

11 JANUARY 2025 | SATURDAY | SRI VIJAYA PURAM | WWW.NICOBARTIMES.COM

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Joint Operation Uncovers Illegally Imported Fertilisers Stored in Diglipur Godown



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
11 January 2025**

Diglipur Police, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, conducted a successful raid on January 9, 2025, at a godown in RK Gram Village, Diglipur, leading to the seizure of illegally stored chemical and bio-fertilizers.

Acting on credible information regarding the illegal storage, import, and sale of fertilisers, the details were immediately communicated to Mr. Ankesh Yadav, DANIPS (SDPO, Diglipur), and Mrs. Arti Singh, Assistant Director of the Agriculture Department, Diglipur. Following their directions, a special raiding team was formed,

which, along with independent witnesses and in the presence of the godown owner, Mrs. Suparna Das and her husband Mr. Liton Das, conducted the raid.

During the operation, authorities discovered 758 bags of fertilisers, including DAP and phosphate, that had been illegally imported and stored, intended for sale. The fertilizers were subsequently seized and handed over to Ms. Kamrun Nisa, Agriculture Assistant Diglipur (Authorised Officer/Inspector Fertiliser), for further action under Section 28 of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the individual

involved was selling DAP fertilisers disguised as bio-fertilizers, which could attract additional action under relevant GST provisions. The operation was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Ankesh Yadav, DANIPS, SDPO Diglipur, and the overall guidance of Ms. Shweta K. Sugathan, IPS, Superintendent of Police, N & M Andaman District.

Authorities are urging the general public to share any credible information related to illegal activities by contacting their nearest police station or calling phone numbers 100, 112, or 03192-273344. Informers' identities will be kept confidential, and suitable rewards will be provided for credible information.

Andaman and Nicobar State Conference of CPI(M) Calls for Establishment of Legislative Assembly in A & N Islands on Puducherry Model



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
11 January 2025**

The Andaman and Nicobar State Conference of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) concluded on 29 December 2024, during which a resolution was passed calling for the establishment of a Legislative Assembly for the islands, modelled in line with the setup in Puducherry.

The resolution was sent to the Union Home Secretary in New Delhi by Mr. D. Ayyapan, Secretary of the CPI(M) A & N State Organising Committee. The resolution highlighted the continued lack of a democratic framework with a Legislative Assembly for the union territory. The resolution pointed out that after 77 years of independence, the central government of the largest democracy in the world has failed to provide such a setup to the UT of A & N Islands, unlike other union territories such as Puducherry, which has a Legislative Assembly.

CPI(M) also highlighted that the previous Pradesh Council, introduced in 1979

by the Janata Party government, was abolished in 1994 by the Congress, leaving the islands without a state-level democratic body. This led to bureaucratic dominance, affecting the development and welfare of the local population.

The party noted that attempts by CPI(M) Members of Parliament in the past to push for the establishment of a Legislative Assembly have been unsuccessful due to lack of support from both Congress and BJP. The current population of the islands exceeds five lakh, further emphasising the need for self-governance.

The State Conference stated that unless a Legislative Assembly, similar to the model in Puducherry, is formed, the islanders' issues will remain unresolved. It urged the Government of India to immediately initiate steps to fulfil the islanders' aspirations by establishing the Legislative Assembly.

This resolution comes as part of a broader push for more representation and autonomy in the administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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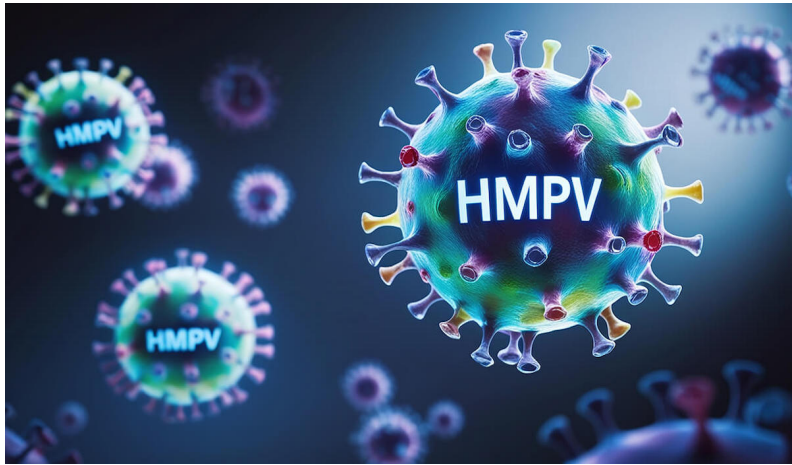
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Public Advisory Issued on Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) and Other Winter Respiratory Diseases



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
11 January 2025**

The general public has been informed that cases of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), a respiratory disease similar to other viral illnesses, have been reported sporadically worldwide. However, no cases of HMPV have been confirmed in the

Union Territory (UT) to date.

