



Cockroach Janata party crawls deeper into public imagination

Satire, suppression & the rise of a Digital Protest Culture

With its X channel blocked, a bizarre manifesto going viral, and political circles growing visibly uncomfortable, the satirical “Cockroach Janata Party” (CJP) is rapidly mutating from internet comedy into a strange new symbol of public frustration and political fatigue.

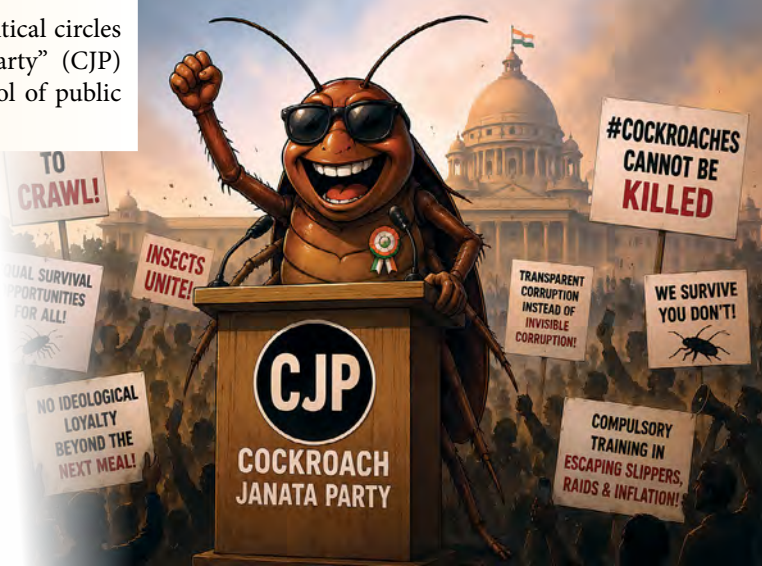
What began as a meme-driven online parody has now entered a far more controversial phase after authorities reportedly moved to withhold the party’s X (formerly Twitter) handle in India over allegations of “institutional ridicule and politically provocative misinformation.” But instead of killing the buzz, the restriction appears to have turbocharged it.

Within hours of the ban, hashtags like #CockroachesCannotBeKilled and #RightToCrawl flooded alternative social media platforms, while meme creators and political satirists portrayed the move as evidence that the establishment had begun fearing “the insect uprising.”

When sarcasm becomes political: Ironically, the Cockroach Janata Party is no longer being treated merely as juvenile internet humour. Political insiders privately admit there is growing discomfort over the movement’s ability to

weaponize satire against mainstream politics. Security agencies are reportedly concerned that anonymous online networks may exploit the movement’s popularity to deepen anti-establishment sentiment among frustrated urban youth battling unemployment, inflation, bureaucratic apathy and endless political theatrics. The CJP’s bizarre manifesto — now circulating online almost like underground political literature — has become central to its popularity.

Among its most viral “policy promises” are: “Equal survival opportunities for all species, including taxpayers.” “Every citizen deserves at least one dark corner free from political speeches.” “Transparent corruption instead of invisible corruption.” “Compulsory training in escaping slippers, raids and inflation.” “National Ministry of Adaptation and Survival.” “No ideological loyalty beyond



the next meal.” Another section mockingly proposes that politicians changing parties should officially be classified as “seasonal migratory insects” and issued colour-coded certificates.

Mocking the System, not just politicians: Behind the absurdity lies a sharp critique of modern politics. The manifesto cleverly skewers corruption, opportunistic alliances, ideological hypocrisy, bureaucratic inefficiency and the growing collapse of public trust in political institutions. Many young users sharing

CJP content openly admit they do not literally support a cockroach-inspired political ideology. What attracts them instead is the movement’s brutally honest parody of contemporary democracy. Opposition parties themselves remain divided over how to react. Some leaders are quietly trying to tap into the movement’s anti-establishment energy by praising “youth creativity and democratic humour.” Others fear the CJP promotes dangerous political cynicism that trivialises serious governance issues.

Continued on page 05

NEWS SCAN

Illegal land plotting racket

Port Blair: Recent reports appearing in a section of the local press suggest that a large part of the allotted to the farmers as agricultural land for cultivation is allegedly being turned into an illegal real-estate goldmine in parts of South Andaman. Besides, large-scale earth cutting, land levelling, and unauthorised plotting operations have also been reported triggering alarm within the South Andaman. The public has been advised to verify the legal and factual status of land with Revenue Authorities before entering into any transaction. Officials further warned that any similar illegal activity detected would invite strict legal action under the law.

Ship ticket crisis

Campbell Bay: A mounting ship ticket crisis has left dozens of passengers, students, and job aspirants stranded in Great Nicobar Island, prompting the Govind Nagar Gram Panchayat to seek urgent intervention from the Directorate of Shipping Services for immediate deployment of special and additional vessel services between Campbell Bay and Sri Vijaya Puram.

PMF personnel saves elderly woman’s life

Kadamtala: In a remarkable display of alertness and courage, personnel of the Police Marine Force (PMF) saved the life of an elderly woman who was found floating in an unconscious state in the creek waters near the Uttara Jetty (located in the Kadamtala area on Thursday evening.

GRAPEVINE

- **Sleeping with the enemies:** While in the rest of the mainland India the Congress Party leaders at large are quite wary of the Godi media for obvious reasons, the party’s local chapter in Mini India appears to be taking it as a bizarre, high-stakes clandestine affair. In fact, this media is not spurned or pooh-poohed here, at least by one of the local Congress leaders who seems to have fallen in love with it in the ANI. Rather than championing the party line, this leader utilizes the outlet as a hired gun to settle petty internal scores and sabotage his rivals within the ranks. The irony lies in the man’s delusion that this dalliance will buy him leverage with the power brokers in Delhi. Grapevine has it that he is operating under the frantic hope that these optics will curry favor with the honchos, seemingly oblivious to the fact that his strategy is a political boomerang. During his recent visit to the Islands, RG reportedly caught a distinct whiff of this double-dealing, signaling that the high command is far from blind to the treachery.
- **Strange Bed Partners O.2:** “Jhoot. Jhoot, Jhoot! Main uss aadmi ke saath kabhi nahi soya! Utter lies. I have never slept with that man).” It was a few years ago when a leading local daily created political fireworks by describing two rival party colleagues as “strange bed fellows” since they were always lampooning each other. Ironically, the dramatic denial became more famous than the original report. Today, one of the old political rivals has been replaced, but the party tradition of cloak and dagger continues gloriously. As for the identity of the previous and present warlords - keep guessing! Small hint - look for the colour of their robes.
- **The Scapegoat:** An honest, upright and hugely public friendly officer has been made a scapegoat for carrying out dubious order of his superior officer. Grapevine has it that the issue in question was blown out of proportion and the poor honest officer had to lose his position. Fortunately, some top bureaucrats having sympathies with the said officer wish to undo the injustice done to him in due course.



