

30 DECEMBER 2024 | MONDAY | SRI VIJAYA PURAM | WWW.NICOBARTIMES.COM

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## Four More Arrested in Connection With Nisha Rani Murder Case; Minor Suspect Got Shot in Leg During Police Operation



**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram,**

**30 December 2024**

Bambooflat Police on 29 December 2024, arrested four additional suspects in connection with Nisha Rani Murder Case during a search operation in Shoal Bay area of South Andaman. This development follows the earlier arrest of four suspects on 23 December, who were alleged to have direct involvement in the murder.

The four recently apprehended suspects include two individuals from Tamil Nadu and two from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The suspects from Tamil Nadu have been identified as Kannan Marappan, 36, a resident of Dharmapuri, and Saravanan Ramesh, 23, a resident of Krishnagiri. Among the Andaman suspects, one is a 17-year-old minor, categorised as a Child in Conflict with Law (CCL), whose identity cannot be disclosed. The other is Sheikh Haqib, 26, a resident of Valluvar Nagar, Bambooflat.

Acting on intelligence that four individuals carrying machete have been seen emerging from the Shoal Bay forest to procure food, the police launched a search operation in the dense jungle near the shoreline. Upon locating the suspects, the police attempted to detain them, but the group resisted arrest. According to the FIR filed at Bambooflat Police Station, the suspects tried to evade capture and shouted to each other, urging escape and even inciting an attack on the police.

During the operation, one of the suspects, Kannan Marappan, allegedly attacked a head constable twice with a machete. In response, the sub-inspector leading the operation fired a shot from his 9mm Glock pistol, aiming at Marappan's leg to protect the head constable. However, the bullet accidentally struck the 17-year-old minor suspect in the leg instead.

The injured minor was immediately transported to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Wimberlygunj via a dinghy arranged by the police. Meanwhile, the other three suspects, including Marappan, surrendered after the gunshot and were taken into custody. All four suspects were subsequently handed over to PS Pahargaon for further investigation into their connection to the Nisha Rani murder case.

The two suspects from Andaman, the minor and Sheikh Haqib, had gone missing before being found with the Tamil Nadu suspects. However, the FIR filed by Bambooflat Police does not mention that the minor or Haqib seemed kidnapped by the suspects from Tamil Nadu, instead both of them were running and trying to evade arrest by the Police along with the other suspects.

The investigation centres around the murder of Nisha Rani, who was attacked near the main gate of her residence in Brichgunj, Sri Vijaya Puram, on the night of 21 December. The attack was described as brutal, with Nisha sustaining severe injuries to her head and hands, leading to her immediate death.

The motive for the murder remains unclear. However, the arrests have heightened speculation within the community. Six out of the eight suspects now in custody hail from Tamil Nadu, leading many to believe that the crime may involve contract killers. No official statement regarding this theory has been issued by the police.

The details of the Shoal Bay operation highlight the suspects' intent to resist arrest. According to the details in the FIR, the suspects may have been hiding in the forest for several days, occasionally emerging to procure food. The confrontation occurred in the forest near the shoreline, where they were discovered by the police. The suspects' aggressive behaviour and the subsequent attack on the head constable forced the sub-inspector to take defensive action, which inadvertently injured the minor.

Despite the arrests, many questions remain unanswered. The involvement of the two Andaman suspects with the Tamil Nadu group remains a mystery. The circumstances leading to their association and the nature of their roles in the crime are expected to be clarified as the investigation progresses.

The brutal murder of Nisha Rani has left the community in shock, and residents are demanding clarity and swift justice.

For now, the police have not released any information about the motive or confirmed whether the arrested suspects from Tamil Nadu are contract killers. The community eagerly awaits updates as the investigation deepens.

## Minor Boy from Andamans Apprehended Along with Other Suspects in Nisha Rani Murder Case Harboured Tamil Nadu Suspects in House for One Night



**What is the connection?**



**Tarun Karthick**

**Sri Vijaya Puram,**

**30 December 2024**

A missing minor boy was shot in the leg by a police bullet during an operation on December 29, 2024, in the Shoal Bay area of South Andaman. The bullet, fired by a sub-inspector, was intended for another suspect who attacked a head constable with a machete during an attempt to arrest them.

