



"Strong Families, Safe Communities - Embrace TB Prevention!"

Together, we can stop TB before it spreads.

Contact: TB Helpline: 1800-11-6666

A&N Islands' biodiversity crucial for environmental and economic security: Hon'ble Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh

Calls Andaman & Nicobar Islands a 'Living Laboratory of Biodiversity'



Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19 (PIB)

Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that Andaman & Nicobar Islands' biodiversity is crucial for environmental and economic security.

The Hon'ble Minister was highlighting the strategic importance of island biodiversity, during his visit to the Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Sri Vijaya Puram, yesterday.

Addressing scientists and officials, Dr Jitendra Singh said the Andaman & Nicobar Islands represent a "living laboratory of biodiversity", where cutting-edge science must go hand in hand with conservation and sustainable livelihoods. He

noted that institutions like ZSI play a critical role in generating authentic scientific data that guides national policies on biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and ocean-based economic growth.

During the visit, the Hon'ble Minister was received by Dr C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-F and Officer-in-Charge, (ZSI), who briefed him on the mandate of the Regional Centre, its ongoing research programmes, and its pivotal contribution to documenting, conserving, and monitoring the unique faunal diversity of the islands. The briefing highlighted ZSI's work in taxonomy, molecular systematics, DNA barcoding, biodiversity assessment, and capacity building.

Established in 1977, the Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre of ZSI has completed five decades of sustained scientific service. Dr Jitendra

Singh also visited the ZSI Museum, one of the prominent tourist and educational destinations in the islands, which houses around 3,500 specimens representing 22 faunal groups. He was apprised of the museum's role in public outreach, awareness generation and education, with annual footfall ranging between 75,000 and 1,00,000 visitors, including students, researchers and tourists. The Minister showed keen interest in the curated reference collections, type specimens and exhibits showcasing endemic, endangered and threatened fauna of the archipelago.

The Hon'ble Minister was informed that scientists of the Centre have reported more than 20 species new to science, including the Narcondam Tree Shrew, and documented nearly 900 new faunal records from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India, and Southeast Asia,

underscoring the global significance of the region's biodiversity.

Dr Jitendra Singh was also briefed on the role of ZSI, Sri Vijaya Puram as the nodal centre for India's first National Coral Reef Research Institute (NCRRI), aimed at strengthening coral reef research and monitoring in Indian waters. He noted that such focused institutions are vital for safeguarding fragile marine ecosystems and supporting evidence-based marine governance.

Interacting with scientists and staff, the Hon'ble Minister emphasized the need for greater integration of scientific research with public policy, conservation planning and community awareness. He said robust scientific institutions are central to achieving India's environmental goals and realizing the full potential of the Blue Economy in a sustainable manner.

Deptt. of AH&VS completes meticulously planned three-phase Animal Birth Control Campaign across A&N Islands

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services has completed a meticulously planned three-phase Animal Birth Control (ABC) campaign that ran from December 2025 to January 2026, marking a significant achievement in the humane and scientific management of the stray dog population across key islands. This intensive operation, carried out in strict compliance with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, focused on sterilising a large number of stray dogs in tourist-heavy and residential areas while ensuring post-operative care, anti-rabies vaccination where required, and safe release back to their original territories.

The campaign was executed in three distinct phases to cover geographically dispersed and high-priority locations. In the first phase, which ran from Dec. 6 to 19, veterinary teams concentrated their efforts on the twin tourist islands of Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep.



During this period, a total of 212 dogs were sterilised, at the Veterinary Dispensaries in Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep. These islands were prioritised due to their high tourist footfall and the need to maintain a safe, welcoming environment for visitors and residents alike.

The second phase, conducted from Dec. 26 to 30, expanded the operation to three major veterinary centres in North & Middle Andaman and Little Andaman. In this short but highly effective window, the teams sterilised a total of 275 dogs in Veterinary Hospitals at Hut Bay, Rangat and Diglipur.

The third and final

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19

The Art & Culture Department, A&N Administration, in association with the National Book Trust (NBT), New Delhi, will be organizing the nine-day Andaman Nicobar Book Fair, the second in the series, at the sprawling ITF Ground at Sri Vijaya Puram, from February 14 to 22, 2026. The event aims to foster a love for reading and promote literary culture amongst the people, especially youth & students of these Islands. This Book Fair would not only benefit readers of all ages but also serve as an opportunity for



publishing houses and authors to connect with the public.

The book fair will feature a number of stalls displaying books from different publishers from mainland India, offering a diverse collection of genres and authors. Renowned authors from the mainland are also expected to participate in this mega event, engaging with participants through book signings, interactive sessions, and more. This book fair will provide an excellent opportunity for people to browse through a wide variety of books and purchase them directly from the stalls.

Book fairs play a

crucial role in promoting reading habits, providing access to a wide range of books, and offering a platform for authors and readers to interact. They serve as a hub for literary enthusiasts, educators, students, and the general public to explore new ideas, gain knowledge, and celebrate the joy of reading.

All have been invited to participate in this second edition of Andaman Nicobar Book Fair, explore the world of literature, and celebrate the joy of reading, a press release from Art & Culture Department said.

eTourist Portal of Directorate of IP&T to be temporarily unavailable on Jan. 21 due to technical migration

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19

The Directorate of IP&T has informed the tourists, tourism stakeholders, and the general public that the eTourist Portal will be temporarily unavailable on Jan. 21 from 9 AM onwards due to a scheduled technical migration and SBI ePay encryption upgrade.

During this process, the portal will be migrated from <https://andamantourism.gov.in/etourist> to <https://tourism.andamannicobar.gov.in/etourist>.

The service is expected to be restored within 4-5 hours after testing. However, as a precaution, downtime may extend up to one day, if required. Upon completion of migration works, the new URL <https://tourism.andamannicobar.gov.in/etourist> will be in use on the online platforms. Users have been requested to plan online bookings accordingly. The inconvenience caused is regretted, a press release from Directorate of IP&T said.

