Civil Supply



Special Registration Camp on PMMVY



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The Department of Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, actively participated in the Har Ghar Tiranga 2025 campaign. As part of the campaign, Anganwadi Centres across the Islands conducted Tiranga Rakhi-making activities, letter-writing sessions to express gratitude to soldiers and police personnel for their service, and Tiranga-themed art and decorations to inspire patriotism among children and communities. These activities fostered creativity, national pride, and community engagement, reinforcing the emotional bond of citizens with the National Flag and the spirit of unity across the Islands.



Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2025



Smti. Kamala Biswas, AWW from Shanti Nagar AWC under ICDS project (Rural) Diglipur received DC (North & Middle Andaman) Commendation Certificate during the Celebration of Independence Day for her consistent performance, sense of responsibility & significant service in public welfare.

Smti. Pushpa Nilima Beck, AWW at AWC DSS Colony Campbell Bay under ICDS project (Tribal) Nicobar received by the AC (Nicobar) Commendation Certificate during the Celebration of Independence Day for her consistent performance.



Children of CCIs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands being presented with momentos by Hon'ble State Minister of Women & Child Development, Smti. Savitri Thakur Ji.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Plantation Drive



Growth Monitoring at AWCs



Distribution of Poshan Kits by NGO



ECCE Activities



Other Activities





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