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## Drugs Washing Ashore on A&N Islands is a Growing Threat to Society



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
28 December 2024

Andaman and Nicobar Islands are facing an alarming issue as increasing quantities of illicit narcotics are being discovered washed ashore on its beaches. The most recent incident occurred on 26th December 2024, when a cuboid-shaped package containing 1.26 kilograms of cocaine was found on the Car Nicobar seashore near the Mus Lighthouse. This follows a string of similar occurrences, including the seizure of approximately 16 kilograms of heroin earlier this year at B-Quarry Beach by Campbell Bay Police. In 2023, the Andaman and Nicobar Police recovered 1.1 kilograms of cocaine from the shores of Tillangchong Island.

The issue of drug-laden packages washing ashore is not new to the region. Since 2020, the islands of Car Nicobar and Little Andaman have been dealing with methamphetamine, packed in Chinese tea packets, washing ashore in significant quantities. The Methamphetamine washed ashore in Car Nicobar and Little Andaman is suspected to have originated from a Myanmar vessel intercepted by the Indian Coast Guard in 2019. During the interception, the crew is believed to have jettisoned large quantity of narcotics to avoid detection. The aftermath of these events was devastating: the methamphetamine found on Car Nicobar led to widespread addiction among

hundreds, if not thousands, of locals, with the drugs even reaching as far as Kerala. Similarly, heroin that washed ashore in Campbell Bay also made its way to Kolkata.

These incidents raise critical questions about the scale of drug trafficking in the region and the vulnerabilities of the Andaman waters. The recent seizure of over 6,000 kilograms of methamphetamine from a Myanmar vessel in November 2024 highlights the possibility that the Andaman Sea is being used as a major route for drug trafficking. The islands' geographical proximity to Myanmar—a global narcotics hub and one of the largest drug-producing regions in the world—is a likely factor contributing to the increased smuggling activities.

The recurring discovery of high-value narcotics raises concerns about the effectiveness of regional maritime security and surveillance measures. Illicit drugs washing ashore not only threaten the health and productivity of the island's population but also pose the risk of escalating local consumption and demand. Such a rise in demand could give rise to drug trafficking, with anti-social elements potentially resorting to using the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a transshipment hub for smuggling drugs to other parts of the world. This would become increasingly likely if these elements establish connections with international drug trafficking networks to meet the growing local demand.

The presence of dangerous narcotics poses a severe risk to the island communities. Addiction, health complications, and non-productivity are immediate threats, while a long-term increase in crime and societal degradation looms large. Left unchecked, the narcotics influx could have devastating consequences for the islands' socio-economic fabric.

Addressing this growing threat requires immediate and sustained action. Local law enforcement agencies need to be equipped with better resources for maritime patrolling and surveillance. Additionally, community involvement can play a pivotal role in curbing this menace. Incentivising residents to report stray drugs or drug-related activities by offering substantial cash rewards, government jobs, or guaranteed business loans could encourage greater participation. Such measures could strengthen trust between law enforcement and the community, ensuring a united front against drug trafficking.

The problem of drugs washing ashore on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is no longer a series of isolated incidents but a systemic issue demanding urgent attention. Collaborative efforts between law enforcement, local authorities, and the community are essential to prevent the islands from becoming a hub for drug trafficking and addiction. Proactive steps taken today will safeguard the future of these pristine islands and their people from the scourge of narcotics.

## Mahatma Gandhi International School Celebrates Annual Sports Day with Enthusiasm



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
28 December 2024

Mahatma Gandhi International School hosted its Annual Sports Day with great fervour and excitement on its premises. The event, a highlight of the academic calendar, was graced by Mr. Vikram Singh, Director of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as the Chief Guest.

The day began with the escorting of the Chief Guest, followed by a ceremonial bouquet presentation and a motivational welcome song performed by the students. The Principal's address and the flag-hoisting ceremony officially inaugurated the event, setting a vibrant tone for the proceedings.

Students from all grade levels showcased their athletic skills through a range of track and field events, including obstacle races, sprints, and relay races. The carefully curated categories ensured inclusive participation, fostering a spirit of healthy

competition.