** Disclaimer: The pieces above are a work of satire. Any resemblance to anyone is purely coincidental.*

T E A S E R	 How the Andaman Sea is emerging as India’s new drug traffic... The turquoise waters and strategic sea lanes surrounding the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are fast acquiring a darker reputation... See page 03	 Cruising in Style: A new generation vessel getting ready to join... Island hopping in the scenic Andaman and Nicobar archipelago is about to get a massive, ultra-luxurious upgrade that promises to change the face of... See page 02	 Great Nicobar: Development or Ecological Folly? The proposed Great Nicobar mega project — involving a transshipment port at Galathea Bay, an international airport, power plant, township, tourism complex and military... See page 04	Diamonds amid deprivation: The moral disconnect of Extravagant Wealth See page 06
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Cruising in Style: A new generation vessel getting ready to join redefining Luxury Maritime Travel in the Andamans

By ASHEEM PODDAR

Island hopping in the scenic Andaman and Nicobar archipelago is about to get a massive, ultra-luxurious upgrade that promises to change the face of regional maritime transit. In a major boost to regional tourism and inter-island connectivity, the Islands are gearing up to welcome their largest high-speed luxury vessel yet—a game-changing addition engineered to transform standard maritime travel into a faster, safer, and infinitely more premium experience for tourists and island residents alike. Leading private cruise operator Nautika is currently putting the finishing touches on Nautika Prride, a next-generation, 400-seat luxury catamaran specifically designed to redefine passenger ferry services across the Bay of Bengal. This state-of-the-art vessel will become the third major ship to join the operator's growing fleet, complementing the highly successful runs of Nautika and Nautika Pro, which are already well-established favorites for commuters in the Andaman sector, said Anoop Kumar, Director of the company, during an exclusive interaction with *The Phoenix Post* on Friday. "Nautika Prride reflects the future of maritime travel in India — faster, safer, more comfortable, and globally benchmarked. The launch will significantly improve the inter-island travel experience, support tourism growth, and strengthen modern sea connectivity across the Andaman archipelago," Kumar observed dishing out the information on being asked.

SPEED MEETS INDIAN ENGINEERING: Proudly built in India and fully certified by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), Nautika Prride stands as a glowing testament to the country's rapidly growing prowess in advanced maritime engineering and coastal transport infrastructure.

TOP-TIER VELOCITY: The catamaran is engineered to comfortably cruise at speeds of up to 24 knots, instantly placing it among the absolute fastest passenger ferries operating in the entire region.

GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS: Expected to officially launch in the next 3 to 4 months, the deployment



of this vessel directly answers the region's booming economic and tourism demands by elevating local maritime infrastructure to world-class standards.

THE ONBOARD EXPERIENCE: A Cruise-Like Affair: As per the details obtained by *The Phoenix Post*, the impressive luxury liner is currently under construction at a premier shipyard in Goa. Every inch of the vessel has been meticulously designed with a sharp focus on leisure tourism, seamless travel, and ultimate passenger comfort. Moving away from the concept of a standard commuter transit, Nautika Prride offers an immersive, cruise-like journey through an array of high-end amenities:

FOUR PREMIUM TIERS: Passengers can customize their journey across four distinct, spacious travel categories: Luxury, Royal, VIP, and Business. Each class is tailored to provide a premium experience suited to varying passenger preferences.

LEISURE AMENITIES: The sprawling, beautifully designed interiors will feature vibrant onboard cafés, panoramic open-air viewing decks, plush lounge seating, and dedicated dining facilities, allowing travellers to relax in style between island destinations.

UNCOMPROMISING SAFETY AND STABILITY: Beyond speed, style, and luxury, passenger safety remains the absolute highest priority for the vessel's architectural layout. Nautika Prride utilizes advanced double-hull catamaran technology, which inherently provides superior stability,

minimizes rolling, and ensures a smooth, comfortable ride even when navigating rough, open-sea conditions.

Furthermore, the vessel integrates internationally benchmarked maritime safety systems. These include state-of-the-art automated fire safety mechanisms, highly efficient rapid evacuation protocols, and advanced real-time operational safeguards managed by a highly trained crew.

THE HORIZON AHEAD: With tourism rapidly emerging as the primary economic driver for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the arrival of Nautika Prride marks a sophisticated new chapter for organized passenger ferry operations in India. By bridging iconic island destinations with unmatched speed, elegance, and reliability, the vessel is set to significantly enhance the overall visitor experience, drive local economic growth, and proudly showcase India's evolving coastal transport capabilities to the world.

Bhasker Raises Concern Over Delay in Chatham Bridge Renovation Work



Port Blair: The Chairman of the Campaign Committee of Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC), G. Bhasker, has expressed serious concern over the prolonged delay in the renovation work of the Chatham Bridge, which continues to cause immense inconvenience to the general public.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration on 22nd May, Bhasker pointed out that despite repeated representations, there has been no visible progress in the renovation work for nearly one year.

He stated that the continued delay without any official clarification on the project


status, timeline, or reasons for the slowdown has created frustration and uncertainty among the people.

He further emphasized that the Chatham Bridge serves as a lifeline for residents of Bambooflat and nearby areas, and such an important public infrastructure project cannot remain stalled indefinitely without proper communication to the public. Bhasker urged the Administration to immediately disclose the present status of the renovation work, explain the reasons behind the delay, and announce the expected date of completion. He also called upon the Administration to take urgent measures to expedite the work and restore public confidence.

