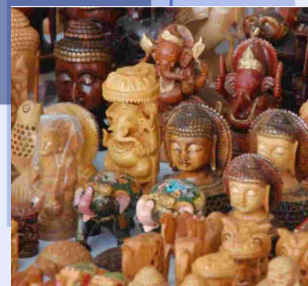
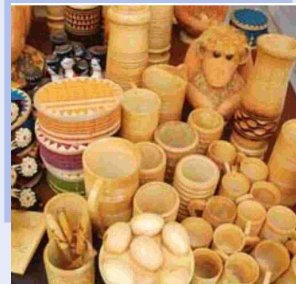


STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

A roadmap for the Emerald Islands



सत्यमेव जयते

Directorate of Industries
UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

SEPTEMBER
2024

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
AI	Artificial intelligence
ANA	A&N Administration
ANCOFED	A&N Co-operatives Supply and Marketing Federation Limited
ANI	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
ANIIMS	Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Science
ATMA	Agriculture Technology Management Agency
ATR	Andaman Trunk Road
B2B	Business-to-business
BBQ	Barbeque
BRAP	Business Reform Action Plan
BSM	Buyer-Seller Meets
CFC	Common Facility Centers
CII	Capital Investment Incentive
CIS	Capital Interest Subvention
CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
CRZ	Coastal Regulation Zone
DFO	Development and Facilitation Office
DIC	District Industries Centre
DLI	Disbursement Linked Indicators
DSFV	Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels
EDA&N	Electricity Department of Andaman and Nicobar
EDP	Entrepreneurial Development Programs
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EHL	Ellon Hinengo Ltd
ESDP	Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programs

Abbreviation	Description
ETP	Effluent Treatment Plant
EWS	Economically weaker section
FLC	Fish Landing Centre
FSI	Fishery Resources & Infrastructures
GDP	Gross domestic product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPR	Government Process Re-engineering
GST	Goods & Services Tax
GSTLI	Goods & Services Tax Linked Incentive
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
HVADA	High Value Agriculture & Development Agency
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICC	Indian Chamber of Commerce
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
IILB	India Industrial Land Bank
IIT	Indian Institutes of Technology
IITTM	Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management
INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
INR	Indian Rupee
IPA	Indian Ports Association
IQF	Individual quick freezing
ITI	Industrial Training Institutes
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNRM	Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya
KRA	Key Result Areas
KVIB	Khadi and Village Industries Board
KVIC	Khadi and Village Industries Commission
KYA	Know Your Approval

Abbreviation	Description
LED	Light-emitting diode
LPG	Liquefied petroleum gas
MCS	Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance
MDP	Management Development Programs
MICE	Meetings, Incentives, Conventions & Exhibitions
MIS	Management Information Systems
MOFPI	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MT	Metric Ton
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NAFED	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited
NDZ	No Development Zone
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIOT	National Institute of Ocean Technology
NLC	Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited
NMP	PM GATI Shakti National Master Plan
NMSA	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
NOC	No Objection Certificate
NRI	Non- resident Indians
NSCB	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Ireland
NSWS	National Single Window System
NTPC	National Thermal Power Corporation
ODOP	One District -One products
ONDC	Open Network for Digital Commerce
PACS	Primary Agricultural Credit Society
PDMC	Per Drop More Crop
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems

Abbreviation	Description
PKVY	Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana
PM-AASHA	PM- Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan
PM-KISAN	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
PMC	Project Management Charges
PMEGP	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
PMFBY	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
PMFME	Prime Minister Scheme for Formalization of Microfood Processing Enterprises Scheme
PMJAY	Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
PMMSY	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PSU	Public Sector Undertaking
RAFTAAR	Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation
RAMP	Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance
RBSM	Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets
RCS	Registrar Cooperative Society
RGCA	Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture
RKVY	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
SBI	State Bank of India
SHC	Soil health card
SHG	Self Help Groups
SIP	Strategic Implementation Plan
SLS	State Level Supporters
SLUP	State Level Up-gradation Plan
SPIU	State Programme Implementation Unit
SRS	Software Requirements Specifications
STP	Waste Management system
SWOC	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges

Abbreviation	Description
TDCS	Tribal Development Cooperative Society Limited
USP	Unique selling propositions
UT	Union Territory
UTATMA	Union Territory Agriculture Technology Management Agency
WCIS	Working Capital Interest Subvention

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Background

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI) is a Union Territory of India. It is located in the Indian Ocean, in the southern reaches of the Bay of Bengal, nearer to Indonesia and Thailand. The UT comprises of two island groups - the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands - which separates the Andaman Sea to the east from the Indian Ocean.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are endowed with a diverse tropical rainforest canopy, featuring a blend of flora from Indian, Myanmarese, Malaysian origins, and unique endemic species. The islands host 2,654 species across 237 families and 1,083 genera, including a wide range of plant groups. Of these, 308 species are endemic to the islands, and over 350 species are recognized for their medicinal properties, highlighting the potential for commercial utilization subject to policy regulation. Currently, forests cover approximately 93.69% of the total land area, categorized into twelve distinct types including giant evergreen, tropical evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, and mangrove forests, among others, each contributing to the rich biodiversity of the region. The primary source of usable water in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands is rainwater, collected during the monsoon season and distributed throughout the year.

Agriculture in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was established over a century ago. The primary agricultural regions include Diglipur, Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep, and select areas in South Andaman, producing crops like paddy, pulses, fruits and vegetables (bananas, sugarcane, sweet potatoes, tapioca, papaya, jackfruit, mango, pineapple etc). The islands also grow spices such as chilies, black pepper, ginger, turmeric, nutmeg, cinnamon, and cloves. Key plantation crops like coconut and Erica nut play a vital role in the development of food-based industries, alongside other crops like banana, papaya, jackfruit, mango, pineapple, rubber, spices, and cashew nut, offering potential for food and agro-based industrial activities.

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) stands at 10371 crore Rs. Growth rate in the FY 2021-22 stood at 11.39 percent. Overall, Andaman & Nicobar Islands' economy has grown steadily. Recent trends show that the Service sector contributes more than two-thirds of the UT's GSDP. The share of Secondary or Manufacturing sector is more than Primary sector, which is a positive indicator. The share having remained consistent at nearly 17 percent in the past few years, the sector has immense potential and will contribute to a larger chunk in the coming years. But consequent to the Islands' ecology, paucity of land and other factors, services will continue to be the leading sector in the economy.

There are no Large-Scale Industries in A&N Island. The trajectory of industrial growth in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been hindered by several factors, including geographical remoteness, challenging terrain, separation from the mainland, resource limitations, and restricted market access. Classified as an industrially backward area ('A' category), the region has benefited from various incentives and subsidies provided by both the Government of India and the UT Administration to foster industrialization. The limited industrial activity that has occurred is primarily driven by local demand. Despite these challenges, the current state of the industrial sector in the islands offers a foundation for potential growth.

Key challenges identified:

- Geographical separation of Islands- 836 Islands/Islets/Rocks separated by deep waters of Bay of Bengal
- High Transportation Cost- Transportation is only via waterways/airways resulting in high infrastructure cost
- Limited Water Sources- Main source of water is through monsoon and absence of perennial water bodies
- High Power Cost- The main power generation is through DG
- Fragile Eco System- Limits promotion of large-scale manufacturing industries
- Limited Market- Due to low population, the local consumptions of Goods is limited

Objective of SIP

The A&N SIP document intends to leverage the comparative strengths of the UT and to propel it among the most preferred business destination aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and ease of doing business.
- Enhance investment attraction, facilitate integration into global value chains, and boost export capabilities.
- Encourage structural transformation and diversification for supporting services sector and high-tech manufacturing / assembly to leverage areas of comparative and competitive advantage.
- Promote R&D and innovation, improve technological capabilities, develop a competitive workforce, and support the advancement of enterprises.

- Focus on the development and enhancement of physical infrastructure through private sector participation within the CRZ and ecology rules.
- Advocate for environmentally responsible management practices within enterprises /industries.
- Ensure gender and social inclusivity in employment opportunities and the equitable distribution of economic benefits.
- Enhance the efficiency of public service delivery to improve the ease of doing business.

Approach adopted:

The Department of Industries and ANIIDCO (the State Nodal Agency) had series of consultations with MSMEs across sectors, various industry associations and chambers of commerce, Government departments including Agriculture, Fisheries, Handicrafts, Tourism and Industries. In addition, the secondary resources were also referred to while preparing the document. Based on the interactions held with the MSMEs and other stakeholders, key challenges in general, and with respect to the focus and potential sectors were identifies.

The SIP documents proposes the interventions keeping in view the initiatives already being implemented and the initiatives being planned by the UT Administration for development of MSMEs in the Island and are aimed at addressing the challenges with respect to access of market, technology and finance.

Proposed Interventions:

The list of proposed interventions is as follows:

1. *Digitization of MSME Services*
2. *Formalization of MSMEs and SHGs*
3. *Institutional Strengthening of DICs for MSME Support*
4. *Developing BRANDAMAN: Make in Andaman*
5. *Access to Market*
6. *Entrepreneurship Development*
7. *Subsidy on transportation and Logistics*
8. *Surveys and Studies for Policy formulation*
9. *Sectoral Interventions*
10. *Fisheries Development Programme*

11. Access to credit (with focus on tourism)

12. Skill Development Programme (sector focussed)

Budget:

The total cost for implementing all the proposed interventions is estimated at Rs 90.805 crores out of which Rs 89.55 Crores are requested under the RAMP Programme as per the following details:

S. No	Intervention	Total Budget (Rs. In lakhs)	Leveraging existing Schemes (Rs. In lakhs)	Amount requested under RAMP (Rs. In lakhs)
ANI 1	Digitization of MSME Services	580	0	580
ANI 2	Formalization of MSMEs and SHGs	130	0	130
ANI 3	Institutional Strengthening of DICs for MSME Support	355	0	355
ANI 4	Developing BRANDAMAN: Make in Andaman	1175	0	1175
ANI 5	Access to Market	1150	0	1150
ANI 6	Entrepreneurship Development	385	0	385
ANI 7	Subsidy on transportation and Logistics	250	0	250
ANI 8	Surveys and Studies for Policy formulation	110	0	110
ANI 9	Sectoral Interventions	303	0	303
ANI 10	Fisheries Development Programme	1262.5	125	1137.5
ANI 11	Access to credit (with focus on tourism)	3180	0	3180
ANI 12	Skill Development Programme (sector focussed)	200	0	200
	TOTAL (ALL INTERVENTIONS)	9080.5	125	8955.5

CHAPTER 1:

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector is a significant contributor to the economic and social development of the country. The sector comprises of an estimated 63 million MSMEs, employing about 11.2 crore people spread across manufacturing, trade, and service sectors. It contributes about 38% to country's manufacturing output, more than 40% of exports, around 26% of the GDP.

The sector has a huge potential of fostering entrepreneurship, steering economic growth, and generating large employment opportunities. However the sector is constrained by challenges like the access to credit, market, technology, skill development etc.

In order to address the challenges faced and boost the MSME growth, the Government of India launched a Central Sector Scheme, "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP) on 30th June 2022, supported by the World Bank

1.2 About the RAMP Programme:

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India is implementing a World Bank assisted Central sector scheme "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP). The outlay of RAMP is Rs.6062.45 Crores or USD 808 Million out of which Rs.3750 Crores or USD 500 Million would be a loan from the World Bank and the remaining Rs.2312.45 Crores or USD 308 Million would be the counterpart funding from the Government of India. The RAMP Programme was launched on 30th March 2022 by Honourable Prime Minister.

Aim and Objective:

The primary objective is to enhance the performance of 555,000 MSMEs by improving market access, facilitating credit availability, strengthening institutions, fostering collaboration between the central and state governments, addressing delayed payments, promoting sustainable business practices, and expanding the reach of existing MSME schemes. This is being done through the following measures:

- Institutional Strengthening of MSME Ecosystem: This includes setting up of the MSME Council; digital portals, policy and M&E functions.
- The convergence of relevant State-level schemes and support Programmes through the preparation and implementation of the Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) by the participating States and UTs

- Strengthening the existing Schemes of the Ministry of MSME for improving Firm competitiveness of the MSMEs by strengthening schemes related to Technology upgradation and quality certification; marketing etc;
- Introducing new sub schemes / initiatives under RAMP mainly focusing on promoting greening of enterprises, increased adoption of digital commerce etc
- Strengthening the receivables financing market for MSMEs.
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for greening investments and investments in women owned businesses.
- Addressing delayed payments through online dispute resolution (ODR)

Key Result Areas:

RAMP is designed in accordance with the World Bank Programme for Results (P for R) instrument. World Bank funds under RAMP would be provided to the Ministry on achievement of mutually agreed Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs). The Programme has identified the following two results areas:

1. Result Area#1: Strengthening Institutions and Governance of the MSME Programme, and
2. Result Area#2: Support to market access, firm capabilities, and access to finance.

Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs):

The key matrix to monitor progress under RAMP are the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) against the key results areas. There are six DLIs which are as follows:

- a. Implementing the National MSME Reform Agenda, through National MSME Council, digital portals, policy, and M&E functions.
- b. Accelerating MSME Sector Centre-State collaboration.
- c. Enhancing effectiveness of MSME CHAMPIONS Scheme.
- d. Strengthening Receivable Financing Market for MSMEs.
- e. Enhancing Effectiveness of CGTMSE and “Greening and Gender” delivery.
- f. Reducing the incidence of delayed payments.

Strategic Investment Plans:

The States and UTs play a major role in the promotion and development of the MSME sector in the States/ UTs and improving MSME Sector Centre-State collaboration is one of the DLIs under the programme.

The Ministry programme has invited all States/UTs to participate in the RAMP programme. To begin with, the States and UTs being supported to prepare a Strategic Investment Plan (SIPs) which will serve as a roadmap for the State to spell out its agenda for the development and promotion of the MSME sector in the State/UT. The proposals, after evaluation of the expert committee will provide funding support to select projects.

Under this DLI, the Ministry programme invited all States/UTs to participate in the RAMP programme by signing Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the Ministry of MSME, Government of India. All the States / UTs that signed LoU are required to prepare the Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) for which a support has been provided. The SIP will serve as a strategic roadmap to strengthen the resilience of MSMEs and provide support for the development of the MSME sector in the State / UT. It will address not just traditional challenges faced by the MSME sector but will also build systemic capacity to respond to emerging challenges. The RAMP Programme will support part-financing for selected interventions based on the evaluation criteria of the SIPs submitted by the participating States.

Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of RAMP at Central and State /UT level

1. Institutional Arrangements at Central level

a) National MSME Council

The National MSME Council has been established under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister, MoMSME with the Minister of State, MoMSME as its Vice Chairperson, and is the apex administrative and functional body responsible for facilitating implementation of the RAMP Programme and is mandated to oversee inter-Ministerial collaborations, Centre-State synergies and impact enhancement of the schemes covered under RAMP. As in June 2024, two meetings of the Council have been held.

b) RAMP Programme Committee (RPC):

The RPC has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of MoMSME, with representatives of MoMSME, other allied Ministries as Members. The Committee is mandated to:

- ensure inter-Divisional and inter-Ministerial convergences
- oversee the implementation of RAMP over programme period
- approval of SIPs
- approval of work plan, budget, Annual Procurement Plans, and fund releases to various implementing agencies at the Centre and State Level, including quantum of funding to the States
- approval of 'Annual State of the Sector' and 'Evidence based Policy' report

c) SIP Evaluation Committee (SIPEC)

The Ministry of MSME constituted SIP Evaluation Committee consisting of officials from Central Government / departments, industry practitioners, academic institutions etc. The SIPEC is chaired by the Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner (AS&DC), Ministry of MSME, Government of India and is mandated to review the proposals received from various States / UTs under their respective SIPs, evaluate them on the Evaluation criterion set out by the Ministry and recommend the select proposals to RPC for approval of gap funding.

d) National Programme Management Unit (NPMU)

The NPMU has been established at MoMSME to assist and support the Ministry in implementation of the RAMP Program. The NPMU has a team of professionals and experts in various areas, as defined in the PIM / MoU. The NPMU team also has an Environment Expert and Gender & Social Safeguard Specialist.

2. Institutional Arrangements at State level

a) State RAMP Programme Committee (SRPC)

Under the RAMP Programme, State RAMP Programme Committee (SRPC) has been established in all the participating States / UTs which is headed by an Officer not below the rank of Principle Secretary (Industries). The Committee administers the preparation of Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and approves the same before submission to the Ministry of MSME. The Committee is also responsible for overall implementation of the SIP by the SPIU and it will review the performance of SPIU from time to time.

The Committee has nominated a Nodal Officer to co-ordinate with M/o MSME & responsible for all coordination on behalf of the respective State/UT Administration for overall implementation of the RAMP Programme.

b) **State Nodal Agency (SNA)**

RAMP program is being implemented by the Centre and by the State/UT Administrations. For ease of coordination and streamline flow of funds under the RAMP Programme, the participating State/UT has nominated a State Nodal Agency for RAMP (SNA) in the respective States/UTs (mostly State Industrial Development Corporation). The SNA is / shall be responsible for coordinating the activities with Ministry of MSME, maintain and monitor the financial management system related to the RAMP Program, as per extant GFR and RBI guidelines.

c) **State Programme Implementation Unit (SPIU)**

Under the programme, every participating State / UT is required to establish a State Programme Implementation Unit (SPIU) within the State Department dealing with MSME sector/State Industrial Development Corporation, comprising of competent, experienced and qualified staff and/or consultants, and vested with the relevant powers, financial resources, functions and competencies. The SPIU shall be responsible to oversee the preparation of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and further implementation.

1.3. Status of RAMP programme in Andaman & Nicobar Island

Letter of Undertaking (LoU): The Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&N Islands) have signed the LoU with the Ministry of MSME and has prepared the SIP which is being submitted to the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

State Nodal Agency (SNA): Andaman & Nicobar Industrial Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) has been appointed as the SNA.

State / UT RAMP Programme Committee: The UT Administration has also set up the SRPC, chaired by the Commissioner cum Secretary (Industries), as prescribed in the PIM document

State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU): The UT Administration of A&N Island will set up the SPIU established in the Industries Department/ Department of MSME / ANIIDCO to support the UT in implementation of the approved component of A&N SIP.

1.4. Approach & Methodology

The overall approach adopted for preparation of a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) aligns with the RAMP Project Implementation Manual. The UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Island adopted a multi pronged strategy to prepare the

Strategic Investment Plan. Both secondary and primary research were undertaken which resulted in gaining better understanding on the geographical region wise, segment wise and cluster value chain/sector insights into the into the key challenges and constraints to the MSME growth.

Secondary Research/ Desktop Research

As a part of secondary research, all the relevant information published by various Departments and agencies and available in public domain (reports, project documents etc) was collected and studied. The desktop research helped to understand the status of the MSME ecosystem in the UT of A&N Island with respect to status of MSMEs in the UT, existing schemes and programmes and their performance, challenges faced etc. A list of the documents consulted and websites accessed are provided in reference section, provided at the end of the Report.

Primary Research

To set the context of preparation of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), meetings were held with the RAMP Division and RAMP National PMU under the Chairmanship of Shri Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary, UT Administration of A&N Island. This was followed by series of meetings with the Industries Department and consisting of Departments of Tourism, Fisheries, Handloom and Handicrafts, Agriculture and Horticulture and other concerned department and agencies.

The teams had detailed deliberations on the current status of MSME in the UT, challenges with the existing schemes and programme in the areas of access to finance, access to markets and access to technology, among other challenges. The potential sectors were identified and discussion were held with respect to their challenges, existing schemes and programmes, gaps and potential interventions etc.

In addition, following stakeholders were also consulted:

- Individual MSMEs/ Existing entrepreneurs,
- Industry and Trade associations
- MSME related Govt. depts./ organizations

The feedback / information received have been compiled and formed basis for identifying interventions being proposed under the SIP. The details of the stakeholders consulted is provided in Annexure- .

1.5. Chapterization

The report is organised in 6 Chapters, in addition to the Executive Summary, providing details on specific aspects. A brief of the information covered in various chapters is provided below:

Chapter 1 - Introduction : This is the introductory chapter providing background and context for the report. This also covers the status update and activities undertaken by the UT Administration regarding RAMP programme.

Chapter 2 - An Overview of Andaman & Nicobar Islands: This chapter provided detailed information on the physical conditions and macro economic indicators in terms of demography, socio conditions, economic status and progress, priority sectors etc

Chapter 3 – Status of MSMEs in A&N Island: This chapter provides information on the existing MSMEs in the UT and the challenges faced by them.

Chapter 4 – Proposed Interventions under RAMP: This chapter consists of various interventions proposed for MSME development in the UT to be considered for gap funding under the RAMP programme.

Chapter 5 – Budget for the proposed interventions gives intervention wise detail of the total budget, leveraging UT / Central schemes and request for gap funding under the RAMP programme.

CHAPTER 2:

AN OVERVIEW OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

2.1 Demography

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI) is a Union Territory of India. It is located in the Indian Ocean, in the southern reaches of the Bay of Bengal, nearer to Indonesia and Thailand. The UT comprises of two island groups - the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands - which separates the Andaman Sea to the east from the Indian Ocean. These two groups are separated by the 10° N parallel, the Andamans lying to the north of this latitude, and the Nicobar to the south. Sri Vijaya Puram (in Andamanese town) is the capital of this territory which also acts as the gateway to the UT. The capital of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has one Airport, one major harbour and a number of other small harbours. The neighboring countries are Myanmar, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand

The total land area of the territory is approximately 8,249 km² (Andaman Islands - 6,408 km² and Nicobar Islands - 1,841 km²). There are 836 Islands/Islets/Rocky Outcrops in the territory, of which only some 31 are permanently inhabited. The smaller Nicobars comprise some 22 main islands (10 inhabited). The Andamans and Nicobars are separated by a channel (the Ten Degree Channel) some 150 km wide. The biggest island in the Andaman group is the Middle Andaman (1536 Sq Km) and the biggest island in the Nicobar group is the Great Nicobar (1045 Sq Km). The smallest island in the Andaman Group is the Curlew island(0.03 Sq Km) and the smallest island in the Nicobar Group is the Pilomillow Island(1.3 Sq Km).

