



Since 1920s the Oldest Daily...

The Daily Telegrams

...the Largest Circulating Daily of the Islands

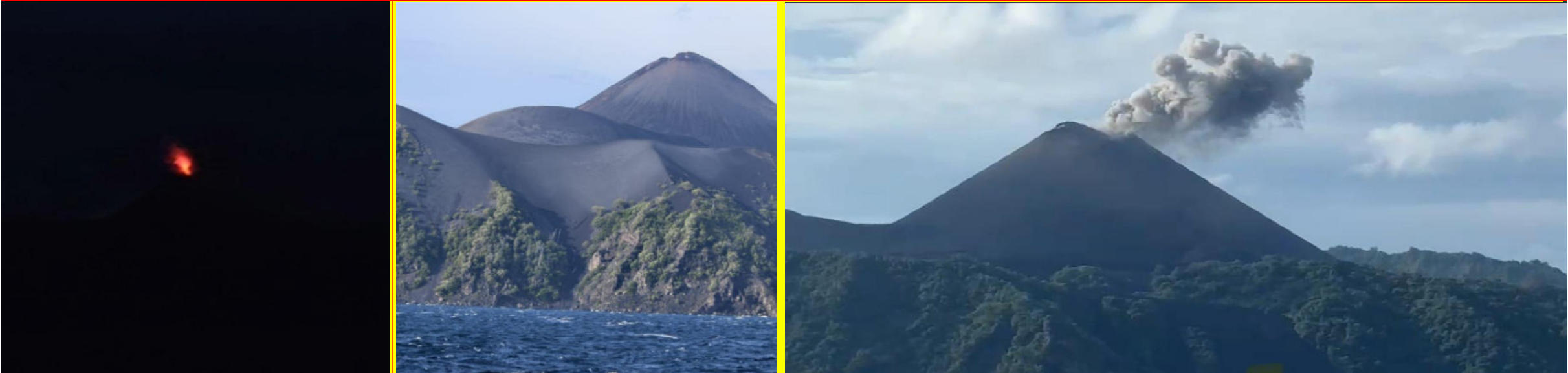
Generally cloudy sky accompanied with squally wind, thunder and moderate to heavy rain is likely over Sri Vijaya Puram. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 28.5°C and 24.0°C respectively on Sunday 26/10/2025.

Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 29.0
Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 25.5
Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST : 083
Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST : 089
Sunrise time on 26/10/2025 (in IST): 0510
Sunset time on 26/10/2025 (in IST): 1656
Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs)-in mm: 000.9
Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 004.8
Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 2025 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm: 3230.6

Weather Report

Vessel Sindhu returns after stunning Barren Island cruise

Travellers witness awe-inspiring glow of Barren Volcano against night sky



View of Barren Volcano's glowing crater

Breathtaking display of nature's raw power witnessed by passengers aboard MV Sindhu

Staff Correspondent
Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

The passenger vessel Sindhu returned to Sri Vijaya Puram this evening after completing its special cruise to Barren Island, India's only active volcano. Carrying a full capacity of 439 passengers, including 125 students from various schools across the Islands, the cruise offered travellers a once-in-a-lifetime chance to witness the awe-

inspiring sight of the Barren Volcano glowing against the night sky. For many onboard, the sight of the Barren Volcano's glowing crater and the tranquil blue waters surrounding it will remain an unforgettable memory, a perfect blend of nature's raw power and serene beauty.

The exclusive trip was organized by the Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) under the aegis of the A&N Administration to promote adventure and eco-tourism.

Excitement and wonder filled the air as passengers recounted their experiences upon arrival. Officials of the DSS expressed satisfaction over the smooth conduct of the special cruise and the enthusiastic participation it received. The successful voyage, blending adventure, leisure, and learning, has reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to positioning the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a premier eco-tourism destination.

District Administration (SA) conducts eviction drive at Brookshabad village; Govt. land restored

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

In continuation of its sustained efforts and zero-tolerance policy towards encroachments on Government land, the District Administration, South Andaman, through the Revenue Department, carried out an eviction drive at Brookshabad village to remove unauthorized and recent encroachments on Government Revenue land.

During the operation, temporary shelters constructed along the main road were found to have encroached upon Government land. An area measuring approximately 200 sq. mtrs. was successfully cleared and restored to the Government khata. The eviction drive was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner, ensuring that the reclaimed land was duly brought back under the official revenue records.

The District Administration, South Andaman once again reiterates its zero-tolerance policy against encroachment of Government land. Citizens are urged to refrain from occupying public land illegally and are encouraged to cooperate with the authorities in maintaining the integrity of public

(Contd. on last page)

Consultation Meeting on Construction of New Rural Roads under PMGSY-IV concludes

Deliberations on feasibility, prioritization & community benefits of proposed works held

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

A consultation meeting with the team of Consultant namely M/s Radiant Consultant, Kolkata engaged by the Andaman Public Works Department (APWD) for the preparation and execution of new rural road projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) -IV was held today at Atal Bhawan, Sri Vijaya Puram.