ANIPPDA doctors reaffirm commitment to free medical camps and public welfare initiatives across the Islands

Port Blair: Reaffirming their commitment to strengthening healthcare outreach across the Islands, members of the A&N Islands Private Practicing Doctors Association (ANIPPDA) marked the organisation's 14th anniversary with a grand gathering that highlighted its growing role in delivering medical services to remote and underserved communities. The anniversary celebration, held at Mansha Palace on Sunday, brought together doctors and members of the association for an evening of fellowship, professional interaction, discussions on healthcare initiatives, and community-focused commitments. Over the years, ANIPPDA has carved a niche for itself through its sustained contribution to healthcare services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, particularly by organising free multi-specialty medical camps in rural and remote areas where access to specialist healthcare remains limited. The association has also played an active role in bringing experienced specialists from different medical fields under one platform to support public welfare initiatives and improve healthcare accessibility for Islanders. Addressing the gathering,

Estd:- 2012 Regn No 1470



A & N ISLANDS PRIVATE PRACTICING DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT Dr Rohindra Lal	TREASURER Dr Bharadwaj	GENERAL SECRETARY Dr Dinesh
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Committed to Medical Excellence

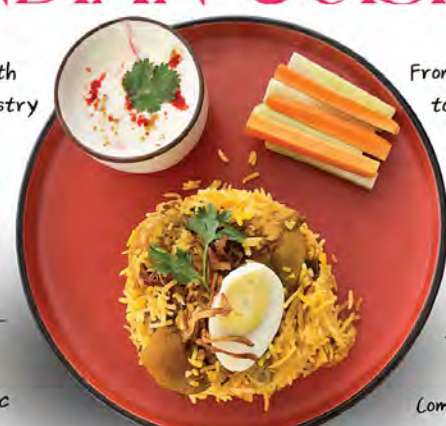
ANIPPDA President Dr. Rohinder Lal stated that the association would continue to organise free medical camps, blood donation drives, and Continuing Medical Education (CME) programmes in the coming years. He reiterated the association's commitment towards quality healthcare services, professional unity among doctors, and social responsibility. The function also served as a

platform for members to discuss emerging healthcare challenges, collaborative medical initiatives, and the need for continued outreach programmes in far-flung Island regions. The event reflected the collective spirit of service, cooperation, and dedication among private medical practitioners working towards strengthening healthcare support systems in the Union Territory.

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A childhood memory from the hills of Solan —a mysterious glowing cigar-shaped flying object

By ON JAISWAL

Many childhood memories remain etched in the mind forever, surviving the erosion of age and time. It is a strange but universal phenomenon: in old age one may forget what was eaten for breakfast in the morning, yet vividly remember an incident witnessed fifty or sixty years ago. One such unforgettable memory has stayed with me throughout my life — an experience that I can still recount with complete clarity and conviction. Even today, I firmly believe that I once witnessed what people call an “Udan Tashtari” — a UFO.

I must have been around nine or ten years old at the time. We were living in Solan, nestled amidst the serene hills of Himachal Pradesh. One cool evening, just as dusk had begun to descend, I was standing outside a small Hawaghar across the road from our house.

Below in the valley, the faint lights of the tiny Solan railway station flickered softly in the gathering darkness. Towering above everything was the massive silhouette of Karol ka Tibba,



its dark outline dominating the skyline.

Then, in a sudden and astonishing moment, I saw it.

A huge glowing object — bright orange in colour and shaped like a cigar — streaked across the top of the mountain at tremendous speed. It moved silently and disappeared behind the other side of the hill within a second.

I stood frozen in disbelief. As a child, I had read stories about “Udan Tashtaris” or flying saucers, but this object looked nothing like the saucer-shaped crafts shown in magazines and comics. This was elongated — like a burning cigar suspended in

flight.

Overwhelmed with excitement and fear, I immediately rushed back home across the road and breathlessly told my parents what I had just seen.

To my disappointment, my story was dismissed as the imagination of an impressionable child.

No one believed me then. In fact, no one has ever truly believed my account in all these decades.

But even today, after the passage of a lifetime, the memory remains crystal clear in my mind. I remain completely convinced that what I witnessed that evening atop Karol ka Tibba was no ordinary object.

It was a UFO.

Fresh archival drive launched to preserve rare historical records and documentary heritage of the Islands

Port Blair: In a significant move to preserve the rich and often overlooked historical legacy of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the administration has launched a renewed archival initiative aimed at collecting, documenting, and safeguarding rare historical records, photographs, manuscripts, and documents from across the Union Territory. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has reconstituted the “Regional Records Survey Committee” along with district-level panels named “District Records Survey Committees” for South Andaman, North & Middle Andaman, and Nicobar districts. The district committees, headed by the respective Deputy Commissioners, have been entrusted with the task of identifying and surveying valuable historical materials related to the Islands’ past, including official records, personal documents, photographs, manuscripts, and other archival resources of historical significance. As part of the initiative, individuals, families, researchers, and private

institutions possessing such records or information have been urged to come forward and coordinate with the A&N Archives or contact the Deputy Commissioners of their respective districts. Officials stated that the collected materials, either in original or copied form, will be scientifically preserved at the A&N Archives located in the Secretariat. The initiative is expected to create a valuable repository for historians, research scholars, students, and the general public interested in exploring the socio-cultural and administrative history of the Islands. The administration has also assured that expenses related to photocopying or reproduction of records, wherever required, will be borne by the authorities. Contributors donating or sharing archival materials will be formally acknowledged by the Regional Records Survey Committee. The initiative is being viewed as an important step towards preserving the historical identity and documentary heritage of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for future generations.

How the Andaman Sea is emerging as India’s new drug trafficking frontline

A TPP FEATURE

The turquoise waters and strategic sea lanes surrounding the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are fast acquiring a darker reputation. Once viewed primarily as a tourism paradise and maritime security outpost, the Islands are now increasingly emerging as a critical frontline in the battle against international narcotics trafficking networks operating through the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. Recent figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) have exposed the alarming scale of the threat. More than 6,113 kilograms of narcotic substances were seized in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during 2024 — one of the highest recoveries recorded among Union Territories in the country. What has particularly raised concern among security agencies is the staggering seizure of over six tonnes of methamphetamine,

pointing towards the growing use of maritime routes near the Islands by transnational drug syndicates linked to Southeast Asia’s notorious “Golden Triangle”. The Golden Triangle — spread across parts of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand — remains one of the world’s largest hubs for the production of methamphetamine and synthetic narcotics. Over the years, international trafficking networks have increasingly shifted towards maritime routes to evade stricter land border surveillance, making the vast waters of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea vulnerable transit corridors. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, strategically located close to international shipping routes and Southeast Asian waters, have therefore become a sensitive hotspot for anti-narcotics surveillance and maritime interception operations. According to the NCRB report, authorities in the Islands seized 6,028.062 kg of amphetamine/

methampheta-mine during 2024, apart from heroin, ganja, hashish, charas and cocaine. The figures far exceeded methampheta-mine recoveries reported from most other Union Territories in India. The massive spike was largely attributed to a high-profile anti-drug operation carried out in November 2024, when

enforcement agencies intercepted a vessel in the Andaman Sea carrying more than six tonnes of crystalline methamphetamine allegedly destined for international trafficking networks. The consignment, estimated to be worth nearly ₹36,000 crore in the global illegal drug market, was suspected to have originated from the Golden Triangle region. Six Myanmarese nationals were arrested in connection with the operation. Security experts believe the case underlines a dangerous shift in regional trafficking patterns. With increased enforcement along traditional land borders, organized syndicates are increasingly exploiting maritime routes, remote island chains, and poorly monitored sea corridors for large-scale drug transportation.