'Motorization of Traditional Fishing Craft' under Central Sector Scheme - 'Blue Revolution'

Applications invited from eligible beneficiaries for procurement of Outboard/Inboard Marine Engine /Fishing Gear & Propeller

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19

The Department of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration is implementing the component 'Motorization of Traditional Fishing Craft' under the Central Sector Scheme - 'Blue Revolution', wherein subsidy is provided for the purchase of Outboard/Inboard Marine Engines, Fishing Gear, and Propellers.

Pattern of Subsidy for General Category:	Pattern of Subsidy for SC/ST, Women, and their Cooperative Societies:
40% of the unit cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 48,000/- per Inboard/Outboard Engine, Fishing Gear, and Propeller, for a unit cost of Rs.1.20 lakh.	60% of the unit cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs.72,000/- per Inboard/Outboard Engine, Fishing Gear, and Propeller, for a unit cost of Rs. 1.20 lakh.

(Contd. on last page)

Block Level Training Prog. under RGSA held

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19
A Block Level Training Programme on 'Promoting effective waste management and emphasizing the importance of waste segregation at Household level Panchayat as means of sustainable practices (Clean & Green Village)' was conducted today at CD Block Prothrapur under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). The training focused on promoting effective waste management and emphasizing the importance of waste segregation at the household level as a means of sustainable practices. Smt. Jyothi, Pradhan, GP Sippighat, Shri. T. Yaghambaram, Pradhan, GP Calicut and all Panchayat Secretaries attended the training.

Shri Rajesh Ray, Domain Expert explained the objectives of Clean and Green Village, emphasizing practical methods of waste segregation at household level, proper waste disposal, and the role of Panchayats in ensuring a healthy and sustainable



environment. Smti. Gurjeet Kaur, Block Development Officer (BDO), Prothrapur stressed the importance of community participation, awareness generation, and Panchayat-led initiatives to achieve the goals of Clean and Green Villages. Earlier, Shri. Manikandan Nair, Extension Officer welcomed the gathering, a press release from Block Development Officer, Prothrapur said.

DGP Cup T-20 State Level League-cum-Knockout Cricket Tournament (Season-3) resumes



Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19
The Andaman and Nicobar Police organised the DGP Cup T-20 State Level League-cum-Knockout Cricket Tournament (Season-3) - 2025 at Netaji Stadium and Port Mout Cricket Ground. The tournament commenced on 15th March, 2025. However, due to continuous inclement weather conditions, the tournament was postponed. The remaining league matches have now resumed from today, a press release from SP, APU said.

NCC Cadets visit ICG Base Air Wing, ICGS Ships & interact with COS during ongoing SNIC 2026



Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19
As part of the ongoing Special National Integration Camp (SNIC), National Cadet Corps cadets undertook an educational and motivational visit to the Indian Coast Guard base, Air Wing. During the visit, cadets were shown ICGS various Aircrafts, Doniers and Helicopters. Thereafter, cadets visited Coast Guard Region (A&N Islands), where the cadets were shown ICGS Vijit and Vishwast, where they were given an insight into Coast Guard life, ship operations, and advanced maritime technology. The cadets also interacted with Coast Guard Component Commander Inspector General of Indian Coast Guard Region (A&N Islands) Neeraj Tiwari. A

key highlight of the visit was at the Dweepika Auditorium where the cadets interacted with the Chief of Staff, HQ ANC, Major General Ajay Feroz Shah along with Commanding Officer Jarawa, Commodore Chethan R Upadhayaya. The COS motivated the cadets, emphasizing the values of leadership, dedication, and service to the nation, while encouraging them to pursue excellence in all spheres of life. The visit took place under the presence of the Group Commander & Camp Commandant Col Hariteja, Commanding Officer NCC Army Unit Col K Y Singh and Commanding Officer Naval Unit Lt Cdr Reyaz Farooq, a press release from NCC said.

SCERT Uttarakhand team visit DIET for academic exposure



Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19
A team of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Uttarakhand, visited the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), A&N Islands, as part of three-day academic exposure programme from Jan. 19 to 21. The visit aimed at strengthening inter-state academic collaboration and sharing best practices in the field of teacher education.

The exposure visit was organized to provide the visiting team with firsthand understanding of the functioning of DIET Andaman & Nicobar. During the visit, the team interacted extensively with DIET faculty members and Teacher Trainees. Discussions focused on innovative pedagogical practices, effective training management strategies, and curriculum implementation in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with a special emphasis on Foundational Literacy and

Numeracy (FLN). The SCERT Uttarakhand team observed classroom teaching-learning processes, and academic support mechanisms aimed at strengthening teacher professional development. The team appreciated the initiatives taken by DIET Andaman & Nicobar to integrate local culture, traditions, and heritage into the teaching-learning process, making education more contextual, inclusive, and meaningful.

The visiting delegation was led by Shri Padmendra Saklani, Additional Director, SCERT Uttarakhand, along with senior Academic Officers, Principals, and Lecturers. Faculty members of DIET Andaman & Nicobar shared their experiences in implementing teacher training programmes under Samagra Shiksha and highlighted innovative practices adopted in view of the Islands' unique geographical context, a press release from DIET said.

Badminton & TT District C'ship to be held on Jan. 24 & 25 at Diglipur & Mayabunder

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19
The District Badminton and Table Tennis Championship-cum-Selection Trial has been re-scheduled to be held on Jan. 24 and 25 at Diglipur and Mayabunder. The championship will be conducted for Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior categories (Boys & Girls / Men & Women). The selected players will represent the district in the forthcoming State and National Championships. The age Categories are Sub-Junior (Boys & Girls):

Born between 01.01.2011 to 31.12.2014; Junior (Boys & Girls): Born between 01.01.2007 to 31.12.2010 and Senior (Men & Women): Open category. All interested players have been advised to submit their entries through Google Form. For the Google Form link and further details, contact the officials of North & Middle Andaman District Sports Association over Phone No. 9474272310/ 9474238315, a press release from ANSOA said.