Adding to the festivities were special performances, such as:

- A Karate demonstration by Grade 7-8 students, highlighting discipline and self-defence skills.
- A lively ball drill by Grade 3-4 students.
- A graceful yoga and aerobics display by Grade 9 students.
- A traditional Lezium performance by Grade 5-6 students.

The day also promoted family bonding through specially organised games for parents, which were met with enthusiastic participation.

During the prize distribution ceremony, the winners of various events were lauded for their achievements. In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the significance of sports in nurturing holistic development of a child.

The event concluded on a patriotic note with the singing of the national anthem.

(Story based on a PR by MGIS, Sri Vijaya Puram)



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# Blood Donation Camp Organised by Atal Foundation to Mark 100th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee



Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
28 December 2024

To commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Atal Foundation organized a blood donation camp at Kaithan Kalyana Mandapam in Ward No. 6, Junglighat on 25th

December 2024. The event, held as a tribute to Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's legacy of service and compassion, witnessed enthusiastic participation from the community.

The Deputy Commissioner of South Andaman, Mr. Arjun Sharma (IAS), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his motivational address, he

highlighted the significance of blood donation as a life-saving gesture and urged citizens to contribute selflessly to humanity.

The camp garnered immense support from healthcare

professionals, including doctors, nurses, and volunteers, who ensured its smooth operation. Various community groups, such as CISF jawans, members of the Bazaar United Youth Club, and the Fiber Boat Owners and Operators Association, also participated actively by donating blood.

Adding a special touch to the event, renowned Indian cyclists Ms. Debora Harold, Ms.

Nikita, and Mr. Bobby Thapa joined the noble cause by donating blood. Their act of generosity was met with widespread admiration and applause, reflecting their commitment to community welfare.

The event witnessed a remarkable turnout, with numerous citizens stepping forward to donate blood. This overwhelming response highlighted the spirit of unity and the importance of giving back to the community, resonating with Mr. Atal's lifelong values of service and compassion.

Aziz Ur Rahman, the State President of Atal Foundation-ANI, Councillor of Ward No.

6, and State Vice President of BJYM-ANI, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner, the healthcare team, volunteers, and the public for their support. He remarked, "This blood donation camp is a fitting tribute to the vision and values of Atal Ji. His unwavering commitment to service and humanity continues to inspire us. Let us carry forward his legacy by engaging in selfless acts that uplift society."

The event concluded with a profound sense of pride and fulfilment among all participants, reaffirming their dedication to Mr. Atal's ideals of selflessness and compassion.

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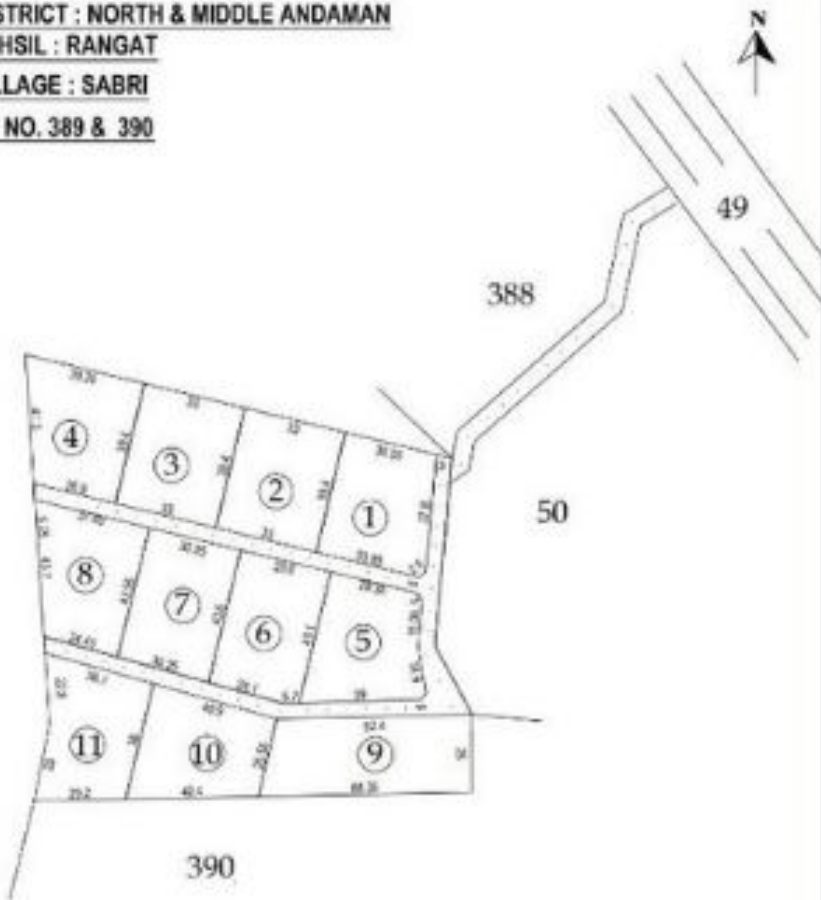
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# 12th Andaman & Nicobar State Conference of CPI(M) to Begin Today