Table 1: Andaman and Nicobar Islands: At a Glance

Total Population	4,34,192 (Est.),2019
Total Area	8,249 Sq. Km.
Total Islands/Islets/Rocky Outcrops	836
Inhabited Islands	31
Districts	03
Tehsil	09

The distance of Sri Vijaya Puram from Chennai, Kolkata and Vishakhapatnam is 1190 Km, 1255 Km and 1200 Km respectively from sea. The distance of Sri Vijaya Puram from Chennai and Kolkata is 1330 Km and 1303 Km respectively by Air. Language of the Andaman and Nicobar is Hindi. However, regional people use their regional languages.



According to Census of India (2011), The population of Andaman and Nicobar as per 2011 Census is 380581 out of which Male population is 202871 and Female population is 177710. The total population residing in Rural area is 237093 which constitute 62.3 % and remaining 143488 (38.7 %) is Urban population. Sex ratio (female to thousand males) is 876 as per 2011 census. Population density being 46 persons per square kilometer.

Hindi and English are the official languages of the islands. Bengali is the dominant and most spoken language, with 26% of the population speaking Bengali. The other major languages spoken in the islands are Hindi (18.23%), Tamil (17.68%), Telugu (12.81%), Malayalam (8.11%) and Nicobarese (8.05%) according to 2001 Census of India. Other minor spoken languages are Kurukh/Oraon, Munda and Kharia. Andaman Creole Hindi is widely used as a trade language in the Andamans.

2.2 Socio-Economic conditions:

The literacy rate in the UT is 86.27%. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands surrounded by emerald sea, lush green forest, mountains scenic beauty, unpolluted corals, serene white sandy beaches, marine national park have all contributed to make these islands one of the most beautiful tourist destination World wide.

Health Services: Comprehensive primary health care including preventive and promotive aspects is provided free of cost through the network of 129 Government Health & Wellness centers across the islands and secondary level care is provided at the Community Health Centers, District Hospitals and GB Pant Hospital, Sri Vijaya Puram, which in addition, also provides tertiary care services. Government institutions are major health and wellness provider. Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY is implemented to provide cashless treatment worth Rupees five lakh per family per year to eligible beneficiaries to reduce out of pocket expenditure for the treatment at mainland to vulnerable sections of the society and to the beneficiaries of UT health insurance scheme merged with Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY. With the establishment of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Science (ANIIMS) in 2015, formation of human resource capital in the health sector has begun in this UT at a reasonable pace, which in turn helps improving the health sector at large.

A robust referral and transport mechanism available to ensure that the patients requiring advance level care are shifted promptly to GB Pant Hospital, Sri Vijaya Puram.

2.3. Resources

2.3.1. Forests, Flora and Fauna

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are endowed with a diverse tropical rainforest canopy, featuring a blend of flora from Indian, Myanmarese, Malaysian origins, and unique endemic species. The islands host 2,654 species across 237 families and 1,083 genera, including a wide range of plant groups. Of these, 308 species are endemic to the islands, and over 350 species are recognized for their medicinal properties, highlighting the potential for commercial utilization subject to policy regulation. The islands' forests vary significantly across different regions: South

Andaman is noted for its rich epiphytic vegetation, Middle Andaman for moist deciduous forests, and North Andaman for wet evergreen forests with dense woody climbers. In contrast, the Nicobar Islands, particularly the northern part, lack evergreen forests, which dominate the central and southern islands. The Nicobars also feature unique grasslands, unlike the Andamans where deciduous forests prevail but are nearly non-existent in the Nicobars.

Currently, forests cover approximately 93.69% of the total land area, categorized into twelve distinct types including giant evergreen, tropical evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, and mangrove forests, among others, each contributing to the rich biodiversity of the region.

2.3.2 Topography and Soil

The landscape of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is predominantly mountainous, featuring extensive hill ranges surrounding narrow valleys. These islands represent the emergent parts of submerged mountain ranges, with North Andaman's Saddle Peak, at 732 meters above sea level, marking the highest point. The terrain lacks significant elevations, with slopes ranging from moderate to steep, leading to considerable soil erosion. Flat areas are rare but can be found in Betapur and Diglipur.

The Nicobar Group is characterized by coral reefs and shallow seas, with long, narrow topographical features. Car Nicobar and Katchal islands are relatively flat, while others present a hilly landscape, with elevations up to 700 meters. Little Andaman and Great Nicobar exhibit a rugged topography with fertile soil, varying from clay, clayey loam, gravel loam, to sandy loam, dependent on the slope. The 2004 tsunami/earthquake significantly altered the geographical features of some islands.

2.3.3 Agriculture and Allied Resources

Agriculture in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was established over a century ago. The primary agricultural regions include Diglipur, Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep, and select areas in South Andaman, producing crops like paddy, pulses, fruits and vegetables (bananas, sugarcane, sweet potatoes, tapioca, papaya, jackfruit, mango, pineapple etc). The islands also grow spices such as chilies, black pepper, ginger, turmeric, nutmeg, cinnamon, and cloves. Key plantation crops like coconut and Erica nut play a vital role in the development of food-based industries, alongside other crops like banana, papaya, jackfruit, mango, pineapple, rubber, spices, and cashew nut, offering potential for food and agro-based industrial activities.

Coconut based farming system, high value fruits, flowers, orchids & spices, Organic cultivation etc are promoted in the islands. Coconut is cultivated in about 18095.38ha area and life line of majority of farmers. Coconut production is 1,254 lakh nuts and the productivity is 6928 nuts per hectare. These nuts can be used for development of a number of industries based upon coconuts such as Production of Copra, Coconut oil, desiccated Coconut, Coconut shell powder, Handicrafts items like toys and bowls from coconut shell and Activated carbon. Desiccated Coconut is widely used in the preparation of sweets, confectionery, curry preparation, scented; Coconut shell powder which can be used for making thermostat moulding powders such as phenol formaldehyde, and synthetic resin glues. Exploitation for industrial use in these Islands but only a negligible.

2.3.4. Water Resources

The primary source of usable water in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands is rainwater, collected during the monsoon season and distributed throughout the year. This method serves the existing units, though water supply becomes irregular in the dry season. The largest artificial reservoir is located at Dhanikhari in South Andaman. Additionally, water from wells, bore wells, and minor streams is accessible on various islands. Major rivers include Kalpong in North Andaman, and Galathea and Alexandra in Great Nicobar. Without further development of water resources, industries that require substantial water for their processes might face challenges in establishing operations in the islands.

2.4. Economic & Industrial Development

2.4.1. Current Macroeconomic Overview

Following table shows the overview of prevailing macroeconomic scenario in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) stands at 10371 crore Rs. Growth rate in the FY 2021-22 stood at 11.39 percent. Overall, Andaman & Nicobar Islands' economy has grown steadily.

Table 2: Macroeconomic Overview of A&N Islands (2020-22)

Indicator	2021-22
Current GSDP (Crore Rs.)	10371
Growth Rate of Current GSDP (%)	11.39
Constant GSDP (Crore Rs.)	7172

Growth Rate of Constant GSDP (%)	6.81
Current NSDP (Crore Rs.)	9209
Growth Rate of Current NSDP (%)	12.10
Constant NSDP (Crore Rs.)	6558
Growth Rate of Constant NSDP (%)	11.54
Current Per Capita NSDP (Rs.)	229079
Growth Rate of Current PCNSDP (%)	11.55
Constant Per Capita NSDP (Rs.)	163138
Growth Rate of Constant PCNSDP (%)	10.98

2. 4.2 Sectoral Composition of the Economy

Recent trends show that the Service sector contributes more than two-thirds of the UT's GSDP. The share of Secondary or Manufacturing sector is more than Primary sector, which is a positive indicator. The share having remained consistent at nearly 17 percent in the past few years, the sector has immense potential and will contribute to a larger chunk in the coming years. But consequent to the Islands' ecology, paucity of land and other factors, services will continue to be the leading sector in the economy.

Sub-Sectoral Scenario

The sub-sectoral analysis brings out the key performing areas within each broach sector. It is shown in the following table.

Table 3: Sectoral Composition of GSDP of A&N Islands (2021-22)

S. No	Sectoral Current GSDP	2021-22	
		GSDP	% Share
(a)	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1439	14.99
(b)	Manufacturing & Industry	1704	17.75
(c)	Services Sector	6458	67.26

The table presented above indicates that the Services sector made the largest contribution to the GSDP in the fiscal year 2021-22. Given the constraints on land availability for industrial or manufacturing expansion, the services or tertiary sector emerges as a promising avenue for growth.

2.4.3 Industrial Landscape

There are no Large-Scale Industries in A&N Island. The trajectory of industrial growth in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been hindered by several factors, including geographical remoteness, challenging terrain, separation from the mainland, resource limitations, and restricted market access. Classified as an industrially backward area ('A' category), the region has benefited from various incentives and subsidies provided by both the Government of India and the UT Administration to foster industrialization. The limited industrial activity that has occurred is primarily driven by local demand. Despite these challenges, the current state of the industrial sector in the islands offers a foundation for potential growth, as detailed below:

Industrial Land

Andaman & Nicobar island faces the challenge of shortage of land for large scale industrial / institutional economic activity. Generally waste and fallow lands are considered for industrial use. Although, the Islands of the district have fallow land, most lands are uneven due to hill slope.

Existing Industrial Estates

Space for industrial units may be available in 6 industrial estates. These estates have been set up in various Islands of the district.

Table 4: Existing Status of Industrial Estates in the Districts of A&N Islands

S. No.	Name of Ind. Area	Land acquired (Hectare)	No. of Sheds allotted	No. of plots allotted	No of Plots allotted to women
1	Gharacharma	2.00	10	31	6
2	Dollygunj	10.29	53	125	13
3	Bakultala	11.50	15	2	nil
4	Campell Bay	4.00	17	nil	nil
5	Mithakhari	5.00	Nil	6	1
6	Little Andaman	2.00	Nil	3	nil

Government of India has also undertaken integration of industrial parks across the country onto the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), a GIS enabled platform, which will allow showcasing of respective industrial parks to investors on one common platform. All the above Industrial Area/ Estates, except Little Andaman have been integrated onto IILB.

Some existing entrepreneurs have arranged their own space, by procuring land and constructing sheds. Some constructed sheds on their own land, and tiny units are working in their own houses. The limited availability of land for development of industrial area/ manufacturing hubs pose a serious challenge in the island, for growth of manufacturing sector.

2.5. Key priority sectors

2.5.1. Handicraft and Village Industries

Handicraft industry which is one of the major sources of income for the people in Sri Vijaya Puram, is mainly dependent on shell crafts. As shells in these islands are the most beautiful object found here, the shell crafted items of Sri Vijaya Puram has high demand across the world. As the coastal areas homes abundance of small and big shells, people indulge themselves in the practice of shell crafting and find out earning for their livelihood. They collect, clean and process the shell and cut them in different shapes to make various types of ornaments like earrings, necklaces, chains, bracelets etc. and other decorative items, which can be used to adorn homes.

Timber and wood works are the other major section of handicraft industry here. The islands of Andaman and Nicobar homes several types of timber species, some of whom belong to rare families. These timbers are cut into different sized and made simple objects of unique shape. Variety of furniture, mats and other products are also made of wood, which have high demand among tourists coming from various countries of the world.



Despite the rich tradition of handicraft and village industries, which thrive on inherited skills, the settlers of the Andaman Islands often do not engage in traditional craftsmanship due to various socio-economic reasons. Nevertheless, a significant number of artisans who have migrated from the mainland continue to practice their crafts, creating items from cane and bamboo, sea shells, wood, and more. The handicraft units operate across the Andaman Islands, predominantly in rural areas. These units play a crucial role in providing employment, particularly to women, fostering family businesses and supporting household industries.

Table 5: One District One Product (ODOP)

District	Product
South Andaman	Marine Fish
Nicobar	Coconut
Middle & North Andaman	Coconut

2.5.2 Tourism

The tourism sector is the backbone of economy in these islands and plays a vital role for economic growth of these islands. The tourism sector provides a good percentage of job opportunities for unemployed youths of these islands in accommodation Hotels, Resorts, leisure & recreational activities and allied services. Andaman & Nicobar Islands has numerous potential sites for development of Tourism. The main attractions of the A&N Islands for tourism purpose are:-

- The beaches, the untouched rain forests, and the active volcanoes are the natural site attractions.
- Historical landmarks like the Cellular Jail, a prison constructed by the British in 1938 and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island, that served as the hub of British administration are among the constructed attractions.
- Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, located on Wandoor, is a well-known built attraction. Limestone caves, mangroves, and lush, pristine rainforests are other attractions.

Apart from above, the other tourism development potentials are as follows:-

- Large number of outstanding, sandy, safe and unexplored beaches.
- Beautiful meandering mangrove creeks, lush green forests.

- Bio diversity: variety of flora, fauna, tropical forests and coral reefs
- Unique tourist attractions, such as lime stone caves, Mud volcano, Parrot island and the only active volcano i.e. Barren Island
- Scope for promotion of adventure sea sports
- Eco Tourism
- Unexplored destinations
- Bird Watching Tourism
- Astro Tourism
- House Boat Tourism
- Leisure tourism
- Caravan Tourism
- Luxury Tent Tourism
- Game fishing
- Coastal trekking and jungle trekking
- Creek Tourism
- Cruise Tourism
- Honeymoon Tourism
- MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions & Exhibitions) Tourism/ Business Tourism
- Niche Tourism
- Mass Tourism
- Film Shooting destination

2.5.3 Marine Based products (mainly Fisheries)

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) is one of the Union Territories of India, located in the South East of Bay of Bengal as a linear strip of emerald Islands in close proximity to South East Asian countries. The ANI archipelago consists of 836 Islands and Islets, having an aggregate coastline of 1962 km which accounts for one fourth of India's coastline and the Islands are also known as Bay Islands. The Islands are spread over 8200 Sq.km of geographical area and encompasses 0.6 million km² of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which accounts for 30% of India's

total EEZ. The continental shelf forms nearly 6.60% of the total Indian Continental shelf that is about 34965 Sq.km.

The presence of diverse marine ecosystems and habitats like mangroves, creeks, lagoons, estuaries, muddy shores and coral reefs are the major reasons for enormous diversity of finfish and shellfish resources. Around 1434 fish species were reported from the Island water bodies including marine and freshwater habitats, among which, 400 species are of commercial importance as food fishes.

Despite vast resources Oceanic resources only a miniscule quantity was exploited during theyear2022-23. To fill this gap and to exploit the potential resources of migratory fishes like Yellow fin tuna, Skip jack tuna, etc., it is proposed to introduce 50 deep sea fishing vessels in 5 consecutive years, to support the fishers to exploit the untapped potential of tuna resources and other oceanic fishery resources in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Since Deep Sea fishing is a capital intensive activity, the Government needs to provide financial support to attract technology and investment in Deep Sea fishing and value chain development. Further, Development of National Policy, legal and institutional frameworks for effective management of DSFVs, Establishment of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations for exploration of sea and conducting national and international training programmes for fishers, Extension officials and scientific observers to improve Deep Sea Fishing skills is essential for development of Deep Sea Fishing sector.

Table 6: Potential Fishery Resources & Infrastructures (in MT)

Nation/U.T of A & N Islands	Oceanic	Pelagic	Demersal	Total
India	4,89,200	13,57,500	4,58,662	23,05,362
A & N Islands	60,000	56,000	32,000	1,48,000

Source: FSI Report

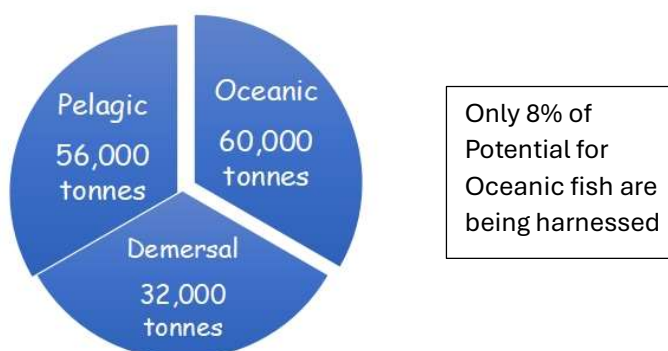


Table 7: Exploitation against Potential during 2019-2020 to 2020-24 Qty. In MT)

Resources	Potential	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Pelagic	56000	20310	21388	22149	23295	24566
Demersal	32000	17080	17535	18166	19105	20152
Oceanic	60000	3164	3852	3990	4196	4420
Total	148000	40554	42775	44305	46596	49138

The freshwater aquaculture is the most vibrant aquaculture sector that provides livelihood, food security, and employment to the local communities in the archipelago of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There is an increasing demand for freshwater fish in the local market, due to which the food fishes are also being imported from mainland India for consumption purposes. At present, approximately 2500 minor irrigation ponds are available in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are used for irrigation purposes as well as aquaculture.

There are 57 fish species reported from the Islands of which 30 were native and the rest have been brought from mainland India for aquaculture purposes. Indian Major Carps such as Catla (*Catla catla*), Rohu (*Labeorohita*), Mrigal (*Cirrhinus mrigala*), and Chinese carps, namely silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) are some of the important fishes that were transported to the Islands for aquaculture purposes. Such diversification practices also paved the way for the entry of other fish species such as Magur (*Clarias magur*), Singhi (*Heteropneustes fossilis*), Tilapia (*Oreochromis*), Pangas (*Pangasius pangasius*), pacu (*Piractus brachypomus*), etc.

The market demand for the freshwater aquaculture sector is huge due to which food fishes were imported from mainland India. The sector also confronts various issues that need to be addressed by engaging various stakeholders working in fish farming, research, extension, and development departments. The sector needs reformatory approaches to augment fish production at the Island level to limit the dependency on mainland markets. Further, the fish farmers should be sensitized for the adoption of better management practices and their importance on yield and production improvement.

Brackish water resources of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are very limited. Although around 33,000 hectare of land is available, majority of the areas are under mangrove and reserve forests. About 618 hectares had been identified as suitable for development of brackish water aquaculture, at present only 10 hectares is currently under culture. Since, availability of suitable area of farming is limited, it

was decided that to promote the farming activities additional 70-hectare area would be brought under brackish water aquaculture to encourage the farmers/entrepreneurs. Some beneficiaries have already taken up shrimp farming under PMMSY which is giving encouraging results. Establishment of shrimp hatchery by utilizing the *Penaeus monodon* broodstocks of Betapur area also needs to be prioritized for greater coverage of shrimp farming in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The technical expertise of RGCA, Kodyaghat is to be utilized for setting up of such facility in the Islands.

Though there is a vast scope for Mariculture/open sea cage culture, this is yet to be tested at the field level. The Directorate of Fisheries in collaboration with NIOT, CMFRI and other expert organizations are establishing open sea cage for Mariculture programme and the candidate species to be taken up for the purpose are Cobia, Pompano, Seabass, Groupers etc., on pilot basis. A training in this regard has already been conducted with the help of NIOT, Dollygunj. For any sustainable commercial venture, the availability of Fish seed and feed needs to be ensured.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands fisheries export scenario will have a major shift in terms of scales after operationalization of international flights and transshipment ports in the Islands. The existing infrastructure is not adequate for initiating direct export. Most of the cold chain infrastructures created in recent past are in public sectors funded by Govt. of India. This is created for the support of local fishers, vendors of the Islands to facilitate domestic marketing. The direct seafood export can be initiated only after creation of such infrastructures in private sectors by meeting international standards. To augment the capacity in this sectors, Request for proposal has to be floated to engage consultant for preparing feasibility report on Deep Sea Fishing, modernization of existing fishing crafts, post-harvest infrastructures.

2.5.4 Agriculture and horticulture

The archipelago of Andaman and Nicobar Island is a chain of 572 Islands stretched from North to South and located on a longitude 93°-94° East and latitude 6° to 14° North. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are situated in the equatorial belt and exposed to marine influences and have a tropical warm and moist climate. The temperature ranges from 22° C to 32° C. The average annual rainfall ranges from 3,000 to 3,500 mm and humidity varies from 66 to 85 percent. The Topography is undulating and climate is congenial for Plantation crops like Coconut, Areca nut and Horticultural crops including tropical fruits and spices.

The soils of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been developed under predominant influence of vegetation and climate over diverse parent material. The uplands under forest cover are intensely leached and due to runoff the soils have been severely eroded and support only scant grassy vegetation. These soils are medium to heavy textured and moderately well drained. The major soil texture is sandy clay to clay loam. The coastal plains and beaches have sandy soil.

The agricultural activities in the Islands dates back to after Independence period with the major clearance of forest and settlement programme of refugees, landless people from mainland, repatriates of Srilanka and Burma and the ex-servicemen. The land distribution started with providing each settler about 2 hectares paddy land, 2 hectares hilly land and 0.4 hectare of homestead land.

Table 8: Production of Major crops in A&N (District wise) in 2022-23

SL.N o.	Crop	South Andaman		N & M Andaman		Nicobar District	
		Area (in ha.)	Prod. (MT)	Area (in ha.)	Prod. (MT)	Area (in ha.)	Prod. (MT)
1	Paddy	23.70	77.09	4533.20	14283.41	0.20	0.68
2	Maize	9.41	13.19	10.13	33.92	-	-
3	Pulses	0.40	1.38	779.10	4.47	-	-
4	Spices	97.44	292.34	225.63	615.66	20.31	17.88
5	Coconut	2825.00	19.68	1319.55	6.90	13752.00	105.35
6	Areca nut	1372.20	9548.00	3175.47	5824.58	196.80	37.11
7	Cashew nut	5.90	4.20	12.00	4.60	13.00	5.00
8	Fruits	889.58	13175.56	1973.04	11247.09	678.35	528.6
9	Sugarcane	92.75	1980.42	39.10	274.95	0.07	1.10
10	Vegetable	2154.80	13576.28	2936.82	19340.17	237.95	431.10
11	Root Crops	191.62	2380.07	95.60	1344.28	443.00	1140.50
12	Flowers	36.58	46.66	57.13	73.28	7.93	4.93

Source: Department of Agriculture, UT Administration of A&N

Resource availability

The Department of Agriculture was established in 1945 to develop agriculture in a systematic and scientific line. The major stress was under area expansion up to the end of 4th Five Year Plan (1969-74). From 5th Five Year Plan thrust was diverted from area expansion to intensive agricultural practices in the existing area.

