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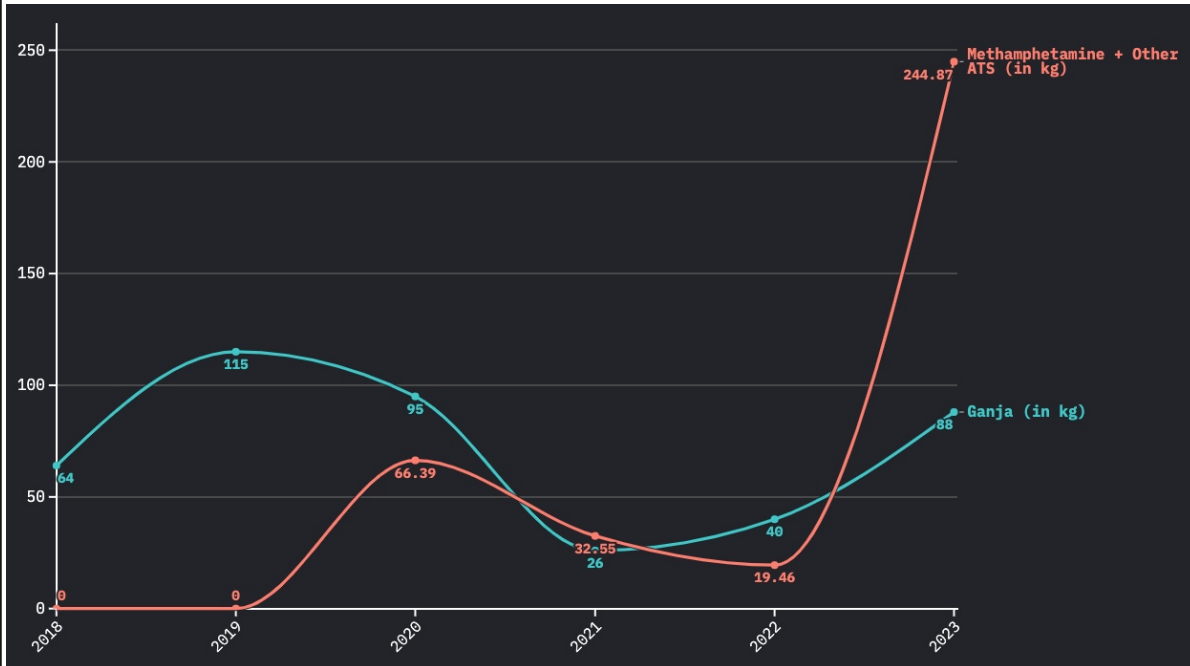
News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by **NICOBAR TIMES**

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244.87 kg ATS (Including Methamphetamine) and 88 kg Ganja Seized in A & N Islands in 2023: NCB Data



Sri Vijaya Puram, 13 October 2024

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), India's leading agency in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse, releases yearly data detailing drug seizures across the country, including the Union Territories. According to the latest data available in NCB's website, Andaman and Nicobar Islands witnessed

a sharp rise in the seizure of narcotics in 2023. The NCB report reveals that a total of 244.87 kg of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS), which includes methamphetamine, was seized from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2023. In addition, 88 kg of Ganja was confiscated from the islands during the year.

This marks a significant

increase from the previous year, with Ganja seizures in 2022 totalling 40 kg and ATS seizures standing at 19.46 kg. The rise in drug busts in 2023 suggests a growing challenge for law enforcement in curbing drug trafficking in the region.

Looking back, the data shows fluctuations in the amount of narcotics seized over the years. In 2021,

CONTD..Pg 2..

SC Ali Harman Arrested from Maharashtra for Alleged Matrimonial Fraud with Girl from Sri Vijaya Puram



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 13 October 2024

In a concerning case of matrimonial fraud, a man named SC Ali Harman has been arrested for allegedly deceiving a local woman out of 3 lakh. The incident was reported at Aberdeen Police Station after the victim lodged a formal complaint, detailing a series of manipulative interactions that began on Muzz, a popular matrimonial app for Muslim community.

According to the police, the accused befriended the victim on the app, promising marriage and gaining her trust. During his visit to Sri Vijaya Puram, Harman reportedly convinced the victim's family to give him money, citing vague reasons for the urgent need for funds. The complainant stated that Harman successfully swindled her and her family out of 3 lakh before leaving the Andaman Islands. After departing, Harman allegedly blocked all forms of communication with the victim and her family.