The geographical spread of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago — comprising hundreds of islands scattered across a vast maritime zone — poses enormous surveillance challenges for enforcement agencies. Experts say traffickers often exploit isolated sea routes, fishing corridors, and transnational maritime movements to evade detection. The growing drug trafficking threat has also amplified concerns over regional security, illegal migration, arms smuggling, and the possible use of maritime narcotics routes by organized crime syndicates operating across South and Southeast Asia. However, officials maintain that recent large-scale interceptions reflect the strengthening maritime surveillance capabilities of Indian agencies in the region. Increased coordination between the Navy, Coast Guard, marine police, intelligence agencies, and anti-narcotics units has significantly enhanced monitoring of suspicious maritime movements

in the Andaman Sea. The destruction of the seized methamphetamine consignment by the Andaman and Nicobar Police earlier this year was also viewed as a strong message against transnational narcotics networks attempting to exploit Indian waters. Yet, experts warn that enforcement alone may not be enough. The rapidly evolving narcotics trade requires advanced maritime intelligence systems, satellite monitoring, regional information-sharing mechanisms, stronger coastal policing, and international cooperation with Southeast Asian nations to dismantle trafficking syndicates operating across maritime borders. As the Bay of Bengal increasingly becomes a strategic theatre not only for trade and geopolitics but also for transnational crime, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands now find themselves standing at the crossroads of tourism, security, and an intensifying narco war unfolding silently across the seas.

EDITORIAL

27 May, 2026

**Cockroach Politics
and the Panic in Power**

The astonishing rise of the so-called “Cockroach Janata Party” (CJP) from an obscure satirical internet experiment into a pan-India digital phenomenon has exposed an uncomfortable reality confronting the political establishment — public frustration is no longer expressing itself merely through protests or elections, but increasingly through ridicule and organised political mockery.

The BJP government’s decision to withhold the X handle of the CJP has only intensified curiosity surrounding the movement. In the digital age, censorship often acts less like a pesticide and more like a publicity campaign. The ban has transformed what many initially dismissed as an online joke into a symbol of resistance for sections of politically disillusioned youth.

Reports claiming that the movement has gathered nearly two crore followers within barely five days may sound unbelievable, yet the sheer scale of online engagement cannot be ignored. More worrying for the ruling establishment is the aggressive social media campaign launched by the CJP founder urging supporters to unfollow BJP handles and demand the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. That appeal appears to have resonated strongly among sections of students and unemployed youth already simmering with economic anxieties and examination-related frustrations.

Equally significant are reports of CJP branches emerging across states and Union Territories. Though largely informal and meme-driven for now, the phenomenon reflects a growing national mood of political fatigue. Citizens are increasingly mocking not only governments but the entire ecosystem of propaganda, television shouting matches and ideological theatrics.

The danger for mainstream parties lies in underestimating satire. History shows that ridicule can become politically combustible when it captures public anger more effectively than opposition speeches.

Whether the Cockroach Janata Party eventually collapses under its own absurdity or mutates into a larger anti-establishment platform remains uncertain. But one thing is already clear: when citizens begin laughing collectively at the political system itself, governments have genuine reason to worry.

HEALTH TIPS**Stay Healthy During the
Humid Island Season**

The humid tropical climate of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands can often lead to fatigue, dehydration and seasonal illnesses if proper care is not taken. Health experts recommend a few simple daily habits to maintain physical well-being during changing weather conditions.

DAILY HEALTH SUGGESTIONS**Drink More Water**

High humidity causes excessive sweating even when people may not realize it. Doctors advise regular water intake throughout the day to avoid dehydration.

Avoid Skipping Breakfast

A light and nutritious breakfast helps maintain energy levels and improves concentration during work and study hours.

Reduce Excessive Fried Food

Frequent consumption of oily roadside food during humid weather may lead to digestive discomfort and acidity.

Maintain Proper Sleep

Adults should aim for at least 7–8 hours of sleep daily to improve immunity and mental health.

Walk or Exercise Regularly

Even 20–30 minutes of walking or stretching can improve circulation, reduce stress and maintain fitness.

Great Nicobar: Development or Ecological Folly?

The proposed Great Nicobar mega project — involving a transshipment port at Galathea Bay, an international airport, power plant, township, tourism complex and military infrastructure — is being projected by the Government of India as a transformative strategic and economic venture. Estimated to cost between Rs. 72,000 crore and Rs. 90,000 crore, it has been marketed as India’s answer to Singapore and Colombo in the Indian Ocean.

But beneath the glossy language of “national interest” and “strategic necessity” lies a deeply troubling reality: the Great Nicobar project may well become one of the gravest ecological and humanitarian blunders in independent India’s history.

A Paradise on the Brink

Great Nicobar is not an empty piece of land waiting for bulldozers. It is among the most ecologically fragile and biodiverse regions of the Indian Ocean. Over 95 percent of the island is covered with ancient tropical rainforest, mangroves, coral ecosystems and endemic wildlife habitats. It is also a recognised biosphere reserve.

The project reportedly requires diversion of more than 130 square kilometres of pristine forest land and the felling of nearly one million or more trees, many of them centuries old. Environmental experts warn that the actual number of trees affected could be far higher.

This is not merely “development”. It is ecological amputation.

The Shompen Tribe: Invisible Victims

Among the most disturbing aspects of the project is its likely impact on the tiny Shompen community, a vulnerable Mongoloid tribal group numbering barely around 250 people. The Shompens are semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers who have lived in these forests for centuries, largely isolated from the outside world.

Anthropologists and tribal rights activists fear that large-scale influx of labourers, settlers, contractors and military personnel would irreversibly destroy the tribe’s habitat, culture and way of life. Even indirect exposure to outside diseases could prove catastrophic for such a small and vulnerable population.



amounting to “cultural genocide.”

The tragedy is compounded by the fact that much of the proposed development overlaps with legally protected tribal reserve areas.

Destruction of Rare Wildlife Galathea Bay, where the transshipment port is proposed, is one of the world’s most important nesting grounds for the endangered leatherback sea turtle — the largest turtle species on Earth.

The island is also home to rare species such as the Nicobar megapode, Nicobar macaque, saltwater crocodiles, giant robber crabs and numerous endemic birds, reptiles and marine organisms. Coral reefs and mangrove systems surrounding the island function as natural barriers against cyclones and tsunamis. Scientists warn that dredging, shipping traffic, deforestation and large-scale urbanisation could irreversibly damage this delicate ecosystem.

Planting compensatory trees elsewhere cannot replace a living tropical rainforest ecosystem evolved over thousands of years.

