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A & N Administration Advances Toward Complete Privatisation of Electricity Distribution & Retail Supply in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 October 2024**

The Electricity Department of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has initiated the bidding process for the complete privatisation of electricity distribution and retail supply within the union territory. This significant move potentially aims to enhance efficiency and reliability in power services, addressing longstanding issues faced by residents.

On 24 October 2024, the department published the invitation for bids on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands E-Procurement Portal, seeking a buyer for 100% of the shares in the electricity company that is responsible for distribution and retail supply of electricity and holds the distribution license in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands. The bid submission period begins on 13 December and concludes on 19 December 2024, with the bids scheduled

to be opened on 27 December 2024.

The cost for the Request for Proposal (RFP) document has been set at Rs. 5,90,000 (Rupees Five Lakhs Ninety Thousand Only). Entities that pay this fee will gain access to the RFP Document containing comprehensive information regarding the bidding process and related details.

Currently, there is no additional information available online about the bidding process on the Electricity Department's website or the official portal of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. Furthermore, the bid security amount has been established at Rs. 23,00,00,000 (Rupees Twenty-Three Crore Only).

The electricity supply situation in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, particularly in Sri Vijay Puram and South Andaman, has been precarious, with residents frequently facing power outages and unreliable service. The privatisation

initiative could potentially offer much-needed relief to consumers by improving service delivery.

This move aligns with the Government of India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan,' announced in May 2020, which aims to make India self-reliant through structural reforms. A key component of this initiative is the reform of power distribution and retail supply in Union Territories (UTs) through privatisation, leveraging private sector efficiency to enhance electricity distribution.

The invitation for bids represents a critical step toward the privatisation of power distribution in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, following the Government's vision for transformative reforms in the energy sector. However, many sections of society may have their own reservations regarding the privatisation of the Electricity Supply and Distribution in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Coastal Security Exercise "SAGAR KAVACH" Successfully Concludes



Rohit Kumar

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 October 2024**

Andaman & Nicobar Police, successfully took part in the two-day coastal security exercise titled "SAGAR KAVACH" conducted by Andaman & Nicobar Command and the Indian Coast Guard. Held from 25th to 26th October 2024, the exercise aimed to enhance and validate the coastal defence mechanisms across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

This biannual exercise involved various stakeholders in coastal security and simulated real-world scenarios to evaluate the effectiveness of the islands' security network, preparedness, and inter-agency coordination in safeguarding coastal territories.

Throughout the exercise, multiple high-intensity simulated threat scenarios were executed, allowing agencies to assess and improve their responses to potential maritime threats. Coastal patrols were intensified, with continuous monitoring conducted by participating vessels and aircraft. The Police Marine Force deployed its assets to enhance surveillance, while local police maintained a round-the-clock presence across the

districts. Critical infrastructure in sensitive zones received heightened security measures, and stringent checks were implemented to ensure robust surveillance. The fishing community and local coastal populations were also engaged, serving as vigilant observers to detect any unusual activities along the coast.

"SAGAR KAVACH" provided valuable insights into potential gaps and vulnerabilities within the current coastal defence framework. Key objectives included validating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of all participating agencies, refining crisis management capabilities, enhancing inter-agency communication, and establishing actionable intelligence-sharing protocols.

The exceptional synergy and coordination among the participating agencies during the exercise demonstrated a strong commitment to coastal security and preparedness to address emerging maritime threats. The successful conclusion of "SAGAR KAVACH 2024" underscores the ongoing dedication of the Andaman & Nicobar Police and allied agencies to the security of the nation's coastlines and to enhancing vigilance in the region.

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Iqra Public School Hosts "Mindspark" Science and Maths Exhibition



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 October 2024**

Iqra Public School in Wimberlygunj held a vibrant exhibition titled "Mindspark: Igniting Passion, Illuminating Light," showcasing the innovative spirit and scientific acumen of its students on 26th October 2024. The event was inaugurated by Mr. S. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Director of Education

(Planning) for the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, who served as the Chief Guest, alongside Dr. Manoharan, Deputy Education Officer of Wimberlygunj, as the Guest of Honour. In his keynote address, Mr. Kumar commended the students for their impressive science and math projects, which displayed a remarkable blend of creativity, technical skill, and

environmental awareness. As he toured the exhibition, he interacted with students, eager to share the inspiration behind their projects, which ranged from sustainable energy solutions to practical mathematical applications designed to tackle community challenges.