The meeting was chaired by Shri Prakash Adhikari, Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad South Andaman (ZPSA), and was attended by Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Shri. Azharuddin Zahiruddin Quazi, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, ZPSA, Shri. Boominathan, Up-Adhyaksh, ZPSA, Shri. U.K Singh, SE(PRI), senior technical officers of APWD, and a large number of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, both in person and through virtual conferencing.

During the meeting,

(Contd. on last page)

State Level Role Play & Folk-Dance Competitions held

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

A State Level Role Play & Folk-Dance Competition 2025 under National Population Education Project was organized in collaboration with the Science Wing of Directorate of Education in the Auditorium of TGCE, Middle Point today. Altogether, 33 students and 06 Escort teachers took part in the State Level function. The students of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Aberdeen stood first in State Level Folk Dance Competition 2025 and PM SHRI GSSS R K Pur stood first in State Level Role Play Competition 2025. The two winning teams will participate in National Role Play & Folk-Dance Competition 2025 in the Month of January.

The District Level Winner participants from all 3 Districts of this UT had performed Role Play & Folk Dance on the stipulated theme.

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Beach Sports Festival-2025 concludes at Wandoor Beach

Tug of War, Volleyball and Prize distribution mark grand finale

Staff Correspondent
Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

The two-day Beach Sports Festival-2025 concluded in style at the scenic Wandoor Beach with the final events of Tug of War, Volleyball, and the Prize Distribution Ceremony. Villagers and visitors cheerfully as teams competed in the exciting beachside contests.

Organized by the Directorate of Tourism in collaboration with the Departments of Education, Sports & Youth Affairs, and the Gram Panchayat, Wandoor, the festival drew participants and spectators from across the region. Shri Adhir Das, Pradhan, Wandoor Gram Panchayat, graciously graced the occasion as the chief guest and distributed prizes to the winners and runners-up.

In his valedictory address, Shri Das expressed joy at the success of the festival, saying it was a festive occasion for villagers and visitors alike. He encouraged holding similar events at regular intervals to boost tourism in Wandoor Beach which will benefit the local youth and community.

The two-day festival celebrated sportsmanship, fitness, and community.

(Contd. on last page)

A&N Police to establish two new Khelo India Centres (KICs) in the South Andaman District

Applications invited for participation in Talent Identification of Sportsperson in Kayaking & Canoeing and Boxing

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has granted approval to the Andaman and Nicobar Police to establish two new Khelo India Centres (KICs) in the South Andaman District, in the disciplines of Kayaking & Canoeing at Armed Police Unit, A & N Police and Boxing at India Reserve Battalion, A & N Police at HQ, Port Mout. As part of this initiative, the Andaman and Nicobar Police is conducting Talent Identification of sportsperson by conducting Registration and selection Trials under the guidelines of the Khelo India Scheme to scout and nurture young sporting talent. Interested candidates

may apply in the prescribed format by post, in person, or through email to the Superintendent of Police, APU, Police Line, Sri Vijaya Puram, South Andaman, A&N Islands - 744106. The prescribed format and eligibility criteria details are available on the official website: <https://police.andamannicobar.gov.in>. Applications, duly signed and accompanied by the candidate's and parent's self-attested copies of birth/age certificate, educational qualifications, must be sent to the above address or emailed to sapsap@and.nic.in. The application process will start w.e.f. 20/10/2025 and will remain open until 04/11/2025 (5 PM). Applications received after

04/11/2025 (5 PM) shall not be entertained.

Eligibility Criteria:

◆ Boys and Girls in the age group of 12-18 years.

◆ Candidates must bring valid ID proof, birth/age certificate.

General Conditions:-

► Candidates must report in proper sports kit and carry original documents for verification.

► The trial process will be conducted strictly as per SAI/Khelo India protocols.

► Selection will be purely on merit, based on performance in the prescribed tests and sport-specific assessments.

Candidates must submit a valid Medical Fitness Certificate issued by a registered Medical Practitioner at the time of reporting, a press release from SP, APU said.

Deptt. of AH&VS distributes Poultry Birds to farmers in Shaheed Dweep

Shaheed Dweep, Oct. 25

The Department of AH&VS conducted a poultry distribution program recently at the Veterinary Dispensary, Shaheed Dweep. A total of 1,204 poultry birds were distributed to 41 beneficiaries, comprising 600 Vanraja chicks, 100 Nicobari chicks, 288 ducklings, 134 quails, 78 guinea fowl, and 4 turkeys. The initiative aimed to enhance livestock farming, promote nutritional security, and create income opportunities for local farmers.

