

Senior citizens aged 70 years & above to get cashless treatment worth Rs 5 lakh under AB-PMJAY

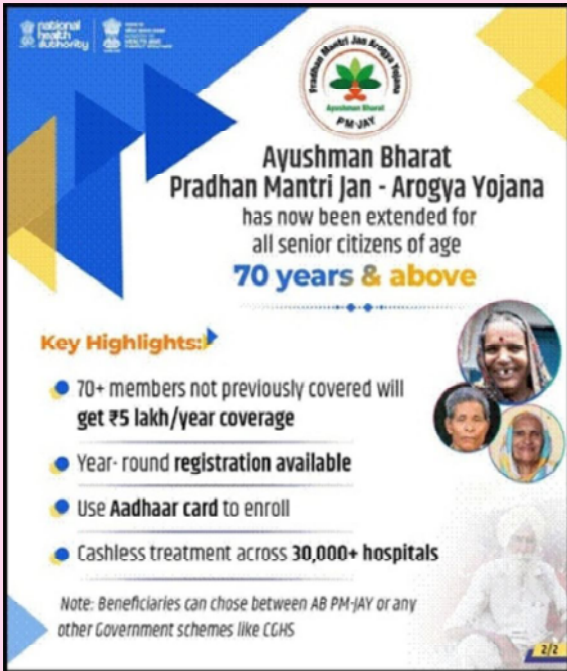
Elderly people enrolled under the scheme being provided Ayushman Vay Vandana Card

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 15

Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is a flagship scheme of Government of India noted as the world's largest health assurance programme. The scheme has now been extended to include all senior citizens across the country into the scheme.

This extended policy aims to provide a cashless treatment worth Rs 5 lakh to all senior citizens, with an only eligibility criterion, that the individual must be aged 70 years and above, as determined by the age recorded in their Aadhaar Card, regardless of economic status. The elderly people enrolled under the scheme will be provided Ayushman Vay Vandana Card.

Further, the Government has clarified that all senior citizens aged 70 and above, who belong to families already covered under AB- PMJAY, will be eligible for an additional Rs.



5 lakh coverage. The rest of the family members will continue to receive their existing Rs 5 lakh coverage.

Senior citizens of the age 70 years and

above who are already availing benefits of other public health insurance schemes such as Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB-PMJAY. It has been clarified that senior citizens of 70 years and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to avail benefits under AB-PMJAY.

The enrollment of senior citizens 70 years and above under the scheme may be done by visiting the website - pmjay.gov.in, where they can click on the "PMJAY for 70+" option on the homepage and self register as beneficiary or one can download "Ayushman App" from Google play store and self register as beneficiary. In case of any difficulties during registration, individuals can visit the nearest Health Institutions for assistance, a press release from Nodal Officer (AB-PMJAY) said.

MESSAGE

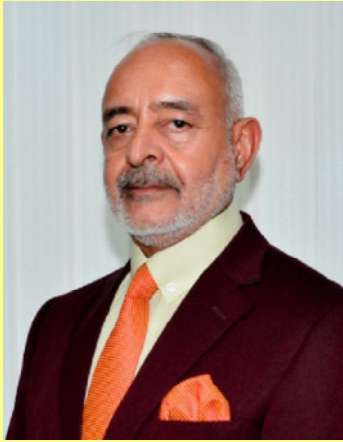
On this solemn occasion of Vijay Diwas, observed every year on the 16th of December, we honor the unparalleled courage and dedication of the Indian Armed Forces that led to the historic victory in the 1971 war. This day serves as a beacon of their valor, resilience, and supreme sacrifices and unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation's sovereignty and integrity,

Vijay Diwas is a moment to pay tribute to the countless heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for the motherland and to acknowledge the selfless service of those who continue to defend our borders. Their bravery inspires every Indian to uphold the values of unity, freedom, and patriotism that define our nation.

I call upon all residents of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to join hands with the rest of the country in commemorating this significant day. Let us unite in reflecting on the profound sacrifices of our armed forces and embrace the spirit of nationalism and pride they embody.

On this Vijay Diwas, let us renew our pledge to serve our nation with dedication and honor the ideals for which our brave soldiers fought.

Jai Hind!



(Admiral D K Joshi)

PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)

Lieutenant Governor

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

&

Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency

Kisan Credit Card scheme aims to provide credit support to farmers

Rs.32.97 crores disbursed by Banks under KCC scheme in A&N Islands

Staff Correspondent

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec.15

Under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, different banks functioning in A&N Islands has sanctioned loan to 9800 applicants' up to Sept. 2024. Maximum number of beneficiaries was covered by the State Bank of India and A&N State Co-operative Bank. The highest number of applications

was received in the Agriculture Sector of which loan was sanctioned to 8014 applicants amounting to Rs. 2116.64 lacs. Similarly, in the Animal Husbandry Sector, loan was sanctioned to 1021 applicants amounting to Rs. 484.59 lakhs while in Fisheries Sector, loan amount of Rs.696.06 lakhs was sanctioned to 765 applicants till Sept., 2024.

The total amount disbursed as loan under KCC scheme stood at Rs.32.97 crores in A&N Islands. The Kisan Credit Card scheme aims at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure to the farmers for their allied farm activities which includes

to meet the short term credit requirements for cultivation of crops; Post-harvest expenses; Produce marketing loan; Consumption requirements of farmer household; working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture; investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities, Lead Bank Sources informed.

Soil testing - a critical component in agricultural productivity & environmental management

Farmers urged to get soil assessed for issuance of Soil Health Card under Soil Health & Fertility component of RKVY

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 15

Soil testing is a critical component in agricultural productivity and environmental management. It helps determine the nutrient content, composition, and other characteristics such as the pH level and contamination levels of the soil. This information is essential for farmers and agronomists to make informed decisions about soil management

and crop production.

The Govt. of India mandates recognizing the Government Soil Testing Laboratory through the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and aims to uphold the standards of soil testing laboratories, thereby supporting agricultural and environmental management with high-quality and reliable soil analysis. NABL ensures that the laboratories

have infrastructure and processes, so that the test results and reports issued by soil testing laboratories maintain the quality of soil data used for Soil Health Cards.

The Soil Testing Laboratory (STL), Goal Ghar, Sri Vijaya Puram under Directorate of Agriculture, satisfactorily participated in the Proficiency Testing (PT) program conducted by accredited PT provider

as per ISO/IEC 17043 and test parameters covered in the last one-year in PT programs were considered for recognition and accordingly, have achieved recognition for Eight parameters from NABL. This was made possible by the team of Officials in STL working under the leadership of the Director of Agriculture and the mentorship of Secretary (Agri.), A&N

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Promulgation of A&N VAT Regulation, 2017 & VAT Rules, 2020

Dealers urged to adhere to VAT Regulation & consumers advised to collect tax invoices

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 15

Upon Promulgation of Andaman and Nicobar Value Added Tax Regulation, 2017, and Value Added Tax Rules, 2020, the following goods fall under the purview of the Value Added Tax in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

> Petroleum Products: Petroleum Crude, high Speed Diesel, High Speed Diesel (Ship), Petrol, Natural Gas, Aviation Turbine Fuel.

> Alcoholic Beverages: Including Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL),

and Beer.

Dealers trading in these goods are strictly required to adhere to VAT Regulation, including issuance of proper tax invoices upon request by consumers as per Section 50 of the A&N VAT Regulation. Further, the dealers are required to maintain records as per Section 48(6) of the A&N VAT Regulation.

Consumers are advised to ensure that they receive tax invoices for every purchase of the aforementioned goods. These invoices

must include:

> The word "Tax Invoice" prominently displayed.
> Details such as the names, addresses, and

registration numbers of the selling registered dealer.

> The name and address of the purchaser and his

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Inland Vessels for NSCB Island & North Bay to operate from Junglighat Jetty from today

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 15

The Ladder of the Pontoon & Jetty at RGWSC has been damaged to a considerable extent due to inclement weather, making it unsafe for plying of boats to mobilise the tourists from RGWSC to nearby Islands of NSCB & North Bay. In this regard, to ensure the safety of tourists, all the inland vessels will now be operated from Junglighat Jetty w.e.f 16.12.2024 instead of RGWSC till the restoration work of Jetty is completed, a press release from Directorate of Tourism said.

'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan' campaign being implemented by AYUSH

Citizens appealed to get their 'Prakriti' assessed for healthy living

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 15

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched a nationwide campaign 'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan', which aims to assess Prakriti (based on Ayurveda principles) of over one crore citizens of the country through a dedicated mobile application. Prakriti Parikshan is an Ayurvedic examination to identify a person's natural



constitution, which is a combination of physical, mental and emotional characteristics. Prakriti determine an



individual's reaction to environmental circumstances, lifestyle choices, medications and illness susceptibility, making

it one of the earliest known concepts in preventive and personalized genomic medicine. A person's natural state is referred to as their Prakriti. Every person has a fixed Prakriti that is created by the situation of Tridosha at the time of the union of the sperm and ovum inside the uterus, according to Ayurveda, which categorizes people based on their

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FIT India Week Poster Competition for school students

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 15

Fit India Week 2024 aims to propagate fitness Awareness among students, parents, teachers, and educational institutions across India. To celebrate FIT India Week 2024 in these

Islands, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organising a poster competition for school children. The topic of the poster competition is "FIT India, Healthy India" or "Sports For

Tribals/ Indigenous Groups". The upper age limit for participating in the competition is 18 years.

