ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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Strategic Role of Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Safeguarding INS Vikrant During the 1971 War



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 16 December 2024

During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant played a pivotal role in the eastern theatre, operating as a centrepiece of India's navastrategy. Critical intelligence suggested that Pakistan's submarine PNS Ghazi was tasked with locating and destroying INS Vikrant. In response, the Indian Navy devised a tactical strategy to protect its prized carrier by leveraging the strategic location of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Intelligence and Deployment:

The Indian Navy stationed INS Vikrant near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, away from immediate danger and mainland vulnerabilities. It safeguarded the carrier from potential attacks. Meanwhile, the Navy spread misinformation, suggesting that INS Vikrant was anchored at Visakhapatnam, a decoy that played a crucial role in trapping PNS Ghazi.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands offered an ideal defensive position. The islands' remote location ensured that INS Vikrant remained protected from Pakistan's naval advances.

PNS Ghazi - A Lethal Threat:

PNS Ghazi was a Tench-class submarine acquired from the United States in 1964, making it Pakistan's most formidable naval asset at the time. Measuring 95 meters in length and equipped with a crew of 93, including 11 officers, Ghazi had an impressive operational range and was capable of undertaking long missions. Armed with 28 torpedoes and naval mines, it had the firepower to devastate enemy ships and disrupt maritime operations.

PNS Ghazi was the first submarine to serve in South Asia. Its mission in 1971 included sinking INS Vikrant and laying mines along India's eastern seaboard, which would have crippled Indian naval

operations. The threat posed by Ghazi was significant, necessitating strategic countermeasures by the Indian Navy.

The Demise of PNS Ghazi:

PNS Ghazi, Pakistan's advanced submarine, was dispatched to hunt down INS Vikrant and disrupt Indian naval operations. Misled by Indian intelligence, Ghazi moved toward Visakhapatnam, where it eventually met its end. The sinking of PNS Ghazi eliminated a significant threat to INS Vikrant and reinforced the efficacy of India's defensive strategy.

Post-Ghazi Operations of INS Vikrant:

With the threat of PNS Ghazi neutralised, INS Vikrant assumed an aggressive operational role in the Bay of Bengal. The carrier launched sustained air raids on key East Pakistani installations, including the ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, and Khulna. These strikes targeted military infrastructure, supply depots, and troop concentrations, crippling Pakistan's ability to sustain its operations in the eastern theatre. The success of Vikrant's missions effectively contributed to isolating East Pakistan, hastening the fall of East Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh.

The Impact of INS Vikrant's Operations:

INS Vikrant's relentless airstrikes and naval blockade were instrumental in ensuring India's victory in the eastern theatre. The operations not only disrupted East Pakistani logistics but also provided crucial support to the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini forces, facilitating their rapid advances.

This strategic utilisation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands highlighted their importance in India's defence planning during the war. By stationing INS Vikrant in these waters, India not only protected its most valuable naval asset but also established a commanding presence in the Bay of Bengal.

Legacy of INS Vikrant:

The original INS Vikrant, India's first

aircraft carrier, was procured from the United Kingdom. Initially ordered for the Royal Navy as HMS Hercules during World War II, its construction was halted post-war, and the incomplete vessel was sold to India in 1957. Completed and commissioned on March 4, 1961, INS Vikrant had a displacement of approximately 19,500 tons and measured 210 meters in length. It could accommodate up to 23 aircraft, including Hawker Sea Hawk fighter jets and Breguet Alizé anti-submarine aircraft. Equipped with anti-aircraft guns and powered by steam turbines, Vikrant could achieve speeds of up to 25 knots. During its service, INS Vikrant played a crucial role in enforcing naval blockades and conducting air raids, significantly contributing to India's victory in the 1971 war. After more than three decades of service, INS Vikrant was decommissioned in January 1997, later converted into a museum in Mumbai, and eventually dismantled between 2014 and 2015. Despite its dismantling, INS Vikrant remains a symbol of India's maritime strength and naval heritage.

In a testament to India's advancing naval capabilities, the new INS Vikrant (IAC-1), commissioned on September 2, 2022, marks a significant milestone as India's first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier. Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed at Cochin Shipyard, this vessel boasts state-of-the-art automation systems and a displacement of approximately 43,000 tons. Measuring 262 meters in length, the new Vikrant can carry up to 30 aircraft, including MiG-29K fighters, helicopters, and drones. Equipped with advanced combat and surveillance systems, a ski-jump for aircraft takeoff, and a mix of indigenous equipment, INS Vikrant (IAC-1) significantly enhances India's maritime security and power projection capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The commissioning of this carrier not only strengthens India's bluewater navy but also places the nation among the few countries capable of designing and constructing an aircraft carrier domestically, underscoring India's commitment to self-reliance in defence.

