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Island Tourism Festival-2025 begins with Grand Cultural Spectacle

Five-Day Extravaganza Showcases Unity in Diversity, Heritage and Tourism Potential of A&N Islands

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 27

The much-awaited Island Tourism Festival (ITF)-2025 got underway today with great fanfare and a colourful opening ceremony at the sprawling ITF Ground on VIP Road here this evening. The five-day cultural extravaganza is being organised by the Tourism Department, with the support of the Department of Art & Culture and other line Departments of the A&N Administration, to present a vibrant mosaic of cultural performances, traditional music and dance, indigenous arts, local craftsmanship and delectable cuisine offering visitors an immersive experience of the Islands' rich and unique heritage.

The Hon'ble Member of Parliament, A&N Islands, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, inaugurated the festival as the chief guest by lighting the traditional oil lamp in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS, Adhyaksh, ZPSA, Shri



Prakash Adhikari, Chairperson, SVPSC, Shri Shahul Hameed, Senior Officers of the A&N Administration, tourism stakeholders, and a large gathering of islanders and tourists. Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble MP expressed happiness over the conduct of the Island Tourism Festival for the entertainment of both islanders and visitors. He stated that the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are progressing at a faster pace under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri

Narendra Modi. He stated that the A&N Administration is making concerted efforts to promote high-end tourism, with several major projects underway to realise this vision. Urging islanders to contribute towards making the Islands a Diesel-Mukt region, he encouraged the Islanders for installation of rooftop solar power systems under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Earlier, welcoming the chief guest and dignitaries, the Director, IP&T, Shri

Vinayak Chamadia, IAS, described the Island Tourism Festival as a mega annual cultural event of the Islands. He said the festival is not only meant for entertainment but also to showcase the composite and unique culture of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He informed that cultural performances by artistes from both the mainland and the Islands will be held across 14 venues during the five-day festival, benefitting people across different locations. A wide range

DETAILS OF CULTURAL PROGRAMMES FOR ITF 2025		
Date - 28.12.2025 (Sunday)		
Venue/ Timing	5:30 pm to 7:10 pm	7:15 pm to 9:00 pm
ITF Main Pavilion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aditya Natya Academy (40min) KRG Kalai Kaveri School (20min) Singaravelam/Theyyam & Martial Arts by artistes of SZCC (20min) Folk Dance badherbai by artistes of Jammu & Kashmir (15min) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vikas Academy (15min) Balakrishna Nritya Academy (30min) Gauri Shankara Classical Dance Academy (30min) The Kalapani Band (35min)
Marina Esplanade	5:30 pm to 9:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mudra Academy of Classical Dance (20min) Kailashpathi Classical Dance Academy (20min) Jhankar Dance Group (20min) Thira, Theyyam/ Marakkalattam, Karagam, Oyil, Thappattam by artistes of SZCC (25min) Inspiration Dance Studio (20min) Youth Club Ograbraj (Karaoke) (20min) Police Band (25min) Folk/ Tribal Dance, Ritual, Folk Music by artistes of Directorate, Culture & Language, Chattisgarh (10min) Friends Cultural Group(Karaoke) (20min) Event Musical Group(Karaoke) (20min)
Wimberlygunj	5:30 pm to 9:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jhumur (Shastriya-Lok) Nritya (20min) Dance by Sri Sitaramanjaneya Youth Club (20min) Sambalpuri dance by artistes of EZCC (10min) Kathak by artistes of Bhatkhande Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Lucknow (20min) Ras by artistes Youth Service & Cultural, Gujarat (8min) Kalangan (Karaoke) (20min) The Island Development (20min) Swaraj Youth Club (Dance) (20min) Arpan Music Academy (Live Band) (35min)
Hutbay	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dance by Sri Sitaramanjaneya Temple Committee Nritya Academy of Classical Dance
Baratang	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mahamaya/Netaji themed Creative Dance by artistes of EZCC Sangeet Musical Group (Karaoke)
Rangat	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Marakkalattam, Karagam, Oyil, Martial Arts, Thappattam, Thira, Theyyam by artistes of SZCC Srishti Cultural Group (Karaoke)
Car Nicobar	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mayooranritham, Thira, Theyyam/ Marakkalattam, Karagam, Oyil, Dummy Horse, Thappattam by artistes of SZCC Dream World Entertainer (Karaoke)

Island Tourism Festival 2025: Deptt. of AH&VS to organize Pet Show today

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 27

A Pet Show will be organized by the Department of AH&VS at ITF Ground during upcoming Island Tourism Festival 2025 from 3 pm onwards on Dec. 28. In this regard, pet owners interested in participating in the event can submit the details of the Pet in prescribed format given below:

SI No	Details to be furnished
1.	Owner's Name
2.	Contact No
3.	Email
4.	Pet name
5.	Breed
6.	Date of Birth
7.	Gender
8.	Colour
9.	Weight
10.	Vaccination record

The complete registration form can be submitted to Veterinary Hospital, Junglighat or through email at edpcellahs@gmail.com. Only vaccinated pets will be allowed to participate. For further details of the event contact 03192 - 252823/232252, a press release Deptt. of AH&VS said.