The vision focus to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture through achieving following targets:

- Attain sustainable food production system by adopting crop diversification, organic farming, efficient utilization of available water resources, rejuvenation of existing water resources and capacity building by training.
- Strengthening of Marketing System
- Farm Mechanization to reduce cost of cultivation and reduce drudgery.
- Infrastructure improvement for the Post Harvest Management
- Promote Integrated Nutrient Management.

At present the Department of Agriculture has 53 Sub-depots which are located in various zones with the mandate to address the issues related to agriculture, disseminate technical know-how, and distribute agriculture inputs, implementation & monitoring of various Central Sector schemes & UT-Plan schemes. Consequent on the blanket ban imposed on clearance of further forest land for agriculture purpose, more emphasis has been given for increasing the agriculture production in the limited existing land by adopting multiple cropping system for which department is extending assistance to the farmers by extension support.

The District wise resource availability is detailed below:-

1. Farms & Plantation (30 nos)

- Coconut Plantation , Carbyns Cove
- Horticulture Station , Haddo
- Seed Multiplication Farm, Bloomsdale
- Organic Horticulture Farm, Sippighat
- Flat Bay Plantation
- Progeny Farm, Jirkatang.

- Coffee Farm, Mannarghat
 - Agriculture Farm, Shaheed Dweep Island
 - Coconut Farm, Swaraj Dweep
 - Spices Demonstration Farm, Adazig
 - Coffee Farm, Panchwati
 - Multipurpose Farm, Panchawati
 - Soil Conservation Demonstration Centre, Rangat
 - Coconut Plantation, Lalaji Bay
 - Coconut Plantation, Chitrakut
 - Coconut Plantation, Betapur
 - Coconut Plantation, Shantipur
 - Seed Multiplication Farm, Nimbudera
 - Coconut Nursery, Pokkadera
 - Soil Conservation-cum-spices Demonstration Centre, V.S.Pally
 - Coconut Plantation, V.S.Pally
 - Spices Demonstration Centre, Kalighat
 - Multipurpose Farm, Keralapuram
 - Agricultural Farm (Progeny Farm) R.K.Pur, Little Andaman
 - Seed Multiplication Farm, Hutbay
 - Spices Progeny Orchard, Katchal
 - Multipurpose Farm, Kamorta, Nancowry
 - Progeny Orchard-cum-Nursery Farm, 7 KM, Campbell Bay.
 - Multipurpose Farm, Car Nicobar
2. **Sub-Depots** - 53 Sub-depots located in various zones extending from Campbell Bay to Diglipur
3. **Workshops:**
- i. Central workshop, Sri Vijaya Puram -01 no.
 - ii. Zonal Workshop- Diglipur, Mayabunder, Rangat & Little Andaman:- 04 nos.
4. Soil Testing Lab, Sri Vijaya Puram - 01 no.

5. Seed Testing Lab, Sippighat - 01 no.
6. State Bio-Control Lab, Sri Vijaya Puram - 01 no.
7. Fruit Preservation Unit, Sri Vijaya Puram - 01 no.
8. Mushroom Unit, Sri Vijaya Puram - 01 no.
9. Virgin Coconut Oil Unit, Sri Vijaya Puram- 01 no
10. Rural Knowledge Centre - 10 nos.
11. Tissue Culture Lab, Sippighat - 01 no.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, face unique challenges in the agriculture sector due to their geographical location, climate, and other factors. Some of the key challenges are provided in Chapter 3. By addressing these challenges, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands can enhance agricultural productivity, improve farmers' livelihoods, and maintain environmental sustainability

2.6. Physical Infrastructure

2.6.1. Power as a Catalyst for Industrial Growth

In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the majority of power is produced by diesel-operated captive power plants, located across all inhabited islands. The Electricity Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands oversees power generation. Given the islands' isolation from the Indian mainland and the lack of inter-connectivity among them, power generation and distribution are managed through standalone systems on each island. Due to the geographical separation from the mainland, reliance on these independent power systems is anticipated to continue into the foreseeable future.

All revenue villages are electrified. Power supply is available to 96% of Population excluding 4% in encroached forest area. The Island territory has the potential for setting up power generation units through renewable source of energy. Scientific study has been conducted to produce renewable source of energy which will gradually pave way for de-dieselization of power sector.

The total installed capacity across the islands stands at 109.45 MW. Of this, the government sector (both state and central) contributes 73.22 MW, encompassing 176 diesel generator (DG) sets and 3 hydro turbines, with 68.24 MW being operated by the Electricity Department of Andaman and Nicobar (EDA&N). The remaining

36.25 MW is provided by 27 DG sets owned by private entities and community centres. A few private companies, such as SPCL with a 20 MW capacity in Sri Vijaya Puram, also contribute to power generation.

Between the fiscal years 2016 and 2019, peak demand and energy requirements rose from 58 MW and 229 MU to 68 MW and 330 MU, respectively. To accommodate the growing power demand, careful planning and resource allocation by the department are essential for future needs.

The power needs of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are serviced by 53 power houses across 19 inhabited islands. Distribution includes 12 power houses in North & Middle Andaman, 16 in South Andaman, and 25 in the Nicobar District.

2.6.2. Transport

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, being surrounded by sea, have promising water transport, road transport and air transport. However, there is no rail transport system at present.

Ports and Shipping:

Waterways are the primary means of transportation between islands in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with a well-established network centered around Sri Vijaya Puram. Ship transport passengers and goods from Sri Vijaya Puram to other islands, and water transportation is essential for connections to the mainland. The region relies on a fleet of ships, steamers, and launches for inter-island movement. Services include Mainland Island services operated by ships, Inter-Island services by medium-sized vessels, Foreshore services also by medium-sized vessels, and Harbour ferry services by ferry vessels, catering to both passenger and goods transport across the waterways.

Connectivity through landing facilities/ jetties have been provided in almost all the Islands. Facilities for handling LPG have been created at Hope Town Wharf. A Container Yard at Haddo has been constructed to stack 800-1000 containers. Ports of A & N Islands have a total capacity of 4.11 Million Tones, out of which Container handling capacity is 0.70 Million Tones. The Administration owns and operates a fleet of 70 vessels to provide essential connectivity by sea between the various inhabited Islands scattered along the entire length of A & N group of Islands and also connects to the mainland ports.

Table 9: Distance between Sri Vijaya Puram and important places

Routes To	Distance (in Kms.)
Kolkata	1255
Chennai	1190
Vizag	1200
Narcondam	140 (nautical mile)
Diglipur	100
Mayabander	85
Rangat	50
Long Island	46
Swaraj Dweep	21
Basatang	35
Shaheed Dweep	20
Little Andaman	66
Kadamtala	50
East Island	120

In the above routes, regular ship service is available. The major ports of these Islands are Sri Vijaya Puram, Mayabander, Diglipur, Rangat, Little Andaman and Nicobar.

Road Transport:

Within the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an extensive network of roads facilitates intra-island connectivity, serving as the primary mode of transport. This is particularly true for the larger islands such as North Andaman, Middle Andaman, and South Andaman, where road transport is vital. The Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) is a key artery, linking North, Middle, and South Andaman, with connectivity enhanced by a combination of bridges and ferry services. Road transport is the predominant means for moving both passengers and light goods across these islands. On North Andaman, Middle Andaman, and South Andaman, various forms of road transportation are utilized, including buses, trucks, auto rickshaws, taxis, and cars, with buses primarily operated by the State Transport Service (STS).

Air Transport:

Sri Vijaya Puram is served by Veer Savarkar International Airport, offering air connectivity to the region. Flight services to and from Sri Vijaya Puram are operated by various airlines, including major Indian Airlines, connecting the island to major Indian cities such as Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar and Delhi.

2.7 Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Challenges in A&N Islands

The SIP aims for sustainable economic growth focusing on supporting development of high value-added manufacturing and services sector enterprises with focus on employment generation, higher export-oriented growth while conserving all aspects of environment. It envisages strong and specific initiatives to ensure timely and hassle-free guidance / clearances to new entrepreneurs.

Table 10: SWOC analysis (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Pristine, white sandy sea beaches➤ Attractive marine life➤ Rich biodiversity➤ Forest and tree cover - 6,751 sq km (81.84 percent of the geographical area)➤ High Literacy - 86.27 %➤ High Rainfall – 3,900 mm (2020)➤ Wetlands - 1,52,809 ha➤ Long Coastline - 1,962 km➤ Exclusive Economic Zone - 6,00,000 sq km➤ Unexplored destinations➤ Heritage Sites - Cellular Jail, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep, Viper Island etc.➤ Strategic location - The Great Nicobar Island is only about 90 km away from	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Inadequate air and sea connectivity➤ Inadequate digital connectivity in remote location/ villages➤ Unavailability of construction material - High cost of transportation➤ Scarcity of drinking water➤ Insufficient power supply➤ Shortage of skilled manpower in the islands

<p>the western tip of the Malacca Strait, an important shipping route between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Space for Maritime Partners: India's key maritime partners such as the US, Japan, Australia and France acknowledge and recognise the strategic location of A&N. ➤ These islands not only provide India with a key maritime space but also carry significant potential in shaping the strategic and military dynamics of the Indian Ocean region. 	
Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increasing interest in Cruise Holidays ➤ Medical tourism ➤ Water-based adventure tourism - Scuba diving, Snorkelling, Kayaking, Canoeing, deep sea shing and wind surfing ➤ Nature Tourism – To relax with nature ➤ Introduction of new products/policies to attract tourists like Business-cum-Leisure Tourism, Ayurveda, Nature trails, Caravan Tourism, Luxury Tents, House Boats, Bird Watching and Astro-Tourism etc. ➤ High potential of Export of Marine & seafood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shortage of Land for industrial/ manufacturing activities ➤ Large chunk of land not available ➤ Large scale manufacturing / process industries not possible ➤ Climate Change, Environment-related ➤ Low-lying islands at greater risk of submergence from sea-level rise ➤ Threat of Tsunami. ➤ Geological Volatility: The A&N Island's groups lie in a seismically highly active zone. Due to this, the region is prone to a number of natural disasters. ➤ Man-animal conflict ➤ Treasure of Tribes: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to 5 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups: Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.

Conclusion:

The SIP document intends to leverage the comparative strengths of the UT and to propel it among the most preferred business destination aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and ease of doing business.
- Enhance investment attraction, facilitate integration into global value chains, and boost export capabilities.
- Encourage structural transformation and diversification for supporting services sector and high-tech manufacturing / assembly to leverage areas of comparative and competitive advantage.
- Promote R&D and innovation, improve technological capabilities, develop a competitive workforce, and support the advancement of enterprises.
- Focus on the development and enhancement of physical infrastructure through private sector participation within the CRZ and ecology rules.
- Advocate for environmentally responsible management practices within enterprises /industries.
- Ensure gender and social inclusivity in employment opportunities and the equitable distribution of economic benefits.
- Enhance the efficiency of public service delivery to improve the ease of doing business.

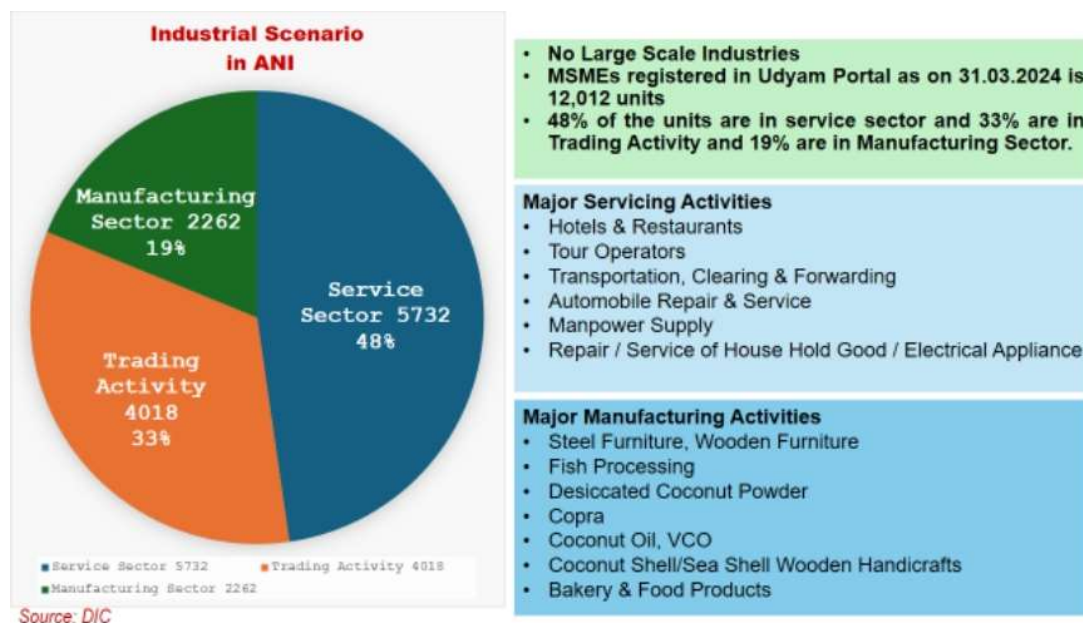
CHAPTER 3:

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MSME SECTOR IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

3.1 Status of MSMEs in A&N Island

The pace of industrial development in the Islands has never been smooth enough unlike other parts of the country due to locational disadvantages, difficult terrain, isolation from the mainland, resources constraints, limited markets etc. A&N Islands as industrially backward area and classified as 'A'. The Government of India as well as UT Administration of Union Territory of A&N islands is providing various incentives and subsidies for encouraging the process of industrialization. Whatever little has taken place in the industrial arena is the outcome of local requirements. However, the general state of industries in the islands is not so frustrating and is illustrated below to elucidate an idea about its present position.

MSMEs registered in Udyam Portal as on 31.03.2024 is 12,012 units. 48% of the units are in service sector and 33% are in Trading Activity and 19% are in Manufacturing Sector.



Due to the challenges existing in A&N Island with respect to unfavourable factor cost conditions, the industrial scenario is dominated by the service and trading activities. The broad areas where the industrial activities are taking place is as follows:

Major Manufacturing Activities

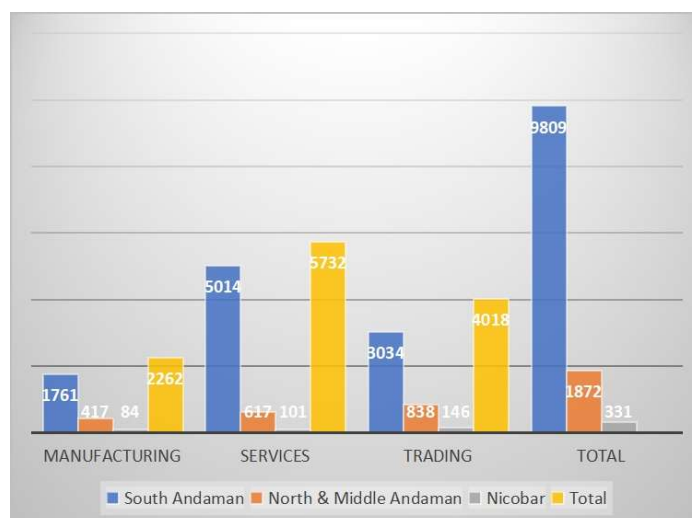
- Steel Furniture, Wooden Furniture
- Fish Processing
- Desiccated Coconut Powder
- Copra
- Coconut Oil, VCO
- Coconut Shell/Sea Shell Wooden Handicrafts
- Bakery & Food Products

Major Activities in Services sector:

- Hotels & Restaurants
- Tour Operators
- Transportation, Clearing & Forwarding
- Automobile Repair & Service
- Manpower Supply
- Repair / Service of Household Good / Electrical Appliance

District wise distribution of registered MSME units in A&N:

There are 9809 units (81.6%) of the total registered units are in around South Andaman District. Only 1872 units (15.6%) and 331 units (2.8%) are set up in North & Middle Andaman and Nicobar District respectively



3.2. Challenges in the MSME Sector

The Focus Group discussions with industry associations and government officials have brought to light the multiple challenges faced by MSMEs in A&N Islands. The challenges that were highlighted during the discussions are listed below:

3.2.1. General Challenges

1. **Factor Conditions:** Multiple factor conditions like land, labour, productivity impact the development and growth of MSMEs. We shall have an overview of these factor conditions in the following sections.
 - a) **Land:** Land availability near the focal point and cost are critical factors that impact the performance of MSMEs. MSMEs require adequate land and infrastructure to set up their manufacturing units and other facilities. High land prices and the scarcity of land can make it challenging for MSMEs to set up their operations in A&N Islands. Non-availability of land is also one of the crucial challenges faced by MSMEs. Restrictions in the change of land use from one purpose to another is another challenge faced by MSMEs
 - b) **Labor:** Labor is a crucial input for MSMEs, and the availability and cost of labor impact their performance. During the focussed group discussions, it emerged that the availability of skilled labour is limited in the UT. Therefore, lack of skilled labour is the most crucial challenge for MSMEs which affects the productivity of the sector.
 - c) **Productivity:** Productivity is a critical factor that impacts the competitiveness and profitability of MSMEs. MSMEs are expected to explore and adopt new technological interventions, improve their production processes, and install quality control measures to enhance their productivity. However, due to the gap in skills and capacity, the productivity of the units remains limited. The discussions expressed the need for capacity building workshops for skill development. There exists a need to undertake specific measures for skill development, capacity building and appropriate technological interventions which can improve MSME productivity over time.
2. **Infrastructure:** Adequate infrastructure is crucial for MSMEs to operate efficiently and effectively. The availability of core public infrastructure, such as energy, water, roads, and industrial land is critical for the growth and development of MSMEs. However, there are significant infrastructure gaps in these areas that have a significant impact on MSMEs which are underlined as under:

- a) **Energy:** The availability of reliable, uninterrupted, and affordable energy is essential for the growth and development of MSMEs. However, there is a severe shortage of power supply in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The quality of power supply is poor which is resulting in fluctuations. There are frequent power outages and high energy costs, which increase production costs and reduce profitability for MSMEs. Hence, it becomes imperative to introduce self-sustainable energy solutions.
- b) **Water:** Water is another critical yet scarce resource that MSMEs require for their operations. In A&N Islands, water scarcity is a significant challenge. MSMEs struggle to have access to clean and uninterrupted water facilities for their operations.
- c) **Shipping and Ports:** The shipping infrastructure is the lifeline of A&N Islands. All the imports are carried out through Kolkata, Chennai or Vishakhapatnam whether it is vegetables, domestic provisions, perishables, construction materials, etc. Tourism industry is also reliant on the shipping and port infrastructure. However, there are gaps in the port infrastructure of the Islands and is lagging behind when compared with the rise in the inter and intra island traffic.
- d) **Industrial land:** Availability of suitable land for industrial use is essential for the growth and development of MSMEs. There is a need to develop new focal points at affordable rates to accommodate new and enable other MSMEs in expanding their operations. There is a need to create industrial zones for industrial development and diversification in the A&N Islands. Further, there is also a need to improve the existing infrastructure in the existing industrial estates such as repair of roads, installation of streetlights, upgradation of water pipelines, repair of drainage system, garbage disposal facility, etc.

In addition to the core public infrastructure, MSMEs also require access to third-party infrastructure such as warehousing, cold chains, and transportation which is essential for their growth. Despite the presence of warehousing, cold storage, and modern processing facilities, the overall infrastructure may not be adequately developed or distributed evenly across the state. Moreover, accessing warehousing, cold storage, and modern processing facilities often entails costs, such as rent, handling charges, etc. Small or budding MSME units with limited financial resources usually find it challenging to bear these costs, especially if they require specialized storage or refrigeration facilities. The high operational expenses can impact their competitiveness and profitability.