District & Zonal Libraries in Isles enter new phase of growth; witnesses increased readership & active engagement of students/ general public

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 19
Under the Directorate of Education, there are 2 District Libraries and 18 Zonal Libraries functioning across the A&N Islands. The Director (Education) has emphasized transforming libraries into Centres for the overall development of students, while also promoting reading habits among the general public.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to improve library facilities, and the positive response from readers has resulted in remarkable improvement. Key initiatives include:
♦ A large number of children's books have been added to the library collections, leading to increased student participation, particularly during evening hours and holidays. To further encourage engagement, chocolates were distributed to students, motivating them to spend more time in the library.



♦ Separate Art & Craft corners along with chess corners have been created, enabling students to spend more time in libraries and reducing mobile phone dependency.
♦ Children's motivational movies are being screened every Sunday evening, attracting a large number of students to the libraries. The District Library, Car Nicobar witnessed more students during screening.
♦ Large display boards have been installed highlighting the facilities available at each District and Zonal Library.
♦ Regular competitions such as Art & Craft, Reading, and Storytelling have been

initiated to encourage creativity and confidence among students.
♦ Libraries will remain open on Sundays, with Monday as the weekly off. The working hours will be 11 AM to 7 PM. These initiatives have significantly strengthened the role of libraries as vibrant learning spaces for students and the community. District and Zonal Libraries are being developed as Centres of learning, and parents are encouraged to bring their children to the libraries so that they may spend more time in positive and constructive activities, a press release from State Library said.

Deptt. of AH&VS completes meticulously

(Contd. from page 1)



phase took place from Jan. 6 to 13, returning to Swaraj Dweep for a focused follow-up operation. During this period, an additional 81 dogs were sterilised, bringing the total sterilised in Swaraj Dweep across the first and third phases to 202 dogs. This targeted reinforcement ensured sustained and comprehensive impact in one of the most visited tourist destinations in the islands.

Overall, the three-phase campaign resulted in the successful sterilisation of 568 stray dogs in a span of just over one month. The operation was complemented by parallel community awareness activities in schools, Gram Panchayats and public spaces, where residents were educated on dog bite prevention, first-aid protocols, responsible feeding practices, and the importance of supporting ongoing sterilisation efforts.

Ms Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Secretary (AH&VS), congratulated the veterinary surgeons, para-veterinarians, support staff and local PRI representatives for their unwavering dedication and exceptional teamwork in executing this large-scale campaign under demanding island conditions. She reaffirmed that the Andaman & Nicobar Islands continue to proudly maintain their completely rabies-free status, and that regular, intensive ABC operations combined with sustained public awareness remain the most effective strategy for long-term stray dog management, prevention of dog-bite incidents, and ensuring a safer environment for residents and visitors alike, a press release from Deptt. of AH&VS said.

'Motorization of Traditional Fishing Craft' under

(Contd. from page 1)

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant should be a bonafide fishermen of A&N Islands possessing registered non-motorized or motorized fishing craft, holding valid fishing license continuously for 2 years including the current year.
 - The engine to be purchased should not be of more than 30 Horse Power (HP).
 - The eligible subsidy for procurement of engine shall be upto 10 HP.
 - The fishermen possessing motorized fishing crafts, whose engines are of more than 05 years old and are unserviceable, are also eligible to replace the engines.
 - The fishermen seeking replacement of 05 years old and unserviceable engine should produce a certificate issued by an Authorized Marine Engineer stating that the engine is beyond economical repair.
 - The type / size of gear allowed to purchase are Gill Net not below 25 mm mesh (knot to knot diagonally), Hook & Line. Shore seine/drag net of mesh size not below 25 mm., Fish traps.
- The Applicant should not have availed the assistance for purchase of engine, fishing gear and propeller from the Department of Fisheries or any other Government Department during the last 5 years.

Applications have been invited from eligible beneficiaries interested in the procurement of Outboard/Inboard Marine Engine /Fishing Gear & Propeller to extend subsidy by the Department during 2026-

27. Application form and detailed terms & conditions of the scheme can be obtained from the Directorate of Fisheries/ Fisheries Zonal Offices/ Fisheries Sub Stations/ Zilla Parishads / Panchayat Samitis. The

applications completed in all respect should reach the nearest Fisheries Zonal Office / Sub - Stations on or before Feb. 20, a press release from Department of Fisheries said.