The poster must be submitted in a standard drawing paper (dimension as per the convenience of

participants). In the flipside of the paper, Name, Date of Birth, Class, School name of the participant has to be mentioned. Absence of it may make the entry ineligible for participation.

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Flower Show competition as part of ITF 2024 to be held on Dec. 29

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 15

As part of the Island Tourism Festival (ITF) 2024, the Department of Agriculture will be organizing a 'Flower Show' competition on 29th December, 2024 at ITF ground. The competitions will be held on various categories viz. Fresh

Flower arrangement, Dry Flower arrangement, Flat Bouquets, Garland and Rangoli Making.

The application form for enrolment of participants will be available at the High Value Agriculture Development Agency

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Advisory to general public & tourist in view of inclement weather

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 15

All commuters, general public, and tourists have been informed that due to prevailing adverse weather conditions and strong winds, the operation of vessels is becoming increasingly difficult and unsafe. In view of passenger and vessel safety, the

Directorate of Shipping Services may be compelled to suspend or cancel Inter-Island and Foreshore Sector vessel services at short notice.

Similarly, operation of Harbour/Vehicle Ferry Services between Chatham, Bambooflat, Dundas Point,

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'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan'...

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Prakriti. The increasing incidence of lifestyle diseases has become a significant public health concern and continues to be the leading cause of death worldwide. Ayurvedic concepts can be used effectively in the prevention and treatment of lifestyle disorders. This approach aligns with modern P5 medicine principles-predictive, preventive, personalised, participatory and precision medicine.

The month long Prakriti Parikshan campaign is being implemented in A & N Islands by the AYUSH Wing of DHS and National Ayush Mission through Medical Officers/Practitioners (Ayush) as Prakriti assessors. Following the assessment, participants will receive on-going Health advice aimed at promoting positive health outcomes. Participants will pledge to adopt a healthier lifestyle and have an opportunity to be part of setting several Guinness World Records, including the largest online photo album of individuals with Prakriti certificates, the most pledges for a health campaign, and the largest video album of participants sharing a campaign message. This campaign is your chance to understand your Prakriti, adopt personalized health practices, and join a nationwide movement for wellness.

People have been appealed to contact the nearest AYUSH Centres situated across the Islands to get their Prakriti (based on Ayurveda principles) assessed. **Desh ka Prakriti Parikshan App** can be downloaded through following links and QR Code:

Apple App Store:
<https://apps.apple.com/in/app/prakruti-parikshan/id6736818809>

Google Play Store:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.artcode.prakrutiparikshan>

(Source: DHS)

S.No	Address of Zonal Office	Phone No.
1.	Zonal Agriculture Office, South Andaman	03192-234851
2.	Zonal Agriculture Office, Little Andaman, Hutbay	03192-284297
3.	Zonal Agriculture Office, Car Nicobar	03193-265262
4.	Zonal Agriculture Office, Kamorta	03193-263264
5.	Zonal Agriculture Office, Campbell Bay	03193-264207
6.	Zonal Agriculture Office, Rangat	03192-274231
7.	Zonal Agriculture Office, Mayabunder	03192-273301
8.	Zonal Agriculture Office, Diglipur	03192-272374

Interested participants may contact the nearest Agriculture Sub-depot In-charges and Assistant Director (Agri.) South Andaman/HVADA, Directorate of Agriculture, Haddo. For further details, contact phone number 03192- 243434 & 03192- 233257, a press release from Directorate of Agriculture said.

spoke about the significant role Gram Panchayats can play in nurturing child participation. He encouraged local leaders to actively engage with children during Gram Sabha discussions and empower them as stakeholders in community development. Ms. C. Vijaya, a domain expert from the Department of Rural Development and Shri Tapas Sarnakar, Office Superintendent, Social Welfare Department also spoke on the occasion, a press release from Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs said.

Certificates were awarded for First, Second and Third prize winners of each event, a press release from NYK Campbell Bay said.

Jetty and her return voyage from Rangat to Sri Vijaya Puram via same route at 1200 hrs has been cancelled. Passengers those who have purchased their tickets for the above sailings have been advised to cancel their tickets and get full refund, a press release from DSS said.

The winners will get cash awards. The first prize winner will get Rs. 10,000, second prize winner will get Rs. 5,000 and third prize winner will get Rs. 2,000, a press release from SAI said.

Passengers and tourists have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly to avoid inconvenience. For real-time updates on vessel schedules and status, contact the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay over phone numbers: 03192-245555 / 232714 & Toll-Free Number: 1800-345-2714, a press release from DSS said.



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