The “Malacca Strait Control” Myth

One of the most repeated justifications for the project is that Great Nicobar will enable India to “control” or dominate the Malacca Strait. This argument is strategically exaggerated and geographically misleading. The Strait of Malacca lies primarily between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The narrow choke point itself is hundreds of kilometres away from Great Nicobar. India cannot “control” the Strait merely because Great Nicobar lies in the broader eastern Indian Ocean region. At best, the island offers surveillance advantages and logistical support for naval monitoring. That is very different from controlling one of the busiest international maritime passages in the world. Strategic analysts have repeatedly cautioned against overselling the military value of the project while underplaying its environmental cost.

Economic Logic Full of Uncertainty

The economic assumptions behind the transshipment port are equally questionable.

Singapore and Colombo are already deeply entrenched global transshipment hubs with world-class infrastructure, decades of shipping ecosystem development, superior connectivity and immense commercial credibility. Competing with them is not simply a matter of building another port.

Shipping companies choose ports based on efficiency, cost, turnaround time, logistics integration, political stability and existing trade networks. Merely being geographically “near” shipping lanes does not guarantee success. Critics fear that India may end up creating another massively expensive



underutilised infrastructure project — an ecological sacrifice without proportional economic return. The experience of certain underperforming international ports is often cited as a cautionary tale of strategic overenthusiasm combined with questionable commercial viability.

A Seismic Disaster Waiting to Happen?

Great Nicobar lies in one of the most seismically active zones in the world. The island was devastated during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Parts of the island reportedly subsided permanently after the earthquake. Scientists have repeatedly warned that large-scale infrastructure in such a fragile tectonic region carries immense long-term risks.

Yet, astonishingly, planners appear determined to construct massive ports, airports, power stations and urban settlements in precisely this vulnerable region. Environmentalists question whether adequate long-term disaster vulnerability assessments have genuinely been incorporated into the planning process.

Rahul Gandhi’s Intervention and Growing Opposition

Recently, Rahul Gandhi visited the islands and strongly criticised the project, describing it as one of the “biggest scams” and “gravest crimes against India’s natural and tribal heritage.” He accused the government of masking ecological destruction in the language of development.

The Indian National Congress has also demanded wider parliamentary debate, raising concerns regarding transparency, tribal rights, ecological destruction and questionable strategic assumptions.

Importantly, criticism is not limited to opposition politicians. Several former bureaucrats, environmental lawyers, scientists, anthropologists and even former administrators of the islands have reportedly expressed reservations over the scale and design of the project.

**Development
Cannot Mean
Ecological
Suicide.**

No serious person argues that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands should remain frozen in time. Development, infrastructure and national security are legitimate priorities. But development without ecological wisdom becomes destruction.

The Great Nicobar project represents a troubling model of hyper-centralised planning where fragile ecosystems and indigenous communities are treated as expendable obstacles before mega-capital and geopolitical ambition.

India certainly needs stronger maritime infrastructure. But it does not need to destroy one of the last surviving tropical wildernesses of the Indian Ocean to achieve that goal. History may ultimately judge the Great Nicobar project not as a symbol of national ambition, but as a warning about what happens when governments mistake gigantism for progress and concrete for civilisation.



Satire

Congratulations on the Formation of the “Cockroach Janata Party”

By Manmohan Singh ‘Danish’

The moment I casually wrote yesterday that cockroaches deserve more respect, people took it very seriously. So seriously, in fact, that a political party has now been formed in their honour. I never imagined the humble cockroach would rise to such democratic glory. Then again, our political landscape already has plenty of leaders and parties that comfortably fit the “cockroach category” — surviving every disaster, thriving in darkness, and multiplying without warning or ideology, much like mushrooms after rain. In a way, this party is a mirror of society itself. And surprisingly, its manifesto contains exactly the kind of promises ordinary citizens secretly dream about. For example, the party says no Supreme Court judge should be sent to the Rajya Sabha after retirement. Very cruel, honestly. Imagine snatching away the

post-retirement “rehabilitation package” of poor retired judges. The party also promises treason charges against Election Commissioners if genuine votes are mysteriously deleted. What injustice! Are Election Commissioners not even free anymore to casually erase 20–25 lakh votes according to their convenience? The Cockroach Janata Party further promises 50% reservation for women — not 33% — and that too without increasing Lok Sabha seats. Dangerous ideas indeed. It also wants to stop political defections by banning defecting leaders from contesting elections for 20 years. Imagine the tragedy. Half the professional party-hoppers in the country may suddenly become unemployed. And it gets worse. The party wants TV news channels freed from the grip of billionaires so that independent journalism can survive again. But then what will happen to those celebrity anchors

and “nationalist journalists” who earn fat salaries by reading scripts written by their masters? Many of them may not even qualify for daily wage work, because journalism was never really their profession in the first place. The mastermind behind this revolutionary movement is Abhijeet Tipke — interestingly, one of the early founders of the Aam Aadmi Party. The new party claims that within just two days, over 40,000 people, including several prominent leaders, have already joined. That number alone tells you what the public is really thinking. Who would have imagined that cockroaches would one day overpower the entire political system? Now the only question left is this: Will the founders actually register it as a real political party... or will it remain just another social media revolution that dies after a week of hashtags and forwarded messages?

New building, old burden: Garacharma District Hospital struggles under rising patient load

Port Blair: Touted as a major healthcare relief for South Andaman and a long-awaited answer to the chronic overcrowding at G.B. Pant Hospital, the newly operational Garacharma District Hospital is already battling a crisis of capacity, manpower and expectations just months after its launch. Opened earlier this year under Phase-I development, the hospital was projected as a crucial secondary healthcare hub for the rapidly expanding Garacharma-Bathubasti region. But behind the fresh infrastructure and upgraded status, patients are confronting a stark reality — overcrowded wards, long waiting hours and an overworked medical workforce struggling to keep pace with demand. Despite carrying the “District Hospital” designation, the facility currently operates with just 35 beds, a number many residents and healthcare observers describe as grossly inadequate for a catchment population estimated to exceed one lakh people. Hospital sources indicate that the inpatient department often reaches full occupancy by mid-morning, forcing several patients to be redirected to the already strained G.B. Pant Hospital in Sri Vijaya Puram. The Directorate of Health Services has posted specialists in Surgery, Medicine, Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Orthopaedics, while new additions such as an Integrated Public Health Laboratory (IPHL), X-ray unit and a