The minor boy reportedly tried to evade arrest with other three suspects when the police reached their hideout in forest. He allegedly resisted by attacking a head constable who was attempting to catch him. One of the two suspects from Tamil Nadu, Kannan Marappan, tried assaulting the head constable with a machete, which led to the sub-inspector resorting to the use of his weapon.

Earlier on December 27, 2024, the father of the minor boy had visited PS Bambooflat and informed the police that Kannan Marappan and Saravanan Ramesh—two suspects wanted by the police in Brichgunj Murder Case—might have taken his son with them.

The father disclosed that his son, a hotel management student in Tamil Nadu, had returned to Sri Vijaya Puram on November 18, 2024, claiming to be unwell. The boy reportedly told his father that he had befriended two strangers—later identified as Kannan and Saravanan—at Chennai Airport and on their flight to the islands.

The father also informed the police that

his son had met these individuals several times after returning home. The suspects from Tamil Nadu reportedly spoke to the Minor Boy over phone and he once went to meet them in a hotel in Shadipur area. On December 22, 2024, the suspects from Tamil Nadu called the boy to Bambooflat Jetty. The boy reportedly picked them up and brought them to his house, where they stayed overnight. The next day, December 23, 2024, the boy left home with the suspects from Tamil Nadu and did not return.

The father said his son's phone had remained switched off since he left. He also mentioned that his son had on previous occasion been missing from home for five days with his phone off, which is why he initially didn't search for him, assuming he would return on his own.

The situation escalated when the boy's sister saw a YouTube video about the Brichgunj murder case and recognised the two suspects shown in the video as the individuals who had stayed at their house. She informed her father, who immediately approached the police with this information.

The extent of the minor boy's involvement in the Nisha Rani murder case remains unclear. However, it is evident that he harboured the suspects, Kannan Marappan and Saravanan Ramesh from Tamil Nadu, hid with them in the Shoal Bay forest, and tried to evade police when they arrived to capture them.

Another suspect Sheikh Haqib, 26, from the Andaman Islands, was also reported missing before being found with the two accused from Tamil Nadu in Shoal Bay Forest area.

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# MP Announces Foundation Laying for Chatham-Bambooflat Bridge in Four Months by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari



**Tarun Karthick**  
**Sri Vijaya Puram,**  
**30 December 2024**

The long-awaited Chatham-Bambooflat Bridge in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is set to see progress, as Member of Parliament (MP) Bishnu Pada Ray recently revealed that

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, will lay the foundation stone for the bridge in the next four months. In a video message, MP Ray shared the news, explaining that the decision was made during a meeting at Raj Nivas, which took place

during Gadkari's recent visit to the islands. The announcement comes as a relief to the residents who have long sought a permanent solution to their transportation woes.