3. **Challenges in Access to Credit:** Access to credit is crucial for the growth and development of MSMEs, but MSMEs in A&N Islands often face challenges in accessing credit facilities. Some of the key challenges faced by MSMEs in accessing credit facilities in A&N Islands include:
- a) **Lack of Collateral:** MSMEs often lack sufficient collateral to secure credit facilities from formal financial institutions. This is particularly true for smaller MSMEs that may not have significant assets to offer as collateral.
 - b) **Limited Financial Records:** Many MSMEs in A&N Islands operate informally, and as a result, they may not have adequate financial records that demonstrate their capacity to avail credit. This can make it difficult for MSMEs to access credit facilities from formal financial institutions.
 - c) **High-Interest Rates:** MSMEs in A&N Islands often face high-interest rates on loans, making it difficult to repay loans and obtain new credit facilities. The high-interest rates are often due to the perceived risk associated with lending to MSMEs.
 - d) **Lack of Awareness:** Many MSMEs may not be aware of the various credit facilities available to them, including government-backed schemes and initiatives. This lack of awareness can limit their ability to access credit facilities. Lack of awareness about schemes and technologies can create an impediment to access to credit.
 - e) **Cumbersome Documentation:** The documentation requirements for accessing credit facilities can at times be complex and time-consuming. MSMEs in A&N Islands may struggle to meet these requirements, limiting their ability to access credit.
 - f) **Limited Availability of Credit:** Despite the government's efforts to increase credit availability to MSMEs, many MSMEs still struggle to access credit due to the limited availability of credit facilities in terms of financial institutions, lending agencies or other formal credit institutions.
 - g) **Procedural Challenges:** There is a limited knowledge on schemes like CGTMSE. While they are aware of its existence, the granularities of the scheme w.r.t how to avail the benefits, procedure and paperwork required is unclear.
4. **Challenges in Access to Market:** MSMEs in A&N Islands face several challenges when it comes to market access, both in domestic and international markets. These challenges can limit their ability to expand their customer base, increase

sales, and compete effectively. Below are the factors that serve as a hindrance to market access for MSME units: -

- a) **Limited Market Information:** Access to accurate and up-to-date market information is crucial for MSMEs to identify potential customers, understand market trends, and make informed business decisions. However, MSMEs face challenges in accessing reliable market data, consumer preferences, and market research reports. Lack of market information can hinder their ability to develop effective marketing strategies and target the right customer segments.
- b) **High cost of raw materials:** Most of the raw materials for production is acquired from outside the State. Due to the high cost of logistics, the cost of raw material also increases which makes the finished products uncompetitive.
- c) **Intense Competition:** MSMEs often operate in highly competitive markets. They may face challenges in differentiating their products or services from those of larger competitors or established brands. Competing on price alone may not be sustainable, so MSMEs need to find innovative ways to highlight their unique value proposition and attract customers.
- d) **Lack of Branding:** Due to lack of brand identity, the MSMEs often struggle to compete. Branding can boost both the domestic and international demand in A&N Islands especially in specific sectors.
- e) **Limited Resources:** MSMEs typically have limited financial resources, manpower, and marketing budgets compared to larger enterprises. This can pose challenges in terms of market access. MSMEs may struggle to invest in marketing and promotion activities, develop effective distribution networks, or engage in aggressive advertising campaigns. Limited resources can restrict their ability to reach and attract customers, especially in highly competitive markets.
- f) **Distribution and Logistics:** Establishing effective distribution channels is essential for MSMEs to reach their target customers. However, MSMEs may face challenges in accessing reliable and cost-effective distribution networks. Limited transportation infrastructure, inadequate warehousing facilities, and costly and inefficient logistics services can hinder their ability to deliver products to customers in a timely and cost-efficient manner. Limited information regarding developing design interventions, matching international brand standard, lack of modern techniques has had an impact on a substantial number of MSMEs.

- g) **Regulatory and Compliance Requirements:** Compliance with regulatory standards and obtaining necessary licenses and certifications can pose challenges for MSMEs. Meeting quality standards, product safety regulations, and other legal requirements can be time-consuming and costly. MSMEs may need to invest in upgrading their processes, obtaining certifications, and ensuring compliance, which can be particularly burdensome for smaller enterprises with limited resources and expertise.
 - h) **Limited Awareness:** MSMEs have limited awareness and knowledge on how they can expand their customer base and the markets they can target. Lack of awareness about international fairs and exhibitions impacts the MSMEs. Knowing about international exhibitions and fairs is important since it helps MSMEs to form their own market base and name in the whole market.
5. **Challenges in Technology Adoption:** Access and adoption of new technology in their processes continuous to be a slow process for MSMEs. Below are some of the challenges in technology adoption:
- a) **High Initial Cost of Investment:** Implementing new technologies in production and manufacturing often requires a significant upfront investment. MSMEs may face challenges in securing the necessary capital to purchase and install advanced machinery, equipment, and software systems. Limited access to affordable financing options can hinder their ability to invest in technology upgrades.
 - b) **Lack of Awareness and Expertise:** Limited knowledge and awareness of the latest technologies suitable for their specific industry is also a hindrance to technology adoption in the UT. They may be unaware of the potential benefits that technology can bring to the efficiency of their production processes. Additionally, they may lack the expertise and skill set required to effectively implement and operate technology solutions.
 - c) **Compatibility and Integration Issues:** Given that a lot of technological interventions are either domestic, integrating new technologies with existing systems and processes can be challenging for MSMEs. The existing infrastructure and machinery may not be compatible with newer technologies, requiring additional investments for upgrades or replacements. Integration issues can result in operational disruptions, data inconsistencies, and inefficiencies in production workflows.
 - d) **Openness to Change:** There exists a reluctance to adopt new technologies. There could be multitude reasons for this primarily – lack of education & awareness, unfamiliarity with technology, unavailability of the skilled

workforce that can comprehend the technologies and implement them. This resistance can hinder the adoption and successful implementation of technology-driven improvements in production and manufacturing processes.

3.2.2. Sector Specific Challenges

While the constraints mentioned above affect general business environment and are common to all the sectors. However, there are some sector specific challenges that need to be addressed for the sectors to develop. This section provides challenges faced by the priority / potential sectors – Agriculture, Tourism and Fisheries.

Challenges faced in Agriculture sector:

- a. **Limited land availability:** The islands have a limited amount of arable land, making it difficult to increase agricultural production. About 94% of land is under Forest
- b. **Share Land holding (Joint Mutation):** Many farmers having Share Land holding (Joint Mutation) and therefore mutation of land and requirement of NOC are the major hurdles for implementation of any agriculture scheme.
- c. **Soil constraints:** The soil quality is very poor, due to leaching of soil with limited nutrient content thus affecting the crop yields.
- d. **Water scarcity:** Adequate water supply for irrigation is a significant challenge, especially during dry seasons. In these Islands crops are grown under rain fed conditions. Though these Islands receives about 3180 mm of rain from both the monsoon but due to the erratic and altogether unpredictable nature of rain, there is scarcity of water during the period from December to April and between the two successive, monsoon. Often the severe moisture stress results in crop failure and poor yield. Prolonged dry period results in crop loss.
- e. **High transportation costs:** Importing inputs and exporting produce is costly due to the islands' remote location. Transportation is the major hurdle/constraint in marketing of agriculture produces specially the perishable items from the far flung areas to the distribution centers of Sri Vijaya Puram and Nicobar of Islands. Further scattered nature of land poses problems for transport of perishables.
- f. **Distance from Mainland-** About 1400 Km from (Chennai/Kolkata/Vizag)

- g. **Climate change:** Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and increased frequency of natural disasters impact agricultural productivity.
- h. **Limited market access:** Farmers face challenges in accessing markets, leading to lower prices for their produce.
- i. **Limited access to credit and technology:** Small-scale farmers struggle to access credit, modern technology, and extension services.
- j. **Dependence on single crops:** The focus on single crops like coconut and areca nut makes the sector vulnerable to market fluctuations.
- k. **Limited storage and processing facilities:** Inadequate infrastructure for storing and processing produce leads to post-harvest losses.
- l. **Environmental concerns:** The fragile ecosystem of the islands requires sustainable agricultural practices to maintain biodiversity.
- m. **Network problem:** Network problem in the islands is creating hindrances in using digital intervention in agriculture.

Challenges faced by Fisheries Sector

The challenges confronting the fisheries sector in A & N Islands are enormous that requires coordinated management and institutional support. The areas that need adequate attention are as follows:

- Strengthening the infrastructure and logistical support.
- Promoting the industrial fisheries sector to harness Oceanic fisheries resources .
- Fisheries data collection and monitoring .
- Ensuring the sustainability of small scale Fisheries.
- Lack of deep sea fishing vessel for harnessing Tuna potential.
- Lack of Skilled fishing manpower & advanced fishing gears .
- Availability of Seed & feed for promotion of Aquaculture.
- Monitoring , control & surveillance in marine Fisheries sector .
- Direct Air/Sea connectivity to foreign countries for seafood export.

CHAPTER 4

PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

Based on the analysis, the interventions are being proposed in this chapter. The interventions are categorized into 3 areas:

4.1 Digitization of MSME Services

4.1.1 Problem Statement

The current landscape of the Industries Department lacks a dedicated portal for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This absence has led to inefficiencies in accessing services, managing schemes, and conducting effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). The challenge lies in integrating the various schemes, data layers, and services into a unified digital platform that can cater to the needs of MSMEs, thereby improving their operational efficiency and overall business environment.

4.1.2 Proposed Intervention

To address this challenge, a comprehensive Single Window Portal is proposed. This portal will serve as a centralized hub to integrate various schemes and strengthen Monitoring & Evaluation processes. The Union Territory (UT) has already made significant progress by onboarding the National Single Window System (NSWS). Thirty services have been identified for digitization, with integration into payment gateways and other essential postal services. Furthermore, the "Know Your Approval" (KYA) initiative has been rolled out, simplifying the approval process for MSMEs.

The UT Administration has also aligned itself with the PM GATI Shakti National Master Plan (NMP), with approximately 130 data layers uploaded to the portal. This integration will allow for real-time tracking and monitoring of projects, providing a robust framework for data-driven decision-making.

4.1.3 Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

The proposed Single Window Portal is justified by its potential to significantly improve the efficiency of MSMEs in the region. By digitizing services and integrating them into a single platform, the portal will enable better data-driven decision-making, insights through data analysis, and effective tracking and monitoring of ongoing projects. This digitization will also enhance the scalability and flexibility of MSMEs, minimize errors, and streamline operations, leading to a more efficient and competitive business environment.

4.1.4. Objective of the Intervention

The primary objective of this intervention is to automate manual processes to increase efficiency, capture and store data, facilitate strategic planning, and enhance collaboration across various stakeholders. By doing so, the intervention aims to create a more conducive environment for MSMEs to thrive, thereby fostering economic growth and development.

4.1.5. Key Activities and Components:

The proposed digitization initiative includes the following components and activities:

- **Design, Development, Hosting, and Maintenance of the Portal:** Creating a portal for the Department of Industries that includes central and UT Administration schemes, a dashboard for beneficiaries, updates from the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSFEC), and Management Information Systems (MIS).
- **Completion of NSWS and its Rollout:** Finalizing the development and deployment of the NSWS, ensuring it is fully operational for MSMEs.
- **Identification and Integration of Remaining B2G Services:** Identifying additional Business-to-Government (B2G) services that have not yet been integrated into the NSWS and ensuring their digitization.
- **Engagement of Experts:** Hiring computer programmers and experts to conduct Government Process Re-engineering (GPR), prepare Software Requirements Specifications (SRS), and develop or integrate applications with ongoing support for five years. The estimated cost for this engagement is ₹1.5 lakh per month for 60 months.
- **GIS System & AI-Enabled Tools and GIS Integration for Real-time Monitoring:** Implementing a GIS system and AI tools to facilitate the implementation of various schemes, including PM Gati Shakti. Employing Geographic Information System (GIS) experts to integrate applications with GIS for real-time tracking and monitoring of projects. This engagement is also estimated at ₹1.5 lakh per month for 60 months.
- **Upgradation of the Existing Tourism Department Portal:** Enhancing the current Tourism Department portal to integrate it with the NSWS, thereby providing a more seamless experience for users.

4.1.6. Budget - Intervention wise Costing

Table 11: Budget for Digitalization of MSME Services (In Lakh Rs)

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 1	Digitization of MSME Services	Engagement of Consultant (2 consultants and 2 support staff) for 2.5 years	50	0	50
		Portal development	500	0	500
		Training, Module development, Trainer cost etc	30	0	30
		Total (ANI 1)	580	0	580

4.1.7. Year-wise Breakup of Targets & activities

The following outlines the year-wise targets and associated funding requirements for the project:

- **October 2024 – March 2025:** Initial rollout and testing of the NSWS, integration of selected services, and commencement of expert engagements.
- **April 2025- March 2026:** Full deployment of the portal, integration of all remaining services, and initiation of GIS integration.
- **April 2026 – March 2027:** Ongoing maintenance, monitoring, and further enhancements based on user feedback and technological advancements.

4.1.8. Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of this intervention is expected to benefit approximately 12,000 MSMEs by significantly improving their operational efficiency. The portal will provide a one-stop solution for investors, increasing accessibility to databases and expanding sales opportunities. The integration of GIS will further streamline the process of obtaining approvals and clearances, enhancing the ease of doing business. Additionally, the intervention is anticipated to drive technical upgrades, marketing and logistics improvements, and create new employment opportunities, thereby contributing to the overall economic development of the region.

4.2. Formalization of MSMEs and SHGs

4.2.1. Problem Statement

A significant number of MSMEs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the region remain unregistered on the Udyam portal, leading to missed opportunities for growth and support from government schemes. The lack of awareness about various government programs and the absence of a comprehensive database for MSMEs pose additional challenges, hindering the formalization and development of these enterprises.

4.2.2. Proposed Intervention

To tackle these issues, a series of outreach and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities are proposed. The intervention aims to create a detailed MSME database and facilitate the enrollment of unregistered MSMEs and SHGs onto the Udyam portal. Additionally, the initiative will focus on promoting green and sustainable practices within these enterprises.

4.2.3. Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

This intervention is crucial for collecting and integrating data from various sources, developing user-friendly digital platforms for SHG members, and offering incentives to encourage their participation. By fostering partnerships between MSMEs, SHGs, and other stakeholders, the intervention will enable these groups to thrive in the digital economy. This, in turn, will lead to increased economic growth, job creation, and social empowerment across the region.

4.2.4. Objective of the Intervention

The primary objective of this intervention is to improve access to finance for MSMEs and SHGs, increase transparency, ensure compliance with regulations, and provide easier access to government schemes. The intervention also aims to enhance the overall business environment by formalizing the operations of MSMEs and SHGs, thereby enabling them to tap into new opportunities and resources.

4.2.5. Components and Activities Involved

The formalization initiative includes the following key components and activities:

- **25 Awareness Campaigns / Workshops:** Organizing campaigns and workshops at an estimated cost of ₹1 lakh each to educate MSMEs and SHGs about the benefits of formalization and registration on the Udyam portal.
- **MSME Census and Database Creation:** Conducting a comprehensive survey of MSMEs by engaging manpower and agencies to create a detailed database of these enterprises in the UT of A&N Islands.
- **Creation of SHGs in various sectors** including Minor forest produce, spices etc
- **Physical Inspections and SHG Onboarding:** Encouraging and motivating SHGs to onboard onto the Udyam portal through physical inspections and personalized support.
- **Promotion of Green and Sustainable Practices:** Facilitating MSME Awards, ISO certifications, and conducting energy and water audits to promote sustainability within the MSME sector.

4.2.6. Budget and Intervention wise Costing

Table 12: Budget for Formalisation of MSMEs and SHGs (Amount in Lakh Rs)

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 2	Formalization of MSMEs and SHGs	Outreach and IEC Activities (25 Awareness campaigns / workshops @ Rs 1 lakh)	25	0	25
		MSME database Census survey by engaging manpower/agencies in UT of A&N Islands	50	0	50
		Onboarding of existing SHGs etc in Udyam Portal-Physical inspection Encouraging SHGs and motivating SHGs for onboarding	30	0	30

		Green & Sustainability- MSME Awards, ISO & Other Certification, Energy & Water Audits	25	0	25
Sub Total (ANI 2)			130	0	130

4.2.7. Year-wise Breakup of Targets and Activities

The following outlines the year-wise targets and associated funding requirements for the formalization project:

- **October 2024 – March 2025:** Initiation of awareness campaigns, commencement of the MSME census, and initial onboarding of SHGs onto the Udyam portal.
- **April 2025 – march 2026:** Expansion of outreach activities, completion of the MSME database, and continuation of SHG onboarding and sustainability initiatives.
- **April 2026 – March 2027:** Ongoing support for registered MSMEs and SHGs, monitoring of progress, and further promotion of green practices.

4.2.8. Expected Outcomes

The successful execution of this intervention is expected to result in the formalization and registration of all existing MSMEs in the region on the Udyam portal. The creation of a comprehensive MSME database will provide valuable insights, enabling these enterprises to identify new opportunities and access government schemes. Approximately 12,000 MSMEs are expected to benefit from increased efficiency, expanded outreach, and access to digital and e-commerce platforms. This formalization process will also contribute to job creation, technical upgrades, and overall improvements in the ease of doing business in the region.

4.3. Institutional Strengthening for MSME Support

4.3.1. Problem Statement

The current institutional framework supporting MSMEs faces significant challenges, primarily due to a lack of manpower and inadequate IT infrastructure. Additionally, there is a low level of awareness among MSMEs about available government schemes, and a lack of comprehensive information on MSMEs hinders effective service delivery and policy implementation. These challenges impede the efficiency and responsiveness of the institutions responsible for the growth and development of MSMEs.

- Lack of Manpower and IT Infrastructure: The DIC is understaffed, and the existing IT infrastructure is inadequate to meet the demands of modern business support services.
- Lack of Awareness About Schemes Among MSMEs: Many Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are unaware of the various government schemes and incentives available to them, limiting their ability to leverage these resources for growth.
- Information on MSMEs is Not Available: There is a lack of comprehensive, up-to-date information on MSMEs, making it difficult to plan and implement effective support initiatives.

4.3.2. Proposed Intervention

To address these challenges, a multi-faceted intervention is proposed to enhance the capacity of government officials and transform relevant institutions into a "One-Stop-Shop" for MSMEs. This includes the creation of a dedicated cell for the implementation of the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) and identified interventions, alongside the conduct of awareness campaigns, Entrepreneurial Development Programs (EDPs), and outreach initiatives.

4.3.3. Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

This intervention is crucial for building the capacity of government officials, which in turn will lead to more efficient service delivery and better implementation of policies and programs. By enhancing the skills and knowledge of officials, the intervention will enable data-driven decision-making, resulting in better outcomes for MSMEs. Additionally, the improved monitoring and evaluation processes will foster a culture of excellence, professionalism, and continuous

learning within the institutions. This will ultimately contribute to the creation of a more supportive and responsive environment for MSMEs.

4.3.4. Objective of the Intervention

The primary objective of this intervention is to improve governance, service delivery, and development outcomes by strengthening the institutional framework supporting MSMEs. This will be achieved by enhancing the capacity of government officials, upgrading IT infrastructure, and ensuring that these institutions can provide comprehensive support to MSMEs in a more efficient and effective manner.

4.3.5. Components and Activities

1. **Setting up of a MSME Facilitation Desk:** Establish a specialized cell/SPIU within the relevant departments to oversee the implementation of SIP and related interventions. This cell will serve as a focal point for coordinating all MSME-related activities.
2. **MSME Clinics:** The Cell's role will encompass various areas crucial for MSME development, including facilitating access to credit, market access, exports, technology adoption, legal compliance, project planning, capacity building etc.
3. **IT Infrastructure Upgradation:** Upgrading IT infrastructure to enable video conferencing and the delivery of training in remote areas. This includes the installation of video conferencing equipment and the development of smart classrooms to facilitate distance learning and real-time communication.
4. **Technological Upgradation for Industrial Estates:** Engaging consultants and agencies to upgrade technology for monitoring and securing Industrial Estates at Dollygunj, Bhatubasti, and Mithakhari. This includes the installation, commissioning, and ongoing monitoring of security systems.
5. **Upgradation and Purchase of New Machinery for Training Centers:** Converting existing training centers into Common Facility Centers (CFCs) by upgrading and purchasing new machinery. This will enhance the training capabilities and provide MSMEs with access to state-of-the-art facilities.
6. **Capacity Building of Officers:** Identifying suitable officers from line departments, including financial institutions and banks, for capacity building programs. These programs will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to better serve MSMEs.

4.3.6. Budget and Intervention wise Costing

Table 13: Budget for Institutional Strengthening for MSME Support

(Amount in Lakh Rs)

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 3	Institutional Strengthening of DICs for MSME Support	Engagement of Subject matter specialists (focus sectors) for MSME clinics. 20 two days Workshops @ Rs 1.5 lakh	30	0	30
		IT Infrastructure updation for video conferencing and imparting training in far flung areas (Video Conferencing equipment & Smart Classes)	50	0	50
		Resources for MSME Facilitation Desk	150	0	150
		Purchase of new machineries for training centre converting them to Common Facility Centre	100	0	100
		Engagement of consultant/agencies for technological upgradation for monitoring of Industrial Estates at Dollygunj, Bhatubasti & Mithakhari.	25	0	25
Sub Total (ANI 3)			355	0	355

4.3.7 Year-wise Breakup of Targets and Fund Requirements

The following outlines the year-wise targets and associated funding requirements for the institutional strengthening project:

- **October 2024 – March 2025:** Initial setup of the dedicated cell, commencement of IT infrastructure upgrades, and launch of the first phase of awareness and EDP programs.
- **April 2025 – March 2026:** Full deployment of the Unity Mall, completion of technological upgrades in Industrial Estates, and continuation of capacity building and outreach initiatives.

- **April 2026 – March 27**: Ongoing support and maintenance of infrastructure, further expansion of outreach activities, and continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure sustained impact.

4.3.8. Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of this intervention is expected to lead to the following outcomes:

- **Adoption of Emerging Technologies:** Increased productivity and efficiency among MSMEs as a result of adopting new technologies facilitated by the upgraded IT infrastructure and training centers.
- **Improved Service Delivery:** Government officials will be better equipped to provide efficient and effective services to MSMEs, thanks to enhanced capacity and knowledge.
- **Enhanced Governance:** The institutional framework will be strengthened, leading to more effective implementation of policies and programs and improved governance overall.
- **Alignment of Officers to Single Window Clearance:** Officers from line departments will be better aligned and capable of facilitating the Single Window Clearance process, thereby expediting approvals and reducing the time and complexity involved for MSMEs.
- **Comprehensive Support for MSMEs:** Institutions will be transformed into "One-Stop-Shops" that can provide MSMEs with all the support they need, from information and training to access to technology and funding.

This institutional strengthening initiative is expected to benefit a significant number of MSMEs by creating a more supportive environment, enhancing their productivity, and improving their access to government schemes and resources. By addressing the existing gaps in manpower, IT infrastructure, and awareness, the intervention will contribute to the overall development and growth of the MSME sector, driving economic progress and job creation in the region.

4.4. Developing BRANDAMAN

4.4.1 Problem Statement

The Union Territory (UT) of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&N) is home to a wide variety of unique products and resources that are rich in cultural heritage and local craftsmanship. However, these products lack a strong, identifiable brand that indicates their origin and uniqueness. Without a distinct brand, these products struggle to stand out in competitive markets, making it difficult for them to achieve the recognition and demand they deserve.

4.4.2. Proposed Intervention

To address this challenge, the development of a strong and distinctive brand for A&N products is proposed. This initiative, titled "BRANDAMAN," aims to create a unified brand identity for products from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, promoting their uniqueness and enhancing their market demand. The brand will serve as a symbol of quality and authenticity, helping these products gain a competitive edge both in domestic and international markets.