10-bedded dialysis centre have provided some much-needed local medical support. For many residents, the facility has reduced dependence on G.B. Pant for routine diagnostics and dialysis care. Yet, the operational gaps remain glaring. Patients visiting the Outpatient Department often face hours-long queues, with doctors reportedly handling between 80 and 100 patients during peak hours. The overwhelming workload has led to what many describe as “touch-and-go consultations”, leaving little room for detailed examinations or patient interaction. To add insult to misery, most of the OPD rooms are located on the first floor of the building forcing the poor patients to climb two flights of stairs. Not only that, before approaching the doctors on the first floor, the patients and their assisting relatives have to bear with the wrath of unruly security personnel on the ground floor

of the building. No authority of this hospital is prepared to utter a single word about the shortcoming hiding behind some unpublicised weird rules and regulations that keep their mouths shut. Though the Administration recently advertised 32 specialist posts across the islands, staffing shortages at Garacharma continue to hamper effective service delivery. When contacted, some healthcare workers admitted on condition of anonymity that the hospital’s infrastructure expansion has outpaced the availability of manpower, equipment and bed strength required to sustain a full-fledged district-level institution. For the residents of South Andaman, the hospital represents both progress and frustration—a symbol of a healthcare system trying to modernise, but still struggling to match ambition with ground reality.

BOUQUETS

➤ Kudos to Purba Garg, Dy. Commissioner, South Andaman for taking public grievance redressal initiative. One hour from 3 to 4 PM has been earmarked for the much appreciated initiative. However, members of the public are quite hopeful that the DC will also ensure that the grievance redressal timing remains sacrosanct and proper seating arrangement is made in the adjacent conference hall, especially for the women and senior citizens, to save them from oppressive heat in the crowded lobby.

➤ The Sri Vijaya Puram civic body’s decision to crackdown on unauthorised roadside shops which obstruct the free flow of traffic and choke even space for pedestrians. Many areas in the town have been identified for the long awaited action. Due warning has been issued to the encroachers of public spaces.

BRICKBATS

➤ Ever increasing number of vehicles coupled with inadequate parking spaces has become a huge problem for the citizens all over the town and even in its suburbs. Private and commercial vehicles parked on the roadside and even in the bylanes have made life miserable for the people. The transport authorities seem to be fighting a losing battle.

➤ Every summer arrives with two certainties-- soaring humidity and the annual disappearance of drinking water in the Island. The taps cough, sputter and finally surrender, while residents begin the now-traditional ritual of storing water in every available bucket, drum and utensil like contestants in a survival reality show. This situation has almost achieved permanent status, leaving citizens wondering whether water scarcity has now been officially adopted as part of the Islands’ heritage culture. Your call, SVPMC !

Continued from page 01

Cockroach Janata party crawls deeper into public imagination

A few opposition strategists privately concede that the Cockroach Janata Party often generates more online engagement through memes than conventional parties do through carefully scripted policy speeches.

A joke that exposes public anger:

Political observers say satire becomes dangerous for governments when people stop laughing only at politicians and begin laughing at the political system itself. Yet the Cockroach Janata Party faces a defining challenge of its own: can endless sarcasm evolve into meaningful political mobilisation? History suggests that satire-led movements either collapse beneath their own absurdity or slowly transform into genuine protest platforms. Without leadership, structure or credible policy alternatives, the CJP risks remaining little more than a spectacular internet rebellion.

Still, dismissing it entirely could prove equally shortsighted. The movement’s rise reflects a deeper emotional exhaustion with repetitive political narratives, hyper-aggressive television debates, ideological posturing and increasingly theatrical public discourse. The cockroach — resilient, adaptable and nearly impossible to eliminate — has become an unlikely metaphor for ordinary citizens struggling to survive inflation, bureaucracy, unemployment and political uncertainty. For now, the Cockroach Janata Party remains both a comedy and cautionary tale — laughing loudly at the system while exposing the widening disconnect between political institutions and public trust. And perhaps that explains why the establishment suddenly appears uncomfortable. Because people may still be laughing at the Cockroach Janata Party. But increasingly, they are laughing at everybody else too.

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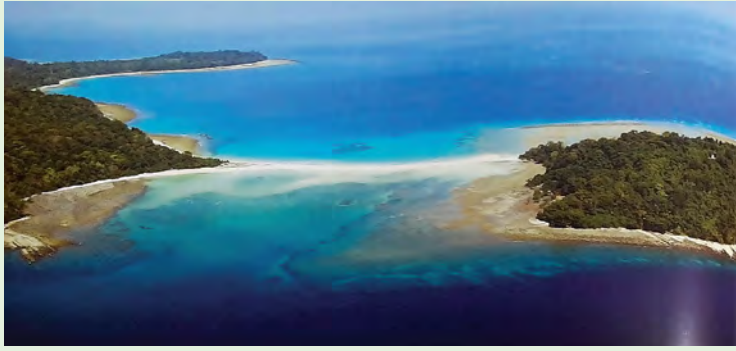
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TRAVEL TIP



Ross and Smith off the Aerial Bay, Diglipur are the majestic twin Islands connected by a thin fifty meter long sand bar and it has a spectacular sight to behold. This silky white sand bar descends inside the sea at times of high tide and surfaces up again during low tide. The bar divides the shallow swimming area on one side and some amazing on the other. The warm waters are crystal clear and the untamed virgin beaches are the most picture perfect ones you will see on the islands.

The best part is that the beach is seldom crowded and most of the time you can cherish the whole sight by yourself. Tropical forests surround the beach and the inner islands are a preferred place for nature trail hiking. Smith Island has limited facilities; spacious bamboo huts with plenty of shade, changing rooms and toilets can be found.

Congress tears into Centre over GNI project, calls it a “commercial venture” with potential ecological and humanitarian fallout

The politically sensitive Great Nicobar mega project has once again triggered a fierce national debate, with the Congress accusing the Centre of “bulldozing” an ecologically fragile Island project under the garb of strategic development while branding critics as being “soft on China”. Launching a sharp attack on the Narendra Modi government, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that the proposed Great Nicobar transshipment hub was “purely a commercial venture” with “no military infrastructure component”, contrary to what he described as a growing propaganda narrative being pushed by the Centre and its “ecosystem”. In a strongly worded statement, Ramesh alleged that attempts were being made to silence environmental and strategic concerns by portraying opponents of the project as anti-national or sympathetic to China. In a post on X, Ramesh described the charge against opponents of the project as “the height of hypocrisy” and sought to turn the criticism back on the government, calling it the “height of hypocrisy”, the Congress leader accused the Centre of pursuing a policy of “Continuing, Calibrated Capitulation to China” while simultaneously trying to weaponize nationalism around the Great Nicobar project. Ramesh further intensified the political attack by referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s remarks following the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes, alleging that the Prime Minister had effectively given China a “clean chit” despite the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers. He also accused the government of surrendering traditional patrolling rights in parts of Ladakh during negotiations with Beijing. At the heart of the Congress attack, however, lies the controversial Great Nicobar Island project itself