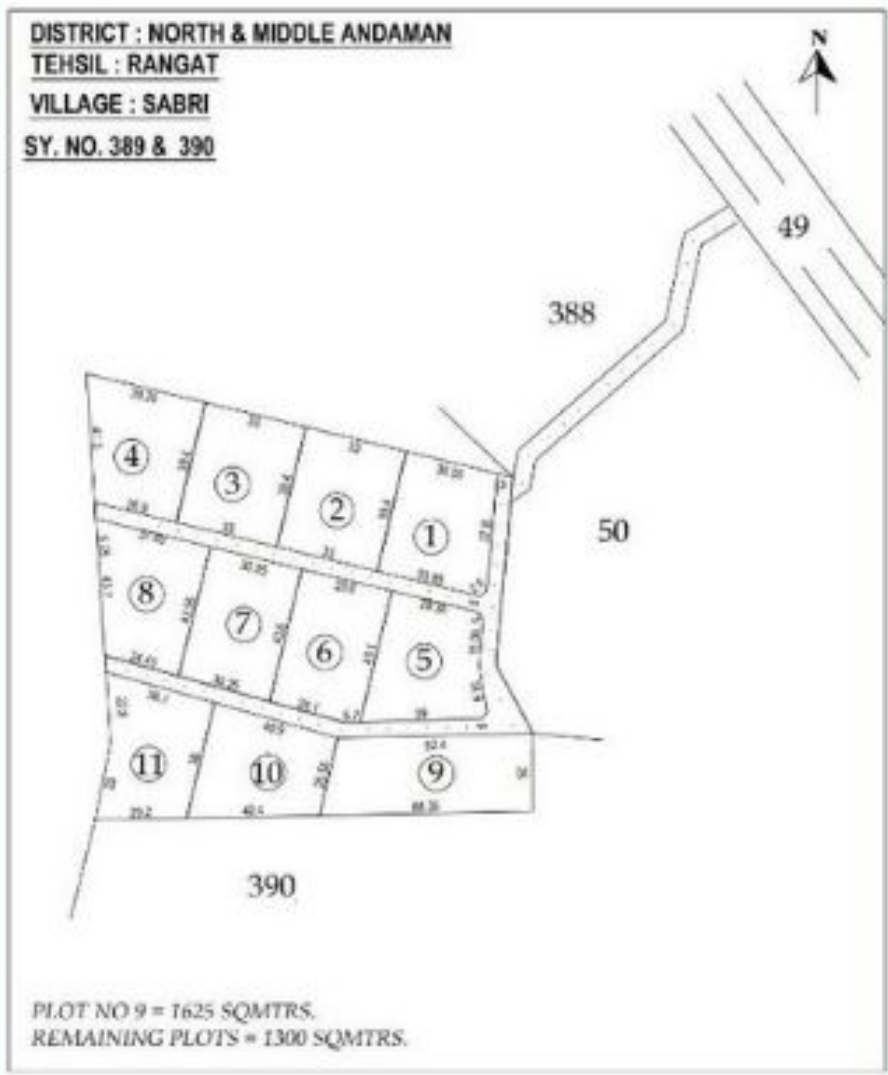
Additionally, MP Ray it was confirmed that the road construction between Baratang Bridge, and Diglipur will be completed within the next 1.5 years. The current condition of the highway has been a source of concern for residents, but this new timeline offers hope for much-needed improvements. These developments mark significant steps forward for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, improving connectivity and easing daily travel for residents across the region.

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# Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Pays Tribute to Veer Savarkar at Cellular Jail



sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters during India's colonial era, is strongly associated with Savarkar's life. He was imprisoned there for several years for his role in the independence movement, and it was during this period that he endured immense suffering and hardship. His contributions to India's freedom struggle, particularly through his writings and advocacy, have made him a pivotal figure in the nation's history.

Gadkari's visit to the jail highlights the ongoing reverence for Savarkar's legacy, not only in Andaman and Nicobar but across the country. The Union Minister's tribute serves as a reminder of the region's deep historical connection to the freedom movement, particularly the role played by the Cellular Jail.

The Cellular Jail, now a national monument, continues to attract visitors from across the world, each coming to pay homage to the countless men and women who were incarcerated there for their dedication to the cause of Indian independence. Gadkari's tribute further reinforces the significance of this landmark in the ongoing remembrance of India's freedom struggle.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
30 December 2024

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Mr. Nitin Gadkari, visited the

historic Cellular Jail to pay his respects to one of India's most prominent freedom fighters, Veer Savarkar. During his recent visit to Andamans, Gadkari reflected on the profound impact Savarkar had on India's struggle for

independence and the enduring influence of his life and ideology.

Sharing his thoughts on social media, Gadkari tweeted in Marathi, "At the Cellular Jail in Andaman, I paid homage to the

brave freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. His life and thoughts are an ideal for all of us. The essence of Savarkar is felt in every part of Andaman."

The Cellular Jail, which stands as a solemn reminder of the



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# SAHYOG Members Meet Union Minister Nitin Gadkari During His Visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands



transportation needs, and initiatives to promote sustainable economic growth on the islands.

