ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

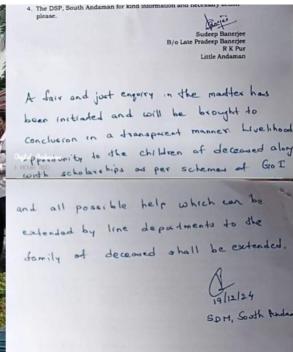
by **NICOBAR TIMES**

20 DECEMBER 2024 | FRIDAY | SRI VIJAYA PURAM | WWW.NICOBARTIMES.COM

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Protests Called Off in Little Andaman After Written Assurance from SDM





Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 20 December 2024

Protests in Little Andaman, On December 15, 2024, Mr. sparked by the tragic Pradeep Banerjee assurance from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate depleted SDM

"A fair and just enquiry in station. conclusion in transparent manner. children of deceased along with scholarships as per schemes of Gol and all by shall

extended line departments to the family of deceased extended." Following this assurance, misconduct family agreed

of Mr. Banerjee's body, which had been withheld as of the protests.

The Incident:

suicide of tea shop owner reportedly detained under Pradeep Banerjee, were allegations of drunk driving. called off on 19th December Community and the family 2024, following a written claim he was merely standing beside his fuelbike when (SDM). In the assurance, plainclothes officers arrived, wrote: refueled the vehicle, and took him to the police Banerjee was the matter has been released several hours later initiated and will be brought without any charges or a a challan.

Livelihood opportunity to the According to his family, Banerjee did not return home after his release. Tragically, he was found to possible help which can be have taken his own life shortly thereafter.

be The family and community promising allege that during his to detention directly proceed with the cremation contributed to his suicide.

Banerjee's brother demanded the suspension of the officers involved, the filing of an FIR against them, and compensation for the victim's three young children.

Protests and Response:

The situation escalated as the family refused to cremate the body until their demands were Protesters rallied in support of the family, demanding justice and accountability. In response to the public police outcry, three personnel were suspended. the However, family remained firm in their call for an FIR and assurances children's for the compensatory employment.

The SDM's written assurance ultimately pacified the protesters, not only police thorough and transparent investigation also but tangible support for the bereaved family.

District Administration South Andaman Slaps Rs. 1.24 Crore Penalty on Quarry Operator for Illegal Mining and Transportation of Minor Minerals



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 20 December 2024

In a significant crackdown on illegal mining, the District Administration, South Andaman, has imposed a hefty penalty of Rs. 1.24 crore on a quarry operator recently for unauthorised extraction and transportation of minor minerals. The action comes under the purview of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Minor Mineral Rules, 2012, and the Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966.

The violation was identified following an investigation, and the defaulter was served notices to justify their actions. However, failing to respond or appear before authorities, the 1,24,88,000 penalty—Rs. was calculated in accordance with Section 34 of the Minor Mineral Rules and Section 201(6) of the Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation.

administration directed the violator to deposit the penalty with the Cashier, District Office, South Andaman, within seven days of receiving the order. Noncompliance will result in the

penalty being recovered as arrears of land revenue, with corresponding entries in the violator's Record of Rights (RoR).

Reiterating its zero-tolerance approach, the District Administration has warned against any further illegal activities, promising stricter action in the future if such violations persist.

Additionally, the administration has appealed to stakeholders to comply with existing laws to ensure the sustainable and legal use of natural resources. It has emphasized unauthorized mining mineral transportation not only undermines public interests but also threatens environmental sustainability.

To strengthen vigilance, the District Administration introduced confidential reporting channels. Residents can report illegal mining, encroachments, unauthorized construction by contacting the District Control Room 03192-240127/238881/1070 through WhatsApp at 9531888844. The identity of informants will remain strictly confidential.











TO REPORT A NEWS CALL OR WHATSAPP ON 7063998178

A&N Traffic Police Issues Directives to Tackle Abandoned Vehicles and Ensure Road Safety



focused on

issue

safetv

vehicles

compliance

directives

unused

Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram, **20 December 2024**

In a bid to enhance road safety and address traffic Key congestion, the Andaman during the meeting include: Garage and Nicobar Traffic Police convened a crucial meeting 1. Removal of Abandoned repair and Ajay Kr. Rai, DANIPS (Dy. remove SP Traffic). The meeting abandoned vehicles from prohibited.

month. This within one measure aims decongest public spaces and ensure smoother traffic flow.