— one of India’s most ambitious infrastructure proposals involving a mega transshipment port, airport, township, and power infrastructure in an ecologically sensitive region of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago. While the Centre has projected the project as strategically important for India’s maritime and economic interests in the Indo-Pacific region, critics continue to raise serious concerns over its environmental, tribal, and humanitarian implications. Ramesh maintained that the proposed transshipment port had “no component of military infrastructure” and argued that genuine military expansion could instead be strengthened through existing defence establishments such as INS Baaz and other Andaman & Nicobar Command facilities. In one of his sharpest remarks, the Congress leader alleged that the project was ultimately being pushed to benefit a “sprawling Modani business empire” — a term frequently used by the Opposition to target the perceived proximity between the Modi government and select corporate groups. The Congress also warned that the large-scale project could trigger “disastrous ecological and humanitarian impacts” in one of the country’s most fragile biodiversity

Diamonds amid deprivation: The moral disconnect of Extravagant Wealth

The dazzling appearance of Isha Ambani at a high-profile fashion event hosted by the Costume Institute in New York City has once again ignited debate over the widening moral and economic gulf between India’s super-rich and its struggling millions. Reports and social media discussions surrounding her gem-studded attire, allegedly worth an astronomical amount, have transformed what may have been intended as a fashion statement into a symbol of extreme inequality. There is no denying that successful industrial families possess the legal right to spend their wealth as they choose. In a free-market economy, luxury and opulence are neither

illegal nor unusual. Yet public morality often judges such extravagance not merely by legality, but by social context and ethical sensitivity.

India today stands at a troubling crossroads. On one hand, the country proudly projects itself as a rising global economic power with billionaires, luxury lifestyles and expanding international influence. On the other, millions continue to battle poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and lack of educational opportunities. Government welfare schemes providing free food grains to nearly 80 crore citizens are themselves silent testimony to the scale of economic vulnerability that persists across the nation.

In such circumstances, the public display of unimaginable personal luxury naturally provokes discomfort and criticism. For vast sections of ordinary Indians struggling with inflation, rising living costs and uncertain livelihoods, spectacles of excess can appear detached from social realities. The contrast becomes even sharper when extravagant global showcases emerge from a country where many children still lack quality schooling, healthcare and basic sanitation.

Critics argue that such ostentatious displays deepen the perception that India’s economic growth disproportionately benefits a tiny elite while millions remain dependent on subsidies for survival. Supporters, however, contend that wealthy families also contribute significantly through investments, philanthropy, employment generation and taxes. They caution against turning public discourse into hostility toward success itself.

Yet the issue here is less about wealth and more about symbolism. Public figures associated with enormous economic influence inevitably become symbols of national



priorities and social values. At a time when inequality is becoming one of the defining political and moral challenges of the modern world, displays of extravagant luxury risk appearing insensitive, however unintended they may be.

The debate ultimately raises a larger question for contemporary India: can a nation aspire to global greatness while remaining morally comfortable with such stark contrasts between privilege and deprivation? Economic success certainly deserves recognition, but in deeply unequal societies, public expressions of wealth also carry social responsibility. A democracy survives not only through economic growth figures, but through a shared sense of dignity, balance and social empathy. When opulence becomes excessively disconnected from public hardship, admiration can quickly turn into resentment.



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NSD to bring professional theatre training through a workshop aimed at nurturing local artistic talent



Port Blair: In a significant push towards reviving and strengthening the cultural landscape of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Directorate of Arts & Culture, A&N Administration, is set to collaborate with the prestigious National School of Drama for a month-long intensive theatre workshop in June 2026. The initiative is being seen as a major opportunity for aspiring island artists to receive professional theatre training from one of the country's premier dramatic institutions. At a time when local theatre and performing arts are striving to regain momentum,

the workshop is expected to provide a fresh platform for young islanders to explore acting, stagecraft and storytelling while nurturing a stronger cultural identity rooted in creativity and expression. Officials said the programme aims not only to sharpen artistic talent but also to encourage discipline, confidence and teamwork among participants. Limited to just 30 selected candidates, the workshop will offer rigorous training in acting techniques, voice modulation, movement, dramatic interpretation and stage performance under the

guidance of experts from NSD. Selection of participants will be carried out jointly by officials from NSD and the Arts & Culture Department. The Administration has invited applications from islanders above 18 years of age who are passionate about theatre and willing to commit fully to the month-long programme. The initiative is expected to open new avenues for local performers and contribute towards building a vibrant theatre culture in the Islands. Applications and further details can be obtained from the Directorate of Arts & Culture at the Cellular Jail Complex.

From Governance to glamour, Kerala's viral obsession with smiles, winks & reels

DR. DINESH

From "Pookie CM" to Priya Varrier's viral wink and biker persona, Kerala's social media culture continues to demonstrate how politics, cinema and popular culture seamlessly merge in the digital age. A brief smile from Chief Minister V. D. Sathesana during a discussion on vehicle



modification reportedly crossed 13 millions of views within hours, turning a routine interaction into a statewide meme phenomenon. Simultaneously, actor Priya Varrier's effortless expressions, confident public appearances and superbike enthusiasm continue to dominate reels and online discussions. In Kerala, public attention often moves beyond speeches and policies to personality, expressions and cinematic moments. A smile becomes

a trend, a wink becomes a talking point, and social media transforms everyday moments into collective celebration. The phenomenon reflects Kerala's unique online ecosystem where politics, cinema, automobiles and humour coexist, often blurring the lines between governance, fandom and entertainment. **Disclaimer: This write-up is intended purely for light reading, social media culture observation and current affairs discussion, with no political affiliation, bias or lineage implied.**

First-ever Coastal Rowing National Camp in A&N highlights demand for better sports facilities

Port Blair: With immense sporting potential emerging from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the successful hosting of the first-ever "Coastal Rowing National Coaching Camp – 2026" at Corbyn's Cove

has once again highlighted the urgent need for greater investment in modern sports infrastructure, advanced training facilities, and sustained institutional support for aspiring athletes from the Islands.

The prestigious national-level coaching camp, organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), STC Sri Vijaya Puram, in coordination with the Rowing Federation of India, the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, and the Andaman & Nicobar Rowing Association, was inaugurated on Wednesday at Corbyn's Cove Beach, Sri Vijaya Puram. The event brought together national-level rowers, coaches, sports officials, and young athletes from across the country for intensive training ahead of the upcoming Asian Beach Sprint Championship scheduled to be held in Pattaya, Thailand, from June 1 to 8. The programme was inaugurated by Aditya Sangotra, Director (Sports & Education), A&N Administration, in the presence of officials from SAI, members of the rowing association, coaches, athletes, and sports enthusiasts.