Healthy Baby Contest as part of ITF-2025 on Dec. 30

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 27

As part of Island Tourism Festival from 27th December to 31st December, 2025, the Directorate of Health Services in association with Union Territory Health Mission (UTHM), A&N Administration will organize a Healthy Baby Contest on 30th December, 2025 at 9 AM onwards at ITF ground, VIP Road, Sri Vijaya Puram.

The parents of participants of South Andaman have been requested to participate in the Healthy Baby Contest 2025 on 30th December, 2025 with their kids at ITF Ground at 9 AM. The details of the Healthy Baby Contest is as



(Contd. on last page)

'Hasya Kavi Sammelan' to be organized at ITF Ground on Dec. 30



Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 27

In the series of programmes to be organized during the Island Tourism Festival-2025, a 'Hasya Kavi Sammelan' will be organized at the ITF Ground by the Official Language Department, A&N Administration on Dec. 30 at 6 pm. In this programme,

Flower, Vegetable & Fruit Show Competitions to be held as part of ITF on Dec. 29

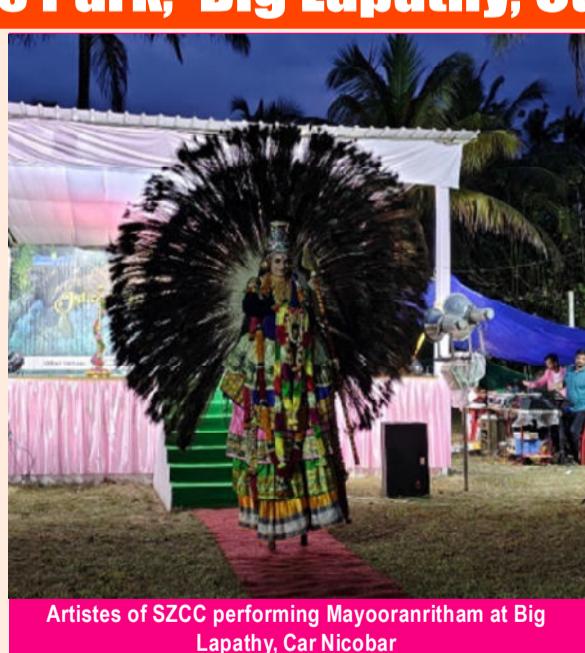
Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 27

As a part of the Island Tourism festival 2025, the Department of agriculture will be organizing Flower Show, Vegetable & Fruit Show competitions on 29th December, 2025 at

Cultural performances by artistes from both mainland and Islands delight gathering at Children's Park, Big Lapathy, Car Nicobar

Car Nicobar, Dec. 27

As part of the five-day ITF, cultural performances by artistes from both the mainland and the Islands are being held across 14 venues, as per the scheduled dates. The event at Car Nicobar was inaugurated today by the chief guest, Shri Rahul L. Nair, IPS, at Children's Park, Big Lapathy, which was also graced by Dr. Naveen Kumar, AC (HQ) and was attended by all Heads of Offices under Car



Artistes of SZCC performing Mayooranritham at Big Lapathy, Car Nicobar

Nicobar and general public.

A total of 12 artistes and 6 local residents participated in the cultural programme. A total of 12 artistes and 6 local residents participated in the cultural programme. The artistes of SZCC presented Mayooranritham, which was a major highlight and was highly appreciated by the audience. Dream World Entertainer (Karaoke) also delighted the gathering.

Doordarshan to live stream Island Tourism Festival- 2025

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 27

Doordarshan Sri Vijaya Puram will be live streaming the much-awaited "Island Tourism Festival (ITF) 2025" directly from the ITF Ground upto 31st December 2025, every evening from 5.30 PM to 9 PM.