The investigation, led by Sub-Inspector Abhishek Haldar and Head Constable Shiv Nath of

Aberdeen Police Station, has uncovered significant evidence supporting the claims made by the victim. Bank records confirm the transfer of funds from the complainant to Harman. Additionally, police have gathered evidence that places Harman in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the time in question, further substantiating the allegations. Harman was tracked down and arrested in Maharashtra before being brought back to Sri Vijaya Puram. He has since been presented before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Court and is currently under judicial custody.

The investigation is being overseen by SDPO South Andaman, Ms. Anushtha Kalia, IPS, under the overall supervision of Superintendent of Police, South Andaman District, Ms. Niharika Bhatt, IPS.

In light of the incident, the South Andaman District Police have issued a public advisory, urging citizens to exercise caution when engaging in relationships through digital platforms. The police have also encouraged the public to report any suspicious activities or incidents by calling 112 or contacting local authorities.

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Eye Screening Camp Benefits Over 300 Students at Diglipur



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 13 October 2024

In observance of 'World Sight Day,' the Block Project Office under the Inclusive Education initiative of Samagra Shiksha organized an eye screening camp at Government Primary School (GPS) Subhashgram in Diglipur. The camp, held on October 8, aimed to promote eye health and raise awareness among young students about the importance of vision care.

Dr. Abdul Nasir, an

ophthalmologist from the Community Health Center (CHC) Diglipur, conducted the screening, examining a total of 304 students. The camp was led by S. Vijaya, Block Resource Person (BRP) for Children with Special Needs (CwSN), alongside N. Riya Nandan, Primary School Resource Teacher (PSRT).

In addition to the screenings, S. Vijaya conducted a brief but impactful awareness session for the students, highlighting the critical importance of regular eye check-ups. The session

focused on practical advice for maintaining good eye health, including preventive measures against vision-related issues and the benefits of early detection in preserving healthy eyesight.

Students were urged to adopt healthy eye-care habits in their daily routines and to share this knowledge with their families, further spreading awareness about the significance of protecting vision.

As part of the broader initiative, schools under the Diglipur Educational Zone also took a pledge to promote eye health. Drawing competitions were organized at GPS V.V. Pith and GPS R.K. Gram, where students creatively expressed their understanding of eye care.

This initiative marks a vital step in promoting vision care among young students, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge to protect their eyesight for a brighter future.

244.87 kg ATS...Contd..from Pg 1

authorities confiscated 26 kg of Ganja and 32.55 kg of ATS, while in 2020, 95 kg of Ganja and 66.39 kg of ATS were seized. However, before 2020, Ganja was the dominant drug being trafficked in the islands, with 115 kg seized in 2019 and 64 kg in 2018. There were no ATS seizures reported in 2018 and 2019 in NCB Data.

The NCB data, does not account for the huge quantity of methamphetamine seized by the Indian Coast Guard from the high seas near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2019, which marked a major operation.

Apart from ganja and ATS, various other substances were also confiscated. In 2023, 630 tablets of various types were seized, up from 375 in 2022. Additionally, 497 bottles of codeine-based cough syrup were

confiscated in 2023, a sharp rise compared to 26 bottles in 2022.

The NCB data also highlights that 1.10 kg of cocaine was seized in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2023, for the first time. Earlier, in 2020, authorities had also seized 0.44 kg of hashish.

The NCB Data does not show the huge quantity of Methamphetamine seized by the Indian Coast Guard from High Seas near Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2019.

These figures underscore the evolving drug trade landscape in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, raising concerns about the increasing availability and trafficking of potent narcotics in the area. Law enforcement agencies continue to remain vigilant, but the data signals the need for enhanced efforts to curb the growing drug menace in the region.

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Awareness Program on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Held Under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan at Goalghar



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
13 October 2024

The Directorate of Social Welfare recently held an impactful awareness program under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan at Goalghar, focusing on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. The event aimed to shed light on the growing menace of substance abuse, its far-reaching consequences, and the government's mission to combat addiction nationwide.

The program began with an informative session led by Ms. Anchamma, Project Assistant, NAPDDR, who outlined the severe effects of substance abuse on individuals, families, and communities. She emphasized the Government's dedicated efforts through the 'Nasha

Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' to create a drug-free India by raising awareness, preventing addiction, and supporting recovery. "Substance abuse is a critical issue that not only impacts individuals but affects society as a whole. Through this initiative, we are committed to empowering people with knowledge and support to fight this problem," she stated.

