

# ANDAMAN DAILY

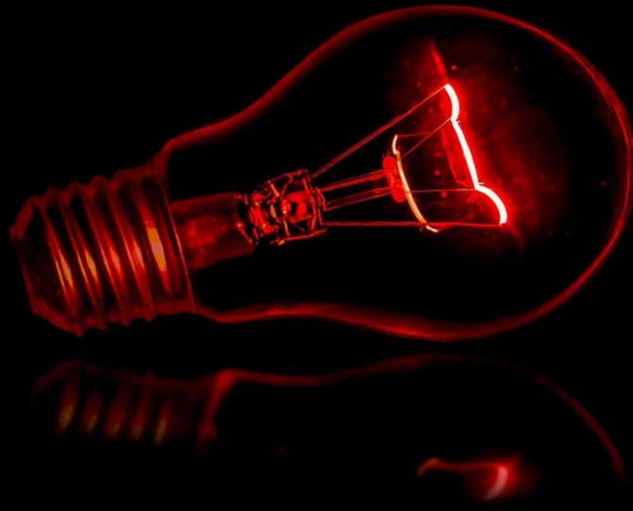
News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by **NICOBAR TIMES**

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## Years of Darkness: Sri Vijaya Puram Islanders Endure Multiple Power Cuts Every Day with No End in Sight



**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram, 16 October 2024**

Power cuts have been a recurring nightmare for the residents of Sri Vijaya Puram (formerly Port Blair) and its surrounding areas for the past several years. Despite occasional improvements, the power supply on the South Andaman main island remains unreliable, leaving residents and businesses to cope with frequent outages.

While some residents have adapted to the disruptions by installing backup systems like inverters, these solutions remain out of reach for many. Upper-middle-class households, with decent earnings, have adjusted to the frequent cuts, using inverters to power essential devices during outages.

For the island's business community, particularly those in the manufacturing and hospitality sectors, the situation is much grimmer. Power cuts have severely impacted productivity and increased operating costs. Businesses in tourism-driven industries like hotels, restaurants, and cafes, which rely heavily on uninterrupted power to serve visitors, are forced to rely on

costly diesel generators during outages. These additional expenses have become a significant burden, particularly for small to medium-sized enterprises struggling to stay afloat.

The issue extends beyond just businesses. Freelancers, remote workers, individual entrepreneurs, and tour operators—all integral to the island's economy—find their daily work disrupted by the constant interruptions in power. The losses, both financial and in terms of productivity, are mounting, impacting nearly every facet of life in South Andaman.

One of the most concerning effects of the power cuts is the non-availability of street lighting. After dark, at any given point of time, some or the other part of Sri Vijaya Puram and more remote locations are often left in complete darkness due to power cuts, raising safety concerns. Repeated power cuts during the evening hours leave streets vulnerable, potentially increasing the risk of crime.

Lower-middle-class residents are particularly hard hit, as many cannot afford backup power solutions. For these families, daily life is a constant struggle, and there appears to be no

immediate solution in sight.

Despite the widespread disruption caused by these power cuts, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has been unable to find a lasting solution. The issue is far from new; residents have endured unreliable power supply for years, with no significant improvements.

In the recent past, the administration has organised high-profile seminars and conferences in cities like Bangkok and New Delhi, where the islands are presented as prime investment destinations, particularly in the tourism sector. However, this raises an important question: how can investor confidence be built when the capital city itself struggles with such fundamental issues? Power reliability is crucial for any business, and the ongoing outages are bound to make potential investors wary of putting their money into a region where even basic infrastructure is unstable. Without addressing the power crisis, the administration's efforts to attract global investors may fall short.

The power crisis on the island is not only affecting daily life but also casting a shadow over its economic future.

## Issues with Cargo Transportation from Chennai to Sri Vijaya Puram Resolved Following MP's Intervention



**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram, 16 October 2024**

In July and August of this year, residents of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands faced shortages of certain essential commodities due to disruptions in cargo transportation services between Sri Vijaya Puram and Chennai. The local business community grew increasingly concerned as the routine berthing arrangements at Chennai Port were affected by a new order issued by the Chairperson of the Chennai Port Authority (ChPA).

M/s TCI Seaways, the only shipping company servicing this vital route, experienced delays in early berthing, timely loading, and departure of vessels. These disruptions led to a growing sense of uncertainty among islanders and businesses relying on the steady flow of goods to the islands.

Upon hearing about the issue, the Member of Parliament for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray acted swiftly, traveling to Chennai to meet with the Chairperson of Chennai Port Authority. The MP urged the port authorities to address the matter and

prioritise early berthing and loading for Andaman bound cargo ships.

Additionally, the MP penned a detailed letter to Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, the Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, requesting his intervention to resolve the issue. The letter highlighted the urgency of ensuring that TCI Seaways' ships bound for Sri Vijaya Puram are not delayed, as such delays would impact the availability of essential commodities in the islands.

In response, Minister Sonowal assured the MP that necessary steps were being taken to prioritise the berthing, loading, and departure of cargo ships servicing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Minister confirmed that the Chennai Port Authority had been instructed to give priority to ships heading to and from the islands, ensuring that essential supplies reach the islands on time.

With this intervention, it is expected that the normal supply of essential commodities to Andaman and Nicobar Islands will continue without disruption, easing the concerns of both the business community and the residents.



