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Immediate Resumption of Free Air Travel for Referred Patients from Remote Islands to Sri Vijaya Puram Needed



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
04 November 2024**

The discontinuation of free air travel for patients from remote islands to Sri Vijaya Puram has caused significant hardship for the local population, particularly those in urgent need of medical care. This change has placed an immense burden on islanders and non-islanders alike, especially those from low-income backgrounds who struggle to afford the steep helicopter fares required for medical travel.

Residents of the Nicobar Group of Islands are facing a particularly dire situation, as the cost of helicopter travel is the highest due to the vast distances involved. For instance, the fare from Great Nicobar or Nancowry to Sri Vijaya Puram is prohibitively expensive, leaving many in these remote areas with limited options for timely medical intervention.

Previously, the administration covered the full cost of air travel for patients referred to Sri Vijaya

Puram by a doctor, along with one attendant. This critical service allowed patients in need of emergency surgeries or specialised care to reach Sri Vijaya Puram without incurring any costs. However, over time, the administration gradually reduced this support, first limiting free travel to patients alone and requiring attendants to pay their own way. Eventually, free air travel was restricted to tribal patients only, and now, even that provision has been entirely withdrawn.

Currently, the helicopter fare from Campbell Bay to Sri Vijaya Puram stands at 5,350 for islanders and a staggering 13,400 for non-islanders. Similarly, the fare from Kamorta to Sri Vijaya Puram is 4,350 for islanders and 10,800 for non-islanders. These costs are far beyond the reach of many families, especially those from lower-income groups. As a result, patients often delay essential travel to Sri Vijaya Puram, despite doctors' recommendations, simply because they cannot afford the fare.

The termination of this once-

lifesaving service has sparked widespread outrage among the public and political leaders alike, who have repeatedly called for reinstatement of free air travel for referred patients. Their pleas, however, have so far not yielded any result.

For the people of these remote islands, air travel is not a luxury—it is a necessity. Specialized medical care is unavailable in these regions, leaving patients with no choice but to travel to Sri Vijaya Puram for surgeries and advanced treatments. The administration's decision to end this vital service has left many residents in a precarious position, unable to access the care they desperately need.

While the administration deserves credit for facilitating emergency evacuations when regular air travel is unavailable, its decision to withdraw free travel for patients from remote islands has drawn sharp criticism. The suffering endured by these families is difficult to quantify, but it is a stark reality that continues to worsen as the policy remains in place.

Indian Army to Hold Recruitment Rally in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from November 26-30



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
04 November 2024**

The Indian Army's Recruiting Office (Headquarters), Chennai, is set to conduct recruitment rally at Netaji Stadium in Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, from November 26 to 30, 2024. This rally aims to enroll candidates shortlisted through the online Common Entrance Exam for various positions, including Agniveer General Duty (All Arms), Agniveer Technical (All Arms), Agniveer Tradesman 10th Pass (All Arms), Agniveer Tradesman 8th Pass (House Keeper & Mess Keeper), Soldier Technical Nursing Assistant/ Nursing Assistant (Veterinary), and Agniveer (General Duty) Women for the Corps of Military Police.

Candidates are required to bring all specified documents as listed in the rally notification available on the official website, <http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in>. The correct format for each document, including affidavits, is also provided in the notification. Those who arrive at the rally site with

incomplete or improperly formatted documents will not be permitted to participate.

The eligible candidates for this rally are those who have registered and have been shortlisted from the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, including Nicobar, North & Middle Andaman, and South Andaman. Admit cards with reporting details, including date and time, will be issued on candidates' registered email IDs. It is advised that candidates frequently check both the website and their email for updates. For any clarifications or assistance the candidates may contact the Recruiting Office (Headquarters), Fort Saint George Complex, Chennai, on contact number 044-25674924.

The Indian Army emphasises that the recruitment process is entirely automated, transparent, and merit-based. Candidates are cautioned to avoid touts or fraudsters who may claim they can secure enrolment, as only dedicated preparation and merit can lead to selection.