2. Scrapping of Unclaimed Vehicles Vehicles: that 5. remain unclaimed for an extended period, or those tackling the whose owners refuse to will abandoned claim them, enforcing processed for scrapping or road dealt with through legal norms, channels.

issued 3. No Roadside Repairs: owners instructed to conduct all maintenance with garage owners under Vehicles: Garage owners work within their premises. the chairmanship of Mr. have been directed to Performing such activities or on public roads is strictly

undertaking major repairs must not be worked on that could alter a vehicle's without clearance from law identity, garage must verify the vehicle's Additionally, garage owners Registration (RC).

Prohibition Unauthorised Modifications: modifications compromise a vehicle's directives will be safety are strictly banned. monitored. Strict action will Garage owners ensure compliance this directive. guidelines.

6. Handling of Stolen Vehicles: In cases where This initiative by the Traffic suspected stolen vehicles Police underscores their are brought for repairs or commitment to fostering modifications, owners are required to road usage in the Andaman report them immediately to and

roadsides and footpaths 4. RC Verification: Before the police. These vehicles owners enforcement Certificate are expected to cooperate fully in the recovery of stolen vehicles.

> Traffic Police The Any emphasised that that compliance with these must be taken against violating with found these

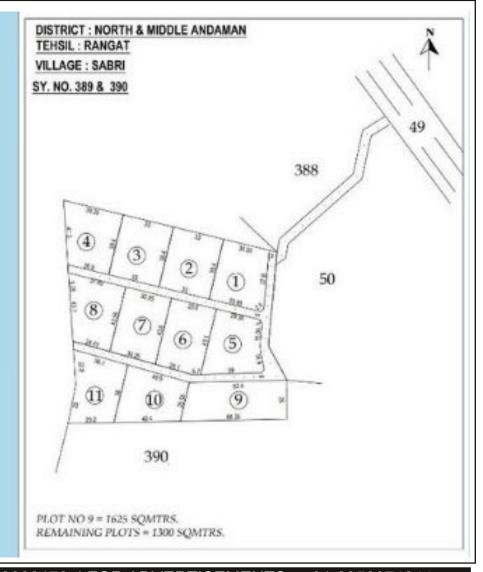
garage safer and more organised Nicobar Islands.

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Chief Secretary Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation at ZSI Workshop



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 20 December 2024

Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, emphasized the need to conserve the Highlighting the integral role encouraged Islands' unique biodiversity "Coastal and Biodiversity of Ecosystems." The event, Survey of India Andaman

Regional Centre, is being regions held at the ZSI Auditorium. conservation Sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Chief Change, Climate workshop personnel services.

of flora and fauna in programs that while addressing a three- traditional knowledge, the these aspects and foster day training workshop on Chief Secretary noted their mutual learning Marine presence in folklore and participants. Island cultural narratives. He stressed the importance of Dr. S. Dinesh Kannan, IFS, organized by the Zoological reconnecting with nature, Chief (ZSI), particularly for younger Forests

deeper understanding of the and Islands' biodiversity. rich

Chief Secretary underscored the responsibility of conserving the Andaman & Nicobar Islands' natural heritage. which includes 96 Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks, each with unique floral and faunal species. He emphasized addressing sensitive biodiversity issues carefully while promoting knowledge sharing across enhance to efforts.

Secretary also the acknowledged the vital role aims to train of institutions like ZSI in from various blending scientific research community engagement. training balance among

> Conservator (Wildlife),

Forests, was He highlighted Islands, home the environmental interdependencies island ecosystems and the spoke

In his welcome address, Dr. discussed outlined course. program Prof. includes sessions, Gandhi Marine Mahatma National and Biological The Chidiyatappu Park, and hands-on training commenced on December intertidal biodiversity at Burmanallah. December He also emphasized ZSI's participants from role in conducting research departments, including the and capacity-building Indian programs.