with prominent leaders addressing the gathering. Among the speakers will be G. Ramakrishnan, Polit Bureau Member, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, former Member of Parliament and Central Committee Member, and D. Ayyappan, State Secretary of CPI(M).

The conference's delegate session will be held the next day, 29th December, 2024, at the Atul Smriti Samiti (Bengali Club). Delegates and observers elected from various Area and other Committees will participate in the session.

This event marks a significant occasion for CPI(M) in the region, with key party leaders coming together to discuss critical political issues.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
28 December 2024

The 12th Andaman &

Nicobar State Conference of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) is set to kick off on 28th December, 2024, with a

large-scale procession followed by a public meeting at Tiranga Park. The procession, starting at 4 p.m. from Tiranga

Park, will make its way through key areas such as Aberdeen Bazaar before returning to the park. At 5 p.m., a public meeting will take place,

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# Former Andaman MP Kuldeep Rai Sharma Mourns Loss of Dr. Manmohan Singh



remarkable foresight,” said Sharma.

Reflecting on the life of the late leader, Sharma noted Dr. Singh’s rise from humble beginnings to become one of India’s most respected political figures. His leadership, according to Sharma, exemplified resilience and vision, navigating complex challenges with dignity and grace.

“Dr. Singh’s ability to lead with such grace and navigate difficult times has left an indelible mark on India’s history,” Sharma added. “He was a man whose service and leadership will continue to inspire future generations.”

Sharma extended his condolences to Dr. Singh’s family and all those who revered him.

Tarun Karthick  
Sri Vijaya Puram,  
28 December 2024  
Former Member of

Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai December 2024. In a “Dr. Manmohan Singh’s Sharma, expressed his statement, Sharma described legacy is one of wisdom, heartfelt condolences Dr. Singh as a “statesman integrity, and a deep sense following the demise of Dr. par excellence,” whose life of responsibility. As an Manmohan Singh, the former was a beacon of honesty, economist, scholar, and political leader, he shaped Prime Minister of India, who humility, and an unwavering the trajectory of India with commitment to the nation.

“Rest in peace, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji. You leave behind a nation forever indebted to your service,” said the former MP.



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PDS Food-grains for January and February 2025 Available for Purchase in One Go from 1st January 2025



Act (NFSA) beneficiaries, including Priority Household (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households. The sugar will be distributed at 1 kg per card per month, covering the period from April 2024 to March 2025. The distribution price will be Rs. 30 per kg for PHH households and Rs. 15 per kg for AAY households, starting January 1, 2025.

Ration card holders have been informed that they can collect their food-grains for the months of January and February 2025 together between January 1 and February 28, 2025. Those who are unable to collect their rations in January will still have the option to do so in February 2025.

