



Sri Vijaya Puram

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India recently renamed **Port Blair**, the capital of the [Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar\(A&N Islands\)](#), as **Sri Vijaya Puram**.

- The new name, Sri Vijaya Puram, reflects a break from **colonial legacy** and It symbolises the victory in India's freedom struggle and the islands' unique historical role.
- **History of Port Blair:** The Andaman Islands served as a strategic naval base for the [Chola Empire under Rajendra Chola I](#) in the 11th century, who attacked the **Srivijaya Empire (present-day Indonesia)**, marking a unique military event in India's history.
 - The Chola invasion of Srivijaya was seen as an attempt to **expand Chola dominance and safeguard trade routes**.
 - Port Blair, named after **Archibald Blair, a British naval officer**, became significant during British rule as a **penal colony** and a symbol of oppression, especially after the [Revolt of 1857](#).
 - With the strengthening of the **Indian Independence Movement**, a huge **cellular jail known as Kaala Paani** was established in 1906, housing several freedom fighters, including [Veer Damodar Savarkar](#).
 - On 30th December 1943, [Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose](#) hoisted the national flag for the first time on Indian soil, at Port Blair.
- The A&N Islands are strategically located in the **Bay of Bengal**, providing India with substantial ocean space under [UNCLOS](#) and are the first line of defence against any **maritime threats** from the east.

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