Rising Alcohol Consumption in Andaman and Nicobar Islands: An Alarming Public Health Concern



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 16 December 2024

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a picturesque archipelago located in the Bay of Bengal, has long been known for its pristine beaches, rich biodiversity, and unique culture. However, a concerning trend has emerged in recent years, as alcohol consumption in the region has risen sharply, with the latest figures from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) Limited revealing significant increase in liquor sales. In the financial year 2022-23, liquor sales by ANIIDCO soared to Rs. 267.32 crores, a stark rise from Rs. 191.46 crores in the previous year. ANIIDCO's growth is largely attributed to the IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor) division, which remains the corporation's primary revenue source, contributing over 57% to its total turnover of Rs. 465.54 2022-23. crores in

ANIIDCO, as the sole distributor of liquor in the islands, controls the distribution of alcohol to all bars and sells liquor solely through its own retail outlets across the region. The corporation plays a central role in the availability of alcohol to the local population. While the retail prices of liquor have remained largely unchanged over the past years, the surge in sales points to an increase in consumption. This data raises significant concerns about the social and health implications for islands, especially given the limited healthcare infrastructure available in

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, despite their strategic importance and growing population, face substantial healthcare challenges. The healthcare infrastructure, though improving, still struggles to meet the needs of the population. There are

limited medical facilities, and specialised healthcare services, especially in the fields of addiction treatment and rehabilitation.

The surge in alcohol consumption will put additional pressure on an already stretched healthcare system. Chronic alcohol use, especially at high levels, can lead to severe physical and mental health issues, which require intensive medical attention. The lack of access to advanced healthcare facilities for alcohol-related diseases makes the situation even more dire.

The rising levels of alcohol consumption in the islands have farreaching consequences, not just for individual health, but for society as a whole.

Mental health is another area at risk. Alcoholism is often linked to depression, anxiety, and other psychological disorders. For many individuals, the stress of living in a remote region with limited access to support services can exacerbate these conditions, creating a vicious cycle that is difficult to break.

In addition to the physical and mental toll, chronic alcoholism often leads to social problems. Families are frequently affected, as alcohol abuse can contribute to domestic violence, child neglect, and other forms of social dysfunction. The strain on relationships and family structures can result in a deterioration of the social fabric in communities.

Alongside the health impacts, the increase in alcohol consumption is also contributing to a rise in alcohol-related crimes across the islands. Public intoxication, drunken driving, domestic violence, and violent altercations have become more common.

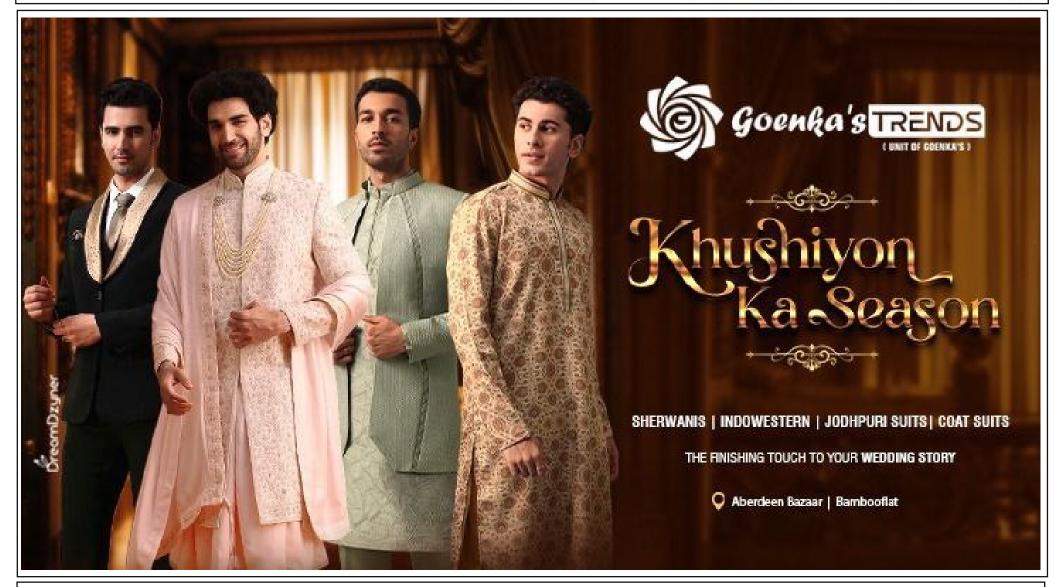
A comprehensive approach is needed to address the root causes of alcohol abuse in the Islands.











TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

Admiral D K Joshi's Message on Vijay Diwas: Honouring the **Bravery and Sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces**



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,

On the occasion people of Vijay Diwas, a Andaman message released from Admiral D K Joshi. AVSM, The PVSM, (Retd.),

Governor, Islands **16 December 2024** Development Agency to was Nicobar

message nation's YSM, NM, VSM reads as following: sovereignty solemn integrity. Lt. On this

every year on the tribute honour unparalleled courage dedication of the and Indian the historic victory those A&N in the 1971 war. continue to defend pride Vice This day serves our borders. Their embody. Chairman, Islands as a beacon of bravery their the resilience. of supreme and sacrifices Islands. unwavering commitment to safeguarding

observed moment to pay rest of the country to 16th of December, countless heroes this the who ultimate and for the motherland profound Armed acknowledge the armed forces and Forces that led to selfless service of embrace the spirit inspires valour, every Indian to and uphold the values On of unity, freedom, Diwas, and and patriotism that renew our pledge

> our I call upon and Andaman Nicobar Islands to fought.

occasion of Vijay Vijay Diwas is a join hands with the the in commemorating made the day. Let us unite sacrifice in reflecting on the to sacrifices of our who of nationalism and

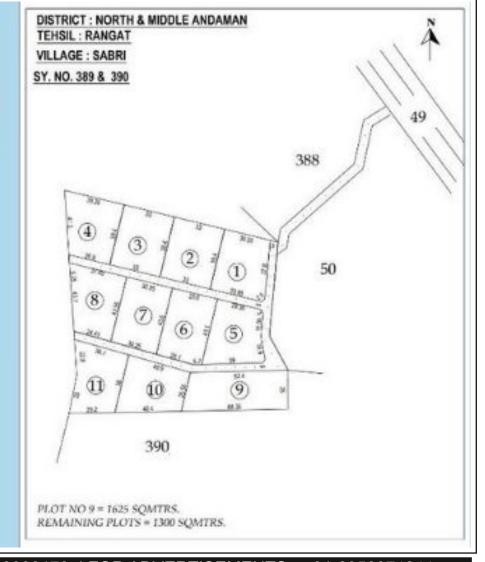
> this define our nation to serve our nation with dedication all and honour the residents of the ideals for which and our brave soldiers

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Block Development Office Ferrargunj Hosts Training to Promote Child Participation in Gram Sabha Decision-Making



Office.

Panchavati

the

Administration.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, **16 December 2024**

Level Institutions, Block Training 'Promoting Participation in the of **Decision-Making** Process of Sabha' by the Gram organized Development Abhiyan Block

aimed to empower the children by integrating voices grassroots governance.

The highlighted significance including children in nurturing Gram Ferrargunj, discussions to foster governance. under the guidance inclusivity of the Directorate of ensure Rural Development, representation Raj community and decisions. on Urban Local Bodies Participants Child (RD, PRIs & ULBs) equipped A&N strategies The encourage Gram initiative, conducted support child was under the Rashtriya participation, thereby The Swaraj strengthening

local their Speaking on into occasion, Mr. Anand Development, Amritraj, Pradhan of Mr. Tapas Sarnakar, Gram Panchayat Office Tushnabad. training underscored the pivotal role of Gram Department, of Panchayats Sabha involvement and urged local leaders decision-making equitable to actively engage processes. in with children during Gram meetings, were recognising them as commitment with key stakeholders in empowering to community and development.

event featured insightful to (RGSA), democratic values at sessions by Ms. C. development.

level. Vijava. а domain expert from the the Department of Rural and Superintendent of the the Social Welfare who in shared their child expertise on in fostering child He participation in

Sabha This initiative reflects administration's the future generations by providing them with opportunities to also contribute meaningfully community



Dealers Urged to Comply with VAT Regulations in A & N Islands



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,

16 December 2024

The Andaman and Nicobar Value Islands

Value Added Tax Rules, 2020, require strict adherence from dealers trading in specified goods. The goods under the purview of VAT in the Andaman and Nicobar include:

Added Tax Regulation, 2017, and Petroleum Products: Petroleum Dealers involved in the sale of crude, high-speed diesel (including for ships), petrol, natural gas, and aviation turbine

> Alcoholic Beverages: Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) and beer.

these goods must comply with the VAT Regulation by issuing proper tax invoices upon request from consumers, as mandated by Section 50 of the A & N VAT Regulation. Additionally, dealers

are required to maintain detailed records under Section 48(6) of the Regulation.