The distribution focused on providing diverse poultry breeds



to support sustainable farming practices in Shaheed Dweep. Vanraja and Nicobari chicks are well-suited for local conditions, while ducklings, quails, guinea fowl, and turkeys offer varied opportunities for income generation and dietary diversification. Beneficiaries received the birds to strengthen

their livelihoods through poultry rearing, contributing to the local economy. The active participation of 41 beneficiaries underscores their dedication to adopting poultry farming as a viable source of income and nutrition, a press release from AH&VS Department said.

State Level Role Play & Folk-Dance.....

(Contd. from page 1)



Shri Gyan Sheel Dubey, HoO, Directorate of Education was the chief guest of the inaugural function. The Dy. Director Education (Sc.), Shri. Ram Pravesh welcomed the gathering.

The trophies and certificates were awarded to the winners and runners by Shri Ram Pravesh, Deputy Director Education (Sc.) & Judges. Shri. Chanchal Singha Roy, Science Supervisor proposed the vote of thanks, a press release from Shiksha Sadan said.

Interview for post of Special Educator in DSW postponed

SriVijaya Puram, Oct. 25

All concerned have been informed that the interview for the post of Special Educator (CCI) under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme, which was scheduled to be held on 28th October, 2025 and was published in the newspaper on 24th October, 2025, has been postponed due to administrative reasons, a press release from Directorate of Social Welfare said.

Applications invited for leasing of designated sea areas for undertaking Seaweed farming and Pearl Culture activities

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

The Directorate of Fisheries has invited applications for the leasing of designated sea areas as notified vide Department of Fisheries Notification dated 19th September, 2025 for undertaking Seaweed farming and Pearl Culture activities. Eligible applicants include fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, fish vendors, individual entrepreneurs, private firms, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Fisheries Cooperatives, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs),

and Fish Farmers Producer Organizations/ Companies (FFPOs/ FFPCs).

The application form, list of designated sea areas as per notification dated 19th September, 2025 and detailed Terms and Conditions for undertaking Seaweed farming and Pearl culture are available in the official website of the A&N Administration (<https://andamannicobar.gov.in>) and in the website of Department of Fisheries (<https://anifisheries.andamannicobar.gov.in/>).

Interested parties have been requested to submit their applications along with all required documentation either physically to the Directorate of Fisheries, Sri Vijaya Puram/ Zonal Fisheries Offices (South Andaman/ N&M Andaman/ Nicobar) or through e-mail at dirfish.and@nic.in. The applications in complete format should be submitted before Nov. 24, 2025, a press release from Directorate of Fisheries said.

Open Road Race - 10 Km for Men & 5 Km for Women held

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs organized 'Open Road Race - 10 Km for Men and 5 Km for Women' today at Netaji Stadium Sports Complex under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. Shri. Gyan Sheel Dubey, HoO, Directorate of Education as chief guest, flagged off the Road race. The main objective of this race was to keep the youth away from drugs and encourage them to participate in Sports.

The run started from Netaji Stadium to Megapode Chowk

(Men)/ Netaji Stadium to Marine Research Laboratory (Women) and returned back to Netaji Stadium as Finishing Point.

Altogether 250 participants from School, College and various organizations as well as general public participated in the Road race and the results are as under:

S.No	Open Women category (05 Km)	Position	Time
1.	Ms Arpita Toppo, GSSS Rangachang	First	26:46
2.	Ms Vineeta Lakra, SSS Nirmala	Second	28:01
3.	Ms Isha Baa, GSSS School Line	Third	30:25
S.No	Open Men category (10 Km)	Position	
1.	Shri Sandeep, Madras Territorial Army	First	35:29
2.	Shri Anand Kumar, KIC Coach (Athletics)	Second	35:31
3.	Shri Vishal, Madras Territorial Army	Third	37:01

The winners presented with Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals and consolation prize by the chief guest. The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs in order to carry forward the spirit will be organizing similar Road Race on Nov. 8 at Netaji Stadium, a press release from Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs said.

Beach Sports Festival-2025 concludes at.....

(Contd. from page 1)



Winner of Tug of War (Male)



Winner of Tug of War (Female)



Winner of Volleyball (Female)



Winner of Volleyball (Male)



Winner of 100 Mtr. Sprint (Men)



Winner of 100 Mtr. Sprint (Women)



Winner of Arm Wrestling (Men)

and community spirit against the breathtaking backdrop of Wandoor beach. Competitions were conducted under the supervision of Physical Education teachers from the Education Department, ensuring fair play and smooth execution. Winners and runners-up received cash prizes sponsored by the Tourism Department, rounding off a fun-filled and memorable sporting event.