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# Andaman Avians Club Hosts Bird Walk to Celebrate October Big Day and World Migratory Bird Day 2024



**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram, 16 October 2024**

In a vibrant celebration of bird conservation and awareness, the Andaman Avians Club hosted a bird walk on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island (Ross Island) on the occasion of the October Big Day and

World Migratory Bird Day 2024. The event for the Andaman Avians Club to promote the importance of birdlife conservation, particularly in the rich and biodiverse region of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. During the walk, participants had the chance to spot 16 different bird species, showcasing the

bird sightings, coincided with World Bird Day, a global awareness campaign focused on the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. These twin events provided the perfect backdrop for the Andaman Avians Club to promote the importance of birdlife conservation, particularly in the rich and biodiverse region of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. During the walk, participants had the chance to spot 16 different bird species, showcasing the

island's remarkable avian diversity. The bird walk not only highlighting the importance of local conservation efforts. The Andaman Avians Club, known for its initiatives in birdwatching and conservation, aims to raise awareness about the region's avian treasures and foster a sense of responsibility for their protection. The club's first bird walk at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island is one of many such efforts to connect people with nature and encourage a culture of conservation in the islands.

several migratory bird species, further highlighting the importance of local conservation efforts. The Andaman Avians Club, known for its initiatives in birdwatching and conservation, aims to raise awareness about the region's avian treasures and foster a sense of responsibility for their protection. The club's first bird walk at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island is one of many such efforts to connect people with nature and encourage a culture of conservation in the islands.

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## Transport Directorate Issues Strict Advisory to Bus Conductors to Address Ticketing Malpractice



compliance. The directive reiterates that conductors are required to issue tickets immediately upon passengers boarding the bus. In cases where buses are crowded, conductors are instructed to safely stop the bus to facilitate ticket issuance.

The Directorate has emphasized that adherence to these ticketing protocols is crucial for the efficient functioning of the State Transport Service. Any lapses or negligence on the part of the conductors will result in strict disciplinary action, reinforcing the importance of accountability within the transport system.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
16 October 2024

The Directorate of Transport

has issued a stern advisory to all bus conductors across various State Transport Service (STS) Units and Bus Terminuses, addressing the incidents of ticketing malpractice. The advisory mentions reports indicating that some conductors failed to issue tickets to passengers during their duties, contravening prior instructions.

The advisory, dated October 4, 2024, highlights that despite previous warnings, the practice continues, prompting the Competent Authority to take serious notice of the non-

Transport officials were urged to circulate the advisory among all conductors to ensure complete compliance with the ticket issuance policy.



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# Medical Camp for Elderly Organized at Ullas Old Age Home for Women



Shiny Verghese, Medical Officer from NP-NCD; Dr. Tripti Singh Saha, a dental surgeon at the District Hospital in Garacharama; and Dr. Manisha Charan from the Mobile Health Unit of the Directorate of Health Services (SA). Other notable participants included Dr. Robin Oommen, State Program Coordinator for NP-NCD, and a range of specialists including an optometrist, physiotherapist, psychologist, and a staff nurse.

Ms. Zarina Bibi, Child Development Project Officer for the ICDS Urban Project, alongside the staff at Ullas Old Age Home, supported the initiative, ensuring that residents received comprehensive care and guidance on managing their health.

This initiative highlights the commitment to improving the well-being of the elderly population and emphasizes the importance of regular health check-ups and awareness of lifestyle-related health issues.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
16 October 2024

A medical camp aimed at

supporting the elderly was held at Ullas, an old age home for women, under the Directorate of Social Welfare. The event, organised in collaboration with NP-NCD, National Health Mission, and the Directorate of Health Services, focused on essential health screenings, medical consultations, and raising awareness about lifestyle diseases that predominantly affect older adults. The camp featured a team of dedicated healthcare professionals, including Dr.



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# Cleanliness Drives Conducted Under Special Campaign 4.0 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Vigilance Section of the Secretariat conducted cleanliness drives in their premises.

Staff from these departments actively participated in the cleanliness efforts, showcasing a strong commitment to maintaining clean and hygienic offices and surroundings. Sanjeev Kumar, Sanitary Inspector of Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVP MC), and his team provided vital assistance to ensure the success of the initiative.

The initiative was coordinated by Mr. Shailaja, Assistant Secretary (Administrative Reforms & Training/Public Grievance Cell) of the A&N Administration.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
16 October 2024

As part of the Special

Campaign 4.0, aimed at institutionalising cleanliness drive from October 2 to October 31, 2024.

and addressing pending references in government offices, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has

initiated a massive cleanliness drive from October 2 to October 31, 2024.

Mr. A.S.P.S. Ravi Prakash, IAS, Secretary of the Administrative

Reforms and Training Wing, has identified 20 sites and offices for cleaning. Recently, the Science Centre, all three District Offices, and the



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# Lt. Governor of A&N Islands Advocates for Enhanced Connectivity at India Mobile Congress 2024



emphasizing their critical role in ensuring last-mile network connectivity to the most remotest Islands.

He also highlighted the importance of establishing additional Optical Fiber Connectivity (OFC) from Puri in Odisha to Diglipur to provide redundancy and strengthen network reliability.

Furthermore, Admiral Joshi reiterated the potential for New Andaman to emerge as a non-polluting manufacturing hub for the IT and telecom industries, including mobile phone assembly. His remarks reflect a vision for sustainable development and technological advancement in the region.

**Tarun Karthick** (Retd.), PVSM, AVSM, Islands Development YSM, NM, VSM, the Agency, participated in the Hon'ble Lieutenant India Mobile Congress 2024, inaugurated by and Nicobar Islands and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the event, Admiral Joshi underscored the urgent need to accelerate the Base Transmission Station (BTS) Project and the 4G Saturation Project,

**Sri Vijaya Puram,**  
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Admiral D.K. Joshi



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