The live telecast will bring the vibrant spirit of the islands to viewers across the country, showcasing cultural performances, traditional art forms, music, dance, and the rich heritage of the islands. The Island Tourism Festival is a celebration of local culture, tourism, and community participation, attracting visitors and audiences from far and

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CMYK

Generally cloudy sky and light to moderate rain with Thunder is likely over Sri Vijaya Puram. Maximum and Weather Minimum temperature will be around 29.0°C and 23.0°C respectively on Sunday 28/12/2025. Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 30.1 Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 24.4 Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST : 095 Sunrise time on 28/12/2025 (in IST): 0537 Sunset time on 28/12/2025 (in IST): 1704 Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs)- in mm: 000.0 Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 005.0 Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 2025 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm: 3482.8



SEVA SUCHNAYEIN

ALL THE SAILINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

NOTE: FOR SHIPPING RELATED QUERIES PLEASE DIAL TO TOLL FREE NUMBER 18003452714.

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NO. 245555

Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules of Foreshore Sector/ Inter Island Sector vessels is being issued to the general public from 26.12.2025 (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.



Scan QR Code to open on mobile.

SRI VIJAYA PURAM - MAYABUNDER & DIGLIPUR							
Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Rani Lakshmi	29.12.2025 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	30.12.2025 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
2.	MV Rangat	31.12.2025 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	01.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
3.	MV Hut Bay	02.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	03.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder

SRI VIJAYA PURAM - LITTLE ANDAMAN

1. Sindhu will sail in place of Nalanda	28.12.2025 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	28.12.2025 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
2. MV Bamboka will sail in place of Nalanda	30.12.2025 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	30.12.2025 1300 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
3. MV North Passage	01.01.2026 0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	01.01.2026 1300 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
4. Sindhu	02.01.2026 2100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	03.01.2026 1000 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
5. Sindhu will sail in place of Nalanda	04.01.2026 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	04.01.2026 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram

SRI VIJAYA PURAM - CAR NICOBAR via LITTLE ANDAMAN

1. MV Kalighat	01.01.2026 1500 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar	02.01.2026 1600 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram
2. MV Kalighat	04.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar via Little Andaman	05.01.2026 1600 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram via Little Andaman

SRI VIJAYA PURAM - CAMPBELL BAY via ALL PORTS & NANCOWRY via ALL PORTS

1. MV Kalighat	08.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, Nancowry, Makachua & Afra Bay	12.01.2026 0500 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Afra Bay, Makachua, Nancowry, Katchal, Teressa, Chowra, Car Nicobar & Little Andaman
2. MV Kalighat	22.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Nancowry via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa & Katchal	25.01.2026 0500 Hrs	Nancowry	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal, Teressa, Chowra, Car Nicobar & Little Andaman

SRI VIJAYA PURAM - CAMPBELL BAY - NANCOWRY - KATCHAL

Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules on 28th December, 2025 & 3rd January, 2026 is being issued from 27.12.2025 onwards.

1. Nalanda	28.12.2025 1100	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay	29.12.2026 2100 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry & Car Nicobar
2. Nalanda	03.01.2026 1600	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Car Nicobar & Nancowry	05.01.2026 0900 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry
3. Sindhu	30.12.2025 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry & Katchal	01.01.2026 0600 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal & Nancowry
4. Sindhu	06.01.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry	08.01.2026 0800 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry
5. Sindhu	13.01.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry & Katchal	15.01.2026 0600 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal & Nancowry
6. Sindhu	20.01.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry	22.01.2026 0800 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry
7. Sindhu	27.01.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry & Katchal	29.01.2026 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 consigners are hereby advised to book actual quantity of cargo to be transshipped, as no excess cargo will be allowed.

FORESHORE SECTOR

28.12.2025 (SUNDAY)

1. MV Rangat	28.12.2025 0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	28.12.2025 1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep
2. MV Pilomillor	28.12.2025 0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	28.12.2025 0845 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
3. MV North Passage	28.12.2025 0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	28.12.2025 0900 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
4. MV Hut Bay	28.12.2025 1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	28.12.2025 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
5. MV Bambooka	28.12.2025 1130 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	28.12.2025 1400 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
6. MV Jolly Buoy	28.12.2025 1430 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep	29.12.2025 0530 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram via Shaheed Dweep

29.12.2025 (MONDAY)

1. MV Hut Bay	29.12.2025 0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	29.12.2025 1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep
2. MV Katchal	29.12.2025 0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	29.12.2025 0845 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
3. MV Bambooka	29.12.2025 0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	29.12.2025 0900 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
4. MV Jolly Buoy	29.12.2025 1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	29.12.2025 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
5. MV North Passage	29.12.2025 1130 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	29.12.2025 1400 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
6. MV Rangat	29.12.2025 1430 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep	30.12.2025 0530 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram via Shaheed Dweep

