

NICOBAR TIMES

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Merchant Navy Officers Manning Foreshore Sector Vessels Suffers Due to Non-Payment of Salaries



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[Tarun Karthick](#)

Port Blair, 28 September 2021

Merchant Navy Officers working on Foreshore Sector vessels owned by the Directorate of Shipping Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration and manned by the Shipping Corporation of India have not received their salaries since July 2021.

Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. is a Govt. of India Enterprise which took up the manning of Fore Shore Sector Vessels on 1st of July 2021. Earlier the vessels were manned by ABS Marine Services Pvt. Ltd. a private enterprise until the 30th of June 2021.

The officers working onboard the Fore Shore Sector vessels manned by the SCI alleged that they approached the Shipping Corporation of India and asked them to pay their salary for July 2021. The officers informed that they were told that their salary for July 2021 will be paid along with the salary for August 2021.

When they approached the Shipping Corporation of India again for their salaries for the months of July and August 2021, they did not get a response.

The officers further complained that the Shipping Corporation of India has also not paid the food money to the officers since the 1st of July 2021.

It is also being reported that all officers onboard Foreshore Sector vessels of DSS have completed their contract period and have further served a period for which their contract was extended. Their period of the contract extension has also lapsed but they are not being allowed to sign-off and the officers waiting to sign-on are also suffering as they are jobless.

The services provided by these Fore Shore Sector vessels have not been affected by the issues regarding payment of salaries to the officers who man them. The officers are reportedly performing their duties with utmost dedication and the sailing vessels are sailing as per the schedule and the vessels on maintenance are carrying out the required repair works.

The officers allege that the Shipping Corporation of India is only bothered about sailing, maintenance and survey job of the vessels and they are least

bothered about the due salaries and food money of the officers.

The officers informed Nicobar Times that several communications regarding the issue have been sent from the Masters of all vessels to DSS and SCI, but they haven't received a response from them.

Nicobar Times has sent Emails to DSS & SCI for their comment on the story and their response as received will be updated in the story.

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Dr. Devdas Joins Bharatiya Janata Party, A & N Islands



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[Rohit Kumar](#)

Port Blair, 28 September 2021

Dr. Devdas who has served Andaman and Nicobar Administration in several capacities such as Director of Education, Director of Social Welfare, Principal - ANCOL etc. joined Bharatiya Janata Party on 27th September under the leadership of Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State President, Bharatiya Janata Party and under the overall guidance of Mr. Y Satya Kumar, National Secretary, BJP and Incharge, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

During the joining ceremony Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, State Vice President, Bharatiya Janata

Party, Mr. Jyotirmay Bawali, State General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr. Uday Shankar Singh, State Media Convener, Bharatiya Janata Party, Mrs. Saraswati Narayan, District President, South Andaman, BJP were present among other leaders and karyakartas.

Mr. Y Satya Kumar and Mr. Ajoy Bairagi welcomed Dr. Devdas to the Bharatiya Janata Party and assured him that he would be given important responsibilities in the near future and requested him to work for the upliftment of the marginalised and poor sections of the society.

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NSUI Delegation Inspects JNRM Boys Hostel



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Port Blair, 28 September 2021

A delegation of the National Students Union of India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands led by its State President, Mr. M A Sajid inspected the premises of JNRM Boys Hostel and interacted with the hostellers to know their problems and issues.

During the visit, Mr. M.A Sajid reviewed the status of the facilities being extended to the hostellers. The hostellers apprised Mr. M A Sajid of various general and hostel related issues. The leaders of NSUI inspected hostel rooms, kitchen, storeroom, toilet and other facilities.

The hostellers complained of ill-maintained buildings and lack of basic amenities to the NSUI leaders. They also informed that the electrical equipment and devices in the hotel premises are in a bad condition. They also requested the provision of a geyser in the bathrooms.

Mr. M A Sajid informed the students that their grievances will be taken up at the appropriate level.

Mr. M A Sajid requested the senior hostellers not to indulge in ragging of the junior students and to create a cordial environment in the hostel.

He further asked the students to refrain from using any drugs and gave his contact number to all hostellers and asked them to contact him in case they face any problems and issues.

NSUI delegation inspected the JNRM Boys hostel under instruction from Mr. Rangalal Haldar, President, ANTCC and Mr. G Bhasker, Chairman, Campaign Committee, ANTCC.

Mr. Vishal Din, NSUI General Secretary, A & N Islands, Mr. Arbindo Mirdha, Active Member, NSUI among other leaders were present during the inspection of JNRM Boys Hostel.

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Akash Minj a Creator from Great Nicobar Releases his Second Rap Song



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[Tarun Karthick](#)

Campbell Bay, 28 September 2021

Akash Minj a creator from Great Nicobar Island is the man behind AKC Films a YouTube channel featuring many entertaining videos. Akash comes from a very humble background and has very meagre resources. Earlier Akash had sung and produced the Rap Song 'COVID-19 Hain Bro' which did exceedingly well.

Akash Minj has now released a new Rap Song titled 'School Memories'. School Memories is getting good traction and is being liked by many.

Easy availability of internet is bringing new talents out in the public. Creators from our Islands are extremely talented and needs to be supported by the community.

Akash wishes to monetise his YouTube Channel and become a full-time creator one day. He dreams big and works hard to produce his content. With just a mobile phone and a microphone, he creates magic.

Akash has no formal training and learns to edit and shoot videos by watching tutorials on YouTube.

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Katchal Residents Decry Poor Mobile Network



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Campbell Bay, 28 September 2021

Katchal is one of the few populated Islands of A & N Islands which has not been connected with CANI Submarine OFC. The Island had a population of 2685 when the last census was conducted in the year 2011. Katchal has faced several communication blackouts in the past two years. The last communication blackout occurred at Katchal Island last week.

The Island currently has 01 BTS of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and all the residents of Katchal Island are completely dependent on the mobile services provided by BSNL.

Due to the non-availability of an alternate mobile network, when the sole mobile BTS goes down the Island gets totally disconnected from the rest of the world. These frequent communication blackouts at Katchal Island seems preventable but the residents allege that BSNL is not making any efforts to solve this recurring problem.

According to the residents, BSNL does not have a technical staff at Katchal Island and the services of the lone BTS is being maintained by an unqualified staff who has been recruited to keep a watch on the assets of BSNL on the Island.

The residents of the Island also informed Nicobar Times that equipment worth lakhs of Rupees is lying at Katchal without any maintenance and henceforth the residents of Katchal Island are not able to get proper mobile connectivity.

The residents also informed that the condition of the building of BSNL at Katchal Island is very bad and there has been no effort by the company to keep its assets in order.

The non-Availability of internet connectivity on the Island is yet another problem which the general public faces every day at Katchal.

Apart from 2G mobile services Katchal has no other mode of communication with the outside world. The lack of internet connectivity is causing many problems for the students and the general public.

The residents of Katchal further informed Nicobar Times that the sole mobile BTS of Katchal Island doesn't have backup power and because of which the equipment gets damaged again and again and the need arises for its replacement.

In this connected world, a person gets furious if the connectivity goes down even for a few seconds and the residents of Katchal Island are helplessly living for days without mobile network connectivity. The residents are hopefully looking towards BSNL to improve the connectivity at the Island.

The senior officers of BSNL should intervene and ensure that proper connectivity is available at all times at Katchal Island for the convenience of the general public, further FTTH broadband should be introduced at Katchal Island using satellite bandwidth.

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