Winners of various beach sports events:

Tug of War (Female)		
1	Wandoor Panchayat	Rs. 11,000/-
2	New Wandoor Beach	Rs. 6,000/-
Tug of War (Male)		
1	Asha	Rs. 11,000/-
2	Island Crackers	Rs. 6,000/-
Volleyball (Female)		
1	Island Valkyries	Rs. 8,000/-
2	Spark Girls	Rs. 4,000/-
Volleyball (Male)		
1	PS Pahargaon	Rs. 8,000/-
2	Ravi Arts	Rs. 4,000/-
Arm Wrestling (Men)		
1	Bibhuti Biswas	Rs. 2,000/-
2	Yamin	Rs. 1,500/-
3	Prasant Singh	Rs. 1,000/-
100 Mtr. Sprint (Men)		
1	S Selva Kumar	Rs. 2,000/-
2	Rakesh Bahadur	Rs. 1,500/-
3	Anikesh Roy	Rs. 1,000/-
100 Mtr. Sprint (Women)		
1	Ishika Roy	Rs. 2,000/-
2	Anisha Bala	Rs. 1,500/-
3	Jigyasha Sai	Rs. 1,000/-

District Administration (SA) conducts.....

(Contd. from page 1)

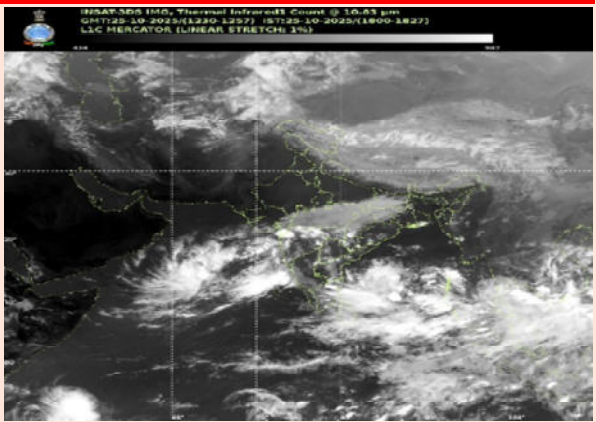
assets.

In case of any inquires/complaints, the general public can communicate with the District Control Room at the following numbers 03192-240127/ 238881/1070/9531888844 (WhatsApp). The identity of the person providing the information will be kept secret so as to protect the individual, a press release from DC (SA) said.

Heavy to very heavy rain likely to occur in A&N Islands

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

Heavy to very heavy rain (07-20 cm) is very likely to occur at one or two places over A&N Islands and thunderstorm with gusty wind (40-50 kmph) and lightning is also very likely to occur at one or two places over A&N Islands on Oct. 26. Thunderstorm with gusty wind (40-50 kmph) and lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over A&N Islands on Oct. 27 & 28. Thunderstorm with gusty wind (30-40 kmph) and lightning is also very likely to occur at one or two places over A&N Islands on Oct. 29.



Squally weather with surface wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is very likely over Andaman Sea along and off A&N Islands. Sea condition is likely to be rough to very rough. Fishermen have been advised not to

venture into the Andaman Sea along and off A&N Islands coast till Oct. 28. Local Cautionary Signal- 3 has been kept hoisted at Sri Vijaya Puram Port, a press release from Directorate of Disaster Management said.

DSS issues advisory to general public & tourist in view of inclement weather

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

The general public and tourists have been informed that, advisory have been issued by Indian Meteorological Department about the formation of low pressure area over North Andaman Sea and adjoining areas and its likely intensification into a Cyclonic storm in the Bay. In view of inclement weather conditions, keeping in view the safety of the

passengers and vessels, the Directorate of Shipping Services may be forced to suspend or cancel Inter-Island/ Foreshore Sector vessels at very short notice.

Similarly, the operation of Harbour/ Vehicle ferry services between Chatham, Bambooflat, Dundas Point, Hoptown, Phoenix Bay, and at outstations may also face disruption or suspension with short notice,

depending on weather conditions.

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

Training prog. on 'Fostering progressive rural entrepreneurship for sustainable livelihood & poverty alleviation in rural areas' held

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25

A one-day training programme on the theme 'Fostering Progressive Rural Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Livelihood and Poverty Alleviation in Rural Areas (Theme-1)' was conducted under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme at CD Block Prothrapur attached to the Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, A&N Administration in the presence of Smt. Gurjeet Kaur, Block Development Officer, Prothrapur. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and youth representatives from the Gram Panchayats of Beodnabad, Calicut, and Sippighat.

During the technical sessions, the Resource Person Shri. Nikky Ajosetin, Economic Investigator, District Industries Centre, Industries Department, enlightened participants



on various Government schemes promoting entrepreneurship and skill development such as

PM Vishwakarma and PMEGP, a press release from BDO, Prothrapur said.