30.12.2025 (TUESDAY)

1. MV Jolly Buoy	30.12.2025 0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	30.12.2025 1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep
2. MV Pilomillor	30.12.2025 0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	30.12.2025 0845 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
3. MV North Passage	30.12.2025 0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	30.12.2025 0900 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
4. MV Rangat	30.12.2025 1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	30.12.2025 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
5. MV Bambooka	30.12.2025 1130					

Powering India's Next Tech Leap through Rare Earth Permanent Magnet Manufacturing Ecosystem

Key Takeaways

- Government approves Rs. 7,280 crore scheme to establish domestic integrated REPM manufacturing ecosystem.
- Creates 6,000 MTPA domestic capacity covering the full value chain, from rare-earth oxides to finished magnets.
- Strengthens self-reliance for critical sectors such as electric mobility, renewable energy, electronics, aerospace and defence.
- Supported by strong rare-earth resource availability and policy initiatives including NCMM and MMDR Act reforms.
- Enhances India's participation in global advanced-materials value chains while reducing import dependence and enabling long-term industrial growth.

Introduction

The Government has approved the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnet' with a financial outlay of Rs. 7,280 crore. The scheme aims to establish 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated REPM manufacturing capacity in India, covering the full chain from rare-earth oxides to finished magnets.

By building a domestic integrated ecosystem, the initiative is intended to enhance self-reliance in a critical input for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, electronics, aerospace and defence, and to position India as a key player in the global REPM market. It also supports broader national objectives, including Atmanirbhar Bharat, resilient supply chains for strategic sectors, and the country's long-term Net Zero 2070 vision.

What is Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM)?

REPMs are amongst the strongest types of permanent magnets and are used extensively in technologies requiring compact and high-performance magnetic components. Their high magnetic strength and stability make them integral to:

- Electric vehicle motors
- Wind turbine generators
- Consumer and industrial electronics
- Aerospace and defence systems
- Precision sensors and actuators

The ability of REPMs to deliver strong magnetic performance at small sizes makes them essential for advanced engineering applications. As India expands manufacturing across priority sectors such as clean energy, advanced mobility and defence, establishing a reliable domestic supply of high-performance magnets becomes increasingly important for long-term competitiveness and supply-chain resilience.

India's Current Landscape and Need for the Scheme

India has a substantial base of rare-earth minerals, particularly monazite deposits located across several coastal and inland regions. These deposits contain about 13.15 million tonnes of monazite, holding an estimated 7.23 million tonnes of rare-earth oxides (REO), and occur in coastal beach sands, teri/red sands and inland alluvium in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Maharashtra. These oxides serve as the primary raw material for downstream rare-earth industries, including permanent magnet manufacturing.

In addition, 1.29 million tonnes of in-situ REO resources have been identified in hard-rock areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan, while the Geological Survey of India has further augmented 482.6 million tonnes of rare-earth ore resources through extensive exploration initiatives. Together, these assessments demonstrate the availability of substantial raw material resources to support downstream rare-earth-based industries, including REPM manufacturing.

While India has a strong rare-earth resource base, domestic production of permanent magnets is still developing, and imports continue to meet a large part of current requirements. Official trade data indicates that India sourced a major share of its permanent magnet imports from China during 2022-23 to 2024-25, with import dependence ranging between 59.6% and 81.3% value-wise and 84.8% and 90.4% quantity-wise.

Meanwhile, forward demand projections highlight the need for enhanced domestic capability. India's REPM consumption is expected to double by 2030, driven by growth in electric mobility, renewable energy deployment, electronics manufacturing and strategic applications. Developing integrated REPM manufacturing capacity is therefore essential to support rising domestic requirements and strengthen supply-chain resilience.

Core Elements of the Scheme

The scheme establishes a comprehensive framework for end-to-end REPM manufacturing in India, supporting both initial capacity creation and long-term competitiveness.

It aims to build a fully integrated production ecosystem for high-performance magnetic materials, creating 6,000 MTPA of domestic manufacturing capacity, from oxide feedstock to final product.

The total capacity will be distributed among up to five beneficiaries through a global competitive bidding process, with each beneficiary eligible for up to 1,200 MTPA, ensuring diversification along with adequate scale.