During the event, Mohammed Sadique, Centre In-charge of SAI STC Sri Vijaya Puram, stated that this was the first Coastal Rowing National Coaching Camp ever hosted in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, marking a significant milestone for sports development in the Union Territory. He noted that the sea-based geography of the Islands offers tremendous natural advantages for water sports like rowing, kayaking, sailing, and beach sprint events, but stressed that consistent development of world-class infrastructure, modern equipment, scientific training facilities, and exposure opportunities would be crucial to fully

harness local talent. Officials and sports enthusiasts believe the successful conduct of such national camps can pave the way for transforming the Islands into a major hub for coastal and marine sports in India while inspiring young Islanders to pursue competitive sports at national and international levels. Addressing the gathering, Aditya Sangotra appreciated the collaborative efforts of SAI and the Rowing Federation of India in creating new opportunities for Island athletes and urged participants to strive for excellence with discipline and dedication.

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IDA pushes ahead with five-star resort projects across five Island destinations

Port Blair: In a major push to position the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a high-end global tourism destination, the administration is moving ahead with plans to develop five-star resort projects at Sri Vijaya Puram, Shaheed Dweep, Swaraj Dweep, Long Island, and Aves Island under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model through the Islands Development Agency (IDA). The ambitious tourism infrastructure initiative, aimed at attracting premium international and domestic tourists while boosting sustainable economic growth in the Islands, was reviewed by Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.), Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Vice-Chairman of the Islands Development Agency, during a high-level presentation made by ANIIDCO at Lok Niwas. Apart from the proposed luxury resort projects, the presentation also outlined plans for the development of a world-class golf course and integrated leisure destination at Rangachang, which is expected to emerge



as a major tourism and recreational hub in the region. Officials stated that the proposed projects are part of the broader vision of the Islands Development Agency to transform the Andaman and Nicobar Islands into a globally competitive tourism destination through environmentally sustainable and strategically planned infrastructure development. The initiative is expected to generate large-scale employment opportunities, strengthen hospitality infrastructure, attract private investment, and improve tourism-related services across the Islands.

Authorities also believe that the development of premium resorts and leisure facilities could significantly enhance the Islands' appeal among high-value travellers seeking eco-luxury experiences, adventure tourism, and island-based recreation. At the same time, the projects are likely to draw attention towards the need for balanced development that safeguards the fragile ecology and unique biodiversity of the Islands while promoting economic growth. The Chief Secretary and senior officers of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration were present during the review meeting.

Andaman goat milk cheese makes global debut at World Cheese Competition in Brazil

Port Blair: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have earned rare international recognition at one of the world's most prestigious dairy events, with the Islands' artisanal goat milk cheese drawing global attention and showcasing the region's immense potential in niche dairy products, sustainable rural entrepreneurship, and tribal livelihood development. For the first time, India officially participated in the 4th Mundial do Queijo do Brasil 2026 (World Cheese Competition) held in São Paulo, Brazil, from April 16 to 19 under the coordination of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India, and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Among India's official entries was "Merom Tua" — a unique artisanal goat milk cheese from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Indian delegation included representatives from the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS), A&N Administration, NDDB, Mother Dairy, Amul, and Eleftheria Cheese. The global



witnessed participation from nearly 30 countries and brought together leading cheesemakers, dairy experts, buyers, and industry professionals from around the world. Representing the Islands, Dr. K.A. Naveen, Director of AH&VS, participated as part of the five-member official Indian delegation. His presentation highlighted the Islands' growing potential in producing high-value goat milk products, including artisanal cheeses and premium TFM soaps, capable of generating sustainable income opportunities for tribal and rural communities. Officials said the appreciation received from international experts and visitors was



largely due to the Islands' disease-free environment, natural farming potential, and the uniqueness of small-scale, eco-friendly dairy initiatives being developed in the region. The delegation also showcased how value-added dairy products from the Islands can contribute towards entrepreneurship, economic empowerment, and sustainable rural livelihoods while promoting indigenous resources on global platforms. On the concluding day, the Indian delegation visited Estancia Sylvania, one of Brazil's leading dairy farms, to study regenerative dairy farming, A2 milk production, and advanced breeding technologies.

DID YOU KNOW?



During World War II, the Andaman Islands briefly came under Japanese occupation between 1942 and 1945, making them one of the very few Indian territories directly occupied by foreign forces during the war. Several wartime bunkers, tunnels and coastal defence remnants built during that period can still be found in parts of the islands today. Historians believe these structures offer an important glimpse into the islands' strategic military significance during global wartime operations in the Bay of Bengal region.

RECIPE CORNER

Island Style Coconut Fish Curry

— A traditional coastal favourite —
— packed with flavour and aroma —

Fresh seafood and coconut-based dishes remain an important part of island cuisine across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This simple coconut fish curry is widely loved for its rich taste and light spice balance.

INGREDIENTS

- 500 gm fresh fish pieces
- 1 cup grated coconut
- 2 onions (finely chopped)
- 2 tomatoes (chopped)
- 2 green chillies
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 1 tsp mustard seeds
- Curry leaves
- Coconut oil
- Salt to taste

PREPARATION

- Step 1** Grind grated coconut with a little water to prepare fresh coconut paste.
- Step 2** Heat coconut oil in a pan and add mustard seeds and curry leaves.
- Step 3** Add onions and sauté until golden brown. Then add tomatoes, green chillies, turmeric and chilli powder.
- Step 4** Cook the masala for a few minutes before adding coconut paste and water.
- Step 5** Add fish pieces carefully and cook on low flame for 10-12 minutes until the curry thickens.

SERVING SUGGESTION

Best served hot with:

- steamed rice
- chapati
- island-style red rice

HEALTH NOTE

Fish is an excellent source of:

- protein
- omega-3 fatty acids
- vitamins beneficial for heart and brain health

FOOD FACT

Coconut-based seafood curries are widely prepared across coastal and island communities because coconut helps balance spice while enhancing flavour naturally.

Try this recipe and share your feedback with us!
Your kitchen stories inspire our island community.

WEATHER WARNING

FISHERMEN WARNING FOR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR COAST DURING NEXT SEVEN DAYS

Due to squally wind with speed reaching 40 - 50 kmph gusting 60 kmph is likely to prevail along and off Andaman and Nicobar coast on 28/05/2026 and 31/05/2026. Fishermen are advised not to venture in to the sea along and off Andaman and Nicobar coast on 28/05/2026 and 31/05/2026.

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