4.4.3. Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

The creation of a strong brand for A&N products is essential for differentiating them from competitors in the market. A well-developed brand helps in building recognition and trust among consumers, which can lead to increased customer loyalty and sustainable competitive advantage. Moreover, a strong brand presence makes it easier to attract investors and partners, further supporting the growth and expansion of local MSMEs. The intervention is critical to achieve the following:

- **Differentiation**: A strong brand differentiates A&N products from those of competitors, making them more appealing to consumers.
- **Recognition and Loyalty**: Building a recognizable brand fosters customer loyalty, encouraging repeat purchases and positive word-of-mouth.
- **Sustainable Competitive Advantage**: A unique brand creates a lasting impression, helping A&N products maintain a competitive edge over time.
- **Attracting Investment**: A well-branded product is more likely to attract investment and partnerships, facilitating business growth and expansion.

4.4.4. Objective of the Intervention

The primary objective of the BRANDAMAN initiative is to create a strong brand identity for A&N products that will enhance their marketability and demand. Specifically, the intervention aims to:

- Discuss and analyze various methods for measuring customer behaviour in relation to branded products.
- Explore the factors that contribute to business growth through branding.
- Assess the impact of changing consumer behaviour on the growth of branded A&N products.

4.4.5. Key Activities and Components:

The BRANDAMAN initiative will include the following key components and activities:

- **Engagement of Publicity, Advertising, and Marketing Agencies:** Collaborating with professional agencies to develop and execute branding strategies for A&N products, including creative development, advertising campaigns, and marketing efforts that highlight the unique aspects of A&N products..
- **Implementing geo-tagging for handicrafts** to ensure authenticity, traceability and creating branding elements such as logos, packaging, and unique selling propositions (USPs). This will involve working with consultants, experts, and agencies to craft a compelling brand identity.
- **Development of Creatives, Collaterals, and Short Films:** Producing marketing materials that tell the story of A&N products, highlighting their uniqueness and cultural significance. This will include the creation of short films, brochures, and other promotional content.
- **Branding events in Mainland cities:** Organising and participating in the events organised in Mainland cities to showcase A&N products to a global audience, enhancing their visibility and market potential.
- **Organizing Festivals:** A&N will organise Food festival and game fishing event to promote ANI as preferred destination for such activities.

4.4.6. Budget and Intervention wise Costing

Table 14: Budget for BRANDAMAN (Amount in Lakh Rs)

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 4	Developing BRANDAMAN: Make in Andaman	Publicity / advertising for ANE-Sagarika at mainland Airport & on e-commerce websites	150	0	150
		Engagement of Consultant/Expert/Agencies for Creation of Brand name & Logos, packaging , marketing, USPS, online interventions etc	75	0	75
		International sea food festival	600	0	600
		Game Fishing Tournament	150	0	150
		20 Branding events in cities in the Mainland	200	0	200
		Sub Total (ANI 4)	1175	0	1175

4.4.7. Year-wise Breakup of Targets and Fund Requirements

The following outlines the year-wise targets and associated funding requirements for the BRANDAMAN initiative:

- **October 2024 – March 2025:** Initial development of the brand strategy, including the creation of the brand name, logo, and initial marketing materials. This period will also involve the commencement of geo-tagging efforts and the onboarding of MSMEs onto e-commerce platforms.
- **April 2025 – March 2026:** Expansion of branding activities, including the production of short films, participation in international conclaves, and further development of marketing campaigns. Continued support for MSMEs in adopting the brand and integrating it into their business operations.
- **April 2026 - 2027:** Ongoing brand promotion, maintenance of e-commerce platforms, and sustained marketing efforts to ensure the brand's growth and market presence. Monitoring and evaluation of the brand's impact on MSME sales and market reach.

4.4.8. Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of the BRANDAMAN initiative is expected to lead to several positive outcomes, including:

- **Enhanced Sales:** The strong brand identity will drive increased sales for A&N products, as consumers become more aware of their unique qualities and origins.
- **Higher Recognition and Loyalty:** The BRANDAMAN initiative will foster greater recognition and loyalty among consumers, helping to differentiate A&N products in the market and justify premium pricing.
- **Benefit to MSMEs:** Approximately 500 MSMEs working in the handicrafts sector are expected to benefit from this initiative, gaining access to new markets, increased sales opportunities, and enhanced business growth.
- **Branded Products of ANI:** The products of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be distinctly branded, making them recognizable and sought after in both domestic and international markets.

The BRANDAMAN initiative will create a lasting brand identity for A&N products, helping them to achieve the recognition and demand they deserve. By leveraging branding as a strategic tool, this initiative will support the growth and sustainability of local MSMEs, driving economic development in the region.

4.5 Access to Market

4.5.1. Problem Statement

One of the significant challenges faced by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), artisans, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the lack of adequate market access and support. This limitation hampers their ability to connect with potential buyers, suppliers, and partners, which in turn restricts their growth, sales, and overall business sustainability.

4.5.2. Proposed Intervention

To address these challenges, several strategic interventions have been proposed to enhance market access for MSMEs, artisans, and SHGs in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These interventions include:

- **Organizing Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs) and Exhibitions:** Hosting fairs and exhibitions on the islands to facilitate direct interactions between local producers and potential buyers from both domestic and international markets.
- **Exposure Visits and Participation in National and International Exhibitions:** Enabling MSMEs, artisans, and SHGs to participate in exhibitions at the national and international levels to showcase their products, understand market trends, and establish business networks.
- **Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets:** Organizing events where international buyers and buyers from the mainland are invited to the islands to explore local products and establish trade relations.
- **Onboarding MSMEs, Artisans, and SHGs onto Online Platforms/ONDC:** Facilitating the digital transformation of local businesses by integrating them into online platforms, including the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), to expand their market reach.

4.5.3. Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

The proposed interventions are critical for overcoming the market access challenges faced by local businesses in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These initiatives are expected to:

- Expose Local Businesses to New Customers: By participating in fairs, exhibitions, and online platforms, local businesses will have the opportunity to reach new customers beyond their immediate geographical location.
- Facilitate Connections with Potential Buyers, Suppliers, and Partners: Buyer-Seller Meets and Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets will enable local businesses to connect directly with potential trade partners, fostering collaborations and business growth.
- Provide Insights into Market Trends: Participation in national and international exhibitions will help local businesses understand current market trends, consumer preferences, and competitive landscapes.
- Support Market Research and Insight Gathering: These interventions will allow local businesses to conduct market research, gather insights, and potentially generate sales and revenue, thereby supporting informed business decisions and strategic planning.

4.5.4. Objective of the Intervention

The primary objectives of the market access interventions are to:

- Provide local businesses with access to new and larger markets.
- Create networking opportunities that can lead to business partnerships.
- Showcase local products to a wider audience, thereby increasing their visibility and market demand.
- Facilitate the growth and sustainability of local MSMEs, artisans, and SHGs by enabling them to reach broader markets and connect with key stakeholders.

4.5.5. Components and Activities Involved

The interventions will involve the following key components and activities:

- **Organization of 4 RBSMs/BSMs:** These events will invite international buyers and buyers from the mainland to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to explore local products and establish trade relations.
- **Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs) and Management Development Programs (MDPs):** These programs will be conducted

across three districts, covering costs related to ticketing, lodging, boarding, mentorship, and the organization of state-level workshops.

- **Onboarding MSMEs onto Online Platforms:** Facilitating the digital onboarding of local MSMEs onto online platforms, including e-commerce websites, to enhance their market reach.
- **Expanding and increasing benefits under the TEAM Scheme:** It is proposed that the benefits available under the RAMP Sub Scheme, namely MSME TEAM Initiative be increased to increase the offtake of the schemes by the MSME units in A&N Island.
- **Organizing Training Programs for MSMEs:** Providing training to MSMEs on digital marketing, online sales, and other relevant skills to help them succeed in the online marketplace.

4.5.6. Budget and Intervention wise Costing

Table 15: Budget for Access to Market (Amount in Lakh Rs)

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 5	Access to Market	5 Reverse Buyer Seller Meet @ 1 Cr	500	0	500
		Participation in events in Mainland cities (10 events for 5 people each)	50	0	50
		Development and onboarding of Seller apps (including Sagarika) on ONDC	10	0	10
		Top up of benefits under TEAM Scheme			
		(a) Additional support of Rs 2000 for catalogue creation for 3000 MSEs	60	0	60
		(b) Additional support of Rs 2500 for Account Management support to 3000 MSEs	75	0	75
		(c) Additional support for packaging material. For B2C: Rs 75 /order and	255	0	255

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
		B2B: Rs 350 / order for 1st 20 orders of 3000 MSEs			
		(d) Additional subsidy for transportation & Logistics: B2C: Rs. 100 per order for up to 20 orders for 2000 MSEs ; B2B: Rs. 400 per order for up to 20 orders for 2000 MSE	200	0	200
Sub total (ANI 5)			1150	0	1150

4.5.7. Year-wise Breakup of Targets and Fund Requirements

The following outlines the year-wise targets and associated funding requirements for the market access interventions:

- **October 2024 – March 2025:** Initial organization of RBSMs/BSMs, onboarding of MSMEs onto online platforms, and commencement of EDPs/MDPs.
- **April 2025 – March 2026:** Expansion of market access activities, including participation in national and international exhibitions, continued training programs for MSMEs, and further development of online sales channels.
- **April 2026 – March 2027:** Sustained support for market access initiatives, monitoring and evaluation of outcomes, and scaling up successful interventions to reach more MSMEs and SHGs.

4.5.8. Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of these market access interventions is expected to lead to several positive outcomes, including:

- **Increased Sales and Business Growth:** Local businesses will experience increased sales, revenue, and business growth as they gain access to new markets and customers.

- Enhanced Networking and Relationship Building: MSMEs, artisans, and SHGs will benefit from enhanced networking opportunities, leading to stronger business relationships and potential partnerships.
- Income and Employment Generation: The interventions will contribute to income and employment generation in the region, particularly by enhancing the competitive skills of local entrepreneurs.
- Global Outreach and Marketing: The initiatives will support the proper marketing and outreach of local products on a global scale, helping Andaman and Nicobar Islands' products gain international recognition.

4.6 Entrepreneurship Development

4.6.1. Problem Statement

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands face challenges in terms of limited employment opportunities and a lack of entrepreneurial skills among the local population. This hampers the region's economic growth and development, as many potential entrepreneurs do not have the necessary skills, knowledge, or support to start and sustain their businesses. The key challenges are:

- Limited Access to Resources: Startups lack access to necessary resources such as funding, industry expertise, and networking opportunities.
- Geographical Isolation: The islands' isolation from mainland India limits startups' exposure to national and international investors and markets.
- Lack of Incubators: The absence of startup incubators hinders the growth and development of startups, particularly in Deeptech, IT, and other high-tech sectors.

4.6.2 Proposed Intervention

To address these challenges, a comprehensive Entrepreneurship Development initiative is proposed, which includes:

- **Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programs (ESDPs)**: Conducting training programs for MSMEs to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and business acumen.
- **Handholding Support for Aspiring Entrepreneurs**: Providing mentorship and guidance to 20 individuals to help them become successful entrepreneurs.
- **Setting up a Business Incubation Centre**: Establishing a centre to support start-ups and small businesses with resources, mentoring, and access to networks.
- **Mentorship Workshops for Startups**: Organize workshops to provide mentorship, guidance, and support to startups.
- **Investor Meets**: Facilitate connections between startups and potential investors through organized meetups.

- **Appointment of Business Development Service Providers:** Engaging experts to provide ongoing support and advisory services to entrepreneurs and MSMEs.

4.6.3 Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

The proposed interventions are designed to enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by:

1. **Enhancing Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Abilities:** Training programs will equip participants with the skills needed to navigate challenges and seize business opportunities.
2. **Encouraging Innovation and Creativity:** By fostering an environment that supports innovation, the interventions will help entrepreneurs develop unique products and services.
3. **Developing Leadership Skills:** Entrepreneurs will gain the leadership abilities necessary to guide their businesses toward sustained growth.
4. **Providing Expert Guidance:** Mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs and industry experts will help new business owners avoid common pitfalls and achieve success.
5. **Facilitate Networking Opportunities:** Organize events that connect startups with investors, mentors, and industry leaders, thereby expanding their networks.

4.6.4. Objective of the Intervention

The primary objectives of the entrepreneurship development interventions are to:

- Foster strategic planning and innovation among local entrepreneurs.
- Enhance risk management capabilities.
- Improve marketing strategies and business planning.
- Provide startups with the resources and support they need to succeed.
- Enhance access to funding and mentorship for startups.
- Strengthen the startup ecosystem by fostering innovation and collaboration

4.6.5. Components and Activities

The entrepreneurship development initiative will include the following components and activities:

- **Identifying Mentorship Needs and providing Guidance and Mentorship:** Providing one-on-one mentorship and skill development opportunities at mainland institutions, along with networking opportunities and financing options for new entrepreneurs.
- **Hiring of Consultants and Experts:** Engaging professionals to assist in policy preparation, business planning, and the execution of entrepreneurship programs.
- **Skill Upgradation Programs:** Offering training to enhance the skills of local entrepreneurs, ensuring they are well-equipped to compete in the marketplace.
- **Organizing Investor Meets:** Facilitate connections between startups and investors through organized events.
- **Exposure to Startup/Business Incubators:** Exposure visits for the potential entrepreneurs to the incubators in Mainland cities and creating partnerships and linkages.

4.6.6. Budget and Intervention wise Costing

Table 16: Budget for Entrepreneurship Development (Amount in Lakh Rs)

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 6	Entrepreneur Development	25 Entrepreneur Skill Development Programmes @ Rs 7 lakhs	175	0	175
		10 Mentorship Workshop for the Startups of ANI @ Rs 1 lakh	10	0	10
		Investor Meet	150	0	150
		Exposure visit to Incubators in Maharashtra / Andhra Pradesh / Telangana etc	50	0	50
Sub total (ANI 6)			385	0	385

4.6.7. Year-wise Breakup of Targets and Fund Requirements

The following outlines the year-wise targets and associated funding requirements for the entrepreneurship development interventions:

- **October 2024 – March 2025:** Launch of ESDPs, establishment of the Business Incubation Centre, and initiation of handholding support for aspiring entrepreneurs, initial mentorship workshops, and investor meets.
- **April 2025 – March 2026:** Continued support for entrepreneurs, expansion of mentorship programs, and scaling up the activities of the Business Incubation Centre.
- **April 2026 – March 2027:** Ongoing skill upgradation, policy development, and evaluation of the program's impact on local entrepreneurship.

4.6.8. Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of the entrepreneurship development interventions is expected to lead to:

- **Economic Growth and Trade Balance Improvements:** By fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, the interventions will contribute to the overall economic growth of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Employment Generation:** The creation of new businesses will lead to increased employment opportunities, helping to address the region's unemployment challenges.
- **Enhanced Business Capabilities:** Entrepreneurs will develop the skills necessary for sustained business success, leading to long-term economic benefits for the region.
- **Increased Funding and Investment Opportunities:** Startups will gain access to new sources of funding and investment, enabling them to scale their operations.
- **Strengthened Ecosystem:** The overall startup ecosystem in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be strengthened, with improved networking, mentorship, and support structures in place.

4.7. Subsidy on Transportation and Logistics

4.7.1. Problem statement

The transportation cost of products to Mainland as well as other countries is very high which makes the “Made in A&N Island” less competitive in domestic (Mainland) as well as export markets.

4.7.2. Proposed interventions / Components

- 1) Subsidy for transportation of Fishery Products from the Islands:
 - Air Cargo - 20 % of the freight Charge with maximum ceiling of Rs.1,00,000
 - Ship Cargo - 10 % of the freight Charge with maximum ceiling of Rs. 1,00,000.
- 2) Subsidy for transportation of Fish Seed and fish Feed @ 50 % of the freight charge with maximum ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per beneficiary per Year

4.7.3. Rational and justification for the intervention

The transportation cost products is high through air and ship which adds to production cost resulting in price competitiveness.

4.7.4. Objective of the intervention

To reduce the financial burden on the MSMEs towards high transportation and logistics cost for selling their products in Mainland / export markets.

4.7.6. Budget and Component wise Costing

**Table 17: Budget and Year wise targets for Subsidy for Transportation
(Amount in Lakh Rs)**

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 7	Subsidy on transportation and Logistics	Providing subsidy @ 20% per kg of fish for the freight charge for air and 10% per kg for ship with max. ceiling of 01.00 lakh	100	0	100
		Subsidy of the freight charge @ 50% with max. ceiling of 0.50 lakh per beneficiary per year.	50	0	50
		Insurance premium	100	0	100
Sub total (ANI 7)			250	0	250

4.8. Policy Intervention

4.8.1. Problem Statement

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands face several critical policy-related challenges that hinder economic growth and sustainable development:

- **Non-Existence of Export Policy:** There is no comprehensive export policy, including the absence of a District as Export Hub initiative, which limits the region's ability to engage in international trade.
- **Non-Existence of Relocation & Sustainable Development Policy:** The lack of a policy framework addressing relocation and sustainable development challenges leads to uncoordinated growth and environmental degradation.
- **Gaps in Relationships and Trust:** There is a significant gap in communication, collaboration, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving among stakeholders, which impedes progress in policy development and implementation.

4.8.2. Proposed Intervention

To address these challenges, the following policy interventions are proposed:

- **Preparation of Relocation & Sustainable Development Policy:** Develop a comprehensive policy for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to guide relocation efforts and promote sustainable development.
- **Creation of a Sustainable Industrial Policy:** Formulate a policy that encourages sustainable industrial growth while preserving the natural environment.
- **Workshops for Policy Intervention:** Conduct workshops to engage stakeholders in the policy development process, enhance communication, and build trust.

4.8.3 Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

These policy interventions are crucial for streamlining regulations, reducing the compliance burden on businesses, and promoting ease of doing business in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The proposed interventions will:

- **Streamline Regulations:** Simplify the regulatory framework, making it easier for businesses to comply with rules and operate efficiently.
- **Reduce Compliance Burden:** Minimize the bureaucratic hurdles that businesses face, thereby reducing costs and encouraging entrepreneurship.
- **Promote Ease of Doing Business:** Create a more business-friendly environment that attracts investment and fosters economic growth.
- **Access to Financial Support:** Ensure that businesses can access credit subsidies and other financial support mechanisms, thereby promoting growth and sustainability.
- **Encourage Innovation:** Foster innovation through networking, mentoring, and funding opportunities, leading to the development of new products and services.

4.8.4. Objective of the Intervention

The primary objectives of the policy interventions are to:

- Establish a simplified and efficient regulatory framework that supports economic growth.
- Enhance market access and provide businesses with the tools they need to compete globally.
- Improve access to finance, enabling businesses to invest in innovation and expansion.

4.8.5. Components and Activities Involved

The policy intervention initiative will include the following components and activities:

- **Promoting Economic & Inclusive Sustainable Growth:** Support structural transformation in the MSME sector by implementing policies that promote inclusive and sustainable growth.
- **Improved Stakeholder Relationships & Participation:** Enhance stakeholder engagement through workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions, fostering innovation and best practices.

- **Enhanced Communication & Collaboration:** Strengthen relationships and trust among stakeholders by improving communication, collaboration, and problem-solving mechanisms.

4.8.6. Budget and Intervention wise Costing

Table 18: Budget for Policy Intervention (Amount in Lakh Rs)

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 8	Surveys and Studies for Policy formulation	Export Policy	20	0	20
		Relocation Policy	20	0	20
		Sustainable Development Policy	20	0	20
		Potential of Bio fertilizer and Bio pesticides	20	0	20
		Entrepreneurship Policy	20	0	20
		10 Workshops (2 each) for Policy Intervention @ Rs 1 lakh	10	0	10
Sub Total (ANI 8)			110	0	110

4.8.7. Year-wise Breakup of Targets and Fund Requirements

The following outlines the year-wise targets and associated funding requirements for the policy interventions:

- **October 2024 – March 2025:** Drafting of policies, initial stakeholder consultations, and workshops for policy intervention.
- **April 2025 – March 2026:** Finalization and implementation of policies, continued stakeholder engagement, and workshops.
- **April 2026 – March 2027:** Monitoring and evaluation of policy impacts, scaling up successful interventions, and refining policies as needed.

4.8.8. Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of these policy interventions is expected to lead to the following:

- Promoting Economic & Inclusive Sustainable Growth: Policies will drive structural transformation in the MSME sector, leading to sustained economic growth.

- Improved Stakeholder Relationships & Participation: Enhanced relationships, trust, and communication among stakeholders will lead to better policy outcomes and increased innovation.
- Increased Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building: Stakeholders will benefit from improved knowledge sharing and capacity building, leading to better decision-making and problem-solving.

4.9. Sectoral Interventions for promoting Value Addition and Quality Enhancement

4.9.1. Problem Statement

The products manufactured by units in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands face several challenges that limit their competitiveness across sectors, particularly in handloom and handicraft, agro food processing, and fisheries

- Low Quality Production: Local handicrafts struggle to compete in national and international markets due to low production quality.
- Lack of Knowledge in Value Addition: Artisans are unaware of modern techniques, tools, and equipment that could enhance the value of their products.
- Limited Market Access: The market for local handicrafts is largely restricted to tourist footfall, with significant logistical challenges in reaching national markets.
- There is surplus production of coconut. However, the processing facilities are inadequate.
- Non-availability of good planting materials and packaging material for spices.

4.9.2. Proposed Intervention

To address these challenges, the following interventions are proposed:

- **In-House Training on Value Addition and Packaging**: Provide training to artisans on modern techniques and tools to improve product quality and presentation.
- **Exposure Visits**: Organize visits to craft clusters, trade fairs, and exhibitions to help artisans gain new insights and skills.
- **Financial Assistance for Modern Tools and Equipment**: Provide financial support to artisans for purchasing modern tools, improving productivity, and meeting quality standards.
- **Establishment of Andaman Haat**: Create a designated market space similar to Delhi Haat, where artisans can showcase and sell their products.