Consumer

Advisory

purchasing Consumers the aforementioned goods encouraged to request and verify tax invoices for every transaction. These invoices must include:

1. The words "Tax Invoice" displayed prominently. 2. Details of the selling registered dealer, including name, address, registration 3. The name and address of the purchaser, along with their registration number (if the purchaser is a registered dealer). A unique invoice number, date. description, quantity, value of goods sold, and applicable tax

This advisory aims to ensure awareness among consumers and promote compliance with VAT regulations. Consumers are urged to report any irregularities or noncompliance by dealers to the authorities. concerned

For further information, refer to the Andaman and Nicobar VAT Regulation, 2017 and VAT Rules,



Shipping Services Disruption Likely Due to Adverse Weather



Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram, **16 December 2024**

Commuters, the general vessel

informed been adverse conditions,

that unsafe. The Directorate of services at short notice for Information Counter at weather Shipping Services has passenger and vessel Phoenix Bay via phone at including warned that it may be safety. strong winds, are making forced to suspend or operations cancel Inter-Island and Additionally, operations of 1800-345-2714.

public, and tourists have increasingly difficult and Foreshore Sector vessel

Harbour and Vehicle Ferry Services connecting Chatham. Bambooflat, Dundas Point, Hopetown, Phoenix Bay, and other outstations experience disruptions or suspensions depending the weather conditions. In case of poor weather, services between Phoenix Bay, Hopetown, Bambooflat be mav diverted and operated from Chatham Jetty.

Passengers and tourists are advised to plan their travel accordingly to avoid inconvenience. For realtime updates on vessel schedules and status, the public can contact the 03192-245555 / 232714 or the toll-free number















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Ladder of Pontoon & Jetty at RGWSC Damaged, Inland **Vessels to Operate from Junglighat Jetty**



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,

16 December 2024

The ladder of the pontoon inclement weather, rendering **Sports** significant damage due to nearby islands,

and jetty at the Rajiv Gandhi it unsafe for boat operations. Complex This disruption affects the (RGWSC) has sustained movement of tourists to including

Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Island and North

travellers, all inland vessels the busy tourist season.

will be redirected to operate from the Junglighat Jetty, effective Dec. 16, 2024, until necessary restoration work on the RGWSC jetty is completed. These measures are being taken to ensure safety of tourists.

Tourist safety is paramount, and authorities should be lauded for their prompt decision to prioritize the wellbeing of tourists intending to visit North Bay and Netaji Subhas Chandra Island. Tourism remains the largest private-sector employer in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and it is crucial to ensure that tourist facilities across the islands remain safe and secure. All necessary steps must be taken to preserve integrity of these essential To ensure the safety of services, especially during



Kuldeep Rai Sharma Extends Heartfelt Tribute to 1971 **War Heroes on Vijay Diwas**



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 16 December 2024

On the occasion of Vijay courageous

Diwas, former Member of fought valiantly during the heartfelt tribute soldiers

Parliament from the Andaman 1971 war, safeguarding the and Nicobar Islands, Mr. sovereignty and integrity of Kuldeep Rai Sharma, paid India. December 16th, a day of the historic significance, marks the who victory of the Indian Armed

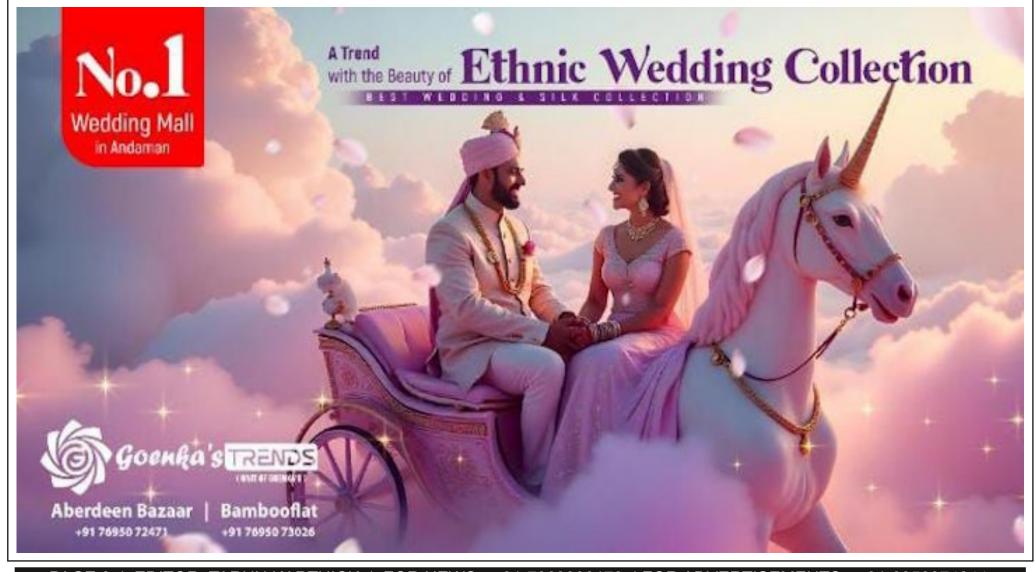
Forces and serves as a He called upon the people of reminder of the supreme India to unite in honouring the sacrifices made by the nation's nation's heroes and to reaffirm defenders.