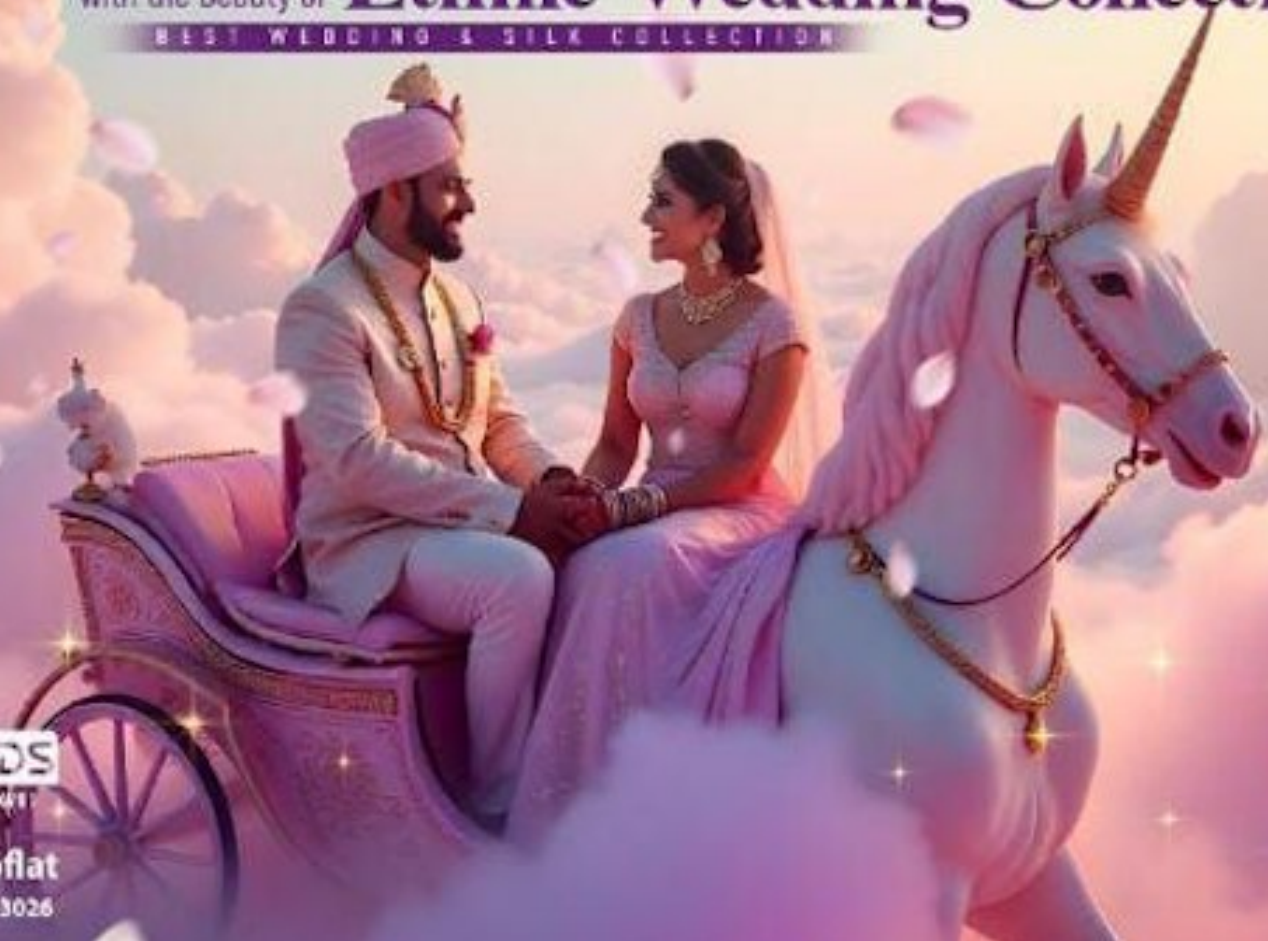
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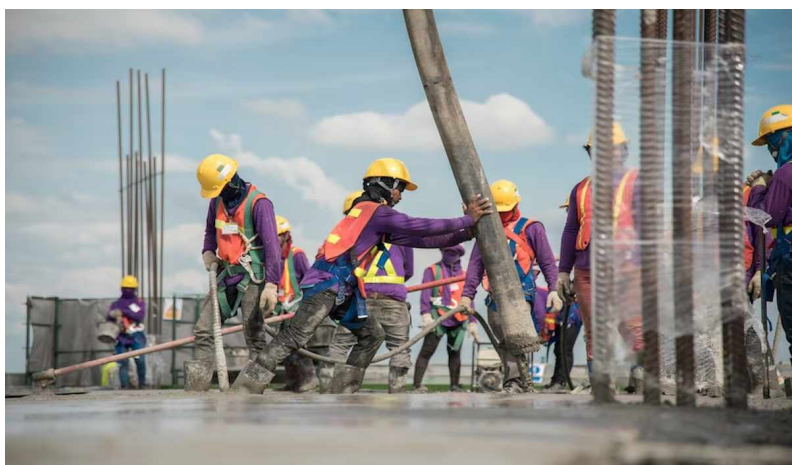
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L&T Construction Skills Training Institute and Govt. ITI Dollygunj to Organise Training-cum-Placement Drive on Nov. 6-7



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 04 November 2024

A major opportunity awaits aspiring construction professionals as the L&T Construction Skills Training Institute (CSTI), Kanchipuram, in collaboration with Government ITI Dollygunj, is set to

host a training-cum-placement drive on November 6 and 7, 2024, at Government ITI Dollygunj, Sri Vijaya Puram. This initiative is tailored for ITI certificate holders and 10th or 12th-grade candidates who are ready to build a solid foundation in the construction industry with assured placements at L&T's project sites across India.