The scheme includes a strong incentive structure, with Rs. 6,450 crore earmarked as sales-linked incentives for REPM production over five years.

A Rs. 750 crore capital subsidy will support the establishment of advanced, integrated REPM manufacturing facilities.

The scheme will be implemented over seven years, comprising a two-year gestation period for setting up the integrated REPM facilities followed by five years of incentive disbursement linked to REPM sales. This structured timeline is intended to support timely capacity creation and provide stability during the initial production and market-development phase.

National Priorities and Alignment with Broader Government Initiatives

The establishment of domestic REPM manufacturing capacity supports several national priorities, as these magnets are essential for strategic and high-technology sectors that are central to India's industrial and technological advancement. The Government's initiative aims to strengthen domestic production, enhance supply-chain resilience for rapidly expanding industries while also contributing to India's long-term sustainability goals.

Rare-earth magnets are widely used in energy-efficient motors, wind-power systems and other green technologies, and the initiative therefore aligns closely with the country's broader clean-energy transition and its Net Zero 2070 vision.

Promoting domestic manufacturing of REPMs is equally relevant for national security and self-reliance. As these magnets are used in defence and aerospace systems, developing integrated production capability within the country contributes to secure access for critical applications and supports ongoing indigenization efforts.

This also complements India's broader focus on strengthening its critical minerals value chain through the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM), which aims to improve availability and processing capabilities for key minerals, including rare-earth elements utilised across advanced sectors.

India's End-to-End Value Chain Strategy

Critical minerals are a set of naturally occurring elements and compounds that have diverse irreplaceable industrial applications.

Given their central role in contemporary industrial economies, enabling technological advancements and boosting economies, access to critical minerals has become a strategic priority for India.

Approved in January 2025, the NCMM aims to secure a long-term sustainable supply of critical minerals and strengthen India's critical mineral value chains encompassing all stages from mineral exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.

These linkages demonstrate that developing domestic REPM manufacturing capability is not only a technological imperative but also a key component of India's strategy to advance self-reliance, accelerate clean-energy adoption, support advanced mobility, and strengthen defence and strategic manufacturing ecosystems.

The REPM scheme further aligns with a wide set of ongoing government initiatives aimed at strengthening India's critical mineral and advanced manufacturing ecosystem.

Policy reforms, particularly the amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, introduced a dedicated list of critical and strategic minerals and empowered the Government to auction mining leases and composite licences, enhancing opportunities for both private and public-sector participation.

Mining Reforms for Critical Minerals

Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) was enacted for regulation of mines and development of minerals. It has been reformed under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 to strengthen India's critical minerals ecosystem (for critical and deep-seated minerals) by opening private participation in all spheres of mineral exploration, empowering the Government to auction mineral concessions, and introducing a new exploration license regime.

Together, these initiatives, including the NCMM, regulatory reforms, and the REPM manufacturing scheme, create a strong domestic foundation for expanding REPM capacity and integrating it into India's broader industrial, clean-energy and strategic priorities.

Global Context and India's Opportunity

Global supply chains for rare-earth materials and permanent magnets have experienced periods of disruption, highlighting the importance of secure and diversified access to these resources. India has also undertaken several measures to support long-term supply security, including policy reforms and targeted domestic capability-building efforts.

The Ministry of Mines has entered into bilateral agreements with mineral-rich countries including Australia, Argentina, Zambia, Peru, Zimbabwe,

Mozambique, Malawi and Côte d'Ivoire. India also participates in multilateral platforms such as the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), which collectively support efforts to build resilient critical minerals supply chains.

Complementing these efforts, Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) is engaged in overseas exploration and acquisition of strategic mineral assets, including lithium and cobalt, through partnerships in countries such as Argentina. These initiatives form a key component of India's strategy to secure critical minerals required for electric mobility, renewable energy systems, electronics and defence applications.

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) is a joint venture of National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Limited (MECL) under the Ministry of Mines, established to secure India's supply of critical and strategic minerals by identifying, exploring, acquiring and developing mineral assets overseas. Its mandate is to strengthen the domestic value chain for emerging technologies and clean-energy industries, giving a strong push to the Make in India initiative.

Against this backdrop, the development of domestic REPM manufacturing capacity offers India a timely opportunity to strengthen its position in global value chains for advanced materials while supporting industrial growth at home.

Conclusion

The Scheme to promote manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) is designed to enhance competitiveness, attract technology-driven investment and support long-term scalability. It also contributes to India's energy-transition goals, given the role of these materials in high-efficiency systems. By establishing domestic capability and strengthening downstream linkages, this Government's initiative will help generate employment, deepen industrial capacity and support the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat @2047.