India’s Labour Reforms: Simplification, Security, and Sustainable Growth

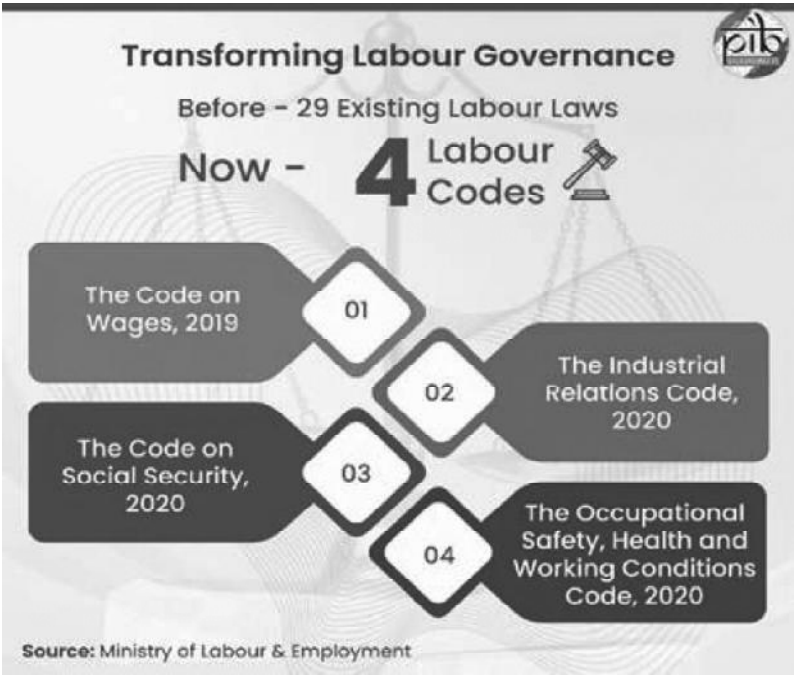
Key Takeaways

- The Government has consolidated 29 labour laws into four comprehensive Labour Codes.
- The four Labour Codes include the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.
- The historic reform streamlines compliance, modernizes outdated provisions, and creates a simplified, efficient framework that promotes ease of doing business while safeguarding workers’ rights and welfare.

Labour at the Core of India’s Growth

The empowerment of labour forms the cornerstone of an empowered, prosperous, and Aatmanirbhar India. Reflecting this vision, employment in India has shown remarkable growth- rising from 47.5 crore in 2017–18 to 64.33 crore in 2023–24, a net addition of 16.83 crore jobs in just six years. During the same period, the unemployment rate declined sharply from 6.0% to 3.2%, and 1.56 crore women entered the formal workforce, underscoring the Government’s emphasis on inclusive and sustained labour empowerment. The positive outlook of the labour market has also led to a broader socio-economic transformation, mirrored by declining proportion of people below the international poverty line. Additionally, India’s social protection system has expanded rapidly to become one of the largest globally.

Labour is a key driver of economic growth and development. In order to simplify and strengthen the framework governing workers' rights, the Government consolidated 29 labour laws into four comprehensive Labour Codes- namely, the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. This historic reform ensures that workers gain easier access to security, dignity, health, and welfare measures, reinforcing India’s commitment to a fair and future-ready labour ecosystem.



Rationale Behind Codification of Existing 29 Labour Laws

Reforms in labour laws are an ongoing process. The Government continuously works to modernize and streamline the legislative framework in line with the evolving economic and industrial landscape of the country. The codification of 29 existing labour laws into four Labour Codes was undertaken to address long-standing challenges and make the system more efficient and contemporary. The codification aims to enhance ease of doing business, promote employment generation, ensure safety, health, social & wage security for every worker.

The key reasons behind this reform include:

- Simplifying compliance: Multiplicity of laws leads to difficulty in compliance.
- Streamlining enforcement: Multiplicity of authorities in different labour laws led to complexity and difficulty in enforcement.
- Modernizing outdated laws: Most labour legislations were framed during the pre-Independence era, necessitating alignment with today’s economic realities and technological advancements.

Formulation of 4 Labour Codes

An important reason of rationalizing labour laws via codification was to simplify the registration, licensing framework by introducing the concept of a Single Registration, Single License, and Single Return, thereby reducing the overall compliance burden to spur employment.

The second National Commission on Labour had recommended that the existing Labour Laws should be broadly grouped into four/ five Labour Codes on functional basis. Accordingly, the Ministry of Labour & Employment started the exercise to rationalize, simplify and amalgamate the relevant provisions of the labour laws in four codes. The four Labour Codes were enacted after the deliberations held in the tripartite meeting of the Government, employers’, industry representatives and various trade unions during 2015 to 2019. The Code on Wages, 2019 was notified on 8th August, 2019 and the remaining three Codes were notified on 29th September, 2020.

Code 1: The Code of Wages, 2019

The Code on Wages, 2019 seeks to simplify, consolidate, and rationalize the provisions of four existing laws- The Payment of Wages Act, 1936; The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; and The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. It aims to strengthen workers’ rights while promoting simplicity and uniformity in wage-related compliance for employers.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Universal Minimum Wages: The Code establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees across both organized and unorganized sectors. Earlier, the Minimum Wages Act applied only to scheduled employments covering ~30% of workers.

Introduction of Floor Wage: A statutory floor wage shall be set by the Government based on minimum living standards, with scope for regional variation. No state can fix minimum wages below this level, ensuring uniformity and adequacy nationwide.

Criteria for Wage Fixation: Appropriate Governments will determine minimum wages considering workers’ skill levels (unskilled, skilled, semi-skilled and highly skilled), geographic areas, and job conditions such as temperature, humidity, or hazardous environments.

Gender Equality in Employment: Employers shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, including transgender identity, in recruitment, wages, and employment conditions for similar work.

Universal Coverage for Wage Payment: Provisions ensuring timely payment and preventing un-authorized deductions will apply to all employees, irrespective of wage limits (currently applicable only to employees earning up to Rs. 24,000/month).

Overtime Compensation: Employers must pay all employees overtime wages at least twice the normal rate for any work done beyond the regular working hours.

Responsibility for Wage Payment: Employers, including companies, firms, or associations, shall pay wages to employees employed by them. Failure to do so makes the proprietor/ entity liable for unpaid wages.

Inspector-cum-Facilitator: The traditional role of “Inspector” is replaced with “Inspector-cum-Facilitator,” emphasizing guidance, awareness, and advisory roles alongside enforcement to improve compliance.

Compounding of Offences: First-time, non-imprisonable offences can be compounded by paying a penalty. Repeat offences within five years, however, cannot be compounded.

Decriminalization of Offences: The Code replaces imprisonment for certain first-time offences with monetary fines (up to 50% of the maximum fine), making the framework less punitive and more compliance-oriented.