Minister Gadkari expressed appreciation for the work done by SAHYOG in addressing the challenges faced by the local community. He assured the delegation of the government's continued support in evaluating and addressing the concerns raised. The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing development in the region while ensuring the preservation of its ecological and cultural heritage.

SAHYOG officials extended their gratitude to Mr. Gadkari for his attention and support, emphasizing their dedication to collaborating with the government for the sustainable development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This meeting highlights SAHYOG's ongoing efforts to act as a bridge between the local community and policymakers, ensuring that the concerns of the people are addressed at the highest levels of government.

**Rohit Kumar**  
**Sri Vijaya Puram,**  
**30 December 2024**

Members of SAHYOG, a leading organisation dedicated to social and economic development of A & N Islands, had the honour of meeting Honourable Union Minister Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, during his official visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The meeting, held on Saturday at Sri Vijaya Puram, was a significant opportunity for the local organisation to engage with the Minister on critical issues affecting the islands.

The delegation, led by Mr. Prakash Mishra, President of SAHYOG, and Mr. Selvam, General Secretary, raised several key concerns during the meeting. Among the major issues discussed were infrastructure development,



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# Andaman and Nicobar Chief Secretary Leads Heritage Walk in Aberdeen Area of Sri Vijaya Puram



The walk commenced at the historic Netaji Club, a venue that once served as a social and cultural centre during colonial times and still stands as a testament to the community's enduring spirit. The participants then proceeded to the iconic Clock Tower, a prominent landmark reflecting both colonial and post-independence heritage. They explored Supply Lane, an area that provided crucial resources during British rule, and the Fire Brigade, which played a significant role in safeguarding the settlement.

The route also took walkers to Vikas Bhawan, the administrative hub of the region, before concluding at the Andaman Club, once a gathering spot for colonial elites and now a reminder of the Island's layered history. Throughout the walk, participants received insights into the architectural, cultural, and administrative evolution of these landmarks.

Dr. Kumar expressed gratitude to all who took part in the event and emphasised the importance of preserving the Islands' heritage. The initiative aims to not only connect the people with the vibrant past of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands but also to promote the preservation of its heritage for future generations.

**Rohit Kumar**  
**Sri Vijaya Puram,**  
**30 December 2024**

In a bid to highlight the rich cultural and historical heritage of the

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary, led a heritage walk through Aberdeen Village on Sunday morning. The walk, which drew participation from senior officials, citizens, and heritage

enthusiasts, focused on showcasing the historical significance of Aberdeen, an area with deep roots in the Islands' past. Aberdeen, the heart of Sri Vijaya Puram, boasts a fascinating history

that dates back to the late 18th century. Known for its pivotal role during India's freedom struggle, the area was home to the penal settlement, which later emerged as a symbol of the nation's fight for independence.



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## **12th Andaman & Nicobar State Conference of CPI (M) Kicks Off with Mass Procession and Public Meeting**



from the branch to the Central Committee.

Ramakrishnan sharply criticized the policies of the Modi government, accusing them of pushing more people into poverty while offering substantial tax concessions to corporate giants like Adani and Ambani. He also condemned the rise of Hindutva ideology, claiming it was being propagated to sow division among the people along communal lines.

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, former Member of Parliament and Central Committee Member of CPI (M), took the stage next. He highlighted the sacrifices of revolutionaries who were deported to the Andaman Islands by the British during the freedom struggle, many of whom were imprisoned in the Cellular Jail or killed by colonial forces. Dr. Chakraborty also accused the Modi government of serving corporate interests while neglecting the needs of the ordinary people, representing only the wealthiest 1% of the population.

State Secretary D. Ayyappan briefly discussed ongoing Party Conferences taking place across the country, and Nikunjo Biswas, a member of the State Secretariat, also addressed the gathering. The event was presided over by B. Chandrachoodan, Chairman of the Reception Committee, who welcomed the attendees and the leadership. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks presented by D. Laxman Rao, a State Secretariat Member.