HMPV, like seasonal influenza (H1N1, H3N2), Influenza-like Illness (ILI), and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI), tends to surface during the winter season.

The virus presents symptoms akin to the common cold or flu and typically resolves on its own within 3 to 5 days. Authorities

emphasized that there is no need for panic, as HMPV is not a new virus nor an imminent pandemic threat. Seasonal surges of respiratory illnesses are common during winter.

HMPV spreads primarily through droplets from coughing or sneezing, close personal contact (such as shaking hands), and touching contaminated surfaces followed by contact with the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Precautionary Guidelines:

To ensure protection and prevention against HMPV and other viral respiratory diseases, the public is urged to adhere to the following dos and don'ts:

- Do's**
- Stay calm and rely only on updates from government agencies.
 - Pay special attention to the health of children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing conditions.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief or tissue while sneezing or coughing.
 - Avoid crowded places.
 - Maintain hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water.
 - Stay hydrated and consume nutritious food.
 - If you exhibit symptoms like a cold, cough, or fever, seek medical advice and follow prescribed treatment.
 - Keep a safe distance (at least 1 meter) from

others if you are symptomatic.

Don'ts

- Do not reuse tissues or handkerchiefs once used.
- Avoid shaking hands.
- Refrain from close contact with individuals showing symptoms.
- Avoid self-medication without consulting a doctor.
- Do not frequently touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Refrain from spitting in public places.

Health authorities encourage everyone to remain vigilant and follow these precautions to safeguard themselves and their families during the winter season.

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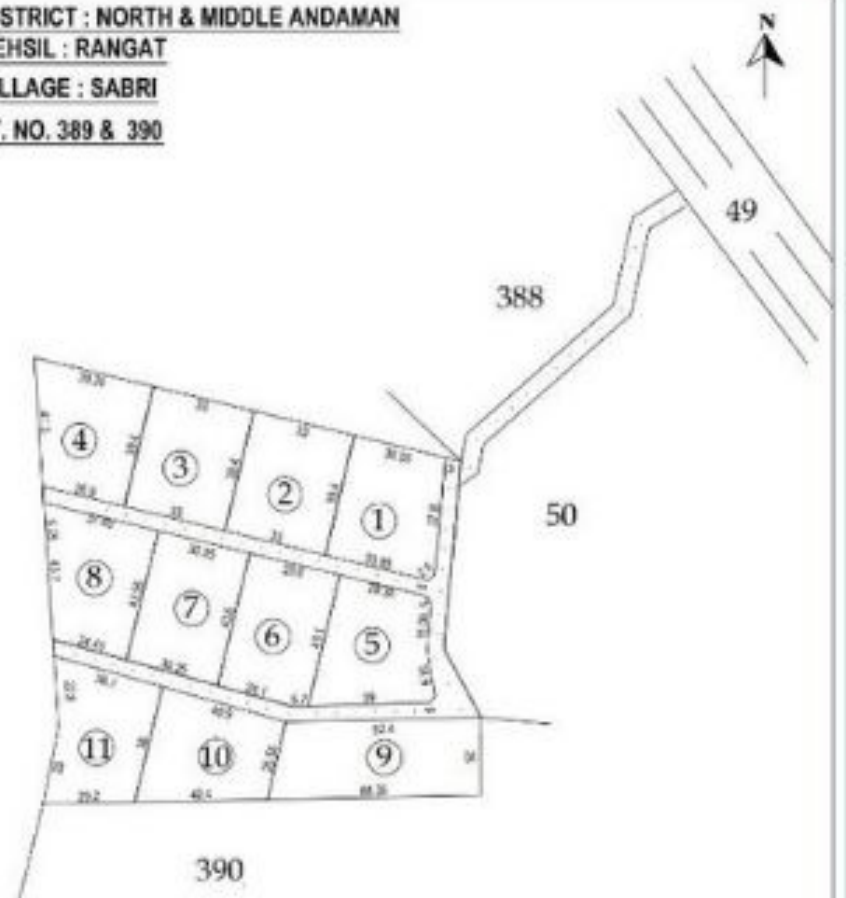
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Island Teams Depart for Participation in 68th SGFI National School Track Cycling Championship in Ranchi and National Youth Festival in New Delhi



wishes to the cyclists, emphasising the importance of hard work and determination. The event was also graced by Mr. Mohd. Irshad Ahmed, Assistant Director (PE/ Sports), and Mr. Biswanath Sen, Assistant Director (Sports and Youth Affairs), who motivated the participants.

Meanwhile, a 13-member Island Youth Contingent, including boys and girls from schools and colleges across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is set to participate in the National Youth Festival at the Iconic Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from January 10 to 12, 2025.

The contingent, accompanied by two escort officials, also attended a blessing ceremony at Netaji Stadium before leaving by flight on January 9, 2025. Addressing the youth, Mr. Vikram Singh encouraged them to make the most of this opportunity to showcase their talents and engage with young achievers from across the country.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijay Puram, 11 January 2025

The Island's budding athletes are set to represent the Union Territory

at prestigious national events, bringing pride and recognition to the region.

An 18-member Island Track Cycling Team, comprising Under-17 and Under-19 boys and girls, has

departed for Ranchi, Jharkhand, to participate in the 68th SGFI National School Track Cycling Championship scheduled from January 17 to 20, 2025. The team, accompanied by three team managers and two coaches, left

from Sri Vijaya Puram by flight on January 9, 2025.

Ahead of their departure, a blessing ceremony was held at Netaji Stadium. Mr. Vikram Singh, Director of Education, extended his best

The participation of these teams in national events reflects the commitment of the administration to fostering talent and promoting sports and cultural activities among the youth of the Islands.

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Lt. Governor Reviews Wildlife Conservation and Tribal Welfare Plans for Great Nicobar Island Development Project



ANIIDCO, highlighted the long-term strategies for wildlife conservation and tribal welfare. These include biodiversity protection plans spanning 30 years for species such as leatherback turtles, corals, long-tailed macaques, coconut crabs, megapodes, and crocodiles, as well as a 50-year plan for safeguarding the interests of tribal communities.

Representatives from key implementing agencies—including the Wildlife Institute of India, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, and Indian Institute of Forest Management—were also present.

The plans prioritise biodiversity conservation, focusing on species diversity and endemism unique to the island and surrounding region. The UT Administration reaffirmed its commitment to protecting and managing these species while ensuring the welfare of tribal communities amid the island's holistic development.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 11 January 2024

Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar

Islands and Vice-Chairman of the Islands Development Agency, reviewed the wildlife conservation and tribal welfare plans associated with the holistic development of Great Nicobar Island on 9th of January 2025. The review was conducted at Raj Niwas in the

presence of senior officials, including Chief Secretary Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, and other key members of the A&N Administration.

The plans, prepared by expert agencies in coordination with the

Forest Department, Tribal Welfare Department, and Health Department of the Union Territory Administration, are integral to the environmental clearance for the ambitious project.

During the presentation, Mr. Arjun Sharma, Executive Director (GNI) of

The Great Nicobar Island development project aims to balance ecological preservation with sustainable progress, underscoring the Administration's efforts to safeguard both environmental and cultural heritage.



TODAY'S CAMP

11TH JAN 2025 (SATURDAY)

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ANCCI Delegation Meets Lt. Governor to Discuss Business and Investment Opportunities



Secretary, and Joint Secretary, engaged in discussions about the scope and potential of business and investment opportunities in light of several mega projects nearing operational status in the infrastructure, tourism, and hospitality sectors. The focus was on maximising benefits for local entrepreneurs registered with ANCCI.

The Hon'ble Lt. Governor apprised the delegation of the numerous projects being undertaken by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration under the aegis of the Islands Development Agency. He highlighted the wide range of opportunities these initiatives present.

The meeting emphasised the collaborative efforts required to harness the full potential of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands' evolving business landscape.

Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
11 January 2025**

A delegation from the

Andaman Nicobar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ANCCI), led by its newly elected President, Dr. K Chandrasekharan, met and Vice-Chairman of the Islands

AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM Agency, at Raj Niwas on 10th January 2025. The delegation, which included ANCCI's Vice-President,



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SHEW Conducts Sensitisation Drive to Promote Girl Child Education in Pathergudda Community Hall



Ms. Marya Sheela, Incharge of Prayas, and Mr. Vijay Kumar, Advisor of Prayas, addressed crucial issues such as the significance of girl child education, gender equality, and the impact of early marriage. They also shed light on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and its importance. The session was led by Ms. Roshni Mondal, Accounts Assistant (SHEW), under the guidance of Ms. Reeta Devi, Nodal Officer (Hub for Empowerment of Women).