Code 2: The Industrial Relations Code, 2020

The Industrial Relations Code (IR Code) has been prepared after amalgamating, simplifying and rationalizing the relevant provisions of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Code acknowledges the fact that survival of worker depends upon survival of industry. In this backdrop, it simplifies laws related to trade unions, conditions of employment in industrial establishment or undertaking, investigation and settlement of industrial disputes.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Fixed Term Employment (FTE): Allows direct, time-bound contracts with full parity in wages and benefits; gratuity eligibility after one year. The provision reduces excessive contractualization and offers cost efficiency to employers.

Re-skilling Fund: To train retrenched employees, this fund has been set up from the contribution to be made by an industrial establishment for an amount equal to 15 days' wages for every worker retrenched. This is in addition to retrenchment compensation. The amount will be credited to the workers account within 45 days of retrenchment.

Trade Union Recognition: Unions with 51% membership get recognition as the Negotiating Union; otherwise, a Negotiating Council is formed from unions, not less than 20% membership of trade union. Such an arrangement strengthens collective bargaining.

Expanded Worker Definition: Covers sales promotion staff, journalists, and supervisory employees earning up to Rs. 18,000/month.

Broader Definition of Industry: Includes all systematic employer-employee activities, regardless of profit or capital, widening access to labour protections.

Higher Threshold for Lay-off/Retrenchment/Closure: Approval limit raised from 100 to 300 workers; States may enhance the limit further. The provision will simplify compliance and contribute to formalization.

Women’s Representation: Ensures proportional representation of women in grievance committees for gender-sensitive redressal.

Standing Orders Threshold: Raised from 100 to 300 employees, easing compliance and enabling flexible workforce management.

Work-from-Home Provision: Permitted in service sectors by mutual consent, improving flexibility.

Industrial Tribunals: Two-member tribunals consisting of judicial and administrative member for quicker dispute resolution.

Direct Tribunal Access: Parties may approach tribunals directly after failed conciliation within 90 days.

Notice for Strikes/Lockouts: Mandatory 14-day notice for all establishments to promote dialogue and minimize disruptions.

Expanded Definition of Strike: Includes “mass casual leave also within its ambit” to prevent flash strikes and ensure lawful action.

Decriminalization & Compounding: Minor offences made compoundable with monetary penalties, promoting compliance over prosecution.

Digital Processes: Enables electronic record-keeping, registration, and communication for transparency and efficiency.

Code 3: The Code on Social Security, 2020

The Code on Social Security incorporates existing nine Social Security Acts viz: The Employee’s Compensation Act, 1923; The Employees’ State Insurance Act, 1948; The Employees’ Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959; The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; The Cine-Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981; The Building and Other Construction Workers’ Welfare Cess Act, 1996 and; The Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Act, 2008. The Code extends social security to all workers- including unorganized, gig, and platform workers- covering life, health, maternity, and provident fund benefits, while introducing digital systems and facilitator-based compliance for greater efficiency.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Expanded ESIC (Employees’ State Insurance) Coverage: ESIC now applies pan-India, eliminating the criteria of “notified areas.” Establishments with fewer than 10 employees may voluntarily opt in with mutual consent of employers and employees. Coverage would be mandated for hazardous occupation and extended to plantation workers.

Time-bound EPF (Employees’ Provident Fund) Inquiries: A five-year limit has been set for initiating EPF inquiries and recovery proceedings, to be completed within two years (extendable by one). Suo-moto reopening of cases has been abolished, ensuring timely resolution.

Reduced EPF Appeal Deposit: Employers appealing EPFO orders now need to deposit only 25% of the assessed amount (down from 40–70%), reducing financial burden and ensuring ease of business and access to justice.

Self-assessment for Construction Cess: Employers can now self-assess cess liabilities in respect to Building and Other Construction Work, previously assessed by the notified Government authority. It reduces procedural delays and official intervention.

Inclusion of Gig and Platform Workers: New definitions are included- “aggregator,” “gig worker,” and “platform worker” to enable social security coverage. Aggregators to contribute 1- 2% of annual turnover (capped at 5% of payments to such workers).

Social Security Fund: A dedicated fund to finance schemes for unorganised, gig, and platform workers, covering life, disability, health, and old-age benefits has been proposed. The amount collected through the compounding of offences will be credited to this Fund and used by the Government.

Expanded Definition of Dependents: Coverage extended to maternal grandparents and in case of female employees it also includes dependent parents-in-law, broadening family benefit access.

Uniform Definition of Wages: “Wages” now include basic pay, dearness allowance, and retaining allowance; 50% of the total remuneration (or such percentage as may be notified) shall be added back to compute wages, ensuring consistency in calculating gratuity, pension, and social security benefits.

Commuting Accidents Covered: Accidents during travel between home and workplace are now deemed employment-related, qualifying for compensation.

Gratuity for Fixed-Term Employees: Fixed-term employees become eligible for gratuity after one year of continuous service (earlier five years).

Inspector-cum-Facilitator System: Introduces randomized web-based, algorithm-driven inspections for transparency and wider compliance. Inspectors now act as facilitators to support adherence and reduce harassment.

Decriminalization & Monetary Fines: The code has replaced imprisonment with monetary fines for certain offences. The employer will be given mandatory 30 days’ notice for compliance before taking any legal action.

Compounding of Offences: First-time offences punishable with fines are compoundable- for fine-only: 50% of maximum fine and for fine/ imprisonment cases: 75% of maximum fine- reducing litigation and improving ease of doing business.

Digitization of Compliance: Mandates electronic maintenance of records, registers, and returns, cutting costs and improving efficiency.

Vacancy Reporting: Employers shall report vacancies to specified career centres before recruitment, promoting transparency in employment opportunities.