- **Development of an E-Commerce Platform:** Launch an e-commerce platform to help artisans reach wider audiences and access larger markets.
- **Promoting value addition to Coconut:** Establishment of Processing units like Coconut Oil, VCO, Coco peat, Desiccated coconut powder, Charcoal, Coir Unit and Coconut water processing and packaging unit etc.
- Development of nursery for production of planting materials of spices and enhancing the skill in production of planting material.

4.9.3. Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

These interventions are critical for enhancing the competitiveness of local handicrafts and products in national and international markets. The proposed interventions will:

- **Improve Product Quality and Presentation:** Training and exposure to modern techniques will help artisans produce higher-quality products that can compete in larger markets.
- **Expand Market Access:** Establishing Andaman Haat and developing an e-commerce platform will provide artisans with new avenues for selling their products, beyond the local tourist market.
- **Enhance Productivity and Income:** Financial assistance for modern tools and equipment will enable artisans to produce more efficiently and increase their income.

4.9.4. Objective of the Intervention

The primary objectives of the value addition interventions are to:

- Enhance the quality and marketability of products manufactured by KVIC, KVIB, and MSME-assisted units.
- Provide artisans with the tools and knowledge they need to improve productivity and income.
- Expand market access for local handicrafts through new sales channels.

4.9.5. Components and Activities Involved

The value addition initiative will include the following components and activities:

- **In-House Training:** Conduct training sessions focusing on value addition, packaging, and product development.
- **Exposure Visits:** Organize visits to craft clusters and trade fairs to provide artisans with new skills and market insights.
- **Financial Assistance:** Provide funds for purchasing modern tools and equipment to improve product quality and productivity.
- **Establishment of Andaman Haat:** Create a dedicated market space for artisans to showcase and sell their products.
- **Development of an E-Commerce Platform:** Launch an online platform to help artisans reach wider audiences and expand their market reach.

4.9.6. Budget and Intervention wise Costing

Table 19: Budget for Value addition of Products

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 9	Sectoral Interventions	Coconut: Upto 50% subsidy on machinery and equipment (capped at Rs 10 lakh) for setting up 10 Coconut water and Processing units	100	0	100
		Spices: Testing lab (equipments) and training	100	0	100
		Handicraft In-house training	6	0	6
		Exposure visit	35	0	35
		Financial assistance: Provision of modernized tools and equipments	12	0	12
		Common Facilitation Center	30	0	30
		Development of e-commerce site for sale of finished products	20	0	20
		Sub total (ANI 9)	303	0	303

4.9.7. Year-wise Breakup of Targets and Fund Requirements

The following outlines the year-wise targets and associated funding requirements for the value addition interventions:

- **October 2024 – March 2025:** Initial training sessions, exposure visits, and establishment of Andaman Haat.
- **April 2025 – March 2026:** Continued training, expansion of Andaman Haat, and launch of the e-commerce platform.
- **April 2026 - March 2027:** Ongoing support for artisans, scaling up of successful initiatives, and continuous improvement of products.

4.9.8. Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of these value addition interventions is expected to lead to:

- **Increased Competitiveness:** Artisans will produce higher-quality products that can compete in larger markets, both nationally and internationally.
- **Improved Income and Livelihoods:** Enhanced productivity and market access will lead to increased income and better livelihoods for artisans.
- **Sustained Growth in the Handicrafts Sector:** The handicrafts sector in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will experience sustained growth, contributing to the local economy and preserving traditional crafts.

Sector wise Interventions: Fisheries



4.10. Fisheries Development Programme

4.10.1 Setting up of Fish Feed Mill

Problem Statement

Fish feed is a critical requirement for aquaculture activities, which are essential for boosting fish production. Currently, there is no fish feed mill in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to cater to the growing demand for fish feed among local farmers. This absence of a local feed production facility hinders the development of aquaculture in the region, as farmers have to rely on imported feeds, which are often expensive and difficult to obtain consistently. The lack of a feed mill also limits the ability to produce feed tailored to the specific needs of the local species being farmed.

Proposed Intervention

To address this challenge, it is proposed that the financial assistance will be increased as per the following:

- Additional 30% assistance for ST (Scheduled Tribes) & Women Beneficiaries
- Additional 20% assistance for General Category Beneficiaries

This additional financial assistance will support the establishment of fish feed mills by lowering the financial burden on the beneficiaries, encouraging them to invest in such facilities. The financial assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) currently covers 60% and 40% of the unit cost, which is set at ₹30 lakhs. The proposed additional assistance will make the project more viable for islanders.

Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

The absence of a fish feed mill in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands poses a significant challenge to the growth of aquaculture in the region. Without locally produced fish feed, farmers are at a disadvantage, facing high costs and supply chain uncertainties. The proposed intervention will address this gap by providing additional financial assistance, making it feasible for islanders to establish fish feed mills. This will lead to a steady supply of affordable, high-quality feed tailored to the specific needs of local aquaculture operations, thereby promoting sustainable fish production in the islands.

Objective of the Intervention

The primary objectives of this intervention are:

- **Promote Aquaculture:** To encourage islanders to engage in aquaculture activities by ensuring a consistent and affordable supply of fish feed.
- **Increase Fish Production:** To boost fish production in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands by supporting the establishment of fish feed mills.
- **Enhance Local Economy:** To contribute to the local economy by creating employment opportunities and supporting the growth of aquaculture-related businesses.

Components and Activities

The intervention involves Setting up of 5 Fish Feed Mills (3 for ST & Women beneficiaries and 2 for general category beneficiaries. Each unit will be equipped with machinery necessary for the production of fish feed, including mixers, grinders, pelletizers, and packaging equipment.

Expected Outcomes

The successful implementation of this intervention is expected to yield several significant outcomes:

- **Employment Generation:** The establishment of fish feed mills will create direct employment opportunities for approximately 100 people. Additionally, around 1,000 fish farmers will benefit indirectly from the improved availability of feed, enabling them to expand their operations and improve productivity.
- **Increased Aquaculture Activity:** The availability of locally produced fish feed will encourage more farmers to engage in aquaculture, leading to increased fish production in the islands.
- **Support for Local MSMEs:** The development of fish feed mills will support the growth of local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) involved in the fisheries sector, providing them with the necessary infrastructure to thrive.
- **Technical Upgradation:** The introduction of modern equipment and technology will lead to technical upgradation in the fisheries sector, improving overall efficiency and productivity.

- **Improved Market Access:** With better feed availability, fish farmers will be able to produce higher quality fish, increasing their competitiveness in both local and export markets.

4.10.2. Upgradation of Fish Market Chain in A & N Islands

Problem Statement

In the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, there are only two modern fish markets located in Junglighat and Mohanpura, Sri Vijaya Puram, both constructed with financial assistance from the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad. The remaining 20 fish markets across the islands are traditional open markets with minimal facilities, lacking proper hygienic standards for fish handling, sales, and storage. Additionally, the absence of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) in these markets leads to the discharge of untreated waste into nearby water bodies, posing environmental risks.

Proposed Intervention

The proposed intervention aims to provide funds to the Department of Fisheries to upgrade six existing fish markets into modern facilities. Each upgraded market will include common facilities such as chilled display trays, machine cutting stations, deep freezers, pest management systems, and ETPs to ensure hygienic fish handling and storage. The estimated cost for upgrading each market is ₹40 lakhs, bringing the total cost for upgrading six markets to ₹240 lakhs.

Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

Out of the 22 existing fish markets in the A & N Islands, only two are equipped with modern, hygienic facilities. This lack of adequate infrastructure in the remaining markets hampers the overall quality of fish handling, leading to reduced fish quality and potential health risks for consumers. Upgrading six of these markets will significantly improve the marketing infrastructure on the islands, ensuring better hygiene, reducing waste discharge, and providing better quality fish to consumers. This intervention is essential to elevate the standards of fish markets, thereby promoting consumer confidence and boosting local fish sales.

Objective of the Intervention

The main objectives of this intervention are:

- **Promote Hygienic Fish Handling and Sales:** Ensure that fish handling, sales, and storage are conducted under hygienic conditions in the upgraded markets.
- **Provide High-Quality Fish to Consumers:** Improve the quality of fish available to consumers by enhancing the infrastructure of fish markets.
- **Reduce Environmental Impact:** Install ETPs to manage waste effectively, reducing the environmental impact of fish market activities.

Components and Activities Involved

The key components and activities involved in this intervention include:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Installation of chilled display trays, machine cutting equipment, deep freezers, and pest management systems in the selected markets.
- **Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs):** Construction of ETPs to treat and manage waste generated in the markets, preventing untreated waste from being discharged into water bodies.
- **Market Modernization:** Overall upgrade of market facilities to meet modern hygiene and operational standards.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this intervention include:

- **Direct Benefits to Fish Vendors and Fishermen:** Approximately 1 lakh fish vendors, fishermen, and fish farmers will benefit directly from the improved market conditions, leading to better fish quality and higher sales.
- **Improved Consumer Experience:** Consumers will have access to high-quality fish handled and stored under hygienic conditions, increasing their confidence in the safety of the products.
- **Environmental Protection:** The installation of ETPs will help in reducing the environmental impact of market activities by treating waste before discharge.

- **Enhanced Market Infrastructure:** Upgraded markets will set a new standard for fish handling and sales in the region, potentially attracting more customers and increasing overall market activity.

4.10.3: Upgradation and Modification of Junglighat Fish Landing Centre

Problem Statement

The fishermen operating at the Fish Landing Centre (FLC) in Junglighat, Sri Vijaya Puram, are facing significant challenges in transporting essential items such as ice, fuel, rations, and water to their fishing boats. These items currently need to be transported from distant locations, causing physical strain and logistical delays for the fishermen. The lack of direct supply facilities at the landing centre hampers the efficiency and productivity of fishing operations.

Proposed Intervention

To alleviate these challenges, it is proposed to provide funds to the Department of Fisheries for the procurement and installation of modern equipment at the Junglighat Fish Landing Centre. The proposed intervention includes the installation of conveyor belts for transporting crushed ice, and pipes for the direct supply of potable water and fuel to the fishing vessels berthed at the landing centre. This modernization effort aims to streamline the supply process, reducing the physical burden on fishermen and improving operational efficiency.

Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

The proposed intervention is essential to reduce the physical efforts and time spent by fishermen in transporting essential items to their fishing boats. By installing conveyor belts, water pipes, and extended fuel dispensers, the fishermen will be able to directly access the necessary supplies at the landing centre, leading to a more efficient and less labor-intensive process. This modernization will not only ease the burden on the fishermen but also enhance the overall productivity and efficiency of fishing operations at the Junglighat FLC.

Objective of the Intervention

The primary objective of this intervention is to facilitate the fishermen in the transportation of essential fishery items, making the process more efficient and less physically demanding. By providing direct access to ice, water, and fuel at the landing centre, the intervention aims to:

- Improve the ease of doing business for fishermen.
- Reduce the physical strain and time required for transporting essential items.
- Enhance the overall efficiency and productivity of fishing operations at the Junglighat FLC.

Components and Activities Involved

The key components and activities involved in this intervention include:

- **Installation of Conveyor Belts:** For the efficient transportation of crushed ice from storage areas to the fishing vessels.
- **Installation of Pipes:** For the direct supply of potable water and fuel to the fishing vessels, eliminating the need for manual transportation from distant locations.
- **Extended Fuel Dispensers:** To facilitate the easy refueling of fishing vessels directly at the landing centre.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this intervention include:

- **Direct Benefits to Fishermen:** Approximately 10,000 fishermen will benefit from the improved facilities at the Junglighat Fish Landing Centre, leading to more efficient and less labor-intensive operations.
- **Improved Operational Efficiency:** The installation of modern equipment will significantly reduce the time and effort required to transport essential supplies to the fishing vessels, thereby improving the overall efficiency of fishing activities.
- **Enhanced Quality of Life for Fishermen:** By reducing the physical strain associated with transporting heavy items like ice and fuel, the intervention will contribute to a better quality of life for the fishermen.
- **Boost to Local Economy:** The increased efficiency and productivity of fishing operations may lead to higher fish catches, boosting the local economy and contributing to food security in the region.

4.10.4: Development of Incubation Facility for Fish Processing with Focus on Exports

Problem Statement

The lack of common facilities for fish processing, storage, packaging, and testing at Sri Vijaya Puram is a significant obstacle for potential fish traders in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Without these essential facilities, the export of seafood, which requires processing to meet international standards, is severely limited. This gap in infrastructure hinders the potential growth of the seafood export market from the islands, affecting small and medium-scale traders who are unable to afford the high costs of setting up individual processing units.

Proposed Intervention

To address this challenge, it is proposed to establish a common incubation facility equipped with the necessary infrastructure for fish processing. This facility will include a processing unit with a fish freezing line, Individual Quick Freezing (IQF) system, blanching and cooking lines, flake ice machine, chilled room, and cold storage. These facilities are essential for promoting the processing and export of fish and fishery products, enabling traders to meet the stringent requirements of international markets.

Rationale and Justification for the Intervention

The establishment of a common incubation facility will provide small and medium-scale traders and entrepreneurs with access to state-of-the-art fish processing infrastructure. This will allow them to process and export fish and fishery products without the need for significant investments in their own facilities. By centralizing these services, the facility will reduce the financial burden on individual traders and promote the export of high-quality seafood from the islands. This intervention is crucial for unlocking the potential of the seafood export market in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, contributing to economic growth and job creation in the region.

Objective of the Intervention

The primary objective of this intervention is to promote direct seafood exports from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands by creating the necessary facilities for processing, packaging, branding, and marketing of fish and fishery products. Specifically, the intervention aims to:

- Provide access to advanced processing facilities for small and medium-scale entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate the export of high-quality seafood products from the islands.
- Support the development of a sustainable seafood industry that meets international standards.

Components and Activities

The key components and activities involved in this intervention include:

- **Procurement and Installation of Machinery and Equipment:**
 - Grading machines for sorting fish by size and quality.
 - Flake ice machines for preserving fish during processing.
 - Chilled rooms and blast freezers for maintaining the freshness of processed fish.
 - Individual Quick Freezing (IQF) lines for rapid freezing of fish products.
 - Cold storage facilities for long-term preservation.
 - Basic laboratory facilities for testing and quality control.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this intervention include:

- **Support for Small and Medium-Scale Entrepreneurs:** Approximately 50 small and medium-scale entrepreneurs are expected to benefit from the facility, enabling them to process and export fishery products at a lower cost.
- **Employment Generation:** The facility will create jobs in fish processing, packaging, quality control, and logistics, contributing to the local economy.
- **Technical Upgradation:** Entrepreneurs will have access to modern processing technology, improving the quality and marketability of their products.
- **Marketing and Logistics Improvement:** The facility will enhance the marketing and logistics capabilities of the seafood industry in the islands, facilitating access to international markets.
- **Ease of Doing Business Improvement:** By providing centralized processing facilities, the intervention will simplify the process of entering the export market for local traders.

4.10.5. Promotion of Sea weed Culture

Problem statement

Availability of numerous bays and Protected Shores provide conducive environment for undertaking Sea weed culture of commercially important species like Gracilaria edulis, G. dura, Hypnea, Sargassum etc which have great demand for industries based on food, agar, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, paint etc. Being a new activity for the islands it is necessary to propagate seaweed culture among fishers/ fish farmers/entrepreneurs/SHGs by providing necessary funding support.

Proposed intervention

Funding support for implementation of Seaweed culture and also imparting training on the activity.

Rational and justification for the intervention

Sea weed cultivation involves the cultivation of marine plant like species in the sea with the help of rafts which are edible as well as commercially important. The seaweed cultivation provides an additional income source for the fisher/farmer community with minimal investment on materials (bamboo rafts/ tube nets) and manpower.

Objective of the intervention

To promote Mariculture activities like seaweed culture in the islands for generating alternative source of income.

Components and activities involved

- Quantum of Sea area proposed for seaweed cultivation - 30 Hac.
- Funding to meet Cost of fabrication of raft, purchase of seed, manpower, Capacity Building etc.

Expected outcome

- Direct benefit to 60 Fishers/ Fish Farmers/SHGs. Indirect employment to 200 people

Table 20: Budget for Promotion of Fisheries sector

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
	Fish Feed mill	Machinery Cost (30% for ST & Women and 20% for general) @ Rs 18 lakhs for 5 units	90	65	25
		Cost for civil construction	60	60	0
	Development of Modern Fish Market Chain in A & N Islands	Six (06) modern fish markets to be developed having common facilities @ Rs 40 lakhs per facility (Cost of Machinery including Deep Freezer, chilled display tray, waste management, etc.)	240	0	240
	Upgradation & Modification of Fish Landing Centre Junglighat	Hiring of consultant for designing and drawing for modification of Fish Market.	40	0	40
		Expense towards procurement of machinery including conveyor belt for supply of crushed ice, Motors, Pipe, nozzle, ice crusher machines etc.	160	0	160
	Development of Incubation Facility for Fish Processing with focus on exports	Hiring of Consultant	50	0	50
		Expense towards procurement of machineries like grading machine, flake ice machine, chilled room, blast freezer, IQF Line, Cold Storage etc.	450	0	450
	Promotion of Sea weed culture for fabrication, training etc	Estimated Cost for fabrication of rafts @ Rs. 6.5 lakhs/ Ha. Total 30 Hac (50% subsidy)	97.5	0	97.5
		Estimated cost for Seed (Rs 1 lakh/ha) (50% subsidy)	15	0	15
		Estimated cost for manpower (50% subsidy)	30	0	30
		Training and capacity building	30	0	30
	Sub total (ANI 10)		1262.5	125	1137.5

Sector Wise Interventions : Credit support for promoting Tourism in A&N Island



4.11. Improving Access to Credit for Promoting Tourism in the UT

4.11.1. MSME Luxury Tent Cluster Programme

Problem statement

In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, eco-tourism, adventure, and heritage tourism are becoming more and more popular. These travel offerings include going to and staying in isolated locations, woods, and beaches. Such far-flung tourist locations are severely lacking in lodging, particularly luxurious lodging. It might not be feasible or permissible to build permanently in some regions. To overcome this challenge there is a dire need to build luxurious tented lodging to accommodate the growing demand from adventure enthusiasts.

Proposed intervention

To encourage the MSMEs adopt this new segment by providing interest subsidy of 3% on the loans taken by the MSMEs for setting up of Luxury Tent. The programme envisages developing on 50 Luxury Tents.

Rationale and justification for the intervention

The assistance from MSME in setting up of Luxury Tents would address the challenge of accommodation for adventure enthusiasts and high end tourists. Promotion of luxury tented accommodation will actively support sustainable tourism practices towards minimizing environmental impact, preserving the delicate ecosystems, and promoting the well-being of the local communities.

Objective of the intervention

To encourage the stakeholders and Private entities to adopt this new segment in accommodation. The Luxury Tents offer a unique and upscale accommodation experience that combines the comfort and amenities of a luxury hotel with the charm and connection to nature that camping provides. These tents are designed to provide a lavish and exclusive setting while being located in beautiful natural surroundings.

Expected outcome

1. Availability of accommodation units for High-end tourists.
2. Provide avenues for direct and indirect Employment.
3. Improve socioeconomic status of the local community.

4. Increase tourist footfall.

4.11.2. MSME Assistance for House Boat Fitments Program

Problem statement

Houseboat tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will offer a captivating and immersive experience in one of India's most pristine and breathtaking destination. Nestled in the Bay of Bengal, this archipelago boasts stunning landscapes, turquoise waters, rich biodiversity, making it an ideal setting for houseboat adventures. Exploring the islands on a houseboat will allow the tourists to witness the mesmerizing beauty of the archipelago at a relaxed pace. They can cruise through the emerald waters, meander along the scenic backwaters, and soak in the Panoramic views of pristine beaches and dense exotic mangroves creeks. Limited awareness, usefulness and reluctance among the Stake holders & Entrepreneurs due to high capital investments are critical challenges in A& N Islands to adopt this new segment in hospitality sector while ensuring adherence to quality, standards and safety norms

Proposed intervention

To address this challenge the A& N Administration MSME Assistance for House Boat Fitments Program proposes to provide interest subsidy of 2% on the loans taken by the MSMEs for fitments in House boats. The programme envisages developing on 200 House Boats.

Rationale and justification for the intervention

The assistance from MSME to provide subsidy for fitments in House boats would address the critical challenge of high capital investments involved in construction & operation of houseboats. This will leverage the stake holders & Private entities to adopt the new segment of accommodation for adventure enthusiast and high end tourist. This plan will serve as a blue print for Tourism stakeholders and policy makers for providing a structured approach to capitalize on identified opportunities and drive A& N islands Tourism sector towards competitiveness and resilience.

Objective of the intervention

To tap the potential of house boat tourism by encouraging the Tourism stakeholders and Private entities to adopt this new segment in accommodation. Houseboats are designed to offer the seamless blend of comfort and amenities of a luxury home with mobility and serenity of adventure of life on the water. They are equipped with modern amenities like air conditioned cabins, gourmet

kitchens & comfortable lounges. House boats would offer a unique exotic experience for the tourist to explore the Islands stunning coastline, marine life & coral reefs. Learn about the Islands history, flora & fauna and enjoy the local seafood & traditional Andamanese cuisine. Support the responsible tourism practices that preserve the Islands fragile ecosystem.

Expected outcome

- i. Availability of accommodation units for High-end tourists.
- ii. Create avenues for direct and indirect Employment for local communities.
- iii. Improve socioeconomic status of the local community.
- iv. Increase tourist footfall.