Nicobar generations, and called for a Department of Environment sessions began with Dr. M. of Fisheries, and others.

the Vinod special guest at the event. Director, Fisheries Survey of the India, delivering a talk on ecological significance of marine fishery resources in to the Andaman & Nicobar numerous endemic species, Islands. Dr. C. Sivaperuman and their vulnerability to presented an overview of and coastal and marine anthropogenic changes. He biodiversity, followed by Dr. also discussed the intricate K. Sivakumar, Professor at within Pondicherry University, who about for a sensitive management of coastal and approach to conservation. marine biodiversity in India. Dr. S. Dinesh Kannan human-animal C. Sivaperuman, Course interactions with a focus on the crocodile management in objectives of the training island ecosystems, while P.M. classroom elaborated on the mangrove field visits to ecosystems of the Islands.

workshop, which marine 19, will continue until 21. with various Coast Guard. Andaman & Nicobar Police, CISF. Directorate of The workshop's technical Agriculture, CBI, Directorate



Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Observe 20th Anniversary of the 2004 Tsunami



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 20 December 2024

Andaman and Nicobar Administration will solemnly observe the 20th anniversary of the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami on December 26, 2024, at the

Tsunami Memorial, Andaman Water Sports Complex, Aberdeen.

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands will lead the commemoration by offering floral tributes at the Memorial, followed by other dignitaries paying homage to those who lost their lives in the disaster. An All-

Religion Prayer Meeting (Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha) will also be conducted at the Memorial, symbolising unity and remembrance.

The Assistant Commissioner (Headquarters), South Andaman, has appealed to the general public, PRI Members, Heads of Departments, and

Officers and Officials of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration to participate in the event. The main function will commence at 7:30 AM, and the public is encouraged to gather at the Memorial to honour the departed souls.

The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, triggered by a massive undersea

earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. With a magnitude of 9.1–9.3, the earthquake unleashed a series of colossal waves that ravaged coastal areas across 14 countries, including India.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands bore the brunt of the catastrophe due to its proximity to the epicentre. Thousands of lives were lost, and thousands were displaced as entire villages were swept away. The southern group of islands suffered extensive destruction.

Nicobar Group of Islands, home to the Nicobarese tribal community, was particularly hard-hit, with villages left in ruins. The tsunami wiped out homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, leaving survivors to rebuild from scratch. The islands' geographic isolation compounded relief efforts, but the resilient spirit of the local communities and coordinated efforts by the administration and armed forces brought much-needed relief and reconstruction.

In the two decades since the disaster, significant progress has been made in disaster preparedness and infrastructure development in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Early warning systems, better communication networks, and disaster response training have been implemented to mitigate the impact of such calamities in the future. The annual observance of this day serves as a poignant reminder of the lives lost and a commitment to resilience and preparedness.

The 20th anniversary commemoration will reflect on the profound loss endured and honour the enduring strength of the communities that have rebuilt their lives in the wake of tragedy.



Block Level Training Programme Held in Ferrargunj to Strengthen **Role of Rural Women in Governance and Economy**



Sri Viiava Puram. 20 December 2024

A block-level training program on 'Promoting Progressive

Livelihood Generation' was organised including sustainable development in rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs), aimed to

Entrepreneurship - Strategies in participation of 125 individuals, insights into entrepreneurship and

empower women leaders and foster Persons (CRPs), and members of transformation. strengthen the role of women in rural The Block Development Officer (BDO) and knowledge, the program seeks to governance and economic activities. of Ferrargunj inaugurated the event, build resilient communities and Rural The initiative, which witnessed the The program provided practical

strategies. equipping at the CMTC Building in Ferrarguni to representatives, Community Resource participants with the tools to drive rural of stakeholders to empower women as

> emphasizing the critical role women play in shaping rural progress.

"Women are pivotal in leading sustainable development and driving transformation in rural areas," the BDO stated, urging attendees to leverage the training to make meaningful impacts communities.

The program featured expert sessions by renowned professionals. Dr. Pooja Kapoor, a Subject Matter Specialist from ICAR-CIARI, delivered an insightful session on 'Strategies for Integrated Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods ' highlighting the importance of combining modern agricultural techniques with traditional practices. Ms. Deepa Biswas, a Domain Expert in Livelihood, focused on 'Sustainable Entrepreneurship Strategies for Rural Women,' encouraging participants to embrace innovation in business ventures. Additionally, Mr. Seemon Mitra, the Manager of SBI, Wimberlygunj, provided valuable insights into institutional support available for women entrepreneurs, emphasising the role of financial inclusivity in rural empowerment.