**Rohit Kumar**

**Sri Vijaya Puram,  
30 December 2024**

The 12th Andaman & Nicobar State  
Conference of the Communist Party of

India (Marxist) began with great fanfare on December 28, 2024, at Sri Vijaya Puram. The event kicked off with a massive procession led by D. Ayyappan, State Secretary of CPI (M), along with other prominent members of the State Secretariat. Hundreds of

party workers and sympathisers joined the procession, which made its way to Tiranga Park, where a public meeting was held.

The public gathering, which took place at 5 p.m., was inaugurated by G.

Ramakrishnan, Polit Bureau Member of CPI (M). In his address, Ramakrishnan emphasized the democratic nature of the CPI (M), stating that it is the only political party in India that conducts conferences and elect new Committees democratically

This is a promotional banner for Goenka's Pongal. The left side features the brand name "Goenka's" in a large, stylized gold font, with "G's" in a green circle above it. Below this, the word "Pongal" is written in a very large, bold, gold font, accompanied by a small illustration of a pot on a tripod. Underneath "Pongal" is the slogan "Wrap Yourself in Tradition!". At the bottom left, a white box contains the text "Aberdeen Bazaar | Bambooflat | Bathu Basti | Diglipur". On the far left edge, there is vertical text that reads "Creative Director". The right side of the banner shows a family of four: a woman in a red and orange sari, a man in a white shirt, a young girl in a pink and yellow sari wearing sunglasses, and a young boy in a green shirt. They are standing in front of a golden, ornate temple structure under a warm, glowing light.

## Hindu Rashtra Shakti Requests Additional Bus Facilities for Students of Little Andaman



route are struggling with capacity constraints. As a result, many students are unable to attend school on time, affecting their education and overall well-being.

To address the issue, the organization has requested two specific measures:

1. The provision of a bigger bus with higher seating capacity during school hours.
2. The addition of extra buses to the existing route.

Mr. Lall emphasized that these changes would significantly improve the transportation experience for students, ensuring their safety, comfort, and punctuality.

The letter was also copied to Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament, for his information and necessary action.

## Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,  
30 December 2024**

Hindu Rashtra Shakti unit of  
Andaman and Nicobar Islands

has formally requested the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to provide additional bus facilities for students in Little Andaman (Hutbay). In a letter addressed to Dr. Dilraj Kaur, IAS.	Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Administration, the organisation highlighted concerns over overcrowding in the current transport arrangements, which are reportedly causing discomfort	and delays for students. The letter, written by Rakeshwar Lall, State President of the Hindu Rashtra Shakti, outlined that the existing buses serving the Little Andaman
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Hindu Rashtra Shakti has expressed hope that the Administration will consider the request promptly, addressing the transportation challenges faced by students in the region.



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# Historic 65-Kilometre Open-Water Swim Around Car Nicobar Pays Tribute to 2004 Tsunami Victims and Survivors



featured the participation of Ms. Meghana Rajshekhar, a survivor of the 2004 tsunami. The event highlighted the resilience of the people of Car Nicobar, the island most severely affected by the devastating disaster, which displaced thousands and left a lasting impact on the region.

“This swim is a tribute to the strength of our people and the indomitable spirit of the survivors,” said Group Captain Rosha, VM, Station Commander of Air Force Station Car Nicobar. The initiative brought together personnel from across the armed forces, underscoring the spirit of unity and determination that defines the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The commemorative swim not only served as a poignant reminder of the lives lost in the disaster but also celebrated the remarkable ability of the human spirit to overcome adversity. As the participants swam in the waters surrounding Car Nicobar, they embodied the legacy of resilience and solidarity that continues to define the region even 20 years after the tragedy.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,  
30 December 2024

In a powerful tribute to the victims and survivors of the 2004

Indian Ocean tsunami, the Air Force Station Car Nicobar, under the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), organised a historic 65-kilometer open-water swim around Car Nicobar Island on 26 and 27 December 2024.

The event, which brought together members of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, was flagged off by Air Marshal Saju Balakrishnan, AVSM, VM, Commander in Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar

Command (CINCAN).

The swim, which covered a distance of 65 kilometres, was led by Rear Admiral Biplab Hota, VSM, Chief of Staff, ANC, and

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