The drive promises participants skill-based training that emphasizes hands-on experience, provided at no cost to eligible candidates. The program offers an entry into a renowned organization that not only fosters skill development but also assures employment, making it an exceptional chance for young candidates to secure a career in construction.

Job Mela Highlights:
 - Training Location: L&T Construction Skills Training Institute, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu
 - Total Vacancies: 2,750 positions
 - Eligibility: Open to male candidates who

are ITI certified or have completed 10th or 12th grade - Stipend: Provided during the one-year apprenticeship period as per Government of India norms
 The training program at CSTI Kanchipuram includes practical modules in essential construction trades, such as Formwork Carpentry, Masonry, Bar Bending, Scaffolding, Plumbing, Welding, and Electrician work. Candidates will undergo a foundational training period of two to three months, after which they will embark on a one-year apprenticeship, gaining real-world

experience while receiving a government-prescribed stipend. Successful completion of the apprenticeship opens doors to long-term career prospects within L&T or with its partner firms, presenting a promising pathway in the construction sector for those committed to developing their technical expertise. Interested candidates are encouraged to attend the placement drive at ITI Dollygunj, Sri Vijaya Puram, on November 6 and 7, 2024, starting at 9:30 a.m.

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CPI (M) Holds 5th South Andaman Rural Area Conference



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
04 November 2024**

The 5th South Andaman Rural Area Conference of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI (M)) took place at Shaheed Bhavan in Anarkali, Port Blair. The event opened with the hoisting of the party flag by Dr. Gouranga Majhi, Secretary of the South Andaman Rural Area

Committee, followed by floral tributes at the Martyrs' Memorial Column.

Inaugurating the conference, D. Ayyappan, Secretary of the CPI (M) A & N State Organizing Committee, addressed the gathering with sharp criticism of international conflicts and domestic policies. He warned of a potential global war, citing recent escalations in the Middle East, where thousands of civilians have died amid Israel's attacks.

He alleged a shift in India's stance, accusing the Modi administration of supporting Israel, a departure from India's historic support for Palestine. Ayyappan attributed ongoing conflicts, including the Russia-Ukraine war, to U.S. influence, though he highlighted China's emergence as a formidable counterforce.

Ayyappan also criticized the Modi administration's domestic policies, particularly in its third term, for allegedly favouring corporate interests at the expense of common citizens. He pointed to rising unemployment, and unchecked corruption under the BJP-led central government as key concerns. He argued that these issues were

particularly visible in BJP-ruled states.

The conference also addressed the unique challenges facing Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Ayyappan expressed disappointment in the central government's inability to address fundamental issues faced by island residents over the past decade. He condemned the lack of action by central agencies against corrupt officials and accused the BJP government of enabling such corruption. Ayyappan emphasized that the CPI (M) remained the only political organization actively challenging what he described as anti-people policies both at the national level and within the islands' administration.

Dr. Gouranga Majhi presented a report summarizing the party's activities in rural South Andaman over the last three years. Party members engaged in discussions on the report, passing resolutions on a range of issues. The conference concluded with the election of an 11-member committee, with D. Laxman Rao appointed as the new Area Committee Secretary. Rao, in his address, urged members to build a stronger CPI (M) presence in South Andaman's rural areas in the years ahead.

The conference concluded with a condolence resolution, presented by senior leader P. Banerjee, honouring the memory of party members who had passed away.




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Public Advisory: Beware of Fake Stock Market Investment Websites and Apps



files. They provide Indian bank accounts—often belonging to “money mules”—for deposits. Although initial small payouts are made to build trust, communication ceases after substantial amounts are deposited, resulting in victims losing their investments to these cyber scams.

Advisory for Public Safety Against Stock Market Scams:

Exercise caution with sponsored ads on Facebook, Instagram, or Google that promote investment groups on WhatsApp or Telegram, as many may be fraudulent.

Be vigilant against impersonators claiming to represent FIs, FPOs, financial advisors, or reputable institutions.

Avoid sharing sensitive financial details, such as bank information or login credentials, with unknown sources.

- Remain skeptical of investment offers that promise unrealistically high returns.

For any assistance or to report suspicious activity, contact the Cyber Crime Police Station in Port Blair via the Cyber Helpline at 9531856083 or visit <https://cybercrime.gov.in>.

Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
04 November 2024**

Andaman and Nicobar Police has issued a public warning against a

surge in fraudulent stock market investment websites and applications that are deceiving unsuspecting investors through social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Google. These scams are being promoted through sponsored advertisements

featuring manipulated images and videos of well-known individuals to appear legitimate. Users are then redirected to fake WhatsApp and Telegram groups operated by cybercriminals posing as trading groups, financial advisors, or investment

platforms. Once added to these groups, victims are exposed to deceptive stock tips, live classes, and promises of exclusive access to lucrative investment opportunities. Fraudsters also share links to fake trading apps on the Play Store, App Store, or directly share APK



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Minor Injured in Children's Swimming Pool at Reputed Hotel in Shaheed Dweep; FIR Filed



shortly after entering the pool. They immediately sought emergency medical assistance and took her to the local government hospital, where she received treatment for her injuries, including stitches and medication.

In the complaint, the father expressed concern that the incident could have been life-threatening, attributing the injury to "faulty construction and an ignorant approach" by the hotel management. He has called for serious action against the establishment to prevent future occurrences.

This incident underscores the critical importance of ensuring guest safety in the hospitality industry, especially in popular tourist destinations like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. With tourism being a vital component of the local economy, it is essential for hotels and resorts to prioritize the well-being of their guests. Ensuring that facilities are well-maintained and safe, not only protects visitors but also helps sustain the influx of tourists that the islands depend on.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
04 November 2024

A distressing incident was reported from Shaheed Dweep, where a

young tourist suffered a serious injury while enjoying the swimming pool facilities at a reputed hotel. The event, which occurred on October 17, 2024, has raised concerns about guest safety in the hospitality

According to a complaint filed by a family visiting from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, their minor daughter, sustained a deep wound after encountering a sharp, broken edge on the steps of the children's swimming pool. The family had

checked into the hotel around noon when the incident unfolded shortly after.

In his written complaint to the police, the father stated that their child began screaming in pain



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Nicobar District Police Organises Various Events Across Nicobar Group to Mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas



mother for her sacrifice. Additionally, in a display of community service, officers donated blood at BJR Hospital in Car Nicobar.

Educational initiatives were also prominent during this period. PS Campbell Bay organized an essay competition at GSSS Vijaynagar, while PS Nancowry hosted a similar event at GMSS Kamorta, focusing on themes such as the Role of Police, Mera Bharat Mahan and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. Furthermore, a painting competition was held at PS Car Nicobar, inviting children from Kinuka, Perka, and Malacca villages to express their creativity.

To promote environmental responsibility, cleanliness drives were conducted by PS Car Nicobar, Nancowry, and Campbell Bay. A Walkathon for police personnel was organized at PS Car Nicobar, PS Katchal, and Nancowry, encouraging unity and fitness among the ranks.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
04 November 2024

Nicobar District Police organised a series of events from October 21st

to 31st, 2024, to commemorate Police Commemoration Day, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, and Police Flag Day. These initiatives were designed to enhance community engagement, increase awareness, and pay tribute to the sacrifices of police personnel.

The events culminated on October 31st with a pledge ceremony marking Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Senior officers led the event at various police stations across the district, where officers and staff reaffirmed their

commitment to national unity.

In a heartfelt tribute to fallen heroes, police personnel from PS Car Nicobar paid a visit to the family of Ex-Constable Francis, a martyr from the India Reserve Battalion (IRBn), honouring his

Through these varied activities, the Nicobar District Police has reinforced its commitment to public service, unity, and honouring the legacy of its personnel while fostering a spirit of community among the residents.

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



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.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
04 November 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, 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

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.

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Claims and Objections Invited on the Draft Motor Vehicle Aggregator Scheme for A & N Islands



Vehicle Aggregator Scheme, 2024 and within 30 days from the publication date based on this (i.e. 9th October 2024). Suggestions and objections can be directed to the Secretary, State Transport Authority, Transport Department, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, or sent via email to dirtpt.and@nic.in.

The draft scheme aims to ensure compliance with national standards while fostering the growth of transportation services in the region. This public consultation phase reflects the administration's commitment to transparency and stakeholder engagement as it seeks to create a robust framework for motor vehicle aggregators in the Islands.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
04 November 2024

Islands has unveiled individual can operate the Draft Motor as an aggregator Vehicle Aggregator without obtaining the Scheme, 2024. This necessary license initiative aligns with from designated state the amended Motor authorities. Vehicles Act (MV Act) of 2019, specifically The Central Government has provided Draft Motor

The draft is now accessible to the public on the Departmental website, inviting claims and objections from citizens. Stakeholders and interested parties are encouraged to submit their feedback



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