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## MP Visits Settlements in N & M Andaman Under 'MP Aapke Dwar' Initiative, Identifies Public Issues



**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram, 17 October 2024**

The Hon'ble Member of Parliament for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, is currently on a visit to Middle and North Andaman as part of his 'MP Aapke Dwar' initiative. The tour, which began on Friday, October 11th, has taken him through several areas, including Baratang, Uttara, Kadamtala, Rangat, Billiground, Tugapur, Mayabunder, and Mohanpur, where he interacted with local Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, farmers, and the general public to address their concerns.

One of the most pressing issues brought to the forefront was the deteriorating condition of the National Highway, along with demands for fertilizers, power supply issues, and concerns over revenue matters.

In the final leg of his tour today, Mr. Ray visited Kalighat and Diglipur, where he once again

engaged with PRI members, BJP workers, and residents. At Diglipur, the PRI members voiced their unanimous demand for a steady supply of chemical fertilizers to boost agricultural activities. Farmers expressed their struggle with purchasing fertilizers from the open market at inflated prices, especially during shortages, which has contributed to a rise in vegetable prices. They emphasized that while organic farming is encouraged, it has not yielded the expected productivity. The supply of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Urea, they stated, is essential to maintaining vegetable production in the region.

In addition to fertilizer concerns, the PRI members also raised the issue of inadequate funding. At a meeting held at the APWD Guest House in Diglipur, representatives from both Diglipur and Kalighat Panchayats pointed out that the meager allotment of funds has hindered development efforts. The Pradhans, Panchayat Samiti members, and Zilla Parishad

members noted that the lack of financial resources has made it difficult for them to undertake much-needed projects in their constituencies.

Another significant concern was the shortage of doctors and medical staff at the Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), sub-centres, and the Mayabunder District Hospital. The people of North and Middle Andaman appealed for immediate action to address the gaps in healthcare services.

Mr. Ray assured the public that he would take up all their genuine concerns with the appropriate authorities, including the Central Government and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, to ensure early resolution of these issues.

As the 'MP Aapke Dwar' initiative continues, residents of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands hope their concerns will be addressed to foster development and improve living conditions in the region.

## Lt. Governor Pushes for Major Fisheries Conclave to Attract Global Investors to Andaman in Meeting with Union Minister



**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram, 17 October 2024**

Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Vice Chairman of the Islands Development Agency, met with the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, during his visit to New Delhi.

In the meeting, the Lt. Governor highlighted the strategic advantages of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, noting that the region encompasses one-third of India's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) in Andaman waters. He underscored the significant untapped potential in the fisheries and marine product sectors, which could greatly contribute to the country's economic growth.

Admiral Joshi also briefed the

Minister on the recent initiatives taken by the A & N Administration to strengthen the region's fisheries infrastructure, including the efforts for establishment of offices of the Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Export Inspection Council (EIC) in Sri Vijaya Puram.

During the discussion, the Lt. Governor requested the Minister's support in organising a large-scale Fisheries Conclave. The proposed event aims to attract global investors and bring together key stakeholders to explore and showcase the vast opportunities available in the fisheries and marine industries in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of promoting seaweed cultivation as a means to address challenges faced by local farmers, offering it as a potential avenue for improving their livelihoods.



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## CPI(M) Holds Branch Conferences Across Various Parts of Andaman and Nicobar Islands



**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram,  
17 October 2024**

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) is conducting a series of Branch Conferences across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, reflecting the party's ongoing efforts to engage with local issues. Recent conferences were held in the Garacharma,

Hut Bay, and Anarkali branches on different dates.

The Branch Conferences of Garacharma and Anarkali were inaugurated by D. Ayyappan, Secretary of the A & N State Organising Committee, while Dr. Gouranga Majhi, Secretary of the South Andaman Rural Area Committee, opened the conference

in Hut Bay. In his address, D. Ayyappan expressed deep concern over the rising cost of living, stating that citizens, particularly those from poorer backgrounds, are enduring significant hardships. He criticized the Modi government for failing to address these economic challenges. He also commented on the recent Andaman Bandh, called by a local BJP MP, describing it as an "eye wash" that distracts from pressing issues faced by island residents, including unemployment, power cuts, deteriorating road conditions, escalating corruption, and the

lack of a democratically elected local governing body. D. Laxman Rao, a member of the CPI(M) State Secretariat, condemned both the BJP and Congress for the poor state of roads and the Municipal Council's inability to provide essential civic amenities to the public. NKP Nair, a member of the Port Blair City Area Committee, also spoke at the Garacharma conference, emphasizing the need for collective action against societal injustices and exploitation. Addressing the Hut Bay conference, Dr.

Gouranga Majhi highlighted the government's failure to offer any relief to farmers in the islands, further stressing the need for governmental accountability. The conferences concluded with the election of new secretaries for each branch: M. Boominathan for Garacharma, R. Ranganathan for Hut Bay, and Lakshman for Anarkali. Resolutions addressing various local issues were also adopted during the meetings, underscoring the party's commitment to addressing the concerns of island residents.




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# District Administration of N & M Andaman Reclaims 6000 Square Meters of Encroached Land in Eviction Drive



the operation proceeded smoothly and without disruption to the general public.

Deputy Commissioner of North & Middle Andaman, Mr. Dilkhush Meena, IAS, lauded the coordinated efforts of Revenue officials, Police personnel, and local authorities in executing the eviction efficiently. He reiterated the Administration's commitment to protecting Government land and ensuring its proper use for the benefit of the community.