Code 4: The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020

The Code has been drafted after amalgamation, simplification and rationalization of the relevant provisions of the 13 Central Labour Acts- The Factories Act, 1948; The Plantations Labour Act, 1951; The Mines Act, 1952; The Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955; The Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958; The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961; The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979; The Cine-Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1981; The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986 and; The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

The Code balances the twin objectives of safeguarding worker rights and safe working conditions, and creating a business-friendly regulatory environment. This will spur economic growth and employment thereby, making India’s labour market more efficient, fair, and future-ready.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Unified Registration: A uniform threshold of 10 employees is set for electronic registration. One registration for an establishment has been envisaged in place of 6 registrations in the Acts. This will create a centralised database and promote ease of doing business.

Extension to Hazardous Work: The Government can extend the Code’s provisions to any establishment, even with one employee, engaged in hazardous or life-threatening occupations.

Simplified Compliance: Introduces one license, one registration, one return framework for the establishments, reducing redundancy and compliance burden.

Wider Definition of Migrant Workers: The definition of inter-state migrant workers (ISMW) now covers workers employed directly, through contractors, or migrate on their own. Establishments must declare the number of ISMW. Benefits include: a lump-sum annual travel allowance to native place once in 12 months and portability of public distribution system and social security benefits across states along with access to a toll-free helpline.

Health and Formalization: Free annual health check-ups for employees, **Formalization via appointment letters:** Appointment letters specifying job details, wages, and social security will be given to enhance transparency and accountability.

Women’s Employment: Women can work in all types of establishments and during night hours (before 6AM, beyond 7PM) with consent and safety measures, fostering equality and inclusion.

Expanded Media Worker Definition: “Working journalists” and “cine workers” now include employees in electronic media and all forms of audio-visual production.

National Database for Unorganised Workers: A national database to be developed for unorganized workers including migrants to help migrant workers get jobs, map their skills and provide other social security benefits.

Victim Compensation: Courts can direct at least 50% of fines imposed on offenders to be paid as compensation to victims or their legal heirs in case of injury or death.

Contract Labour Reform: Applicability threshold has been raised from 20 to 50 contract workers. All India license valid for 5 years against work-order based license to be provided to the contractor. For contract labour, beedi and cigar manufacturing and factory: a common license is envisaged and provision of deemed license after expiry of prescribe period is introduced. Moreover, the license shall be auto-generated. Provision of contract labour board has been done away with and provision for appointment of designated authority to advise matters on core and non-core activities is introduced.

Safety Committees: Establishments with 500 or more workers will form safety committees with employer-worker representation, enhancing workplace safety and shared accountability.

National Occupational Safety & Health Advisory Board: A single tripartite advisory board replaces six earlier boards to set national safety and health standards across sectors, ensuring uniformity and quality.

Decriminalisation & Compounding of Offences: Offences punishable by fine only to be compounded by paying 50% of the maximum fine; those involving imprisonment or fine or both by 75%. Criminal penalties (imprisonment) replaced by civil penalties like monetary fines, promoting compliance over punishment.

Revised Factory Thresholds: Applicability increased from 10 to 20 workers (with power) and 20 to 40 workers (without power), reducing compliance burden for small units.

Social Security Fund: Establishes a fund for unorganised workers, financed through penalties and compounding fees, for their welfare and benefit delivery.

Contract Labour- Welfare & Wages: Principal employers to provide welfare facilities like health and safety measures to contract workers. If the contractor fails to pay wages, the principal employer has to pay unpaid wages to the contract labour.

Working Hours & Overtime: Normal working hours capped at 8 hours/day and 48 hours/week. Overtime allowed only with worker consent and paid at twice the regular rate.

Inspector-cum-Facilitator System: Inspectors will now act as facilitators with an objective to help employers comply with law, rules and regulations rather than merely policing them.

The Transformative Power of Labour Codes

India’s new Labour Codes make labour laws simpler, fairer, and more in tune with today’s work environment. They protect workers’ rights, improve safety and social security, make it easier for businesses to comply with rules, and create more job opportunities in a growing economy. The enacted Labour Codes bring out following transformations in the labour market:

Align labour laws with the current economic scenario by modernizing regulations in accordance with evolving work patterns, technological advancements, and economic realities.

Ensure the safety, health, social security, and wage security of every worker through a unified and comprehensive framework encompassing all categories of workers.

Enhance employment opportunities by simplifying procedures and fostering a business-friendly environment that promotes investment and economic growth.

Facilitate easier compliance by introducing uniform definitions, single registration, single return, and simplified online systems for seamless adherence.


Encourage the use of technology in the administration of labour laws through digital registration, licensing, and inspections for improved efficiency and transparency.

Strengthen transparency and accountability in enforcement through online, risk-based inspection mechanisms and objective implementation processes.

Achieve simplification, harmonization, and rationalization of the regulatory framework by consolidating multiple labour laws into four comprehensive Codes, ensuring consistency and reducing administrative burden.

Conclusion

Establishment of the new Labour Codes marks a transformative step in India’s labour landscape- one that balances the welfare of workers with the efficiency of enterprises. These provisions simplify compliance, promote safety, and ensure fairness in wages. Moreover, these reforms lay the foundation for a more equitable, transparent, and growth-oriented economy. They reaffirm India’s commitment to fostering a modern labour ecosystem that empowers both workers and industry, paving the way for inclusive and sustainable progress.(Source: PIB)





HEALTH4U MULTISPECIALITY CLINIC


Reg no:356400030


Diabetes Care Essentials


Essential Care for a Balanced Life.