National Consumer Helpline facilitates refunds worth Rs. 45 Crore across 31 sectors

New Delhi, Dec. 27

National Consumer Helpline facilitates refunds worth Rs. 45 Crore across 31 sectors

The National Consumer Helpline, the flagship initiative of the Department of Consumer Affairs, has facilitated refunds amounting to 45 crore rupees across 31 sectors.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution informed that the initiative has addressed over 67 thousand consumer grievances in the last eight months. It added

that with over 39 thousand grievances, the e-commerce sector recorded the highest number of grievances and refunds, resulting in refunds of 32 crore rupees.

Furthermore, the Ministry also highlighted that the helpline has emerged as a single point of access for consumers across the country to seek grievance redressal at the pre-litigation stage.

Consumers can register their grievances in 17 languages through a toll-free number 1915. (Source: newsonair.gov.in)

Firing practice by ICGS at Brichgunj Baffle Range

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 27

In exercise of the power conferred under Sub-Section (2) of Section 10 of the Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, 1938, it is to notify for the information of all concerned that Indian Coast Guard Unit (ICGS) will be conducting firing practice at

Brichgunj Baffle Range on 29th December 2025 from 0930 hrs to 1700hrs.

All concerned have been warned to keep themselves and their vehicle/livestock away from the firing range during the mentioned date and time, a notification issued by DM (SA) said.

Firing practice at Police Firing Range Bird Line

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 27

In exercise of power conferred under Sub-Section (2) of Section 10 of the Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, 1938, it is to notify for the information of all concerned that firing practice of 75th batch recruit Constables (Exe.) of Andaman and Nicobar Police will be conducted at the Police Firing

Range, Bird Line, Prothrapur on 31.12.2025 from 0530 to 1600 hrs (Day Firing).

The general public, especially the villagers/residents of Bird Line and Prothrapur area should keep themselves and their cattle away from the firing range during the mentioned date and time, a notification issued by DM (SA) said.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APWD, Prothrapur invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage Rate tender / bid in two bid system from the approved and eligible Contractors of the Andaman PWD or all contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other GOI organizations in these islands and do not have any adverse remarks-

1. NIT No. 46/SE/CC-I/2025-26 Name of work:- Development work site for ANCOL (100 bedded Girls Hostel) including Security type Compound Wall, Security Post, gate RCC retaining Wall & drain etc. & facilities for Divyang i/c toilet, wheel chair way. Estimated Cost : Rs. 2,23,94,138/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 4,47,883/-, Time of completion: 10 months. (Tender ID: 2025_APWD_21195_1).

Pre Bid conference shall be held in the conference hall of Superintending Engineer Office, Construction Circle No. I, APWD, Sri Vijaya Puram at 1500 hrs. on 29-12-2025.

The e-tender form and other details can be downloaded from the website. The last date of bid submission will 08-01-2026 (1500 Hrs) upto 09-01-2026 (1030 Hrs). Other details/information can be seen on website <https://eprocure.andamannicobar.gov.in>.

LD. No. 11916 EE, CD-II, APWD, Prothrapur

VACANCY

1. KITCHEN Chef: 1 No. (Minimum Experience 1 year)
2. Kitchen Helper: 1 No. (Minimum Experience 1 year)
3. Bellboy: 1 No. (Minimum Experience 6 Months)
4. Housekeeping Staff P: 1 No. (Minimum Experience 1 year / 6 Months)
5. Reservation Staff -1 No. (Minimum Experience 1 year)

Fresher Can Apply, Attractive Salary + Food BLD + Accommodation

Contact: +91 9933272782 (GM Hotel), Address: Bhatubasti, Near Toyota Showroom.

Hotel Name- Hotel M Town, Mr. Bidyut Chakraborty, General Manager, Hotel MTown.

Reg. No. 16199/LC/2023

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS - II AT SRI VIJAYA PURAM

AFFIDAVIT

I, SHRI S. SHIVA, S/o Late A. SAMPATH, aged about 48 years, residing at Quarter No. P-295/02, Type - II, Sri Nagar Colony, Minnie Bay Village under Sri Vijaya Puram Tehsil, South Andaman District, Andaman and Nicobar Islands by faith Hindu, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I am permanently residing in the address given herein above.

2. That my son actual name is S. KISHOR, whereas in my service record my son name has been wrongly depicted as S. KISHORE instead of S. KISHOR and as such through this instant affidavit I declare that my son actual name is S. KISHOR and thereby to submit in the office of the Record Office Signals, Indian Army, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for the correction of my son name in my service record as S. KISHOR instead of S. KISHORE.