Dr. Manoharan echoed Mr. Kumar's praises, highlighting the dedication and ingenuity of both students and teachers. He stressed the importance of exhibitions like "Mindspark" in nurturing scientific inquiry and problem-solving skills essential for the students' futures.

The exhibition featured a diverse array of projects emphasizing sustainability, innovation, and real-world

applications. Attendees were impressed by the thoughtful work on display, applauding the students' commitment to sustainable solutions. Mr. Kumar noted the evident dedication in each project and remarked on the well-attended exhibition's role in fostering lifelong curiosity and a passion for learning.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from the Principal of Iqra Public School, who greeted the dignitaries, students, parents, and guests. The Principal reiterated the school's commitment to nurturing young minds and fostering a culture of creativity and social responsibility.

"Mindspark" successfully

highlighted the potential of future scientists and mathematicians, reflecting Iqra Public School's dedication to academic excellence and holistic development. The event was well-attended, featuring notable figures such as ASMJ President Zainuddin, ASMJ General Secretary N. M. Zubair, and Secretary of IPS C. M. Shakir, among others, along with community elders and enthusiastic parents. Special appreciation was given to teachers for their guidance and support, which played a crucial role in the students' achievements.

The closing ceremony was honoured by the presence of Mr. C P Mohammed, Retired Tehsildar, and Mr. P.K. Moideen, Retired Assistant Director.

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AATO Honoured as Best Organisation of the Year at Business Expo & Summit Excellence Awards Mumbai Edition



Islands, describing the award as a significant honour for the association.

"We are sincerely thankful to Fav Fairs for acknowledging our work and granting us this award. This recognition inspires us to continue our efforts in enhancing the tourism sector in the Andaman Islands," said Shri M. Vinod, President of AATO.

Andaman Association of Tour Operators has played a pivotal role in positioning the "Andamans" as a premier global tourist destination. AATO actively participates in numerous trade shows and tourism conclaves, and it organizes roadshows to promote the natural beauty and unique attractions of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In addition to its promotional efforts, AATO has been a crucial advocate for the region's tourism stakeholders, raising their concerns with both the government and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to foster a supportive environment for sustainable tourism development.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 October 2024

The Andaman Association of Tour Operators (AATO) was awarded the prestigious

"Best Organization of the Year" title at an awards ceremony held at the World Trade Centre, Colaba, Mumbai. The award was presented by acclaimed Bollywood actor and director Mr. Arbaaz Khan and

received by Mr. M. Vinod, President of AATO. Mr. Mohd. Rafique, an AATO member, was also present to witness the occasion. The ceremony was part of the Business Expo &

Summit Excellence Awards, Mumbai Edition 2024, organized by Fav Fairs. Mr. M. Vinod expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Fav Fairs for recognising AATO's efforts in promoting tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar

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ANRKM & NSKS Delegation Meets Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs to Discuss Issues of DRMs Employed in SVPKM



the mortuary van.

During the meeting, Minister Kattar listened attentively and discussed the Supreme Court's verdicts concerning the regularisation of workers. He asked the leaders to present the issues before the Ministry, to pave a way for enhanced job security for the working class, aiming for solutions that ensure stability until retirement.

The delegation included notable figures such as Mr. Jaydeep Kumar Dey, President of ANRKM; Mr. S. Biju Pillai, General Secretary of ANRKM; Mr. Shyam Sunder Rao, President of NSKS; Mr. Palaniyandi, Secretary of NSKS; and Mr. Y. Santosh Kumar, Finance Secretary of NSKS. As a gesture of appreciation, they presented a memento to the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. S. Biju Pillai expressed gratitude to Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State President of the BJP, for facilitating the appointment that allowed the delegation to voice the concerns of the working class.

Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 October 2024**

A delegation from the Andaman Nicobar Raja Karmachari

Mahasangh (ANRKM), recent visit to the city. accompanied by representatives of the Nagarpalika Swachhtha Karmachari Sangh, met with the Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Mr. Manohar Lal Kattar, during his

Council (SVPKM) since 1999. These workers have dedicated over two decades of service to various public utility sectors, including sanitary services, electrical work, road maintenance, and operation of

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SBI-RSETI Concludes 10-Day Fast Food Udyami Training for NRLM-SHG Women



completion of the training program and was attended by Ms. S. Sunanda Kumari, Faculty at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT), and Mr. C. Raj, Director of SBI-RSETI. During his address, Mr. Raj commended the trainees for their enthusiasm and willingness to gain practical knowledge in the fast-food business sector. He further assured the trainees that the bank would support them by providing necessary loans should they decide to establish their own fast food ventures.

Mr. Naveen Raj, a faculty member at RSETI, extended the vote of thanks. The 10-Day training programme emphasises the institute's commitment to fostering self-employment opportunities for rural women.

Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 October 2024**

The State Bank of India

Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in Sri Vijaya Puram concluded a 10-day Fast Food Stall Udyami course on October 24, aimed at empowering rural women with entrepreneurial skills. The course, which began on October 14, saw active participation from 25 women trainees affiliated

with National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) - Self Help Groups (SHGs). The valedictory ceremony marked the successful

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Training Program on ‘Strategic Development and Emerging Initiatives for Self-Sufficiency Villages’ Held in Diglipur



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 October 2024

In an effort to foster self-sufficiency in rural communities, a training program titled “Strategic

Development and Emerging Initiatives for Self-Sufficiency Villages” was held on Oct. 24 at the Subhashgram Conference Hall. Organized by C.D. Block Diglipur, the program aimed to equip local leaders with innovative strategies to transform villages into self-sustaining communities.

The program began with an inaugural address by chief guest Mr. P.R. Singaram, Pradhan of Subhashgram, who emphasized the critical role of Gram Panchayats in sustainable village development. Ms. Ranjita Kabiraj, Block Program Manager, welcomed the participants, setting

a collaborative tone for the day’s sessions.

Mr. Bibhash Mazumdar, Extension Officer, delivered a detailed overview of the concept of Self-Sufficiency Villages, outlining key strategies and approaches that can empower rural communities

to thrive independently.

The importance of effective water management was a focal point in the session led by Mr. John James, Assistant Engineer from APWD. His interactive discussion covered sustainable water conservation practices and stressed water’s essential role in agriculture and community well-being.

Ms. N. Seikeena, Junior Engineer (PRI), provided insights into infrastructure needs for building self-sufficient villages. She highlighted the impact of planned infrastructure, including roads, housing, and public facilities, in boosting rural development and sustainability. Additionally, Mr. Debasis Podder, Cluster Coordinator (NRLM), discussed the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in empowering local economies and promoting entrepreneurship among villagers.

The training program saw active participation from Pradhans, Panchayat Secretaries, and Community Resource Persons (CRPs), who engaged in lively discussions and shared valuable insights on advancing self-sufficiency at the village level.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Bibhash Mazumdar, Extension Officer, acknowledging the contributions and enthusiasm of all participants.

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Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants Exhibition-cum-Competition Held at Mahatma Gandhi Government College in Mayabunder



Tarun Karthick College, in highlighted the rich collaboration with tradition and diverse medicinal flora of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Dr. R. P. Hospital, hosted an Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants Exhibition-cum-Competition on its Mahatma Gandhi Government campus recently. This event featured an extensive collection

of local medicinal plants, showcasing their traditional uses and benefits. A total of 70 students participated, representing different departments as well as individual entries, bringing a variety of medicinal plants available locally. The event not only offered a platform for students to learn about the medicinal properties of local plants but also helped foster greater awareness of Ayurvedic traditions, underscoring the importance of preserving and understanding indigenous plant knowledge.

Dr. B. Praburam, Principal of M.G. Government College, and Dr. Priyanka Iqbal, an Ayurveda expert from Dr. R. P. Hospital, attended the event with a medical team. They engaged with the students, discussing the medicinal values of the plants on display, which included information on their potential health benefits and applications in Ayurvedic practices.

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