4.11.3. MSME Support for development of Rural Haat at Bharatpur beach Shaheed Dweep for promotion of eco-Tourism

Problem statement

Bharatpur beach in Shaheed Dweep attracts a huge number of National & International tourist for its picturesque scenery , crystal clear waters, soft white sand, lush green forest, breath-taking sunset views, serene peaceful atmosphere ideal for relaxation & unwinding for vacationing . The vibrant coral reefs making it an ideal spot for snorkelling & scuba diving. The developmental activities in this beach is a critical challenge due to its fragile ecosystem with unique flora and fauna, including coral reefs and mangroves with ensuring minimal disruption to these ecosystems. At present there are inadequate facilities for local vendors and lack of shops or shacks in Bharatpur beach for the convenience of visitors. To harness this untapped potential the ANI MSME Scheme for Development of Rural Haat at Bharatpur beach for promotion of eco-tourism has been proposed

Proposed intervention

To develop Rural Haat comprising of 96 Shops/ Shacks of approved design with eco – friendly material like Stone, Wood, Mud, Bamboo, Structural Aluminium, Glass Bottles, Glass, Terracotta Jali, other sustainable/eco-friendly materials as per design requirements. Interest subsidy of 3% is proposed to be provided to the MSMEs for development of Haats. The estimated cost of 1 Haat is Rs 22.50 Lakh per Rural Haat. It is proposed that 100 Rural Haats will be developed.

Rationale and justification for the intervention

The assistance from MSME for development of a Rural Haat at Bharatpur beach, Shaheed Dweep will provide access to necessary resources, expertise and funding to establish a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem, promoting sustainable development and community empowerment. It will create a thriving eco-tourism destination that benefits the local community and preserve the Islands unique culture & environment. The Rural Haat can contribute to sustainable tourism by offering unique shopping experience, reducing carbon footprint & promoting eco friendly products.

Objective of the intervention

Developing a Rural Haat at Bharatpur beach can boost eco-tourism and also provide a platform to the local artisans, farmers and entrepreneurs to sell their products thus promoting economic growth & self-sufficiency. The Haat can promote eco-friendly products such as handicrafts, organic produce and sustainable souvenirs. MSME support can help to preserve the traditional crafts and skill promoting cultural heritage and diversity. MSME assistance can help to establish and grow rural enterprise promoting entrepreneurship and self employment. Innovative approach to promoting entrepreneurship, tourism & cultural preservation. The haat can serve as a community hub, fostering social interaction and a sense of belonging among locals and tourist

Impacts and outcome

- Promote eco-tourism to increase tourist footfall
- Create avenues for direct and indirect Employment for local communities.
- Promote Vocal for local
- Improve socioeconomic status of the local community as the Rural Haat can empower local communities by providing a platform for selling their products, promoting financial inclusion and improving livelihoods

Table 20: Budget for Providing Credit Support for Promotion of Tourism sector

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 11	Access to credit (with focus on tourism)	<p>Interest subvention of 3% (capped at Rs 15 lakhs) for the loans upto Rs 2 crores</p> <p>(1) 50 Luxury Tents (cost Rs 2 Cr)</p> <p>(2) 200 House Boats (Cost Rs 2 Cr)</p> <p>(3) 100 Haats (cost Rs 30 lakhs)</p>	3180	0	3180

4.12. Skill Development Programmes for Improving competitiveness of MSMEs.

Problem Statement:

There are few sectors which have been identified as the potential sectors for development in A&N Islands. These sectors are dominated by the MSMEs. These include the following:

- Handloom & textiles
- Handicraft
- Food processing
- Fisheries
- Tourism including Hospitality
- Packaging

The MSMEs engaged in these activities are facing challenges and need to upgrade their sector specific skills as well in related skills with respect to marketing, communication etc.

Proposed intervention:

Over a three-year period, dedicated training workshops and skill development programs will be conducted, specifically tailored to the needs of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in key sectors.

It is proposed that specific tailor made skill development be organised for the MSMEs engaged in various sectors, as mentioned above. It is suggested that 10 programmes (each with a batch of 25 MSMEs) is organised for each of 6 sectors identified above. The average cost of training per MSME is estimated @ Rs 2500.

Budget:

It is estimated that Rs 2 Cr will be needed for the imparting training and skill development programmes for the MSMEs as per the following details:

Table 21: Budget for Conducting Skill Development Programmes

S. No	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 12	Skill Development Programme (sector focussed)	6 Sectors identified for training. 10 batches (each having 25 participants) of each sector to be trained for 5 day training @ Rs 2500 per MSME per day. This includes Miscellaneous expenses.	200	0	200

Expected Outcome:

It is estimated that over 1500 MSMEs will benefit from these targeted training initiatives, empowering them with the future skills and knowledge to enhance productivity, product quality, and competitiveness in their respective sectors.

CHAPTER 5

BUDGET FOR THE PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

Table 22: Intervention wise Budget for Proposed Interventions under RAMP

An amount of Rs 89.55 Crores are requested under RAMP to implement the proposed interventions. The break up is provided in the following table:

	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
ANI 1	Digitization of MSME Services	Engagement of Consultant (2 consultants and 2 support staff) for 2.5 years	50	0	50
		Portal development	500	0	500
		Training, Module development, Trainer cost etc	30	0	30
Sub Total (ANI 1)			580	0	580
ANI 2	Formalization of MSMEs and SHGs	Outreach and IEC Activities (25 Awareness campaigns / workshops @ Rs 1 lakh)	25	0	25
		MSME database Census survey by engaging manpower/agencies in UT of A&N Islands	50	0	50
		Onboarding of existing SHGs etc in Udyam Portal-Physical inspection Encouraging SHGs and motivating SHGs for onboarding	30	0	30
		Green & Sustainability-MSME Awards, ISO & Other Certification, Energy & Water Audits	25	0	25
Sub Total (ANI 2)			130	0	130
ANI 3	Institutional Strengthening of DICs for MSME Support	Engagement of Subject matter specialists (focus sectors) for MSME clinics. 20 two days Workshops @ Rs 1.5 lakh/ day	30	0	30
		IT Infrastructure updation for video conferencing and imparting training in far flung areas (Video Conferencing equipment & Smart Classes)	50	0	50
		Resources for MSME Facilitation Desk	150	0	150
		Purchase of new machineries for training centre converting them to Common Facility Centre	100	0	100

	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
		Engagement of consultant/agencies for technological upgradation for monitoring of Industrial Estates at Dollygunj, Bhatubasti & Mithakhari.	25	0	25
Sub Total (ANI 3)			355	0	355
ANI 4	Developing BRANDAMAN: Make in Andaman	Publicity / advertising for ANE-Sagarika at mainland Airport & on e-commerce websites	150	0	150
		Engagement of Consultant/Expert/Agencies for Creation of Brand name & Logos, packaging , marketing, USPS, online interventions etc	75	0	75
		International sea food festival	600	0	600
		Game Fishing Tournament	150	0	150
		20 Branding events in cities in the Mainland	200	0	200
		Sub Total (ANI 4)			1175
ANI 5	Access to Market	5 Reverse Buyer Seller Meet @ 1 Cr	500	0	500
		Participation in events in Mainland cities (10 events for 5 people each)	50	0	50
		Development and onboarding of Seller apps (including Sagarika) on ONDC	10	0	10
		Top up of benefits under TEAM Scheme			
		(a) Additional support of Rs 2000 for catalogue creation for 3000 MSEs	60	0	60
		(b) Additional support of Rs 2500 for Account Management support to 3000 MSEs	75	0	75
		(c) Additional support for packaging material. For B2C: Rs 75 /order and B2B: Rs 350 / order for 1st 20 orders of 3000 MSEs	255	0	255

	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
		(d) Additional subsidy for transportation & Logistics: B2C: Rs. 100 per order for up to 20 orders for 2000 MSEs ; B2B: Rs. 400 per order for up to 20 orders for 2000 MSE	200	0	200
Sub total (ANI 5)			1150	0	1150
ANI 6	Entrepreneur Development	25 Entrepreneur Skill Development Programmes @ Rs 7 lakhs	175	0	175
		10 Mentorship Workshop for the Startups of ANI @ Rs 1 lakh	10	0	10
		Investor Meet	150	0	150
		Exposure visit to Incubators in Maharashtra / Andhra Pradesh / Telangana etc	50	0	50
Sub total (ANI 6)			385	0	385
ANI 7	Subsidy on transportation and Logistics	Providing subsidy @ 20% per kg of fish for the freight charge for air and 10% per kg for ship with max. ceiling of 01.00 lakh	100	0	100
		Subsidy of the freight charge @ 50% with max. ceiling of 0.50 lakh per beneficiary per year.	50	0	50
		Insurance premium	100	0	100
Sub total (ANI 7)			250	0	250
ANI 8	Surveys and Studies for Policy formulation	Export Policy	20	0	20
		Relocation Policy	20	0	20
		Sustainable Development Policy	20	0	20
		Potential of Bio fertilizer and Bio pesticides	20	0	20
		Entrepreneurship Policy	20	0	20
		10 Workshops (2 each) for Policy Intervention @ Rs 1 lakh	10	0	10
Sub Total (ANI 8)			110	0	110
ANI 9	Sectoral Interventions	Coconut: Upto 50% subsidy on machinery and equipment (capped at Rs 10 lakh) for setting up 10 Coconut water and Processing units	100	0	100

	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
		Spices: Testing lab (equipments); Specifications and training	100	0	100
		Handicraft In-house training	6	0	6
		Exposure visit	35	0	35
		Financial assistance: Provision of modernized tools and equipments	12	0	12
		Common Facilitation Center	30	0	30
		Development of e-commerce site for sale of finished products	20	0	20
	Sub total (ANI 9)		303	0	303
ANI 10	Development of Fisheries Value chain				
	Fish Feed mill	Machinery Cost (30% for ST & Women and 20% for general) @ Rs 18 lakhs for 5 units	90	65	25
		Cost for civil construction	60	60	0
	Development of Modern Fish Market Chain in A & N Islands	Six (06) modern fish markets to be developed having common facilities @ Rs 40 lakhs per facility (Cost of Machinery including Deep Freezer, chilled display tray, waste management, etc.)	240	0	240
	Upgradation & Modification of Fish Landing Centre Junglighat	Hiring of consultant for designing and drawing for modification of Fish Market.	40	0	40
		Expense towards procurement of machinery including conveyor belt for supply of crushed ice, Motors, Pipe, nozzle, ice crusher machines etc.	160	0	160
	Development of Incubation Facility for Fish Processing with focus on exports	Hiring of Consultant	50	0	50
		Expense towards procurement of machineries like grading machine, flake ice machine, chilled room, blast freezer, IQF Line, Cold Storage etc.	450	0	450

	Intervention	Cost components	Total Budget	Leveraging existing Schemes	Amount requested under RAMP
	Promotion of Sea weed culture for fabrication, training etc	Estimated Cost for fabrication of rafts @ Rs. 6.5 lakhs/ Ha. Total 30 Hac (50% subsidy)	97.5	0	97.5
		Estimated cost for Seed (Rs 1 lakh/ha) (50% subsidy)	15	0	15
		Estimated cost for manpower (50% subsidy)	30	0	30
		Training and capacity building	30	0	30
	Sub total (ANI 10)		1262.5	125	1137.5
ANI 11	Access to credit (with focus on tourism)	Interest subvention of 3% (capped at Rs 15 lakhs) for the loans upto Rs 2 crores (1) 50 Luxury Tents (cost Rs 2 Cr) (2) 200 House Boats (Cost Rs 2 Cr) (3) 100 Haats (cost Rs 30 lakhs)	3180	0	3180
ANI 12	Skill Development Programme (sector focussed)	6 Sectors identified for training. 10 batches (each having 25 participants) for each sector to be trained for 5 day training @ Rs 2500 per MSME per day. This includes Miscellaneous expenses of Rs 12 Lakhs, in view of its location.	200	0	200
	TOTAL (ALL INTERVENTIONS)		9080.5	125	8955.5

ANNEXURES

Annexure

1. Current Schemes / Programmes of UT (General)

Various schemes and programmes are being implemented in A&N Island some of which are as follows:

Prime Minister Scheme for Formalization of Micro food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)

A. About the Scheme:

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Govt. of India launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Prime Minister Scheme for formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises” as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan during 2020 with an aim to strengthen backward/ forward linkages, common infrastructure, packaging, branding & marketing of the products of micro enterprises. The scheme focuses on value addition of local perishable produce in identified agro-clusters, clusters of fisheries, dairy, poultry and other allied segments like minor forest produce. for a period of five year 2020-21 to 2024-25

Under the, micro food enterprises will be supported with a package of interventions for expansion, modernization and formalization of their units.

Initially, the Scheme was conceptualized on the theme of promoting One District - One products (ODOP) to give emphasis to product with ample resource potential and all States/UTs were asked to identify ODOP for all implementing Districts. Accordingly, two products were identified as ODOP for 03 districts as under-

1. South Andaman - Marine Fish products
2. N & M Andaman- Coconut based products
3. Nicobar Districts- Coconut based products

The Scheme was later opened up for all food processing activities based on the demands from all implementing States/UTs.

B. Scheme Components:

The Scheme envisages support under following component-

A. Support to Individual Micro Enterprises (Individual/Group) :

Credit-linked Capital subsidy @ 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of RS.10.00 Lakh per unit. Beneficiary contribution should be minimum 10% of the project cost.

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

- Seed Capital: Seed capital @ Rs.40, 000/- per member of SHG for working capital and purchase of tools
- Support to individual SHG member as a single unit of food processing industry with credit linked grant @ 35% with maximum limit of Rs.10.00 Lakh
- Support for Capital investment at Federation of SHG Level: Credit linked grant @35% and maximum grant would be as prescribed.
- Training & Handholding support to SHGs

B. Support for Common Infrastructure

Credit linked grant @ 35% of the project cost for creating the following common infrastructure

- (1) Premises for assaying of agriculture produce, sorting, grading, warehouse and cold storage at the farm-gate.
- (2) Common processing facility for processing of ODOP produce
- (3) Incubation centre.

C. Target & Achievements

Table: Projects Sanctioned under the Component “support to Individual Micro Enterprises”

Achievements			Details of Sanctioned cases
FY 2021-22	Target: 23	Recommended to Bank - 14 Sanctioned – 06 Rejected by bank- 8	Total No. of sanctioned cases: 06 Total Project Cost: 171.28 Lakh Total Subsidy amount: 36.16 lakh
FY 2022-23	Target: 33	Recommended to Bank -16 Sanctioned - 05 Rejected by bank- 11	Total No. of sanctioned cases: 05 Total Project Cost: 96.95 Lakh Total Subsidy amount: 24.56 Lakh

			[1 sanctioned project was recalled by the applicant]
FY 2023-24	Target-40	Recommended to Bank : 12 Sanctioned: 08	Total No. of sanctioned cases: 08 Total Project Cost: 220.60 Lakh Total Subsidy amount: 46.74 Lakh

Seed Capital Component (5 yr Target- 150 SHGs)

Year	Target	No. of SHG Member assisted	Amount disbursed
2021-22	30	34	Rs. 11.96 Lakh
2022-23	30	22	Rs. 8.22 Lakh
2023-24	30	53	Rs. 21.12 Lakh
Total		109	Rs.43.10 Lakh

Capacity Building Training

- 32 trainees (incl. SHG members and Micro food entrepreneurs) received 24 hrs of category 2 beneficiary training on “Fish and Marine product processing” 19/04/2022 to 21/04/2022.
- 30 trainees (SHG members & micro food entrepreneurs) received 24 hrs of category 2 beneficiary training on “Value added coconut based products” from 25/05/2022 to 28/05/2022.
- 68 aspirants attended Virtual Training on “Quality Testing of Marine Fish Based Food Products” organized in collaboration with Fisheries Department and ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin on 24/06/2022.
- A demonstration was organized for 60 SGH members in Virgin Coconut Oil processing. The programme organized with the support of Agriculture Department.

Incubation Centre

- MoFPI approved setting up of Marine Fish based product Incubation centers at an estimated cost of Rs.159.20 Lakhs in South Andaman District to be implemented by Host Institute (Directorate of Fisheries).
- Fund of Rs. 1.41 crore received from Govt. Of India was transferred to Dept. Bank account with the approval of Secretary (Ind.)

- The 1st installment of Rs. 141.67 lakh transferred to Host Institute (Directorate of Fisheries) on 02/11/2022.

State Level Up-gradation Plan (SLUP)

- Adhering to the Guideline of PMFME scheme, the Department engaged a consultant M/s Transgraph Consultant for preparation State level Upgradation Plan (SLUP) to analyze the gap and preparation of roadmap in Food Processing Sector. The Consultant submitted a draft SLUP on 29/12/2022 .
- The draft SLUP is submitted for approval of the Competent Authority

Promotional Activities

- The Ministry of Food Processing through ICC, Kolkata and A & N Administration organized Food Conclave and Millet fair on 24/11/2023 at Sri Vijaya Puram to promote PMFME Scheme in the Islands. The programme was inaugurated by Secretary to Govt. of India, MOFPI in the presence of Secretary (Ind) and participated by Officials of Andaman Chamber of Commerce, Stakeholders including local Food Based Enterprises.
- 06 Seminar/ Workshop were organized in South Andaman & N & M Andaman Districts to propagate PMFME Scheme.
- Participated in Vikshit Bharat Sankalp yatra campaign at PBMC Hall, Nayashahar, Chouldari, Hopetown, Junglighat, Bidnabadad, Ogrbranch, Namunagarh, Wimberly Gunj, Anarkal, Haddo, Dignabad and sensitized the participants about the scheme. As a part of the Campaign under “Meri kahani, Meri jabani”, Success stories and experiences were shared by successful Unit who availed the Scheme.
- Awareness –cum – application processing Camp were organized in South Andaman & North & Middle Andaman District. About 358 people including PRIs attended the programme.
- 83 Awareness–cum–people Education programme including application processing camp was organized across all the three Districts of A & N Islands.

Challenges & Reason For Shortfall

- Existence of similar incentive Schemes with equal or more benefits and flexibility:- Entrepreneurs opt for similar scheme such as Matsya Sapada Yojana (40-60% grant without any limit), PMEGP (25% Subsidy without any limit) are more beneficial. The Subsidy under PMFME scheme is 10% subject to maximum 10 lakh.
- Limited availability of Industrial/Commercial land and issues relating to conversion of Title of land from House site/Agriculture land to Commercial/Industrial type.
- High Cost of machineries due to transportation and limited availability for after sales service.
- Lack of quality testing laboratories in the Islands resulting in higher costs of product for its testing and product development.
- Limited Local Market for food products.
- Existing entrepreneurs and farmers involved in trading of raw materials like fish and marine products and coconut copra products earns sufficient profits and finds no incentive for venturing into Food Processing Industries.

1660 Prime Minister's Employment Generation Scheme (PMEGP)

About the Scheme:

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP scheme) is most preferred and popular financial assistance scheme among the unemployed Youths of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for taking up self-employment as livelihood endeavour. The scheme is jointly implemented in A & N Islands by Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) and District Industries Centre through Banks. Since inception of the PMEGP scheme in the year 2008, 2729 units have been financed and set up in A & N Islands till 2023-24 as against the target of 2394 units fixed by the Central Office KVIC, Mumbai which results in an achievement of 113.99%.

Table: Performance under the PMEGP scheme in A&N Islands during last 5 years i.e. from 2019-20 to 2023-24

Sl. No.	Year	Achievement in A&N Islands			
		No. of units	Proj. Cost (Rs. In lakh)	MM Amt (Rs. In lakh)	Emp (in Nos.)
1.	2019-20	089	519.06	141.05	206
2.	2020-21	154	707.28	184.64	331
3.	2021-22	162	917.38	238.55	378
4.	2022-23	121	766.55	202.92	319
5.	2023-24	135	561.94	134.35	306
	Total	661	3472.21	901.51	1540

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is one of the preferred tourist destination due to its natural scenic beauty, varieties of water sports and historical places of tourist interest. To provide support to the tourism industry, number of units under tourism sector and its allied activities such as Tourist Fibre boat, Passenger Vehicle, Cargo Vehicle, Auto/Cargo auto, manufacturing of handicraft items out of Wood, Cane, Bamboo, Coconut shell, trading activities etc. have been financed under PMEGP scheme of KVIC.

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration is taking all out efforts in reaching the unemployed / under employed in all nook and corners of the islands by organizing Awareness campaigns –cum- People's Education Programmes under the captioned scheme. Such programmes are organised by A&NI KVIB and DIC in association with the support of line departments including Industries, Rural Development, Agriculture, Fisheries, NABARD, PRIs and Tribal Councils. Efforts are being taken by the Administration to motivate more and more women entrepreneurs to participate under the captioned scheme.