**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram,**  
**28 December 2024**

Andaman and Nicobar

Administration has announced that food-grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for January and February 2025 will be available for purchase in

one go to all ration card holders across the Union Territory. Beneficiaries can collect the food-grains as per their entitlement for both months in a single

distribution session in January 2025. In addition, subsidised sugar will also be provided to all National Food Security

This consolidated distribution is intended to ensure that all beneficiaries have timely access to essential food supplies.



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# Regional Training Camp for National Sample Survey 80th Round Currently Underway in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



the crucial role that accurate data plays in shaping government policies and decision-making.

Mr. Bappa Saha, Assistant Director at the NSO, is overseeing the training camp. During the event, officials are receiving detailed training to carry out the upcoming survey, scheduled to launch in January 2025. This round of the survey focuses on two major themes: Health and Telecom.

The Health Survey aims to collect comprehensive data on the health sector, including indicators such as morbidity, hospitalisation rates, the use of both public and private healthcare facilities, and the proportion of institutional childbirth. This data will provide valuable insights into the state of healthcare across the region.

The Comprehensive Modular Survey (CMS) on Telecom will gather data on telecom-related indicators and ICT skills, offering a clearer picture of the current state of telecommunications in the islands. The data collected will also contribute to global indices, which will be used by various government ministries and departments for policy formulation.

The survey will cover all areas of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, ensuring that a wide range of information is gathered to inform national and international reports.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
28 December 2024

The National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of

Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, is conducting a Regional Training Camp for the 80th Round of the National Sample Survey (NSS) from December 26 to 30, 2024, at Kendriya Sadan, CPWD

Complex, Lamba Line, Sri Vijaya Puram, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The training camp was inaugurated by Mr. Gaurang Mishra, Director of the Directorate of Economics &

Statistics, A&N Administration. In his inaugural address, Mr. Mishra emphasized the importance of collecting high-quality data and urged participants to uphold rigorous standards throughout the survey process. He also highlighted



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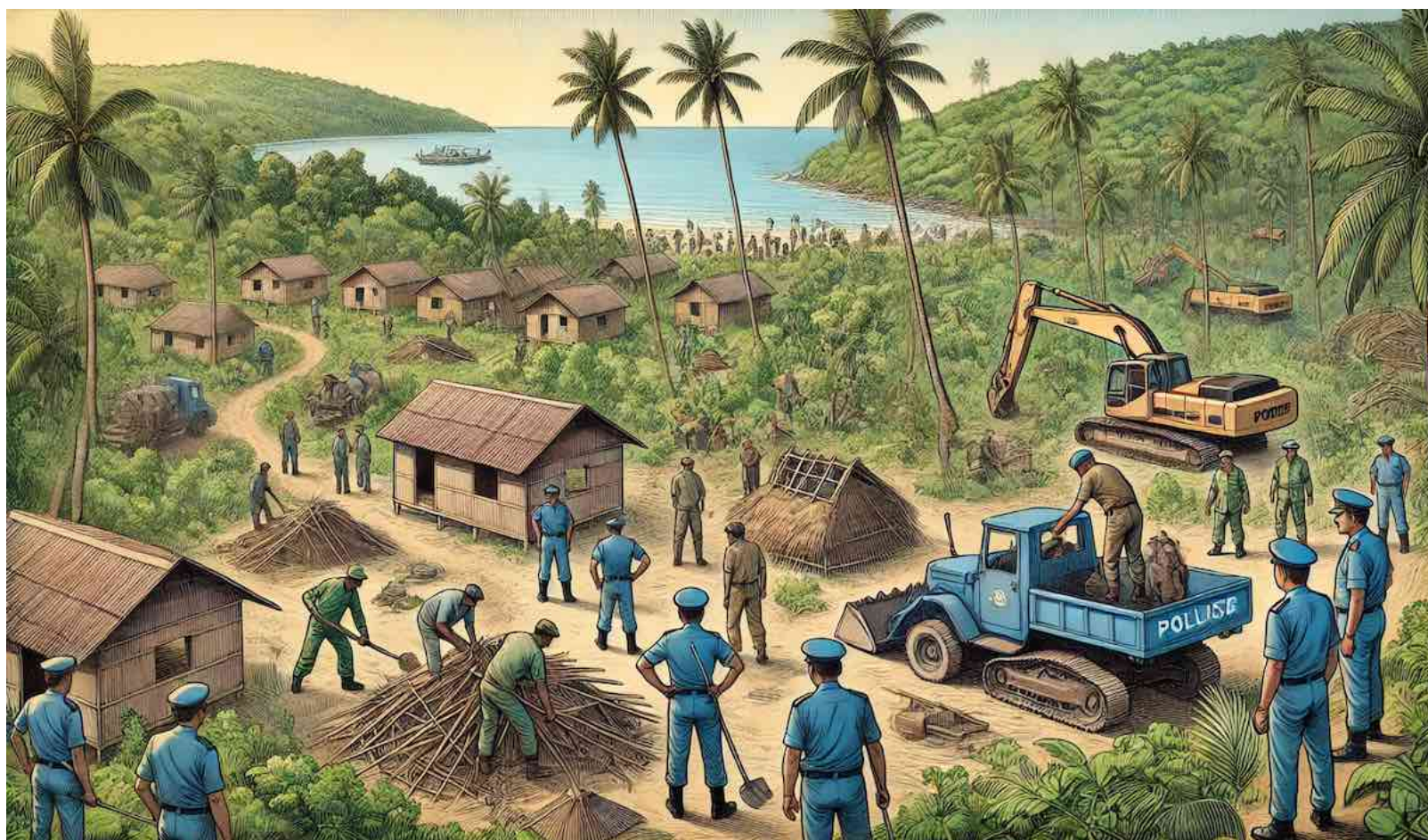
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# South Andaman District Administration Steps Up Efforts to Combat Encroachments



