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## A & N Islands Set for Major Fisheries Boost: Union Ministers, LG, Officials, and Investors Converge at Swaraj Dweep to Pin Andamans as Shining Star on Global Fisheries Map



Tarun Karthick

Campbell Bay, 15 November 2024

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, organised the "Investors' Meet 2024" on November 14 at Swaraj Dweep, showcasing investment potential in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Present at the event were Union Minister MoFAH&D Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Minister of State MoFAH&D S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State MoFAH&D George Kurian, and Lt. Governor of A & N Islands Admiral D.K. Joshi. The event also welcomed Secretary - A & N Administration (Fisheries) Abhilaksh Likhi and Chief Secretary - A & N Islands, Keshav Chandra, among other officials and industry stakeholders.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, with a vast 6 lakh square km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) abundant in high-value tuna, represent a promising opportunity in the global \$40 billion tuna industry. Although annual yields could reach 60,000 metric tons, current production remains only around 4,420 metric tons, highlighting significant growth potential. The Islands' location near Southeast Asia provides

strategic trade routes by sea and air, priming it as an ideal hub for India's tuna exports.

In this context, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), initiated the development of a Tuna Cluster in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This project emphasises investment in infrastructure, partnerships with investors, training, and capacity-building to enhance operations and improve the global competitiveness of tuna fisheries.

Investors from across India and abroad, including companies from Sri Vijaya Puram, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Goa, Mysore, Pune, Visakhapatnam, Kerala, and Thailand, gathered at the Investors' Meet to explore opportunities for business in fisheries and aquaculture in A & N Islands.

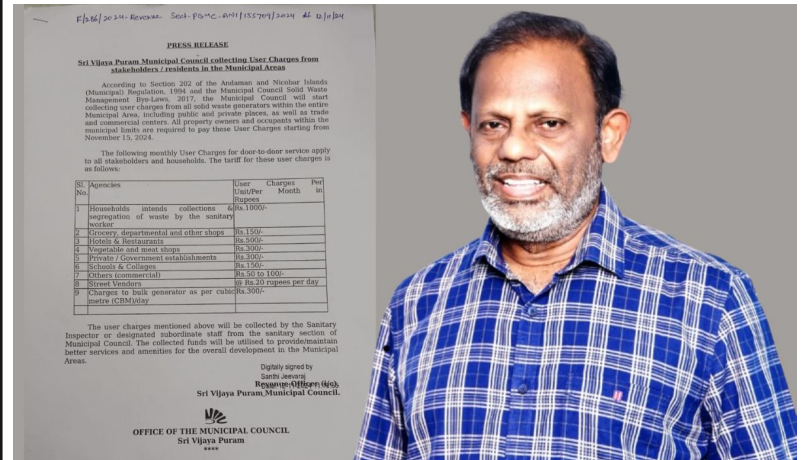
At the meet, Union Minister Singh emphasised the government's commitment to transforming the sector through initiatives like PMMSY, PMMSKY, and the Blue Revolution, supported by an unprecedented 38,572 crore investment since 2015. He highlighted the Government's new target to achieve 1 lakh crore in exports through deep-sea fishing, advanced processing facilities, and

modern infrastructure.

Lt. Governor Joshi announced plans for a comprehensive fisheries policy that would simplify regulations, fast-track project approvals, and introduce a single-window system to attract private sector investment. He also detailed upcoming facilities, such as fish landing centres, cold chain infrastructure, seafood processing clusters, and dedicated export offices, including MPEDA and EIC, aimed at bolstering local and global fisheries trade. A proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding with coastal states and Southeast Asian countries was introduced to strengthen marine product exports and meet a 60% marine capture target within five years.

Secretary Likhi and Chief Secretary Chandra stressed opportunities in the under-utilised marine resources surrounding the Islands, particularly in sea cage culture and marine ornamental fisheries. The Chief Secretary highlighted the notification of the A&N Islands as a Tuna Cluster as a strategic move to capture the Islands' blue economy potential, leveraging its location near key tuna markets such as Thailand and Indonesia.

## CPI(M) Condemns Unilateral Decision to Impose User Charges of Rs. 1000 for Garbage Collection from Households in SVPNC Area



Tarun Karthick

Campbell Bay, 15 November 2024

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has strongly condemned the decision by the Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPNC) to impose a user fee for garbage collection from residents in the municipal area. In a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Municipal Council, dated 14th November 2024, CPI(M) Secretary D. Ayyappan expressed concern over the lack of consultation with stakeholders and residents before announcing the charge.

