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अंडमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन  
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION  
समाजकल्याणनिदेशालय  
DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE  
गोलघर, श्रीविजयपुरम  
GOALGHAR, SRI VIJAYA PURAM

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PRESS RELEASE

09<sup>th</sup>  
Date: March 2026

## **State Hub for Empowerment of Women Celebrates International Women's Day 2026**

Port Blair, 7th March 2026: The State Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), under the Directorate of Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, celebrated International Women's Day 2026 on 7th March 2026 at the DBRAIT Auditorium with the theme "Give to Gain."

The event commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Shweta, Nodal Officer, SHEW, who highlighted the significance of individual contributions in strengthening communities. The celebration featured a classical dance performance by Kailashpati Classical Dance Academy, showcasing the strength and grace of Indian culture.

On this occasion, Shri Ravinder Kumar, Director, Social Welfare, Smti Zarina Bibi (PO - ICDS), Miss Reeta Devi (Rt. Supt. OH), Sri A. K. Biswas (PO - JH), Smti Mosalisa Biswas (Nodal Officer, Mission Vatsalya), Smti. Pratima Rai (Mukhya Sevika) and Dr. Shweta formally launched informational pamphlets on the POSH Act, developed by SHEW to raise awareness about women's rights and legal protections.

A video presentation highlighting the achievements of women-centric schemes implemented under the Directorate of Social Welfare was screened, showcasing initiatives of the State Hub for Empowerment of Women, Women Helpline, One Stop Center, and other programs advancing women's welfare across the islands. Additionally, a vocal play by the DSW team depicted the inspiring journey of a woman empowering herself and transforming her community.

To honor exemplary contributions, the Department felicitated 11 women change-makers and six outstanding Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. The women achievers recognized included:

- \* Smti Tapasi Saha (Pradhan)
- \* Smti C. K. Rasheeda Banu (PRI Member)
- \* Smti Reshma (PRI Member)
- \* Smti D. Padmawathi (Pramukh)
- \* Smti Pandi Selvi Viswanathan (Councillor)
- \* Smti Zarina Nikhat Islam (President, Crusaders Against Animal Sufferings)
- \* Dr. Jochibed Vincent (HOD English, Andaman College)
- \* Miss Maria Sheela (Incharge, Prayas)
- \* Miss Farida (Director, Hope Foundation NGO)
- \* Miss Elay (Student, BA B.Ed, Tagore College)
- \* Miss Vaishali Devi (Photographer & Content Creator, @VaishaliAndaman).

The Best Anganwadi Workers and Helpers were from School Line-1, Bhatubasti-3, and Mannarghat-5.

Prizes were also distributed to the winners of competitions conducted in connection with International Women's Day. Addressing the gathering, Shri Ravinder Kumar, Director, DSW, commended the women for their achievements and encouraged them to continue initiatives that strengthen women's empowerment in the islands.

The programme concluded with a group song by the Child Helpline and Women Helpline teams, followed by the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Nitu Sindhu, State Mission Coordinator, SHEW. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all members of the Directorate of Social Welfare, reaffirming their collective commitment to empowering women and promoting gender equality in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

*Nitu Sindhu*  
29/03/26

State Mission Coordinator (SHEW)

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1. The Chief Editor, The daily Telegram Sri Vijaya Puram, with the request to publish this press release.
2. The News Editor, AIR Sri Vijaya Puram, with the request to broadcast this news.
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4. Sr. Computer Analyst (SW), with request to upload this press release on the website of A & N Administration for wide publicity.

*Nitu Sindhu*  
29/03/26

State Mission Coordinator (SHEW)