3. That my Mother's name is Saradha. In some of my Mark sheets, her name is preceded by the word "Late", indicating that she is deceased. This does not refer to any different person and relates only to my Mother.

4. That this instant affidavit is mainly made to submit the same in the office of the Record Office Signals, Indian Army, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for the correction of my son name in my service record as S. KISHOR instead of S. KISHORE by declaring that both S. KISHOR and S. KISHORE is the name of my son and belong to same and identical person and in future my son shall be known as S. KISHOR for all official and non-official purposes.

5. That the contents made in Para 01 - 04 of this instant affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I have not suppressed any material facts of this instant affidavit.

Solemnly affirm on this 11th day of December, 2025 at Sri Vijaya Puram.

Deponent

FOR SALE

House Sites Total Measuring 1100 Sq. Mtrs. is available for Sale at Veer Savarkar Park Road, Chouldari. Expected Price: Rs. 79 Lakhs. The Land Requires Earth Filling Only Interested Buyers may Contact: 6294190667

CAR FOR URGENT SALE

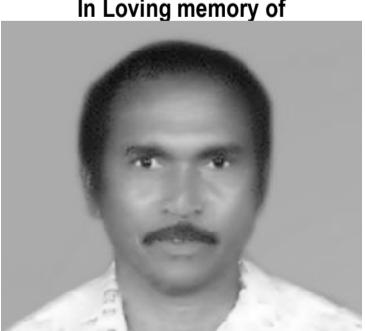
DATSON REDI-GO TIO	DATSON REDI-GO
2020	2020
8542 KM	40117 KM
Q SERIES	Q SERIES

2,50,000/- 2,50,000/-

7063992349

15th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

On 28-12-2025
In Loving memory of



Late APPA RAO

"Today, we honor the life of someone who touched the hearts of many. Your kindness and compassion will never be forgotten."

Inserted by: All Family Members

AFFIDAVIT

I, PRIYANATH MONDAL, S/o Late MANINDRA NATH MONDAL, aged about 64 years, permanent resident of Prothrapur Village, Sri Vijaya Puram, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I am a permanent resident of the address mentioned above.

2. That my correct name is PRIYANATH MONDAL, which is duly recorded in my Aadhar Card bearing No. 4563 2662 1727 and PAN Card bearing No. AGHPM2034L.

3. That however, in my Passport No. AHZPM2034L, my name has been incorrectly mentioned as PRIYANATH MONDAL instead of PRIYANATH MONDAL.

4. That my father's correct name is MANINDRA NATH MONDAL, but in my passport it has been incorrectly recorded as MANINDRA NATH MONDAL.

5. That my mother's correct name is LOKHY MONDAL, whereas in my passport it has been wrongly mentioned as LOKHY MONDAL.

6. That my spouse's correct name is USHA MONDAL, but in my passport it has been incorrectly mentioned as USHA MONDAL.

7. That the names PRIYANATH MONDAL / PRIYANATH MONDAL, MANINDRA NATH MONDAL / MANINDRA NATH MONDAL, LOKHY MONDAL / USHA MONDAL refer to the same and one identical persons respectively.

8. That I am swearing this affidavit for the purpose of correction of names in my Passport records and for all other official and legal purposes.

I hereby declare that the statements made above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Deponent

AFFIDAVIT

I, Bhumika Dey, Daughter of Saraswati Bakshi, aged 28 years, resident of South Point under Sri Vijaya Puram Tehsil, South Andaman, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That my name as recorded in my official and personal documents is Bhumika Dey.

2. That due to personal reasons, I have decided to change my surname and shall henceforth be known as Bhumika.

3. That from the date of this affidavit, I shall use the name Bhumika for all purposes including Educational Personal and official records.

4. That this change of name is made voluntarily and without any intention to deceive or defraud any person or authority.

5. That all documents issued in my former name Bhumika Dey may be treated as referring to the same person, now known as Bhumika.

6. That this affidavit is executed to formally declare my change of surname.

I declare that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 22/12/2025

Place: Sri Vijaya Puram

DEPONENT

AFFIDAVIT

I, Bhumika, Daughter of Kumar, resident of Bhatubasti Village, under South Andaman District, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:

• That in my Birth Certificate and Educational records, My Father's name is mentioned as "Kumar", whereas in my Aadhaar Card and PAN Card it has been erroneously recorded as "A. Kumar". I hereby declare that "Kumar" and "A. Kumar" refer to one and the same person, who is My Father.