In his letter, D. Ayyappan referred to the press release issued by the Municipal Council on 12th November 2024, which announced that a user fee of Rs. 1,000 per month would be levied on each household under the Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council's Solid Waste (Handling & Management) Bye-Laws, 2017. The CPI(M) has raised several objections, particularly pointing out that the bye-laws were not made available in draft form prior to their finalisation and implementation, thereby bypassing a crucial public consultation process.

Ayyappan highlighted that such a fee would place an undue burden on the already struggling population in the Municipal area. Many residents earn less than Rs. 10,000 per month, and a charge of Rs. 1,000 would be unaffordable

for them. The party argued that imposing such a fee would only exacerbate the financial hardships faced by the urban poor, especially amidst rising prices and unemployment.

The CPI(M) also emphasised that, unlike in the past, many Islanders are now facing increased poverty, making the imposition of such fees an additional hardship. Ayyappan suggested that the issue should be discussed with political parties, social organisations, and prominent local figures before any user fee is imposed.

In conclusion, CPI(M) has urged the Municipal Council to withdraw its decision and engage in consultations with the public and stakeholders. Ayyappan warned that if the Council proceeds without addressing the concerns raised, the party would consider organising an agitation involving the people of the municipal area.

(On 14th November 2024, the Chairperson of Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council held a press conference and informed that the news of Rs. 1000 per month User Charges for garbage collection from households is fake, but the Press Release that is floating on Social Media does not seem fake as it is Digitally Signed by an official of the SVPNC, the general public is confused on what is happening in the Municipal Council.)

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## Dhairya NGO Requests Long Term Ferry Pass Options and Additional Ferries on Chatham-Bambooflat Route



Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
15 November 2024

Abdul Sajid, Vice President of Dhairya NGO, has submitted a formal request to the Directorate of Shipping Services, urging the introduction of

quarterly and half-yearly pass options for regular commuters on the Chatham-Bambooflat ferry route. The request comes in response to the difficulties faced by passengers who currently rely on monthly ferries, requiring

frequent renewals. Sajid's proposal seeks to ease this burden, offering added convenience for those with busy work schedules.

In addition to flexible pass options, Sajid also called for an increase in ferry services to accommodate the growing population in the area. With expanding settlements, the congestion on monthly ferries has become

pressing issue, leading to overcrowding. Sajid emphasised that additional ferries would alleviate this problem and enhance the daily commuting experience for both passengers and vehicles.

While acknowledging the Directorate of Shipping Services for their efficient management of the ferry services, Sajid urged for continued improvements to

meet the increasing demand. He expressed hope that these measures would ensure a more reliable and comfortable mode of transportation for local communities.

A copy of the letter was also sent to the Secretary, Shipping Services of A & N Administration to highlight the importance of these requests for the residents of South Andaman.



# ISLAND MEGA FAIR



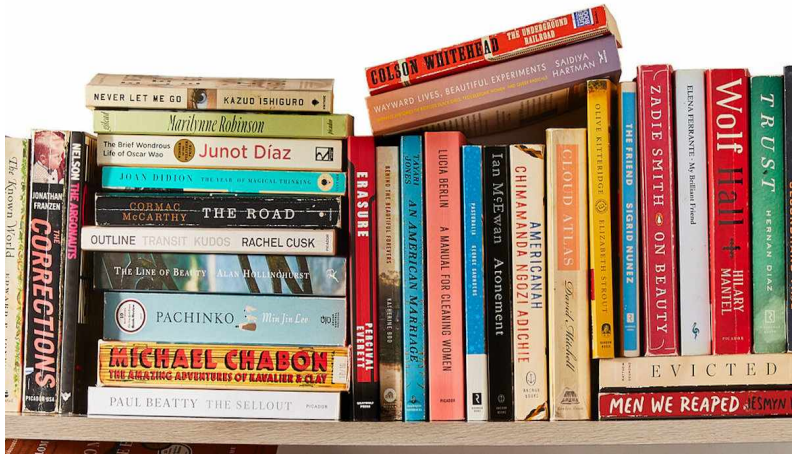
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# Book Exhibition at State Library from 14th to 20th November to Mark National Book Week 2024



**Tarun Karthick Campbell Bay, 15 November 2024**

National Book Week 2024 is being observed from November 14 to 20 across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As part of the observance, a 'Book Exhibition' has been organized by the

Education Department at the Head Office, Sri Directorate of Education, Vijaya Puram, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. He was joined by Ms. M. V. Jolly, Deputy Director Education (Perl), Mr. S. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Director Education (Plg.), Mr. Ram Pravesh, Deputy

development, competitive exams, biographies, cookery, mythology, fantasy, science fiction, and the history of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, among others. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Gyan Sheel Dubey, Head Office, Sri Directorate of Education, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. He was joined by Ms. M. V. Jolly, Deputy Director Education (Perl), Mr. S. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Director Education (Plg.), Mr. Ram Pravesh, Deputy

Education (Science), and other officials from the Education Department, along with avid readers. In his inaugural address, Mr. Dubey emphasized the importance of reading and highlighted the pivotal role libraries play in fostering knowledge. He urged the public to visit the exhibition, which will remain open at the State Library, Sri Vijaya Puram, until November 20, 2024. The National Book Week celebration aims to bring

together book lovers, educators, and the community to celebrate the joy of reading and promote reading habits among both children and adults. Along with the exhibition, several activities, including elocution, drawing, storytelling, and book reading competitions, will be conducted for school students throughout the week. The Education Department has called on the community to take part in these events to foster a love for books and learning.

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## National Newborn Week - 2024 to Focus on Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance in Newborns



also fostering strong connections with the community to ensure that newborns not only survive but thrive in good health. The goal is to ensure that both health workers and families play an active role in safeguarding the health of newborns, whether at healthcare facilities or in the community.

As part of the campaign, caregivers of newborns discharged from newborn care units will be educated on how to recognise signs of infection and encouraged to seek prompt medical attention at healthcare facilities. This guidance will help prevent delays in addressing health concerns at the community level.

Additionally, the general public has been urged to extend their cooperation to ANMs and ASHAs during community follow-ups of newborns throughout the National Newborn Week. This collective effort is vital to enhancing newborn care and combating the rise of antimicrobial resistance, ensuring the well-being of newborns across the country.

Tarun Karthick

Campbell Bay,  
15 November 2024

National Newborn Week (NNW) will be observed from November 15 to 21,

2024, with the theme 'Optimising Antimicrobial Use to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Newborns.' The week-long observance aims to raise awareness about the importance of newborn care

for child survival and development, with a particular focus on addressing the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

The theme highlights the

need for careful antibiotic use during the neonatal period to prevent antibiotic resistance. It emphasises the implementation of essential maternal and child health services in healthcare facilities, while

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## ANTCC Commemorates 135th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru



Campaign Committee Chairman Mr. TSG Bhasker led the observance by offering floral tributes at the portrait of Pandit Nehru. This act symbolized deep respect for Nehru's significant contributions to the nation.

Party leaders and members followed, placing their own floral tributes as a mark of admiration for Nehru's vision of a progressive and united India.

The occasion provided a moment for reflection, with members reaffirming their commitment to Nehru's ideals and pledging to work towards realising his vision for a brighter future for the country.

**Tarun Karthick Campbell Bay, 15 November 2024** Committee (ANTCC) Vijaya Puram. first Prime Minister and observed the 135th birth anniversary of Pandit The event was attended honouing his enduring legacy. Jawaharlal Nehru on by party leaders, November 14, 2024, at members, and supporters, ANTCC President Mr. The Andaman Nicobar November 14, 2024, at members, and supporters, ANTCC President Mr. Territorial Congress Gandhi Bhavan in Sri paying tribute to India's Ranganal Halder and for the country.



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## 357 Participants Attend Two-Day Training on Online RTI Portal



other stakeholders of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, included three informative sessions.

The sessions were led by Mr. Y.V. Ramana, Senior Director (IT) (Retired) and Consultant at NIC-DoPT, along with Mr. Abhishek, Project Manager at NIC-DoPT, New Delhi.

The program saw an impressive turnout of 357 participants. Ms. Shailaja, Assistant Secretary (AR & Training) from the A&N Administration, participated in the event, while Mr. K. Palani, Office Superintendent of the AR & Training Wing, delivered the vote of thanks at the closing session.

**Tarun Karthick**  
Campbell Bay,  
15 November 2024

program on the Online National Informatics concluded on November 14, 2024. The training, designed for Master trainers and

A two-day training

collaboration with the (DoPT), New Delhi,



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