In his tribute, Mr. Sharma country.

expressed deep admiration for the bravery and unwavering dedication of the soldiers who, through their sacrifices. ensured the triumph of justice and peace. He acknowledged that Vijay Diwas not only commemorates the valour of the past but also honours the ongoing efforts of soldiers who continue to protect the nation's borders with unmatched courage resolve.

"As a proud citizen of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, I stand in solidarity with the Indian Armed Forces on this significant day. We, the people of this land, are deeply grateful for the sacrifices you make, and we vow to support you in every way possible as you continue to safeguard our freedom," Mr. Sharma said.

their commitment to the defence and unity of the



Hindu Rashtra Shakti Expresses Gratitude for Timely Action on Campbell Bay Radha Krishna Temple Incident



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 16 December 2024

Shakti's Rashtra Andaman and Nicobar Unit

to the Commissioner of Nicobar alcohol, District for the prompt and temple. Authorities effective response to a recent quickly,

Deputy man, under the influence of trespassing vandalised acted identifying incident at the Radha Krishna apprehending the man. The Deputy Commissioner, the

against the individual.

and In a letter addressed to the Temple in Campbell Bay. police registered a case of organisation praised the swift

authorities. The intervention was credited with restoring a of security and boosting confidence among residents.

The letter specifically acknowledged the professionalism and dedication of Assistant Commissioner Campbell Bay, the Station House Officer of PS Campbell Bay, and the fire brigade team for their tireless efforts.

Hindu Rashtra Shakti lauded the exemplary service and expressed hope that such timely responses would continue to inspire others in community.

Rakeshwar Lall. State President of Hindu Rashtra Shakti, signed the letter. emphasising organisation's sincere appreciation the dedication and commitment shown bγ



Beware of Fake Parcel Delivery Scam to Obtain OTPs from Targeted Victims



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,

16 December 2024

In a bid to tackle the rising threat of The cybercrime, Andaman and Nicobar Police had earlier issued a warning

regarding a new scam aimed at information, such as OTPs for bank **OTPs** Passwords) unsuspecting victims under the guise of fake parcel deliveries

scam, orchestrated cybercriminals, involves manipulating individuals into divulging sensitive

parcel deliveries. Typically, perpetrators with insider knowledge delivery systems, including personnel or agencies, identify potential targets based on their frequent receipt of packages from platforms. e-commerce

To combat this growing threat, the Time transactions, by exploiting the pretext Andaman and Nicobar Police had several precautionary measures for public awareness and protection their advisory:

> Verify Order History: Before accepting or canceling any package, individuals are urged to verify their

order history and anticipated delivery dates

- 2. Exercise Caution with SMS Links: Avoid clicking on any links contained in SMS messages related to package deliveries to mitigate the risk of falling victim to fraudulent schemes.
- 3. Vet URLs Before Access: Prior to opening any links or providing personal information/OTP, scrutinize all URLs associated with parcel notifications
- Limit Personal Information Sharing: Refrain from sharing unnecessary personal details, such as addresses, email IDs, or phone numbers, especially in contexts unrelated to legitimate transactions.
- 5. Exercise Caution with Delivery Be cautious encountering unexpected delivery notifications via SMS or email, refraining from clicking on links or calling back numbers without proper verification.

For those requiring assistance or seeking further information, individuals are encouraged to reach out to the Cyber Crime Police Station in A&N Islands via the National helpline No.1930 or the A&N Police Cyber Helpline No. 9531856083. Additionally, resources and support can be accessed through the official cvbercrime.gov.in

