## **ANDAMAN SHEEKHA**

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## ICAR- Sri Vijaya Puram conducted "Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada", to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

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Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov 16: As per the correspondence received from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and ICAR, New Delhi, the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2025 was organized during 1st November 2025 to 15th November 2025, with the theme "Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada", to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda at ICAR- Central Research Institute, Sri Vijaya Puram along with its KVKs at Sippighat, Car Nicobar; and Regional Station at Minicoy, Lakshadweep. Various activities were conducted by involving the tribal council chairman, captains, tribal youth, farmers and school children such as Socio Economic Development and Awareness through street play and group discussions, Education and Skill Development training to the tribal youths and children's, Livelihood and Entrepreneurship promotion awareness cum hands on experience to the tribal farmers and girls, Health and Wellness by adopting nutritional kitchen gardening, Infrastructure Development in the farming land by adopting the low cost poly houses for year round vegetable production, Governance and Institutional Strengthening through set up the self-help groups and farmers producer companies, by involving the line departments viz., agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries the awareness of on-going schemes were discussed among the tribal farmers, the Educational initiatives that highlight the legacy of tribal freedom fighters role and contribution was discussed among the school children's, established Tribal farmers 'Markets for direct sale of produce at KVK, Car Nicobar by involving the local tribal farmers, discussed the setup of Seed Banks to preserve indigenous crop varieties with the tribal council chairman and farmers. Besides we have conducted field visit cum hands on experience on recent advance in the agriculture and allied activities to the farmers from Kamorta Islands and small agricultural implements were distributed. The field days on tuber crops and integrated farming system, scientific goat farming, scientific, pig farming and scientific poultry farming were also conducted under the All India Coordinated Research Projects of ICAR. The programme witnessed active participation from scientists, tribal farmers, NGO's, officers from Department of Animal Husbandry and officers from KVK, South Andaman, Reginal Station of ICAR-CIARI, Minicoy (Lakshadweep) and KVK Car Nicobar. The programme was coordinated by Dr. I. Jaisankar, Principal Scientist – Nodal Officer, Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head, KVK South Andaman, Dr. Santosh Kumar, Head, KVK Car Nicobar, Dr. J. Praveenraj, Senior Scientist and Dr. E. Saneera, Scientist/RS Minicoy (i/c) under the guidance of Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram.