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Serial Scam in Andamans Exposed: SVPMC (PBMC) Mazdoor Cons Lakhs from Multiple Victims with Fake Promise of Government Jobs in MES



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
07 January 2025

In a shocking case of fraud, five FIRs have been filed against a Mazdoor of SVPMC, K Bhaskar Rao, for allegedly deceiving several individuals by promising them jobs in the Military Engineering Services (MES). Victims were lured into paying hefty sums under the pretext of securing government positions in MES like Lower Grade Clerk (LGC) and Mazdoor. The alleged scam involves substantial financial losses for the victims, with claims of a broader network backing the accused.

According to the FIRs, K. Bhaskar Rao, a Mazdoor employed with the Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC), exploited the desperation for stable employment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Posing as someone with influential connections in the MES, Rao convinced individuals that he could secure government jobs for them or their family members.

Victim 1: In April 2021, this victim was introduced to Bhaskar Rao by

an acquaintance. Rao assured him of three LGC jobs in MES for his family members in exchange for Rs. 13.9 lakh. The victim paid Rs. 6.2 lakh through cheques and Rs. 6.8 lakh in cash. Rao continuously cited "recruitment delays" as an excuse for not delivering on his promises. Money was never returned to the victim.

Victim 2: Another complainant reported that in September 2021, Bhaskar Rao promised him a Mazdoor job in MES for Rs. 4.25 lakh. The victim paid the entire amount of Rs. 4,25,000. However, the job never materialised, and the money was not returned despite multiple follow-ups.

Victim 3: Another complainant stated that in September 2021, Rao claimed that he could secure a job for him as LGC in MES for Rs. 5.3 lakh. The victim paid the entire amount to Rao. Despite repeated follow-ups, the money was neither refunded nor the promised job provided.

Victim 4: This individual fell prey to Rao in September 2021 and paid Rs. 4.25 lakh in cash for the job of a Mazdoor. As usual, the money was neither refunded nor the promised job provided. The

victim later discovered that Rao had duped several others in a similar manner.

Victim 5: In early 2022, a victim was coerced into paying Rs. 6.9 lakh via multiple transactions through UPI. The promise of securing LGC jobs for his wife and sister for a total of Rs. 9 lakh in MES turned out to be false.

Several complainants have alleged that Rao is part of a larger fraud ring, possibly backed by influential figures. The victims claim that Rao deliberately targeted vulnerable individuals, such as those struggling financially during the COVID-19 pandemic, by exploiting their desperation for stable employment.

The police have registered five cases under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code after initial enquiry. The victims have demanded swift legal action and the recovery of their money.

This case underscores the vulnerability of citizens to employment-related scams. Authorities should conduct a thorough investigation and dismantle any larger network behind the fraud.

Nancowry Dazzles with Island Tourism Festival 2024: A Night of Culture, Unity and Celebration



Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
07 January 2025

The picturesque Nancowry sub-division was abuzz with festivity and joy as the Island Tourism Festival (ITF), 2024, unfolded with grandeur at Indira Park, Kamorta on 5th January 2025. The event celebrated the region's rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and diverse traditions, drawing an enthusiastic crowd from across the islands.

The festival was inaugurated by Mr. Pravesh Ranjan Jha, Director (Shipping), A&N Administration, as the Chief Guest, with Mr. Aditya Sangotra, Assistant Commissioner, Nancowry, gracing the occasion as the Guest of Honour. The event also saw the presence of prominent dignitaries, including Commanding Officers of INS Kardip and the Indian Coast Guard, as well as Ms. Ayesha Majeed, Chief Tribal Captain of Nancowry.

The evening was a mesmerising blend of lights, music, and cultural vibrancy, creating an atmosphere that left an indelible mark on the hearts of attendees. Traditional performances, including fire dances, stick fights, and bamboo dances—hallmarks of the tribal communities of the Nancowry group of islands—were among the highlights of the event. School students from GMSSS Goal Tikery, GMSSS Kamorta, and GMSSS Champin enthralled the audience with their lively dances and folk songs. The performances reflected the essence of local traditions, enriched by colourful costumes and spirited choreography.

In addition to cultural displays, the festival featured informative stalls by various departments of the A&N Administration, such as Agriculture, Veterinary, Health,

Fire Service, and Rural Development. These stalls showcased government initiatives and served as knowledge hubs for the attendees.

The programme began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a warm welcome address by Mr. Mohammed Yunus M, Nodal Officer (ITF) and BDO, Nancowry. In his keynote address, the Assistant Commissioner outlined the administration's developmental initiatives and called for the support of tribal leaders and villagers in achieving collective goals.

The Chief Guest, in his address, praised the organisers for their efforts and assured continued administrative support for addressing local issues. He also lauded the participants and performers for their vibrant displays of talent and cultural pride.

As a precursor to the main event, traditional games such as tug-of-war, arm wrestling, and coconut de-husking and grating competitions were organised, attracting participants from remote villages. The competitions were led by Village Captains, fostering a spirit of community and camaraderie.

The dignitaries felicitated the participants, expressing their appreciation for the lively and colourful programs that brought joy to the community. As the festival drew to a close, it left behind an air of happiness, unity, and pride, cementing its place as a cherished memory for the people of Nancowry.

The Island Tourism Festival 2024 was a resounding success, showcasing the vibrant culture and traditions of the region while strengthening the bonds within the community. It was a night to remember, a true celebration of the unique heritage of the Nancowry Islands.

Condolence Message

Nicobar Times expresses its deepest condolences on the demise of **Mrs. Rupa Ray**, the esteemed wife of Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Hon'ble Member of Parliament representing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Mrs. Ray passed away in the early hours of 07 January 2025 at Sri Vijaya Puram, leaving behind a legacy of warmth and grace. Her departure is an immense loss to her family, friends, and the entire community.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the bereaved family.

- Tarun Karthick, Editor - Nicobar Times; Rohit Kumar, Associate Editor & All Other Staff Members

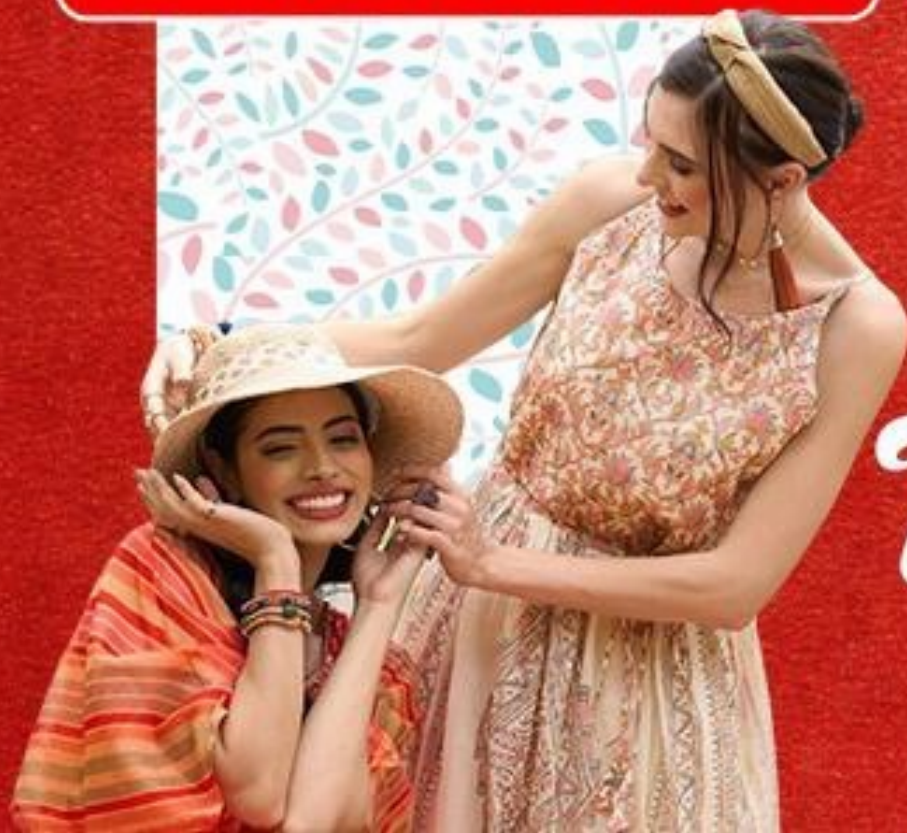




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Elder Line 14567 Helpline for Senior Citizens Now Operational in A & N Islands



them with timely support, information, and guidance.

The initiative is part of a broader scheme funded and initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, under its Senior Citizen

its implementation in A & N Islands is being managed by the Directorate of Social Welfare in collaboration with Alankit

Assignments Ltd., with support from the National Institute of Social Defence.

The helpline operates daily from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, ensuring it is easily accessible to senior citizens in need. Whether it involves providing information and guidance, addressing cases of elder abuse through field intervention or rescue, or offering emotional support, the helpline will serve as a vital

lifeline for the elderly population. The helpline is a one-stop solution for addressing the various challenges faced by the elderly, ensuring they receive the respect and support they deserve.

With the Elder Line 14567 now operational, it would make a tangible difference in the lives of senior citizens by addressing their concerns swiftly and effectively.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 07 January 2025

In a significant step towards supporting senior citizens, the Elder Line 14567, a national helpline dedicated to addressing the needs and

concerns of the elderly, has commenced operations at the WCD Control Room building on VIP Road, Sri Vijaya Puram. The helpline aims to resolve issues related to senior citizens, ensuring their well-being and providing

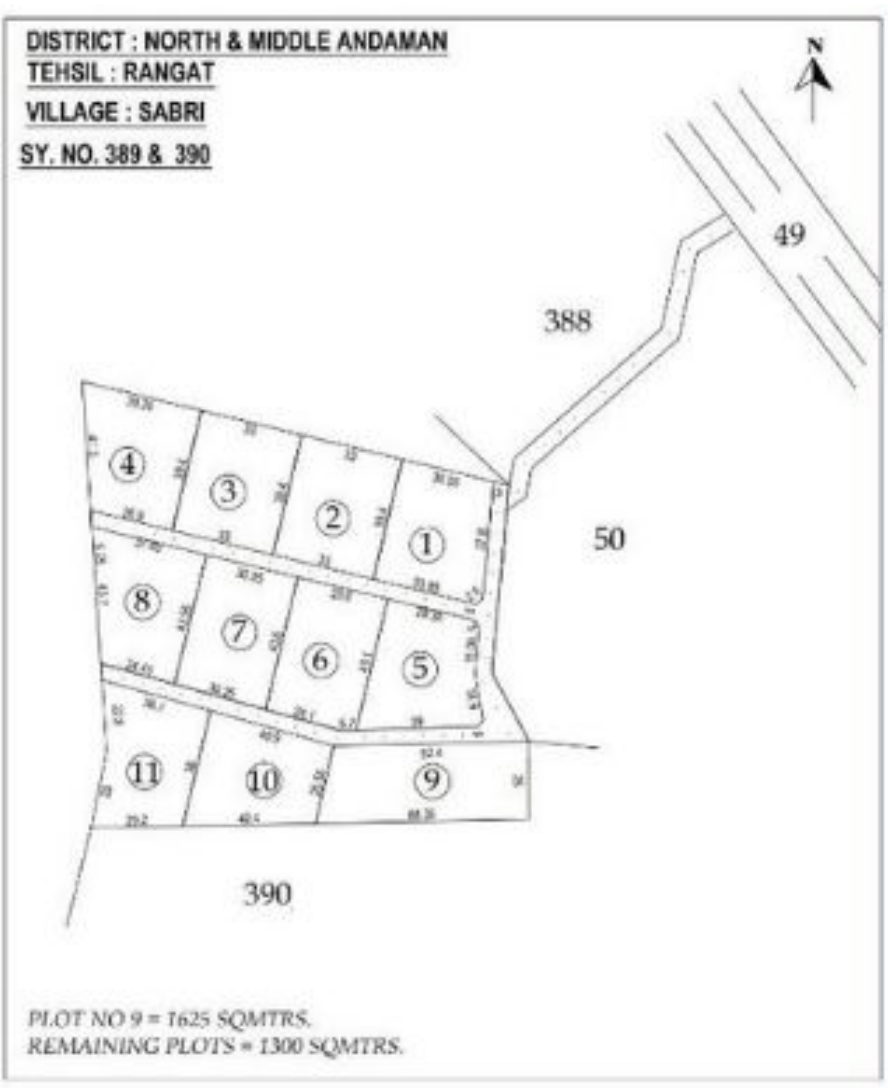
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Block-Level Training on 'Promoting Progressive Rural Entrepreneurship Strategies in Livelihood Generation' Conducted in Little Andaman



strategies to foster sustainable economic growth in rural areas.

Ms. S. Parmeswari, Block Programme Manager (BPM), highlighted women empowerment as a central theme of the training. She stressed the critical role of women in driving rural entrepreneurship and enhancing community resilience.

During the program, Ms. C. Vijya, a domain expert on women empowerment, presented the fundamentals of rural entrepreneurship and its impact on livelihood generation. Mr. Vishal Rao, Branch Manager of State Bank of India (SBI), Ramkrishna Pur, spoke about empowering women representatives through increased awareness of banking schemes and financial policies that cater to rural communities.

Additionally, Mr. Krishna Kanata Golder, Cluster Coordinator (CC), shared practical insights into strategies for promoting rural entrepreneurship, encouraging participants to leverage local resources and opportunities.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
07 January 2025

A Block-Level Training Programme on "Promoting Progressive Rural

Entrepreneurship Strategies in Livelihood Generation" was successfully organized by the CD Block of Little Andaman at the Panchayat Hall, Ramkrishna Pur. The initiative, conducted under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), aimed to

empower local stakeholders, including Elected Women Representatives (EWRs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Community Resource Persons (CRPs).

The event was inaugurated by

Ms. Seuli Mandal, Pradhan of Ramkrishna Pur, who applauded the initiative for its focus on strengthening rural livelihoods. Mr. Belthazer, Block Development Officer (BDO), emphasized the importance of the training in equipping participants with

The training received positive feedback from attendees, with many expressing optimism about applying the knowledge gained to improve livelihoods and foster economic development in Little Andaman.

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NIMHANS Hosts Training on ‘Psychosocial Care in Disaster Management’ for Healthcare Professionals of A&N Islands



The training has drawn health care professionals from across the Islands, including psychiatrists, medical officers, clinical psychologists, and counsellors. Renowned experts from NIMHANS, Dr. Sekar Kasi, former Registrar and Consultant, and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Manikappa, Associate Professor and Principal Investigator, are leading the sessions. Both experts bring extensive experience in disaster mental health and psychosocial care.

Inaugurating the program, Dr. Suja Antony, Director of Health Services, A&N Administration, stressed the critical role of psychosocial care in disaster management. Dr. Satyajit Halder, Joint Secretary of the National Mental Health Programme, welcomed the dignitaries from NIMHANS and encouraged participants to complete the training, highlighting the importance of these skills in aiding disaster-stricken communities.

This initiative aligns with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India's commitment to enhancing the disaster management capabilities of the health sector in the Islands. The program will conclude on January 10, 2025.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
07 January 2025

Bengaluru's National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), in

collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, and the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) under the Union Territory Health Mission, has launched a five-day training program on 'Psychosocial Care in

Disaster Management' for health professionals in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The program, which began on January 6, 2025, aims to equip participants with the essential skills to provide psychosocial

support to individuals and communities affected by disasters. The training covers crucial topics, including disaster management, psychosocial assessment, and intervention strategies tailored for disaster-affected populations.



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Self Help Group New Year Mela at Marina Park Sees Success with Sales of Over Rs. 17 Lakh



opportunity to sell their products but also to gain exposure and connect with a broader customer base. The event proved to be a valuable platform for these local entrepreneurs to enhance their market presence, expand their reach, and increase their earnings.

The ANIRLM and the RD Department have been instrumental in organising and supporting this event, allowing SHGs to display their skills and entrepreneurial abilities. Their support has been crucial in empowering SHG members and promoting sustainable livelihoods across the region.

SHG members expressed their appreciation for the event and the opportunity it provided. "The Mela has opened new avenues for us to expand our businesses," said several participants. "We are thankful to ANIRLM and the RD Department for this chance to grow and connect with more customers."

Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram,
07 January 2025

The Self Help Group (SHG) New Year Mela, held at Marina Park,

concluded on a high note with an overwhelming response from both the public and participating SHGs. The event, which took place under the banner of the Andaman Nicobar Islands National Rural Livelihood Mission (ANIRLM) and the Rural

Development (RD) Department of A&N Administration, saw the participation of nearly 100 SHG members. These local entrepreneurs showcased a wide array of products, including handicrafts, coconut oil, soaps, fast

foods, and traditional South Indian cuisines.

With sales totalling a remarkable Rs. 17,43,100, the Mela provided a significant boost to SHG members, offering them not only an

The success of the SHG New Year Mela highlights the vital role that Self Help Groups play in contributing to the local economy, with potential for further growth and development in the future.



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Andaman & Nicobar Anganwadi Workers & Helpers Union Marks Foundation Day of AIFAWH



helpers to unite and strengthen their union. He urged the gathering to support ongoing efforts to address the demands raised by the Federation at the national level.

D. Ayyappan, Vice President of the CITU State Committee, addressed the attendees with a brief history of the AIFAWH, established in 1989. He highlighted the numerous struggles fought by the federation over the years to secure rights and benefits for Anganwadi workers and helpers. Ayyappan pointed out that the benefits enjoyed by Anganwadi workers, including those in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, were a direct result of the tireless efforts of CITU-affiliated unions.

The event was presided over by Geeta Devi, President of the A&N Anganwadi Workers & Helpers Union, and R. Anbukarsi, General Secretary, also addressed the gathering. The Foundation Day celebrations provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and reaffirm the commitment to the welfare of Anganwadi workers and helpers in the region.

Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram,
07 January 2025

Andaman & Nicobar
Anganwadi Workers &

Helpers Union (CITU) main event took place at observed the Foundation Day of the All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers & Helpers (AIFAWH) with a large number of Anganwadi workers and helpers from the Port Blair Urban Project gathered to commemorate the

occasion.

R. Surendran Pillai, President of the CITU State Committee, inaugurated the programme, emphasizing the need for Anganwadi workers and

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Lt. Governor Reviews Presentation on Pre-Feasibility Study for Development of Deep Water Port at Atlanta Bay in Diglipur



The ambitious project was also discussed in the 7th Islands Development Agency (IDA) meeting held on January 3, 2025, in New Delhi. The proposed Green Field Deep Water Port is expected to play a pivotal role in the region's maritime activities, ensuring smoother trade and increased connectivity.

During the meeting, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor directed officials to expedite the process, compressing timelines for subsequent activities and outlining a comprehensive plan for the efficient and swift progression of the project. The focus remains on accelerating the development to meet the growing needs of the islands and their economic potential.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 07 January 2025

In a significant move towards enhancing the maritime

infrastructure of the region, Admiral DK Joshi (PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM), Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Vice-Chairman of the Islands Development Agency, along with Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Chief Secretary of the A&N Administration, recently reviewed the presentation by the Department of Ocean Engineering at IIT Madras.

The presentation detailed the findings of a Pre-Feasibility study for the proposed Deep Water Port at Atlanta Bay, Diglipur, aimed at boosting the economic and logistical capabilities of the islands.

This initiative marks a major step forward in the modernisation of the A&N Islands' infrastructure and is expected to transform the region's maritime landscape in the near future.




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MP Bishnu Pada Ray Meets Chief Secretary to Discuss Vital Developmental Issues



bridges, and culverts for construction under the CRF (Central Road Fund).

Additionally, Mr. Ray raised concerns regarding the supply of DAP and neem-coated urea to farmers, urging the administration to ensure timely availability. He also highlighted the urgent need for survey and repairs of harbour jetties, as well as the potential for utilising vacant urban land for tourism development. Land conversion issues were also brought to the forefront, with a call for their resolution to support sustainable development.

Responding to these concerns, the Chief Secretary assured Mr. Ray that these issues are under active consideration by the A&N Administration. Efforts are being made to address the matters promptly and efficiently to further the growth of the Islands.

The discussion marks a proactive step in resolving long-standing development challenges and strengthening the region's infrastructure and economy.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
07 January 2025

In a significant step towards the development of the Andaman

and Nicobar Islands, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, met with the Chief Secretary of the A&N Administration on 6th January to discuss a range of critical issues impacting the region.

The meeting focused on several key matters aimed at accelerating infrastructure and agricultural growth in the Islands. Among the main points discussed were the early conduct of the

Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) and State Plan Board meetings, the identification of roads linking harbour jetties and ports for potential National Highway declaration, and the finalization of priority roads,

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