District Administration (SA) conducts.....

(Contd. from page 1)

the Consultant presented the technical designs, and implementation strategy for the upcoming rural road projects aimed at improving connectivity and infrastructure in remote areas. Detailed deliberations were held on the feasibility, prioritization, and community benefits of the proposed works.

The Adhyaksh, ZPSA, in his address, emphasized the importance of timely execution and quality control in the construction of rural roads to ensure durable and sustainable connectivity for the Island communities. The Hon'ble Member of Parliament also highlighted the significance of PMGSY-IV in strengthening rural infrastructure and enabling socio-economic growth.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with valuable inputs and suggestions from PRI members and officials being taken into consideration for finalization of the project proposals, a press release from ZPSA said.

Soaring Skies, Thriving Economy: India's Aviation Vision 2047

Key Takeaways

- ▶ *UDAN revolutionised regional connectivity – 1.56 crore passengers, 3.23 lakh flights.*
- ▶ *The government's vision is to increase airports to 350-400 by 2047.*
- ▶ *Overall, India's aviation sector supports over 7.7 million jobs.*
- ▶ *Initiatives like Digi Yatra, Greenfield Airports Policy, and Drone PLI Scheme are driving innovation and ease of travel.*

Introduction

Connectivity is a bridge that transforms geography into opportunity. This is not just about the current time, but history tells how regional connectivity led to the growth of regions, trade and economic exchange, making growth inclusive and balanced. Even in the current time, connectivity plays an important role not just for the tourism and trade sectors but also for emergencies and reducing dependence on external markets. Among the many factors contributing to the growth of the domestic market, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) – a regional connectivity scheme launched on 21 October 2016 – has played a pivotal role in strengthening regional air connectivity. As UDAN completes nine years today, the scheme has evolved from a pilot initiative into a national success story, bridging distances and making air travel accessible to citizens across the country.

India's Aviation: Soaring Towards Inclusive Growth

In the last decade, India's skies have grown busier than ever. India has emerged as the world's third-largest domestic aviation market. The number of airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 163 in 2025. Meanwhile, as India celebrates hundred years of independence in 2047, the

government's vision is to increase airports to 350-400 by then.

The aviation sector is also one of the fastest-growing sectors in India's economy, contributing through air transport services and indirectly through tourism, trade, logistics, and manufacturing.

According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), investments in aviation have a strong ripple effect on the economy. For every rupee spent, the sector generates more than three times that value in economic activity and supports over six times as many jobs in connected industries.

Today, the sector supports over 7.7 million jobs indirectly, including 369,000 jobs directly, the demand for skilled personnel—pilots, engineers, ground staff, and logistics professionals—is expected to rise sharply. With over 116 bilateral Air Service Agreements, India is deepening global connectivity as Indian carriers expand internationally, reinforcing the country's position as an aviation hub in Asia. Civil aviation is also driving FDI inflows, technology transfer, and Make in India initiatives in aircraft manufacturing, ground handling, and Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) services. Over the past decade, domestic air passenger traffic has grown 10-12% annually.

By 2040, the passenger traffic is expected to grow six-fold to around 1.1 billion. India's commercial airline fleet is predicted to grow from 400 in 2014 to around 2359 in March 2040. The total employment due to aviation sector in 2040 is expected to be around 25 million - emerging as a core engine of India's journey towards becoming a developed economy.

UDAN: Democratizing Air Travel for

Every Citizen

From metro cities to mountain valleys, the Indian sky has become a map of new possibilities – connecting small towns, enabling tourism, and driving local economies. At the heart of this transformation lies the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), which has democratised air travel and reshaped India's regional connectivity landscape.

According to NITI Aayog, domestic travellers accounted for over 83% of total tourism spending in 2019, a figure expected to rise to nearly 89% by 2028. This shift shows how government initiatives like UDAN have bridged the infrastructure gap and made air travel accessible for millions, connecting remote regions and making air travel affordable and accessible.

This reflects the government's efforts to make air travel affordable and inclusive, supported by initiatives like UDAN. This transformation has also reshaped India's travel map. Once remote destinations— Kullu, Darbhanga, Hubballi and Shillong—are now directly connected by air, boosting local economies and regional tourism.

The vision of UDAN emphasised the need to democratize air travel, a sentiment that ignited the vision for a more inclusive aviation sector. This commitment to the common man's dreams led to the birth of UDAN.

UDAN Achievement:

RCS-UDAN Connecting India: The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN has operationalised 649 routes and connected 93 aerodromes (including 2 water aerodromes and 15 heliports) across the country, among which 12 airports/heliports in the North-East region. It has also

integrated the Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands into the national aviation network.