2. Current Schemes/programmes (Centre and UT) for Agriculture Development

- UT plan scheme under Sub-Sectors Crop Husbandry and Soil Conservation

Sl. No.	Name of Sub-Sector/ Schemes and programmes
I.	SUB-SECTOR: CROP HUSBANDRY
	Scheme No 1: Assistance to farmers under High Yielding Programme
1.	20% cost subsidy for all seeds & fertilizer and other inputs
2.	50% cost subsidy for organic manures/bio-fertilizer
3.	20% cost subsidy for plant protection equipments
4.	75% cost subsidy on Bio pesticides
5.	15% cost subsidy on plant protection chemicals
6.	100% transport subsidy on the purchase of all Agriculture inputs
7.	Distribution of power tiller (8 Bhp & above) to the farmers on loan-cum-subsidy/cash subsidy @ 40% of cost subsidy limited to Rs.45000/- whichever is less with 100% transport subsidy
8.	Distribution of Tractor (upto 40 PTO hp) with matching implements, extension wheel, cage wheel on loan-cum-subsidy i.e. 25% of the cost subsidy limited to Rs. 1.00 lakh whichever is less with 100% transport subsidy.
9.	Distribution of modern farm machineries/ equipments to the farmers on loan-cum-subsidy /cash subsidy i.e 40% of cost subsidy limited to Rs. 45000/- whichever is less with 100% transport subsidy
10.	100% subsidy on crop insurance premium (Paddy and Pulses)
11.	Risk Fund @ Rs. 2000/- per Ha for paddy, pulses and Rs. 3000/- per Ha for vegetables and spices.
12.	Financial support for procurement/ distribution of agriculture inputs by PACS or other agencies.
ii.	Assistance to farmers for promotion of Horticulture Crop and High Value Agriculture
1.	20% cost subsidy and 100% transport subsidy for planting materials and seeds imported from mainland including medicinal & Aromatic plants and other inputs like PHM equipment including planting materials of root crops.
2.	50% Cost subsidy subject to maximum of Rs. 1500/- per Bee colony with 100% transport subsidy for bee-hives boxes
3.	50% cost subsidy or maximum of Rs. 20,000/- for the production of ordinary/ vermicompost in cultivators fields

4.	50% cost subsidy or maximum of Rs. 10,000/- and 100% transport subsidy for improved Copra dryer.
5.	Assistance to be provided @ Rs. 30000/- per ha to each cluster 50 ha x 30000/-. Clusters organized by 10 to 15 farmers in the selected Gram Panchayat for commercial cultivation of vegetable.
6.	Cultivation of vegetable in homesteads/ Kitchen Garden, Cost of input kit @ Rs. 350/- per kits
7.	Assistance to be provided to each Educational Institution @ Rs. 10,000/- for 50 schools for cultivation of vegetable by teacher/students groups.
8.	Assistance @ Rs. 10,000/- to be provided to women group to organize local markets in particular areas and days for marketing vegetable produced in the Homestead/Kitchen Garden.
9.	Assistance @ Rs. 20,000/- to each decentralized nurseries for creating infrastructure facilities to produce quality planting material for production of spices.
10.	Assistance for planting of new pepper standards @ Rs. 25/- per pepper standards to promote pepper production throughout these Islands.
iii.	Training and Extension Programme (IT & Demonstration)
1.	Training incentive to trainee farmers @ Rs. 75/- per farmer per day
II.	SUB-SECTOR : SOIL CONSERVATION
i.	Soil Conservation works and strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratory
1.	Conservation of soil in individual holdings/ Development of hilly land, Promotion of BBF on 50% loan-cum-subsidy/ shramdhan-cum-subsidy to individual and for co-operative.
III.	SUB-SECTOR : MINOR IRRIGATION
i.	Development of Minor Irrigation
1	50% of the cost as subsidy on construction of MI Ponds, Pump sets, Wells etc. on loan-cum-subsidy/shramdhan-cum-subsidy or cash-cum-subsidy to individual beneficiary and cooperative societies.
2	Installation of Micro irrigation system with assistance @ 75% of the system cost including pumpset or Rs. 93,750/- whichever is less and 100% transport subsidy (maximum 2 ha/beneficiary/coconut farming cooperative society).

- **Brief Summary Of Schemes Under Minor Irrigation:**

Sl. No.	Name of component	Procedure to apply & Subsidy sanction	Eligibility Criteria	Pattern of Subsidy
1.	Excavation of MI Pond – size of 30x22x3 mt.	Through online applications mode forwarded from respective Zones on Service Plus Platform. <u>Documents required :</u> Copy of latest Land records, Aadhar Card, Bank account details with IFSC Code, undertaking & NOC from other Co-tenant.	Bonafide individual farmer with minimum 0.5 ha of cultivable land.	50% of estimated cost or Rs.1,50,000/- per pond whichever is less. Subsidy will be provided for a maximum size of 30x22x03 meters with side slope 1:1.5 but depending on the site condition the dimension of the pond can be changed, but the surface area of the pond should not be less than 468 sq. mts with minimum width 15 m and depth 3 m.
2.	Construction of Dug well (RCC Ring well)	The admissible Subsidy amount will be created into Beneficiary's Bank Account directly through DBT Mode.	Bonafide individual farmer irrespective of any land holding size.	50% of estimated cost or Rs. 1,00,000/- per well whichever is less. Subsidy will be provided for a maximum size of 2.5 m internal dia and 06m depth or 2 m internal dia and 06m depth.
3.	Purchase of Electric/Diesel Pump set (0.5 to 5.0 Hp)		Bonafide individual farmer irrespective of any land holding size for	50 % of purchased cost or Rs. 10,000/- per pump whichever is less. Subsidy will be provided for a minimum of 0.5 hp or maximum of 5 hp pumpset.
4.	Installation of Micro Irrigation System (Drip/Sprinkler)			75% of system cost including pumpset or Rs. 93,750/- per ha. whichever is less with 100% transport subsidy. Subsidy will be

		maximum 02 ha per beneficiary	provided for minimum 0.05 ha to maximum of 2 ha.
5.	Renovation of Existing Pond	Bonafide individual farmer. The existing pond should be 07 years old.	50% of estimated cost or ₹ 75,000/- per pond whichever is less.
6.	Renovation of Existing Ring Well		50% of estimated cost or Rs. 50,000/- per well whichever is less.

- **PM – KISAN SCHEME**

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a central sector scheme 100% funded by Govt. of India which was implemented in the year 2018-19 and came into effect from 01.12.2018 for transfer of benefit to eligible farmers.

Objective and Benefits of the Scheme:

The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs, to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields to commensurate with the anticipated farm income.

Under the Scheme, eligible farmer families receive financial benefits of Rs 6000/- per year payable in 3 equal installments of Rs 2000/- each in every four months and the amount is directly transferred to the bank account of the farmers.

Who can avail the Benefit?

The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme provides financial assistance to farmers, irrespective of the size of their landholding. The benefits shall be paid only to those farmers whose names are entered in the land records

Definition of farmer's family: A landholder farmer's family is defined as "a family comprising of husband, wife and minor children who owns cultivable land as per land records of the concerned State/UT. The existing land-ownership system is used for identification of beneficiaries for calculation of benefit.

Exclusions/Criteria:

The following categories of beneficiaries of higher economic status shall not be eligible for benefit under the scheme:

- All institutional Land holders ; and
- Farmer families in which one or more of its members belong to following categories:
 1. Former and present holders of constitutional posts
 2. Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and former/former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.
 3. All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/State Govt. Offices/ Departments/ Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies (Excluding Multi Tasking Staff/Class IV/ Group D Employees).
 4. All superannuated / retired pensioners whose monthly pension is Rs 10,000/- or more.
 5. All Persons who paid Income Tax in last assessment year.
 6. Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountant, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.
 7. In case of new beneficiaries being uploaded on the PM- KISAN portal, all land holding farmers' families who are Non- resident Indians (NRIs) in terms of the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 shall be excluded from any benefit under the scheme.
- **High Value Agriculture & Development Agency**

Cost Norms & Pattern of Assistance under HVADA

S. No	Name of the Scheme	Cost Norms	Pattern of Assistance	Subsidy Admissible
I.	National Horticulture Mission			
A.	PLANTATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT			
A1.	Production of Planting Materials			
1.	Small Nursery(1 ha)			
i)	Private sector	Rs.15 Lakh/ha	Credit linked back ended subsidy of 50% cost, subject to a maximum of Rs.7.50 Lakh for 01 ha unit as project based activity. The nursery would produce a minimum of 25,000 nos of perennial vegetatively propagated fruit plants/tree spices/aromatic /plantation crops every year.	Rs 7.50 Lakh/ha

A2	Establishment of New Garden- Fruits (Area Expansion for a maximum area of 4 ha per beneficiary)			
1.	Establishment of New Garden (Perennial Fruits)			
i)	Perennial fruits – other cost intensive	Rs.60,000 per ha	Fruit plants like Mango, Sapota Guava, Lime, Musambi, Orange etc. The assistance to bring new areas under Perennial fruits other than cost intensive crops @ 50% of the cost 30,000/ha in 3 instalment will be given for three years subject to survival rate of 75% in 2 nd Year and 90% in 3 rd year.	Rs 30,000/ha (60:20:20)
A3.	Establishment of New Garden (Non- Perennial Fruits)			
i)	Non- Perennial Fruits Banana sucker & pineapple sucker	87500 per ha	To bring new areas under the Non-perennial fruits, the assistance @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs 43,750/ha in 2 instalments @ 75% in first Year and 25% in second year.	Rs 43,750/ha (75:25)
ii)	Non- Perennial Fruits T.C.Banana	Rs.1.25 Lakh per ha	To bring new areas under Non Perennial fruits the assistance @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs 62,500/ha in 2 instalments will be given for two years @ 75% in first Year and 25% in second year.	Rs 62,500/ha (75:25)
iii)	Non- Perennial Fruits Papaya	Rs.60000 per ha	To bring new areas under Non Perennial fruits, the assistance @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs 30000/ha in 2 instalments will be given for two years @ 75% in first Year and 25% in second year.	Rs 30000/ha (75:25)
A4.	Establishment of New Garden (Flowers) for maximum of 2 Ha per beneficiary			
i)	Bulbulous Flowers	Rs.1.50 Lakh per ha	Assistance @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 75,000/- per ha	Rs 75,000/ha
ii)	Loose Flowers	Rs.40000 per ha	Assistance @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs.20000/- per ha.	Rs 20,000/ha
A5.	Establishment of New Garden (Spices) for a maximum of 4 Ha per beneficiary			

i)	Perennial Spices (Black Pepper, Clove, Cinnamon, Nutmeg)	Rs.50000 per ha	Assistance @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs 25,000/ha	Rs 25,000/ha
ii)	Rhizomatic Spices Ginger & Turmeric	Rs.30000 per ha	Assistance @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs 15,000/ha	Rs 15,000/ha
A6.	Mushrooms			
1.	Mushroom Production unit	Rs.20.00 Lakh per unit	100% of the cost to public sector & 40% of the cost for private sector of the total cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 800000/-.	Rs. 8.0 lakh /unit
A7.	Rejuvenation/ Replacement of senile plantation of fruits/spices (including canopy management)	Rs.40000 per ha	Assistance @ 50% for rejuvenating and replacement with fresh stock supported with integrated combination of input senile plantations/orchards will be provided in the form of cheque/kind.	Rs 20,000/ha
A8.	Protected Cultivation			
1.	Green House Structure			
a.	Naturally Ventilated			
	i) Tubular Structure	Rs.1060 per sqm.	50% of the cost limited to Rs 530/ Sq.mt for a maximum of 4000 Sq.mt per beneficiary.	Rs 530/ Sq.mt
	ii) Wooden Structure	Rs.540 per sqm.	50% of the cost limited to Rs 270/ Sq.mt for a maximum of 4000 Sq.mt per beneficiary	Rs.270/sqm
2.	Shade Net House			
i)	Wooden Structure	Rs.492 per sqm	50% of the cost limited to Rs 246/ Sq.mt for maximum 20 units (each unit not to exceed 200 Sq.mt) per beneficiary.	Rs 246/Sq.mt
A9.	Pollination Support through Bee Keeping			
i)	Honey Bee Colony	Rs.2000 per colony of 8 frames	40% of the cost limited to Rs .800 per colony of 8 frames limited to 50 colonies per beneficiary.	Rs 800 per colony
ii)	Hives	Rs.2000 per hive	40% of the cost limited to Rs 800 per hive limited to 50 hives per beneficiary.	Rs 800 per hives
A10	Horticulture Mechanization			

1.	Power Tiller (above 8HP)	Rs.1.50 Lakh per unit	40% of the cost limited to Rs 60,000/ set, limited to 1 set per beneficiary.	Rs 60,000/ set
2.	Land Development, Seed bed Preparation, Equipments, Sowing & Digging equipments etc.	Rs.30000 per unit	40% of the cost limited to Rs.12,000/set, limited to 1 set per beneficiary.	Rs12,000/ set
A11	Hybrid Vegetable	Rs. 50000 Per ha	50% of total cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 25000/- ha. Limited to 2 ha. Per beneficiary.	Rs. 25000/ha.
A12	Post Harvest Management			
i.	Refrigerated Transport Vehicles	Rs, 9.10 Lakhs for 9 MT	@ 35 % of the cost per beneficiary Rs 9.10 Lakh for 9MT	Credit linked back- ended subsidy
ii.	Cold Storage Units(Construction/Expansion/Modernization)	Rs. 4000 Per MT	50% of Total cost maximum upto a limit of Rs. 4000/- per MT for Maximum of 5000 MT capacity cold storage unit. Per beneficiary	Credit linked back- ended subsidy
iii.	Pack House	4.0 Lakh	@ 50% of the capital cost maximum of Rs. 4.0 Lakh per unit	Credit linked back- ended subsidy
II.	National Horticulture Board Projects			
1.	Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture.	-	Technology Awareness programme by organizing field demonstration on participating farmers fields and carrying out programme evaluation, preparation of programme evaluation report.	Project based
2.	Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management of Horticulture Crops	Rs.145 Lakh per unit	35% Subsidy in General Area (Max. Rs. 50.75 lakhs) per project in General area and @ 50% of project limited Rs, 72.50 Lakh per project in NE,Hilly and Scheduled areas.	Project based
3.	Capital Investment subsidy scheme for Construction/Expansion	-	a) 35% Subsidy in General Area.	Project based

	on/ Modernization of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticulture Produce.		b) 50% Subsidy in Hilly States, NE Region and Scheduled Areas. c) Eligible capacity: Above 5000 MT up to 10000 MT.	
III.	Coconut Development Board Projects			
1.	Integrated Farming for Productivity Improvement			
a.	Laying out Demonstration Plots by adopting full package of Technologies (Public sector) departmental farm.	Rs.35000 per ha	100 % cost in public sector on cluster basis	Rs 35,000/ha in two annual installments
2.	Replanting & Rejuvenation of old coconut garden			
i)	Cutting & removal of all old, senile, unproductive and disease advanced palms	Rs 1000/- per palm	Subsidy Rs. 1000/- per palm subject to a maximum of Rs. 32000/ha.	Rs 1000/- per palm
ii)	Replanting	Rs 40/- per palm	Subsidy Rs. 40/- per palm subject to a maximum of Rs. 4000/ha	Rs 40/- per palm
iii)	Rejuvenation of the existing coconut palms by Integrated Management	Rs 17,500/ha (i.e Rs 8,750/ha for two years)	Subsidy Rs. 17,500/ha, provided in two annual installments	Rs 17,500/ha (i.e Rs 8,750/ha for two years)
3.	Supply of Copra dryer – CDB model or any improved copra dryer.	Rs. 25 Lakh for Government agencies & Rs. 6 Lakh to federation of CPS(FPOs)	100% of the cost limited to Rs. 25 lakh is provide for Government agencies and cooperative societies & 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 6.0 lakh to federation of CPS(FPOs) & Rs 15 lakh for NGOs & private institute.	Project based
4.	Setting up of Integrated Coconut Processing unit.	Rs. 100 Lakh	subsidy at 50% of the cost limited to Rs 50 lakh for individual/group of farmers/NGO's, private companies	Project based

4. PRADHAN MANTRA FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)

Govt. of India has launched a new Crop Insurance Scheme namely 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)' which is being implemented in this UT from Kharif, 2016. The scheme "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana" (PMFBY) envisages providing insurance coverage to the farmers for crop loss arising out of calamities. The PMFBY aims at supporting sustainable production in Agriculture sector by providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss arising out of unforeseen events, stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming, encouraging farmers to adopt innovative agriculture practices and ensuring flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

Implementing agencies

- i) Nodal Banks i.e. Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank, Sri Vijaya Puram and Lead Bank (SBI Main Branch), Mohanpura, Sri Vijaya Puram.
- ii) Kshema General Insurance Company Ltd. has been appointed implementing agency

Crops Notified for Kharif & Rabi Season

- Kharif Crops - Paddy crop
- Rabi Crops – Pulses: Green & Black Gram
 - Vegetables: Lobia, Bhindi, Brinjal, Tomato, watermelon & Cauliflower.
- **PM- ANNADATA AAY SANRAKSHAN ABHIYAN (PM-AASHA) – PRICE SUPPORT SCHEME ON COPRA**

It is an umbrella scheme of Govt. of India under which procurement of pulses and copra is done under Price Support Scheme. Price Support Scheme for Copra only is implemented in A&N Islands. The overall quantity of procurement by the Central Govt. is restricted to 25% of the actual production of the commodity for the particular season.

- **Department of RCS** is the Nodal department for implementation of Price Support Scheme of copra.
- The three Cooperative societies namely A&N Co-operatives Supply and Marketing Federation Limited (ANCOFED), Tribal Development Cooperative Society Limited (TDCS Ltd.) and Ellon Hinengo Ltd. (EHL) are the three State Level Supporters (SLs/procuring agency and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited (NAFED) is the Central Nodal Agency.
- During the current marketing season 2024, Govt. of India has approved 2250MT procurement of Fair Average Quality of milling copra at the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 11160/per quintal.

- **RKVY-RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA**

RKVY in this UT was launched during the year 2008-09 as an umbrella scheme for ensuring holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors by allowing states to choose their own agriculture and allied development activities as per the district/state agriculture plan. During 2017-18, RKVY revamped to RKVY – RAFTAAR (Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation) to enhance efficiency and efficacy.

OBJECTIVES OF RKVY

RKVY aims at making farming a remunerative economic activity through strengthening the farmer's effort, risk mitigation and promoting agri-business entrepreneurship.

The main objectives of the scheme are-

- To strengthen the farmers' efforts through creation of required pre and post-harvest agri-infrastructure that increases access to quality inputs, storage, market facilities etc. and enable farmers to make informed choices.
- To provide autonomy, flexibility to States to plan and execute schemes as per local/farmers' needs.
- To promote value chain addition linked production models that will help farmers increase their income as well as encourage production/productivity.
- To mitigate risk of farmers with focus on additional income generation activities - like integrated farming, mushroom cultivation, bee keeping, aromatic plant cultivation, floriculture etc.
- To attend national priorities through several sub-schemes.
- To empower youth through skill development, innovation and agri-entrepreneurship based agribusiness models that attract them to agriculture.

- **SOIL HEALTH AND FERTILITY – SOIL HEALTH CARD (SHC)**

In the absence of scientific analysis of soil, blindfolded applications of fertilizer and growth supporters have been used on the farm lands. This not only results in unwanted expenditure for the farmers but also affects the soil health negatively. To address this problem, the Soil Health Card Scheme as sub-schemes of 'National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture' (NMSA) was launched by the Prime Minister on 19th of Feb, 2015 and presently, is being implemented as a component 'Soil Health & Fertility' of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2022-23.

The main objective of this programme is to issue Soil Health Cards in every two years to all farmers, so as to provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied with all essential plant nutrients in readily available form, in optimum quantities and in right proportion suitable for specific soil /crop condition.

It also aims to promote Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers as well as efficient use of locally available nutrient sources from both Organic and in-organic forms at Farm /Community levels to improve soil health and its fertility thereby ensuring adequate availability of nutrients in soils to meet the requirement of plants at critical stages of growth and to enhance soil microbial activity in abundance for improving soil health and its productivity.

- **PARAMPARAGHAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (PKVY)**

The Govt. of India is promoting Organic Farming through Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY), a centrally sponsored scheme which envisages promotion of commercial organic production through certified organic farming. It is promoted through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and PGS certification. The objective of development of organic village by cluster approach is to aggregate small and marginal farmers and provide them financial assistance under PKVY scheme for organic production, PGS certification, Packaging and branding, labeling and transportation and also to provide market linkage to raise their income by creating livelihood in the area of organic production, processing and marketing. The Govt. of India's vision to convert organic farming in all the UT's of the country. Accordingly, it is focused to bring entire cultivated area of the island under organic farming.

- **PER DROP MORE CROP (PDMC)**

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation to all agricultural farms in the country, to produce 'Per Drop More Crop', thus bringing much desired rural prosperity. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme had been launched during 2015-16 with the vision to enhance water use efficiency and management.

Objective

- PDMC to focus on creation of Irrigation potential and utility with efficient water management by creating water harvesting structure with micro irrigation.
- In the case of water management, Micro Irrigation like Drip and Sprinkler are most effective method of irrigation to manage water with Per Drop More Crop.

Strategy

- Increase gross Irrigated Area.
- Bridging the gap between Irrigation Potential and Utilization.
- Enhance water use efficiency & management.
- Creating/Strengthening water distribution network.

*Amount of Assistance @ 75% of the system cost or Rs. 93,750/- per Ha for micro irrigation whichever is less, for Ring Well @ 50% of estimated cost or Rs. 1,00,000/- whichever is less., for MI pond @ 50% of estimated cost or Rs 1,50,000/- whichever is less.

- **Agriculture Market Reform**

Objectives:

The Scheme will integrate markets first at the State level and eventually across the country through a common online market platform to facilitate pan – India trade. It will facilitate better marketing opportunities for farmers through online access

Digital Payment for Purchase of Fertilizer

Objective:

- To provide 100% subsidy on various fertilizer is released directly to the fertilizer manufacturer/companies on the basis of actual sales made by the retailers to the farmers.

Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA)

- To make the extension system demand driven and decentralized an autonomous body called Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) was established during 2005 for the entire UT.
- From Dec 2013 district wise institution as UTATMA was established.
- Department of Agriculture is the ‘State Nodal Office’ and Director of Agriculture being the State Nodal Officer (Extension Reforms) acts as a link between the Ministry and UTATMA.

Activities like Training Programmes, Demonstrations, Farm Schools, Kisan Ghostis/ Campaign, Farmers Scientist Interaction, Exhibitions / Mela, and farmers Award are implemented.

Current schemes & Programmes for Fisheries

The Department of Fisheries is implementing the flagship scheme of (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) & UT Plan Scheme in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Department of Fisheries animal husbandry & Dairying, GoI had allocated a total budget of 218 Cr for Implementation of PMMSY in A & N Islands from 2020-2025. So far the ministry had released Rs. 7.57 Cr for development of Fisheries sector in the Islands under Central sector & Centrally Sponsored components.

Under Central sector schemes the department have conducted an Feasibility study on Pilot Scale Seaweed cultivation in A & N Islands in association with CSIR-CSMCRI under PMMSY. Under centrally sponsored component more than 124 beneficiaries have availed subsidy assistance under PMMSY for activities such as : Construction of Ice plant / Cold storage, Fish Value added unit, Fish Kiosk, Three wheeler with Ice Box, Insulated vehicle, fresh water & brackish water ponds etc.

Under UT plan scheme subsidies are being extended for construction of Fishing boats, supply of fishing inputs, life saving appliances etc to promote capture fisheries and generate livelihood opportunities.

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