The reclaimed land will be repurposed for public use, in line with the District Administration's goals of promoting sustainable development and inclusive governance.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
17 October 2024

The District Administration of North & Middle Andaman

successfully reclaimed 6000 square meters of Government land from unauthorised encroachments during a series of four eviction drives carried out in Rangat Tehsil. The operations, which targeted

encroached areas in Santanu and Rampur villages, cleared land being used for arecanut and banana plantations. In Santanu village, the team reclaimed 1000 square

meters, while at Rampur village, 5000 square meters were cleared. The eviction drive was conducted with active support from the local Revenue and Police Departments, ensuring that

The Administration also urged citizens to refrain from encroaching on Government land, reminding them that legal action will be enforced against those found violating these rules.



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# Eviction Drive by SVPMC Targets Illegal Street Vendors on Corbyn's Cove Road



public pathways, ensuring smooth pedestrian and vehicular movement. During the drive, several vendors operating without valid documentation were removed, and their goods were confiscated. The seized materials have been transported and dumped at the Dry Resource Centre in Brookshabad.

The SVPMC reiterated its warning to street vendors and hawkers, urging them to refrain from conducting business in the area without proper documentation.

**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram, 17 October 2024**

Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC) launched an eviction drive to remove illegal street hawkers encroaching public spaces within its jurisdiction. The operation focused on clearing roadways and footpaths leading to Corbyn's Cove Junction. This effort is part of the Council's ongoing initiative to prevent encroachments on

Authorities have emphasised that any future violations will lead to strict action, as per the municipal regulations.



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# New MGNREGA Projects Launched in South Andaman to Boost Rural Employment and Livelihoods



work under MGNREGA, the moringa plantations offer a long-term economic benefit to individual beneficiaries by enabling them to sell moringa and its by-products in the market, thus improving their financial security.

In another significant step, a road maintenance project was initiated on October 14, 2024, in Calicut village under Gram Panchayat Calicut. This project aims to repair and maintain the katcha road in the area, providing enhanced transportation access for the local population. The Pradhan of Gram Panchayat Calicut inaugurated the project, accompanied by Panchayat members, emphasizing the community's role in infrastructure development. The road maintenance initiative will generate 1,402 mandays and directly benefit 30 MGNREGA workers while improving local infrastructure for the villagers.

Both projects highlight the MGNREGA's dual focus on providing rural employment while creating assets that benefit the wider community. These efforts continue to support the livelihood of rural households, helping to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
17 October 2024

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), a demand-driven scheme aimed at providing wage employment and improving rural

livelihoods, continues to make a significant impact in the South Andaman District. As part of its ongoing initiatives, two new projects under the MGNREGA scheme were launched in CD Block Prothrapur, offering much-needed employment to rural households.

On October 8, 2024, a moringa

plantation project was inaugurated in the villages of Rangachang and Beodnabad under Gram Panchayat Beodnabad. The project falls under Category-B works of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which focuses on the creation of durable assets and individual beneficiaries' livelihoods. In the

presence of the Block Development Officer of Prothrapur, the Pradhan of Gram Panchayat Beodnabad, and other Panchayat members, the initiative was officially launched.

A total of 30 beneficiaries have been engaged in the project, which is expected to generate 646 man-days of employment. Beyond providing

MGNREGA guarantees up to 100 days of wage employment per financial year to rural households, focusing on unskilled manual labor. Through initiatives like the moringa plantations and road maintenance, the scheme remains crucial in addressing the employment needs of rural populations and contributing to the overall development of rural areas across the country.



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# Chief Electoral Officer Reviews Pre-Revision Activities for SSR of Electoral Rolls in Andaman & Nicobar Islands



deadline. These visits are crucial for ensuring the accuracy of the voter lists. He emphasized the need for mass awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the importance of providing accurate information to the BLOs. This includes reporting un-enrolled eligible citizens, prospective voters, and deceased or permanently shifted electors, thereby ensuring the electoral rolls remain pure, healthy, and inclusive.

Additionally, all Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) have been instructed to process advance forms well in advance of the draft publication.

Mr. Marutirao also appealed to the general public of the Union Territory to fully cooperate with the BLOs during the house-to-house surveys. He encouraged residents to assist in verifying their entries and to provide information regarding un-enrolled eligible citizens as well as deceased or permanently shifted family members.

The meeting included participation from District Election Officer, Nicobar, Ms. Jyoti Kumari, IAS, and District Election Officer, North & Middle Andaman, Mr. Dilkhush Meena, IAS, who joined via video conference. Other attendees included Electoral Registration Officer, Ms. Nandini Maharaj, IAS, Nodal Officer (ERO-Net), and all Assistant Electoral Registration Officers.

**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram,  
17 October 2024**

In a recent meeting held in the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner/DEO Office in South Andaman, Chief Electoral

Officer (i/c) Mr. Kale Amit Marutirao, IAS, convened with District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers to assess the progress of ongoing pre-revision activities of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, with a qualifying

date set for January 1, 2025.

Following directives from the Election Commission of India, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have initiated house-to-house visits to verify entries in the electoral rolls for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Parliamentary Constituency. This

verification process is scheduled to take place until October 18, 2024.

Mr. Marutirao urged the officers to ensure that the house-to-house visits are carried out in accordance with the Commission's timeline and completed by the October 18





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