Milestone Achieved: Over 1.56+ crore passengers have travelled on RCS-UDAN flights, and a total of 3.23 lakh RCS flights have been operated across regional routes nationwide. Around Rs. 4,300 crore in Viability Gap Funding (VGF) has been disbursed to make regional routes commercially sustainable for airlines. Expanded UDAN: The scheme aims to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, catering to 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts.

Affordable Food at Airports with UDAN Yatri Café: The UDAN Yatri Café initiative, launched at Kolkata and Chennai airports, provides affordable, quality meals (tea at Rs. 10, samosa at Rs. 20) – making air travel more inclusive and accessible to all.

Looking Ahead: Vision For 2047

As India moves toward its centenary of independence, the aviation sector is charting an ambitious growth path – from 163 airports in 2025 to over 350 by 2047, and passenger traffic expected to cross one billion. These numbers represents a shift toward cleaner fuels, digital airways, and inclusive mobility.

With 25 million jobs projected by 2047 and expanding opportunities in MRO, drone manufacturing, and pilot training, aviation will become a vital pillar of India's \$10 trillion economy. Meanwhile, following initiatives in aviation sector are pivotal in achieving India's 2047 vision -- connecting remote regions, supporting livelihoods, and advancing sustainable growth.

Krishi UDAN: Launched in September 2020, Krishi UDAN enables faster transport of agricultural produce and perishables, especially to benefit the tribal and northeastern states. In convergence with the Operation Greens Scheme, it offers 50% freight subsidy, multimodal transport options, and coverage of horticulture and allied produce.

Lifeline UDAN: This special initiative was launched in March 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown, to ensure uninterrupted medical and essential supply deliveries. Over 588 flights carried 1,000 tons of cargo across 5.45 lakh km, focusing particularly on the North Eastern region, the Islands, and hilly terrains. Lifeline UDAN also supported setting up COVID labs, transporting medical teams, and responding to emergencies like the Vishakhapatnam gas leak.

Greenfield Airports Policy: The Greenfield Airports Policy provides a framework for building new airports on unused land through public-private partnerships to expand India's aviation infrastructure and decongest metro hubs.

Enhancing Travel Experience: To enhance the travel experience, reduce redundancy, and save time, the government has launched various initiative including Digi Yatra. Implemented from 2022 onwards, Digi Yatra enabled paperless, contactless processing of passengers using facial recognition technology. By March 2025, more than 52.2 million passengers had used this facility. Digi Yatra App is available on Android as well as iOS platforms and has been downloaded by over 12.1 million users so far.

Flight Training and Pilot Development: To meet the projected demand of 30,000-34,000 pilots in the next 10-15 years, government is expanding Flight Training Organizations (FTOs) and

commercial pilot licensing. Promoting gender inclusion, with 13-18% women pilots, DGCA targets 25% female representation in all aviation roles by 2025.

Drone Rules 2021, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI): The Drone Rules, 2021, liberalized India's drone sector by simplifying regulations and enabling wider commercial use. Complementing this, the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, with Rs 34.79 crore disbursed in FY 24-25, has encouraged domestic manufacturing and reduced reliance on imports, boosting India's self-reliant drone ecosystem.

Bharatiya Vayuyam Adhiniyam, 2024: Legislative reform aimed at modernizing India's aviation sector by re-enacting the Aircraft Act, 1934, in alignment with contemporary needs and global standards. The new legislation fosters indigenous manufacturing under Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, aligning with international conventions like the Chicago Convention and ICAO, and streamlining regulatory processes, such as simplification of the issuance of licenses. The Act removes redundancies and provides provisions for appeals.

Conclusion:

India's civil aviation sector has emerged as one of the fastest-growing sectors, making the country the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world. As country continues to record unprecedented rise in passenger traffic, expand regional connectivity, and modernise aviation frameworks, the efforts by the ministry enhance travel experiences for millions and bolster economic prosperity, strengthen national integration, and empower India to confidently soar towards its vision of becoming a developed nation—Viksit Bharat @2047.

(Source: PIB)

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission A Blueprint for Empowering Rural Communities

Takeaways

- ▶ *Mobilized 10.05 crore rural households into 90.9 lakh SHGs across India.*
- ▶ *Supported 4.6 crore Mahila Kisans and 3.74 Lakh enterprises through entrepreneurship programs.*
- ▶ *Trained 17.5 lakh rural youth under DDU-GKY, with a total of 11.48 lakh already placed.*
- ▶ *Deployed 47,952 Bank Sakhis to boost rural financial inclusion and credit access.*
- ▶ *Promoted sustainable livelihoods through agriculture, non-timber forest produce, livestock, and non-farm enterprises.*

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-

National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a flagship poverty alleviation program being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India to reduce poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities resulting in sustainable and diversified livelihood options for the poor. DAY-NRLM aims at mobilizing rural poor households into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and continuously nurturing and supporting them to take economic activities till they attain an appreciable increase in income over a period of time to come out of abject poverty.