**Blood Sugar Check**

**Medication Support**

**Nutrition Counseling**


**Lifestyle Guidance**

**SPECIALIST Consultation**


**Sugar Control session**

Contact Us

9933219444
8900906444



Dr Sumit Rakshit
MBBS, MD(Internal Medicine)
Fellowship in diabetes Management
Ex DNB Resident Cardiology



CONGRATULATION



Sub- Inspector N. Suresh Kumar, Station Officer of Fire Service Station, Kadamtala being awarded DGP's Commendation in recognition of his exemplary, dedication and outstanding service. *Inserted by: R.S. Kumar*

PRESS NOTE

In view of the Republic Day celebration on 26.01.2026, the movement of all Island Tourist Vessels operating from Aberdeen Jetty (RGWSC) to various tourist spot will be diverted as per details below:-

Date	Programme	Schedule
24.01.2026	Full Dress Rehearsal for Republic Day Programme on 26.01.2026	All vessel to be shifted to Junglighat on 23.01.2026 by 1700 Hrs. and operate from Junglighat to North Bay
26.01.2026	Republic Day celebration on 26.01.2026	All vessel to be shifted to Junglighat on 25.01.2026 by 170 Hrs. and operate from Junglighat to North Bay
27.01.2026	Full Dress Rehearsal for Beating the Retreat	
29.01.2026	Beating the Retreat programme	All vessel to be shifted to Junglighat on 28.01.2026 by 1700 Hrs. and operate from Junglighat to North Bay

However, operating of IV Tourist boats from Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Island and North Bay shall be permitted on 25th & 28th upto 1600 Hrs. and thereafter normal operation will be restored from 30.01.2026

All owners of Jetski are also directed to park their Jetski's at their designated place on the above date and time as no water sports activity will be permitted from RGWSC as per schedule above due to security consideration.

HARBOUR MASTER
PORT MANAGEMENT BOARD
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
e-File No: 1076/MSO/PMB/Part-V(A-1)

ID. No. 11946

JOB VACANCY

- AGRONOMIST – 01 Post** Qualification: B.Sc. in Agronomy (OR) Any Agriculture related discipline- Must possess a Two Wheeler with License.
 - SALES BOY** Qualification- Experience in Sales- Must possess a Two Wheeler with License.
 - SUPERVISOR** Experience in Field / Site or Labour Management Work- Must possess a Two Wheeler with License.
 - STORE KEEPER** Experience in Record Maintenance Work related to Site- For our ongoing project at Diglipur.
 - CIVIL ENGINEER** Degree (OR) Diploma in Civil Engineering with Experience – for Diglipur.
- Contact: 8016919182 / 9434288157 / 9933282311 (OR)
Email resume to: hello@thegreatfarmers.com (OR)
Visit: M/s Kailash Engineering Work, First Floor, Opposite Hotel Darwin City, Near Andhara Hall, Gurudwara Line, Sri Vijaya Puram. Reg. No. UDYAM-AN-01-0000405

District :- South Andaman
IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE (ED)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands
At Port Blair
Pre-Cognizance Notice
(in terms of Section 223 of BNSS)
In
CR Case No. 01 of 2025
ECIR No. KLZO-II/11/ 2025 of ED, Kolkata

To
M/s Apache Traders Pvt. Ltd.,
(Represented through its authorized representative)
Address – Survey No. 1/23/4, Ferrargunj, South Andaman
Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India – 744103.
WHEREAS, the complaint has filed the instant complaint, arising out of ECIR No. KLZO-II/2025, dated 21.07.2025, u/s 44 r/w 45 of PMLA, 2002, alleging commission of offence u/3, r/w 70 of PMLA, 2002, which is punishable u/s 4 of 2002 and for which you are hereby directed to appear before this Ld. Court in person on 22/01/2026 at 9.00 Hours for Pre-Cognizance hearing.
Should you failed to appear, this Court shall proceed with the instant case/ Complaint in accordance with Law. Hence, fail not.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 16th day of January 2026.

Sd/-
Special Judge
(Prevention of Money Laundering Act)
A&N Islands, Port Blair

04th Death Anniversary

On 19-01-2026 of



CHIRAKKAL LAXMI

W/o C. Krishnan (Late)
Died on 19.01.2022

Fondly remembered by:
Sons & Daughters, Daughter-in-Laws
& Son-in-Laws and Grand Children

04th Death Anniversary

On 19-01-2026 of



S. VIJAYAN

H/o A.K. Sarala
R/o Mannarghat
Died on 19-01-2022

Fondly remembered by:
Wife, Sons, Daughter, Daughter-in-Laws
& Son-in-Laws and Grand Children

WANTED

We are looking for
✓ 02 Nos. Waiter (Male)
For Andaman Beach Resort at Corbyn's Cove Beach, Sri Vijaya Puram, Experienced candidate will be preferred.
Interested candidate may Contact
on: 9679596116 / 9679580440
Reg. No. 20510/LC/2024

WANTED

Sales Staff-2 Nos.
(Male/ Female) Experience preferable (Salary Based on Experience)
Contact: SREE BHUVANESWARI JEWELLERY
Mob: 9434282113 / 9883922772
Reg. No. UDYAM-AN-01-0003381

WANTED

Drivers – 2 Posts
Salary – Rs.17000 to 20000
Min. 5 Years Experience
Receptionist – 2 Posts
Contact: 9933224636 / 8900905050
License No. 32/MVS/2017

TO LET

02 BHK spacious room available for rent at Dollygunj. **Contact: 9933293040 / 9434268609 / 9474207444**

HOUSE FOR RENT

1 BHK and 2 BHK House Available for rent at TTI Road Garachama. Interested parties May **Contact Mobile No. 9434293234**

NEW BATCH ADMISSION OPEN

CGL, LGC, MTS and All Competitive Exams.
Maths, English, Reasoning, GK
Batch Timing: 6 – 8 AM, 7 – 9 AM, 4 – 6 PM, 5 – 7 PM
6 – 7 AM, 7 – 8 AM, 8 – 9 AM, 9.30 – 11 AM, 4 – 5 PM, 5 – 6 PM, 6 – 7 PM
ACHIEVER'S COMPETITIVE COACHING
Opp. Petrol Pump, Goal Ghar, Ambedkar Bhavan, Sri Vijaya Puram.
Contact: 9933182827 / 9476030947
UDYAM-AN-01-0011245

AFFIDAVIT

I, REETADEVI, Wife of Army No. TJ-6549K, Rank Sub, Name Inder Raj residing at Vill- Rajot, PO- Rajot, PS- Baijnath, Dist.- Kangra, State- Himachal Pradesh, PIN- 176063, have changed my name and Date of Birth from REETADEVI to RITA DEVI from 19 Apr., 1981 to 13 Nov., 1982 Vide affidavit dated 16th Jan., 2026 at Sri Vijaya Puram.