Dr. Nitin Sakya, Director of Social Welfare, underscored the urgent need to address the increasing cases of drug-related issues, particularly among young people. "Drug abuse poses a serious threat to the very fabric of our society. It destroys lives, devastates families, and weakens communities. This program is an essential step toward educating the public and offering support to those affected. We must work together to safeguard future

generations from this danger," he remarked. Furthering the discussion, Dr. M.K. Mahato, an expert in substance abuse and mental health from the Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA), spoke on the challenges faced by individuals grappling with addiction. Engaging directly with the participants, Dr. Mahato encouraged open discussions about the dangers of drug use and the importance of collective action in tackling the issue. He also shared insights into mental health, emphasizing the need for a supportive environment to help those battling addiction.

The program concluded with a call for stronger community involvement in the fight against drug and alcohol abuse, highlighting the critical role of awareness, education, and support in creating a healthier society.

Sensitization Program on Government Schemes for Entrepreneurs Held in Bakultala



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
13 October 2024

In a bid to promote entrepreneurship and empower local businesses, the Industries Department, in collaboration with various Line Departments, organized a comprehensive Sensitization Program focusing on key government schemes such as the Startup India Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), and the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The program also featured sessions from the Bank, Agriculture, and Fisheries Departments.

The event, held in Bakultala, attracted 85 participants, including trainees from the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) and the Industries Department. The primary objective was to educate aspiring entrepreneurs and startups about the various government initiatives designed to support micro and small enterprises.

Key highlights of the program included detailed insights into several schemes:

Startup India Scheme: The Nodal Officer (Startup) conducted a virtual session, explaining the concept of startups and how to identify new business ideas.

PMFME and PMEGP Schemes: The Incharge of the Extension Office, Bakultala, provided valuable information

on generating employment through self-employment initiatives. The session covered the financial assistance available for new projects under these schemes.

Agriculture and Fisheries Support: The Sr. Veterinary Officer of the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS), Rangat, along with the Assistant Director (Agriculture), highlighted the support available for entrepreneurs in the agriculture and fisheries sectors through respective departments.

- Banking Assistance: The Assistant Manager of State Bank of India (SBI) briefed participants on the various loan schemes implemented through banks, emphasizing the financial support available for new ventures.

The Industries Department expressed its gratitude to all participants for their active involvement, underscoring the importance of such initiatives in fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth in the region. The Department reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its efforts in providing resources and guidance to empower local businesses and startups.

These programs are seen as a vital step in driving the economic development of the N&M Andaman District, creating more opportunities for local entrepreneurs to thrive and contribute to the region's growth.

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Rising Threat of Illegal Digital Lending Apps: Stay Vigilant and Seek Police Assistance if Needed



trapping borrowers in a cycle of debt. The most concerning aspect is the demand for access to private information such as contact lists, location data, and media files like photos and videos. Once obtained, this data is often misused for blackmail and harassment, with some victims facing threats and intimidation.

These illegal apps heavily rely on bulk SMS campaigns, digital advertisements, chat messengers, and mobile app stores to lure unsuspecting borrowers on a large scale. With such deceptive practices becoming increasingly common, authorities have issued a strong advisory, urging citizens to avoid engaging with these platforms.

Authorities have emphasized that any individual who has fallen prey to blackmail, harassment, or fraud as a result of using these apps should report the incident immediately to the Cyber Cell in Sri Vijaya Puram, or the nearest police station. Timely reporting could help prevent further exploitation.

For those seeking assistance or information, the Cyber Crime Police Station of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands can be contacted through the National Helpline Number 1930 or the A&N Police Helpline at 9531856083. Victims can also file complaints via the official cybercrime portal at cybercrime.gov.in.

As the menace of illegal lending apps grows, staying informed and vigilant is essential. The public is advised to be cautious of loan offers that require personal data and to rely only on legitimate, regulated financial institutions for borrowing.

Sri Vijaya Puram, 13 October 2024

A surge in complaints nationwide has raised alarm over illegal digital lending apps, which are reportedly exploiting vulnerable groups by offering short-term loans and microcredits at exorbitant interest rates. These apps, often operating outside the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), target low-income individuals, compelling them to provide access to sensitive personal data in exchange for loans.

Many of these digital lending platforms charge hidden fees and processing charges,



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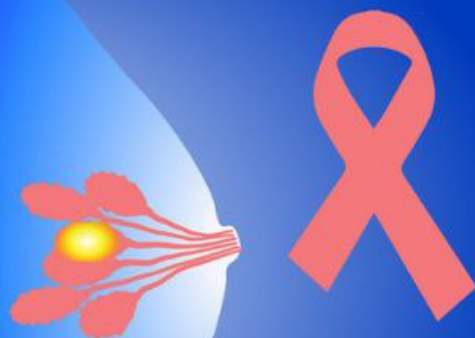
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