NICOBAR TIMES

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A Compilation of News Stories Published on Nicobar Times











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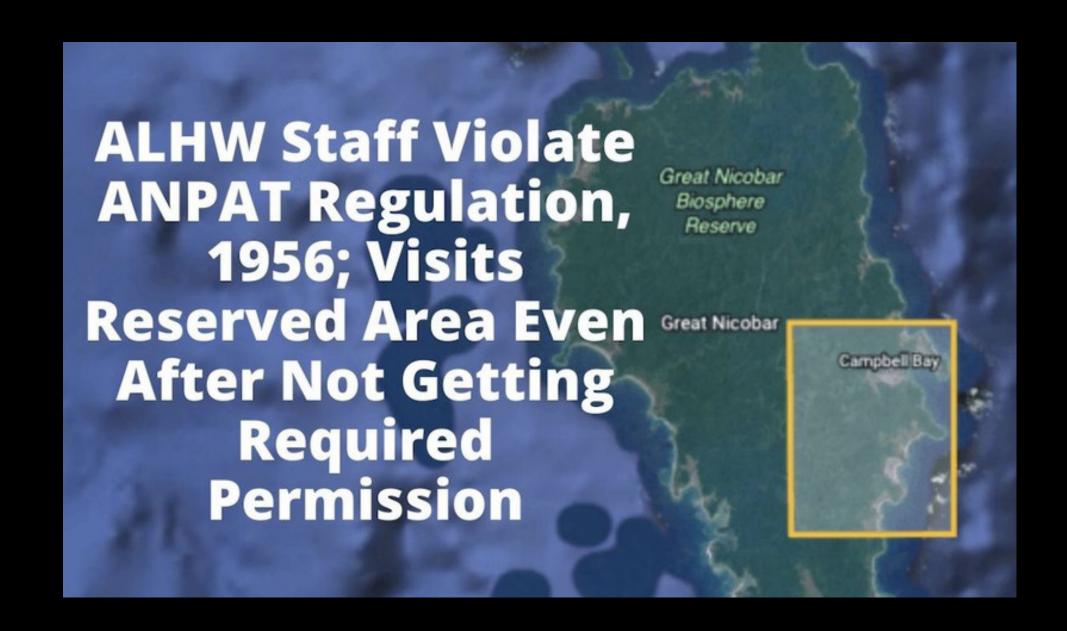
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ALHW Staff Violate ANPAT Regulation, 1956; Visits Reserved Area Even After Not Getting Required Permission



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Tarun Karthick

Campbell Bay, 23 Nov 2021

Sources have informed Nicobar Times that the Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works sought for permission from the Local Administration at Campbell Bay for landing & staying in tribal areas of Pilopanja, Makachua, Indira Point, Thilangchang & Pillolo for conducting Bathymetry Survey & Feasibility study for proposed floating jetty.

The Local Administration did not issue any permits to the staff of ALHW to land and stay in tribal

areas and even after not getting the required permission from the Local Administration, the team left for visiting the tribal areas this morning from Campbell Bay defying the provisions of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands(Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956.

According to sources the team which left for visiting the tribal areas comprised of a Marine Surveyor of ALHW; a Project Officer from IITM, Chennai and some support staff.

It is interesting that the general public visiting Great Nicobar has to get tested for COVID-19 at Port Blair before they can board a ship, but these officials with blatant disregard for the health of the tribal people left Campbell Bay for visiting the tribal areas even without a Rapid Antigen Test.

Nicobar Times confirmed with the Assistant Commissioner's Office, Campbell Bay and we were informed that no tribal pass or landing permit was issued to anyone from the office. When we asked about the ALHW Officials, we were informed that a

from them to issue permission to visit tribal areas, but no such permission was granted.

Several supporting staff are accompanying the officials of the ALHW who are not even public employees.

This act by the officials of the ALHW is a blatant disregard of the law of the land and serious action should be taken against them for violating the provisions of the ANPAT Regulation, 1956 and under the Disaster Management Act for endangering the lives of the tribal population.

Cases have been registered in the past against locals for violation of the ANPAT Regulation, 1956 and no excuses were heard and nothing was considered before the filing of cases against the residents of these Islands, who have lived in harmony with the tribal people all along for decades.

It would be interesting to see whether any action is taken against these officials of the Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works for violating the ANPAT Regulation, 1956.

There is a notification dated 21st April 1957 which has modified the ANPAT

Regulation, 1956 to exempt the Govt. Servants and their family members from taking a pass before entering a reserved area, while proceeding on duty. Nicobar Times is unsure whether the exemption will extend to the staff of ALHW.

Even if the exemption applies to them, these staff of ALHW have taken other people with them as support staff who are not Govt. Servants and in doing so they have helped in commissioning of a crime and this should attract relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

FIR should be registered immediately and the culprits should be booked for refusing to obey the law.

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Rangalal Halder Addresses Press Conference; Slams Central Govt., LG, CS, Secretaries and the Administration



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Rohit Kumar

Port Blair, 23 November 2021

Mr. Rangalal Halder, President, Andaman and Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee on 23 November 2021 addressed a Press Conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Port Blair. Mr. Halder slammed the Central Govt., Lt. Governor, Chief Secretary, Secretaries of various departments and the entire administration.

Mr. Halder raised several questions in his press conference and explained the problems of the residents of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the scribes in detail.

He raised issues related to farmers, unemployment, contractual employment, old age pension, honorarium of Anganwadi Workers, frequent power cuts etc.

He asked the Lt. Governor and Chief Secretary to visit the rural areas and experience the problems of the general public themselves.

He further slammed the secretaries of various departments for not visiting the rural areas.

It was also informed to the scribes that Congress will stage Chakka Jam in North

and Middle Andaman District on 29th of November 2021.

Mr. Halder further criticised the Lt. Governor for not giving him an appointment to meet, even after making two requests.

Several other issues were also raised by the ANTCC President during his press conference.

Listen to the full audio of the press conference by clicking the play button embedded in the story on Nicobar Times website.

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Farmers Continue Protest at Campbell Bay; Day Two Brings no Good News



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Tarun Karthick

The protest by farmers of Great Nicobar will enter the third day on 24th November 2021. On 23rd November the farmers continued their protest but their issue was not resolved.

Mr. Casper James, Tehsildar, Campbell Bay visited the site of the protest and spoke to the protesting farmers.

The farmers of Great Nicobar are protesting for their demand of procurement of copra on Minimum Support Price.

The farmers informed Nicobar Times that they will formulate a strategy on 24th November 2021, to increase the pressure on the Administration to start the procurement of Copra on MSP.

On 22nd November, the farmers of Great Nicobar under the banner of the Great Nicobar Farmers Association had started their protest with Chakka Jam. The Chakka Jam was called off at 5:00 Pm on the same day and then the farmers started an indefinite dharna.

The farmers time and again have made it clear that they will accept nothing short of starting the procurement of copra on MSP. The administration has still not conveyed anything to the protesting farmers except for assurances of solving their issue.

The protesting farmers were agitated with no positive response from the Administration. The farmers are also planning to pen down a letter explaining their plight to the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister.

Singh, General Mr. Rajan Secretary, Great Nicobar Farmers Association informed Nicobar Times that although the farmers are ready for a long protest, but a strategy will be formulated after consulting with everyone and a consensual decision will be taken on the way to go forward with the protest.

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