The event showcased the commitment key drivers of rural development. By enhancing their entrepreneurial skills sustainable livelihoods across the









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Refresher Training Program for ANMs Held at BJR Hospital in Car Nicobar



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 20 December 2024

A one-day Refresher Training program for Auxiliary Nurse Midwives

successfully conducted at the services tailored to the unique Richardson (BJR) Hospital in settings. Nicobar. The program Car aimed enhance the to participants' skills and knowledge, focusing on delivering quality

Conference Hall of Bishop John challenges of remote island

The training covered crucial updates in maternal and child health, immunisation practices, healthcare infection prevention protocols,

dental care, and community engagement strategies. It also introduced emerging technologies to help ANMs deliver efficient and effective services the

Medical local Grace.

Superintendent of BJR Hospital, delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the vital role of frontline health ANMs as workers. She stressed the importance of continuous professional development through refresher training to strengthen the capacity of healthcare workers and improve the overall health and well-being of the community. Dr. Johnson Sameer, Senior Medical Officer at BJR Hospital, encouraged participants to actively engage in the training to enhance their professional competence.

The training program featured a series of technical sessions led by experts from BJR Hospital. Dr. Sahina, Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Partha Mondal, Medical Officer (Ayurveda), Dr. Ruth, Dental Surgeon, Deepika Sharma, Officer (RBSK-Ayurveda), and Dr. Jiji Paul, Medical Officer (RBSK-Homoeo), all contributed their expertise and knowledge to the training, addressing various key aspects of healthcare relevant to the ANMs' work.

This initiative highlights the ongoing commitment improving healthcare delivery in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, particularly remote areas where ANMs play a critical role in providing essential healthcare services to communities.



Orientation Training on Tuberculosis Held at **CHC Nancowrie**



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 20 December 2024

A one-day orientation training healthcare

session on Tuberculosis (TB) was program, held in the CHC successfully conducted at the conference hall, saw the knowledge and skills of Multi-Purpose Health Workers professionals.

active Community Health Centre (CHC) participation from Nursing Officers, Nancowrie, aimed at enhancing Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), The (MPHWs), Community Health

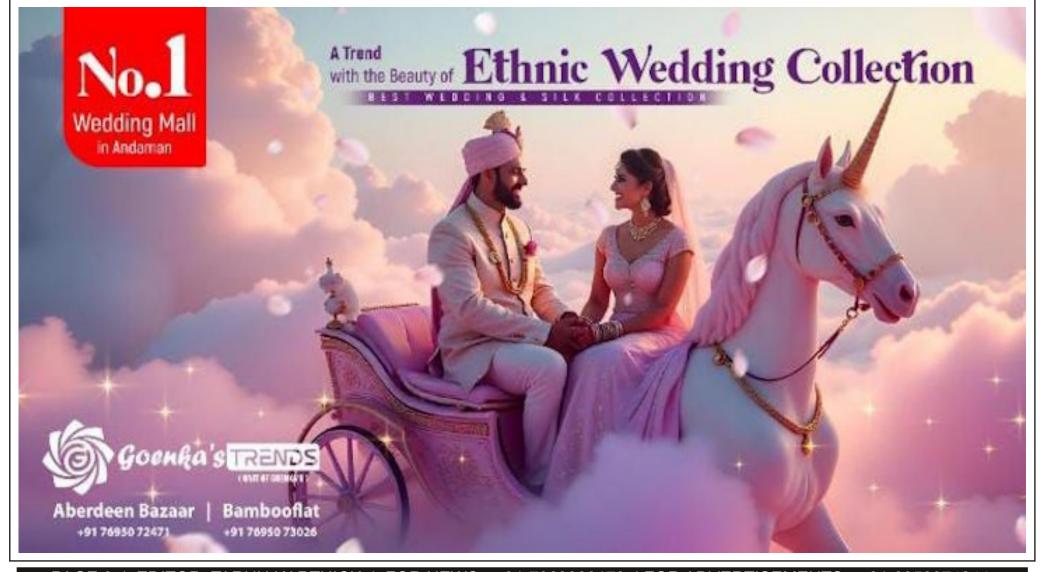
Officers (CHOs), paramedical

at CHC Nancowrie, led the session the shared commitment to public with an in-depth discussion on health