to its original status.

The District Administration has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting government properties and is closely monitoring any attempts at unauthorised construction. The reclaimed land will now be preserved for future development and public welfare projects, ensuring its long-term benefit to the community.

In a statement, the administration urged the public to respect government property and warned that any encroachments would lead to stringent legal action. Residents are also encouraged to report any instances of encroachment, with assurances that the identities of informants will remain confidential.

**Rohit Kumar**

**Sri Vijaya Puram,  
28 December 2024**

The District Administration of South Andaman has

intensified its campaign to address the growing issue of encroachments by launching continuous eviction drives across the district. This initiative is aimed at removing unauthorized

structures and safeguarding government lands and public spaces from encroachment by unscrupulous elements. In a recent operation, the revenue officials of the

Ferrargunj tehsil successfully removed a temporary structure located in North Bay village. The operation cleared a total area of 1,000 square meters of government land, restoring it

For those wishing to report encroachments or seek more information, the District Control Room can be contacted at 03192-240127, 238881, or 1070, or via WhatsApp at 9531888844.

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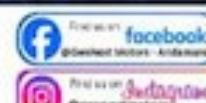
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# Surprise Inspection at Brookshabad Quarry Uncovers Illegal Transportation of Boulders



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
28 December 2024

In an ongoing effort to curb illegal quarrying activities, the

District Administration of South Andaman recently carried out a surprise inspection at the Brookshabad village quarry. The operation, aimed at ensuring compliance with transportation regulations for quarry materials, boulders. Two trucks, identified

by their registration numbers AN01P9982 and AN01Q7670, were found to be transporting boulders without valid transit passes. As per regulations, both vehicles were seized immediately.

In addition to the seizure, proceedings have been initiated to levy penalties against the offenders under the relevant legal provisions. The District Administration has reiterated its commitment to enforcing strict adherence to quarrying and transport regulations to prevent illegal activities and ensure transparency in the sector.

As part of its ongoing efforts, the Administration will continue to conduct both regular and surprise inspections across the region. The public has been urged to report any suspicious activities related to encroachment, illegal mining, or environmental violations.

To report concerns or seek further information, individuals can contact the District Control Room at 03192-240127, 238881, or 1070, or via WhatsApp at 9531888844. The Administration assures that all information shared will be kept confidential to protect the identities and security of informants.

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