The success of DAY-NRLM is evident in the way it has transformed rural lives. One such tale is of Meghalaya's, Heinidamanki Kanai, who's journey of becoming a successful entrepreneur began when she joined the Kyrshanlang Self-Help Group (SHG) in January 2020. With the support of her SHG and guidance from the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Heinidamanki began making hand-made soaps – rose, aloe vera, orange, and lemon grass. Her hard work began to pay off in August 2023, just a few months after starting her business in April. Seeing her potential, she secured a bank loan of Rs. 1.8 lakh through her SHG. With this, she bought new machinery, tools, and even conducted lab testing to ensure the quality of her soaps.

Slowly but steadily, Heinidamanki's venture flourished. Her annual income crossed Rs. 1 lakh, transforming her life and giving her the confidence to dream even bigger. She didn't stop at her

own success, she began training other SHG members from her village in soap making, spreading knowledge and inspiring others to follow their entrepreneurial dreams.

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) was launched in 2010 as a mission-mode scheme by restructuring the erstwhile Swarnajayanti Grameen Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY). In 2016, the program was renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAYNRLM). The central and state governments jointly fund this centrally sponsored scheme. It is one of the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihoods of the poor. The Mission seeks to achieve its objective through investing in four core components: (a) Social mobilization and promotion and strengthening of self-managed and financially sustainable community institutions of the rural poor women; (b) Financial inclusion; (c) Sustainable livelihoods; and (d) Social inclusion, social development and access to entitlements through convergence

Objectives of DAY-NRLM

DAY-NRLM promotes building strong institutions such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods. These institutions provide them with long-term support to diversify their livelihoods, enhance their incomes, and improve their quality of life. Most of the mission's interventions are being implemented and scaled up by the SHG women themselves who are trained as community resource persons (CRPs) – Krishi Sakhis, Pashu Sakhis, Bank Sakhis, Bima Sakhis, Banking Correspondent Sakhis, etc. The Mission is also working on empowering the SHG women through awareness generation and behaviour change communication on issues like domestic violence, women's education and other gender-related concerns, nutrition, sanitation, health, etc. The aim of the SHGs created under this scheme is to facilitate:

- (a) Access to formal credit;
- (b) Support for diversification and strengthening of livelihoods; and
- (c) Access to entitlements and public services.

Women Empowerment via DAY-NRLM

The mission's core objective is to reduce poverty by enabling poor households, particularly women, to access financial services, diversify their livelihoods, and improve their quality of life. Financially, the mission empowers women by fostering community institutions that provide crucial financial, technical, and marketing resources. A significant landmark milestone has been achieved under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) by disbursing over Rs. 11 lakh crores in credit to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through formal financial institutions. This is facilitated by women trained as Bank Sakhis and Banking Correspondent Sakhis, who act as liaisons between SHGs and formal banking institutions. The Rs. 11 lakh crore disbursement, supported by collateral-free loans, interest subventions, and other financial assistance, is further underscored by an exceptional repayment rate of over 98 percent, showcasing the effectiveness and sustainability of these programs.

In terms of livelihood, DAY-NRLM supports both farm and non-farm activities. It empowers women farmers, known as 'Mahila Kisans', by promoting agro-ecological practices and has covered 4.62 crore women under these interventions. A strong network of trained livelihood Community Resource Persons called as Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi are deployed to handhold and provide round the year extension services to the mahilakisans.

The mission also promotes micro-enterprises in areas like handicrafts and food processing through sub-schemes such as the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP), which has supported over 3.74 lakh enterprises. The Mission is also working on empowering the SHG women through awareness generation and behaviour change communication on issues like domestic violence, women's education and other gender-related concerns, nutrition, sanitation, health, etc.

Krishi Sakhi is a Community Agriculture Service Provider (CASP) who ensures last-mile support in rural areas where farm-based

services are scarce or costly. Promotes awareness and builds community capacity in sustainable agriculture, while also facilitating the aggregation and marketing of agricultural produce to improve farmers' incomes.

Bank Sakhi is a trained Self-Help Group (SHG) member stationed at a bank branch to support SHGs with financial services. She helps open SHG savings accounts, facilitates both credit and debit transactions, and plays a key role in enabling credit linkage so SHGs can access loans and other banking facilities.

Pashu Sakhi is a Community Animal-care Service Provider (CASP) who ensures last-mile livestock services in rural areas where veterinary care is scarce or costly. Pashu Sakhi raises awareness, builds community capacity in livestock-based livelihoods, and helps aggregate and market livestock products to improve rural incomes.