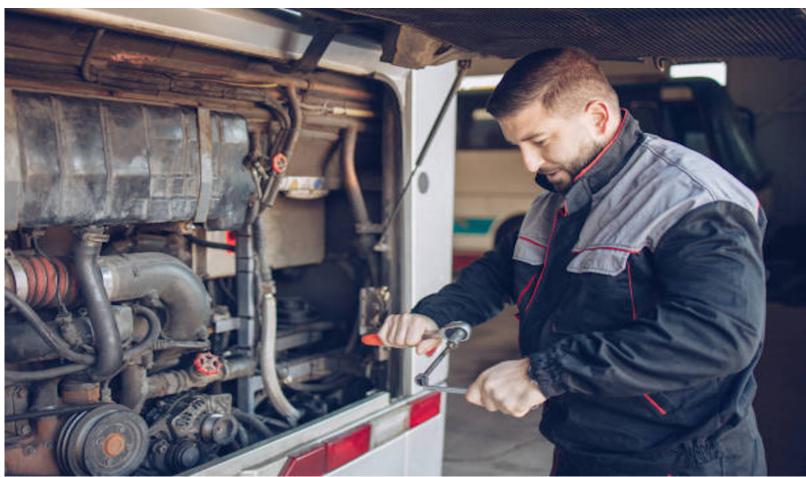
various critical aspects of TB management. He highlighted the importance of Active Case Finding (ACF), early diagnosis, and symptom identification. Stressing the need for prompt detection and treatment, Dr. Tanzeer outlined strategies for managing presumptive TB cases to ensure effective disease control.

Adding to the discourse, Mr. D. Suresh Kumar (STS), provided a detailed briefing on TB medications and the Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) strategy. He also emphasized the importance of screening high-risk groups, including Antenatal Care (ANC) patients, individuals with diabetes, and close contacts of diagnosed TB patients.

The training underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in eradicating TB and called on healthcare workers to play a proactive role in identifying and treating cases Participants left the session better Dr. M. A. Tanzeer, Medical Officer equipped to combat TB, reinforcing region.



Transport Department Announces Apprenticeship Opportunities for Youth in Southern Group of Islands



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, **20 December 2024**

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) initiative, continues to pave the way Department the country by providing Administration is financial

the of for skill development across Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) taking incentives, proactive steps to train local The Government of India's technological support, and youth, particularly those In collaboration with Dr. advocacy. Aligned with this residing in the southern B.R. Ambedkar Institute of

islands, under Transport group of the various certification programs tailored to the transportation sector.

Technology (DBRAIT) and Industrial Training Institutes the (ITIs), department offers certification programs in technical trades relevant to transportation. These certifications make candidates eligible for apprenticeships in various trades under the Transport Department.

To kickstart this effort, the department is encouraging residents of the southern group of islands who hold ITI or other technical trade certifications to seize the opportunity to work as apprentices in trades such as Motor Mechanic, Auto Electrician, Fitter, Welder etc. in **Transport** Department.

Eligible candidates submit their applications online www.apprenticeshipindia.go v.in under "Apprenticeship Opportunities." For additional support. applicants may approach the Office of the Assistant Engineer, STS Unit, Car Nicobar



ABVP Delegation Meets Newly Appointed Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram, 20 December 2024

Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad Dr. Chandra (ABVP), Andaman and Kumar, Nicobar Islands, met the newly appointed

Secretary of the Andaman Dr. Kandi Muthu, Vibhag

A delegation from the Akhil and Nicobar administration, Pramukh;

IAS. Satyajit Halder, City Secretary and Chief The delegation comprised Member; Mr. M. Vinesh, City and cooperation in their Joint Secretary; Ms. Tanuja initiatives for the betterment

Bhushan Singh, City President; Mr.

Ms. Durga Nandani, City Joint Secretary.

During the meeting, the team extended a warm welcome to Dr. Kumar by presenting a bouquet and shawl, symbolizing their best wishes for his new role. They also showcased the organisation's legacy and commitment to student welfare through a "Dheya Yatra," highlighting ABVP's 75 years of dedication to the student community.

The interaction was cordial, with Dr Kumar extended his best wishes to the members, encouraging them to continue their work for the welfare of students society. assured Secretary NEC delegation of his support Tejinder Saha, Co-Chatra Pramukh; of the student community.