• That my Mother's name is Saradha. In some of my Mark sheets, her name is preceded by the word "Late", indicating that she is deceased. This does not refer to any different person and relates only to my Mother.

• That this affidavit is executed to confirm the correct names of my parents for the purpose of Passport issuance and other official records.

I hereby affirm that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 22/12/2025

Deponent

WANTED

Need 1 No. Maid to Take Care of 1 year Baby R/o School Line Near Govt. Sen. Sec. School, School Line.

Contact No.: 9474231002

HOME SERVICE

AC, Refrigerator, Washing Machine, Microwave Oven, Deep Fridge etc.

Contact: 7695045730

Reg. No. UDYAM-AN-01-0012564 HIZAFULLA SHEKH

LAND FOR SALE

At Ograbraj village suitable for all purposes. Interested parties May Contact No.: 9434261726 / 9679532379

LAND FOR SALE

200 Sq. Mtrs. Plot Land for Sale Near Bird Line Jn. Suitable for Residential Purpose Price: Rs. 33,00,000/-

Contact No.: 7695003111

TO LET

One RCC Double Bedroom Attached Double Bathroom, Big Hall, Big Kitchen any time water, ground floor backside, SBI, Junglighat.

Contact No.: 7063981223

SHRADH CEREMONY

With deep sorrow, we inform the passing of my beloved husband **Shri Rajender Behari** who left for heavenly abode on 17-12-2025. We express our heart felt gratitude to all our relatives, friends and well wishers who stood with us in our time of grief offered their condolences as well as their participation in the funeral procession. We cordially invite all our well-wishers relatives and friends to attend the Shradh Ceremony on 29-12-2025 from 12.00 PM to 3.00 PM at our Residence at Minnie Bay, Friends Colony, Sri Vijaya Puram. Your presence and prayers will be a source of solace and strength to our Family.

By: Smti. Indo Bala (Wife), Mr. Akash Behari (Son)

CLASSIFIEDS

State Control Room : 1077/234287
No-Light Complaints- Toll Free No. 18003451111
Women : 1091
Children : 1092
Ambulance : 1093
District Control Room : 1070 / 238881
Tele-MANAS : 14416

ANDAMAN LAKSHADWEEP HARBOUR WORKS

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer (CSWD), Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer (Mech.), ALHW, Sri Vijaya Puram on behalf of the President of India invites online tenders from the reputed manufacturers of ELL/DELL crane for following work:

S.No.	Tender No. & Name of Work	Estimated cost put to tender	EMD (Rs)	Period of completion	Pre-bid meeting	Last date for bid submission	Opening of technical bid
1	ALHW/DCEM/TECH (C-69)1/2025 Dated: 19.12.2025 Design, Fabrication, Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 20 Ton Capacity ELL Crane at Marine Dockyard in Sri Vijaya Puram (Recall) Tender ID: 2025 ALHW 890555 1	21,83,00,000/-	31,83,000/-	540 days	02.01.2026	29.01.2026	30.01.2026

The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
I.D. No. 11913

Executive Engineer (CSWD)



TO LET

01 No. 2 BHK House situated at Ground Floor, 24 / 7 water supply, 2 wheeler parking available, located at Loknath Colony, Dollygunj, Sri Vijaya Puram.

Contact No.: 9474216816 / 7063942258

FOR RENT

3 BHK Room Available for Rent on Ground Floor RCC Building at Andaman Co-operative Housing Society Lamba Line Sri Vijaya Puram.

Contact No.: 9531990000 / 9474210000

TO LET

Space Measuring 200 Sq. Mtrs. ideal for Home Stay, Office Purpose Available at Haddo, Main Road. Contact No.: 7063916137

CAR FOR URGENT SALE

MARUTI SWIFT 2013

H SERIES ONLY 119597 KM ONLY

2,30,000/-

DATSON REDI-GO 2018

N SERIES ONLY 4600 KM ONLY

3,10,000/-

9641010837

AFFIDAVIT

I, CH LOKNATH KUMAR, S/o Late CH BHEEM RAO, R/o Near Ganesh Temple, Dairy Farm Village, under Sri Vijaya Puram Tehsil, South Andaman District, A & N Islands, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am a resident of these Islands and residing at abovementioned address.

2. That CHELLURU GAGAN is My Son and Son of Smti. CH GAUTAMI and he was born on 31.12.2008 at Pallisaradhi, Vaj