DEPONENT

JOB VACANCY

- Sales Girl/Boy**
- Candidates having 1-2 yrs of Exp. may kindly submit your resume at Titan Eye + Junglighat**
Contact :9932089708
GST NO. 35ALAPK4098B3ZB

URGENT JOB VACANCY

- Sales Executive** 2 Posts
 - Tour Coordinator** 1 Post
 - Driver** 1 Post
- (Experienced only required)
Please submit your Resume in Mail or WhatsApp
DREAMZ YATRA PVT. LTD.
Address: 16/1, Near DTDC Courier, Deen Street, M.G. Road, Junglighat, Sri Vijaya Puram
Mob. 9933779919 / 9474266144
Email: info@dreamzyatra.com
Reg. No. 22273/LC/2025

VACANCY

- System Engineer – 1 Post**
 - Qualification: IT / Diploma (Tech.)
 - Skills: Networking of IP based devices &
 - System troubleshooting and IT support
- Supervisor – 1 Post (Male)**
With Two Wheeler Driving License
- Office Assistant – 1 Post**
 - Qualification: 12th Pass / DCA
 - Skills: MS Office, Documentation & Communication
- Driver – 1 Post**
 - Qualification: Valid Driving License
 - Experience: Minimum 2 years of professional Driving Experience**Smart IoT Solutions, Only**
WhatsApp: 9933233918
Reg. No. 15684/LC/2022

AFFIDAVIT

I, ABISHAK, Son of Army No. TJ-6549K, Rank Sub, Name Inder Raj residing at Vill- Rajot, PO- Rajot, PS- Baijnath, Dist.- Kangra, State- Himachal Pradesh, PIN- 176063, have changed my name from ABISHAK to ABHISHEK DOGRA Vide. affidavit dated 16th Jan., 2026 at Sri Vijaya Puram.

DEPONENT

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj Institution, South Andaman Division-I on behalf of Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Calicut invites online item rate tender (in CPWD form-8) from bonafide and experienced contractors for the below mentioned work.

- NIT NO. EE/PRI/SAD-I/RR/2025-26/184 Name of Work: - Repair and Maintenance of Rural Road near Hollow Block Company to Smti. Nookamma house at Calicut Ward No. 04 for length of 320m under Gram Panchayat Calicut. Estimated Cost Rs: - 19, 76,203/- Earnest Money Deposit Rs: - 39,524/- Time of Completion: - Six (06) Months, Tender Fee: - Rs.500/- & last date & time of submission of bid: - 22/01/2026 (1500 hrs)

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andamannicobar.gov.in>.
Tender ID: - 2026 RDPRI 21512 1

Executive Engineer,
Panchayati Raj Institution,
South Andaman Division-I
Junglighat, Sri Vijaya Puram
South Andaman

ID. No. 11947

E-Tender Invitation Notice

The Director, Economics & Statistics, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Sri Vijaya Puram on behalf of President of India invites online bids from the bonafide Agency/Firm for hiring resource persons for Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institution for Transformation (ANIIT) subject to fulfilling the conditions as laid down in the tender document. The details of tender schedule are as follows:

Event Description	Date and Time
Bid Published Date	16-January-2026
Bid Submission Start Date	16-January-2026
Pre-proposal Meeting	20-January-2026-15:30 Hrs
Bid Submission End Date	06-February-2026-15:30 Hrs
Opening of Technical Proposal	06-February-2026-16:30 Hrs
Opening of Financial Proposal	To be intimated to Technically Qualified Bidders

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andamannicobar.gov.in>

Statistical Officer (HQ)
Directorate of Economics & Statistics
Sri Vijaya Puram

ID. No. 11948

TO LET

- Three Bedroom Semi Furnished Flat at 2nd floor with Drawing, Dining, Kitchen and Covered Terrace.
- One Bedroom Hall Kitchen Flat at 1st floor with one Fully Furnished Room
Situated at Aberdeen Bazar Near Clock Tower
Contact No.: 9434280913 / 9474209022

Admission Open, Hurry Up! Limited Seat Only

Govt. (NABARD) Sponsored, Fees Free course

Now introducing job oriented certificate course only for 25 Trainees for 6 Months Training (**FEES FREE COURSE**), & **PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE, "PRIORITY FOR RURAL WOMENS"**

HOME NURSING/GERIATRIC CARE

Qualification:12+ Degree(Unemployed Youths)

Admission starts from	10-01-2026 TO 10-02-2026		TRAINING FOR 6 MONTHS
Commencing on	16-02-2026	Final Testing	13-07-2026
Course conclude on	15-07-2026	Timing	Morning (10 am to 01 pm)

FEES FREE COURSE

VIDYA YUVAKENDRA FOUNDATION (NGO)
(THE MISSION FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT)
Bharthi Womens Building, Near Electricity Office, Bathubasthi (Pathargudda)
Ph:250129,9679514104
Reg. No. UDYAM-AN-01-0009081

DISCLAIMER Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any advertisement published in this newspaper. The publisher of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser for any of the advertisers products and services.
The Owner, Publisher, Printer, Employees of this newspaper shall not be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/ or damages/consequences for advertisements in this newspaper.