DAY-NRLM has mobilized 10.05 crore rural women households into more than 90.90 lakh SHGs across 28 States & 6 UTs. Other notable achievements include:

- ◆ 4.62 crore SHG members engaged as Mahila Kisans.
 - ◆ 3.5 lakh Krishi Sakhis & Pashu Sakhis deployed.
 - ◆ 6,000 Integrated Farming Clusters formed.
 - ◆ 1.95 lakh Producer Groups, benefiting over 50 lakh rural women.
 - ◆ 3.74 lakh enterprises supported in 282 blocks.
 - ◆ Women SHGs accessed Rs. 11 lakh crore in loans since 2013-14.
 - ◆ 47,952 Bank Sakhis deployed in the bank branches to facilitate credit linkage of the SHGs
- High-performing states under DAY-NRLM
- As of June 30, 2025, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh are among the states with largest number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and have mobilized the highest number of women households into SHGs since the inception.

In terms of financial support and inclusion, several states have shown exemplary performance in FY 2024-25 as on 28th Feb., 2025. For capitalisation support provided to Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have disbursed Rs.

1,23,326 lakh and Rs. 1,05,132 lakh respectively, both exceeding their targets. When it comes to facilitating bank loans for SHGs, Andhra Pradesh leads the nation with a disbursement of Rs. 34,83,725 lakh.

Regarding the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, different states have excelled in farm and non-farm sectors. In farm-based initiatives, Maharashtra stands out for covering the highest number of 'Mahila Kisans' (women farmers) under Agro-Ecological Practices, with 12,97,051 women covered, followed by Uttar Pradesh (11,37,950) and Andhra Pradesh (10,43,085). For promoting non-farm micro-enterprises under the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), Assam is the leading state, having supported 9,557 enterprises, with Kerala (5,802) and West Bengal (4,933) also showing strong performance.

Skill Development and Employment Programs under DAY-NRLM

The Ministry implements two Centrally Sponsored Schemes under DAY-NRLM, which aim to equip rural poor youth with skills for gainful employment and contribute to poverty alleviation through the following programs:

- ◆ Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY): Provides placement-linked skill training for rural youth aged 15-35 years. The program ensures practical skill development aligned with job placements, enabling participants to earn wages at or above the minimum wage in the formal job market. A total of 17.50 lakh candidates has been trained and a total of 11.48 lakh have been placed, as of June 2025.
- ◆ Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs): Bank-sponsored centres for youth aged 18-50 that provide entrepreneurship training and promote self- and wage-employment, with financial support for infrastructure and training costs. A total of 56.69 lakh candidates has been trained and a total of 40.99 lakh have been settled since inception till June 2025.

High-performing states under DDU-GKY (2014-15 to June 2025)

Under DDU-GKY, Uttar Pradesh has trained the highest number of candidates at 2,44,528, followed by Odisha with 2,15,409 and Andhra Pradesh with 1,33,842. When it comes to job placements, Odisha leads with

1,77,165 candidates placed, while Andhra Pradesh also shows strong performance with 1,17,881 placements.

Top states in RSETI (2014-15 to June 2025)

Under the RSETI programme, Uttar Pradesh stands out as the top-performing state, having trained the highest number of candidates (7,55,966) and successfully settled the most entrepreneurs (5,54,877). Other states with significant achievements in both training and settlement include Rajasthan (4,34,478 trained; 3,19,948 settled), Madhya Pradesh (4,36,835 trained; 3,08,280 settled), and Karnataka (4,19,299 trained; 3,05,397 settled).

Advanced and Marketing Training under DAY-NRLM

Steps taken by the Government to impart advanced training and marketing skills to SHG members, particularly women are:

- ◆ National and State-level SARAS Aajeevika Melas are organized annually, providing specialized training for marketing and related competencies. The most recent one took place in New Delhi from 5 - 22 September 2025.
- ◆ The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) conducts Training of Trainers on marketing skills to build the capacity of SHG members and rural entrepreneurs supported under DAY-NRLM. Over the past three years, NIRD&PR has conducted 44 training and capacity-building programs.

Conclusion

The DAY-NRLM has become a cornerstone of rural poverty alleviation and women's empowerment in India. It has expanded access to formal credit, skills, and market opportunities, enabling sustainable livelihoods and financial resilience. Through focused initiatives in skill development, entrepreneurship, and convergence with key government schemes, NRLM has diversified income sources and strengthened the rural economy. Its robust monitoring systems, strong SHG-bank linkages, and capacity-building measures ensure transparency and accountability, making it a powerful driver of inclusive growth and improved living standards in rural communities.

(Source: PIB)