The Directorate of Social Welfare reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a society where girl child education is prioritised, under the leadership of Mr. Ravinder Kumar, Director (Social Welfare). These initiatives are instrumental in promoting gender equality and ensuring the safety and empowerment of women and girls across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
11 January 2025

The State Hub for Empowerment

of Women (SHEW), under the Department of Social Welfare, recently organised a sensitisation drive in collaboration with Prayas, aimed at promoting girl child education under the 'Beti Bachao

Beti Padhao' initiative. The event, held at Pathergudda Community Hall on January 10, 2025, witnessed the participation of around 90 individuals, including

members of the general public, Mukhya Sevikas, Anganwadi workers, and local community members.

During the session, key speakers

This sensitisation drive is one of many efforts by SHEW to create awareness and drive impactful change in communities across the region.

A festive advertisement for Goenka's Pongal. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a subtle pattern. On the left, the Goenka's logo is prominently displayed in a green circle, with the brand name 'Goenka's' in a large, stylized font. Below it, the text 'This Pongal' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'Wrap Yourself in Tradition!' in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a list of locations is provided: 'Aberdeen Bazaar | Bambooflat | Bathu Basti | Diglipur'. On the right side, a family of four is shown in traditional Indian attire. A woman in a red and green sari stands in the center, holding a young girl in a pink sari who is wearing sunglasses. To her right, a man in a white shirt stands with his arm around a young boy in a green shirt. The background behind them shows a traditional Indian temple structure.

Block-Level Training Programme on ‘Building Synergies between SHGs & PRIs for Community Development’ Held in Little Andaman



effective convergence between these groups for holistic community development.

Mr. Krishna Kanta Golder, Cluster Coordinator (CC), provided a comprehensive overview of SHGs and PRIs, outlining their respective roles and responsibilities in promoting sustainable growth at the grassroots level.

Following this, Mr. Mohammed Arif, State Programme Manager, led an in-depth session on how SHGs and PRIs can leverage resources and expertise for sustainable development. He emphasized the significance of identifying common goals and objectives, utilizing NRLM platforms, and pinpointing areas of synergy and collaboration between SHGs and PRIs.

The training witnessed active participation from various community leaders, officials, and representatives, fostering an environment of shared learning and cooperative effort for the betterment of local communities.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram, 11 January 2025

The CD Block of Little Andaman successfully organized a Block-Level Training Programme

focused on ‘Building Synergies between Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for Community Development.’ The event, held at the Panchayat Samiti Hall,

aimed to foster collaboration between local Self-Help Groups,

Community Resource Persons (CRPs), and elected women representatives (EWRs), under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj (RGSA).

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Belthazer, the

Block Development Officer (BDO) of Little Andaman. The session began with insights from Ms. S. Parmeswari, Block Programme Manager (BPM), who spoke about the basics of SHGs and PRIs, and emphasized the importance of

This initiative marks a significant step towards empowering local governance and community-driven development in Little Andaman, in line with national rural development missions.




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South Andaman District Administration Takes Action Against Illegal Mining and Unauthorised Boulder Transportation



imposed on the offenders. Further inspections near a quarry area revealed that two trucks were carrying boulders without valid transit passes. These trucks were fined a total of Rs 84,000/- (Rupees Eighty-four thousand only) for the unauthorised transportation of stone boulders.

The Deputy Commissioner of South Andaman has issued a stern warning to those engaging in illegal activities, reminding them that continued violations of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation of 1966 will result in severe penalties. The administration has urged individuals to refrain from such actions, or face strict legal consequences.

Rohit Kumar of South Andaman has intensifying its crackdown on individuals involved in illegal mining and unauthorised transportation of boulders, discovered during a recent field inspection in South Point Village, revenue officials

illegal extraction of earth. As a consequence, fines totalling Rs 18,000/- (Rupees Eighteen thousand only) were

discovered during a recent field inspection in South Point Village, revenue officials

imposed on the offenders. Further inspections near a quarry area revealed that two trucks were carrying boulders without valid transit passes. These trucks were fined a total of Rs 84,000/- (Rupees Eighty-four thousand only) for the unauthorised transportation of stone boulders.

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District Administration South Andaman Seals Crusher Unit for Violation of Legal Provisions



regulations. Further investigations revealed multiple irregularities at the stone crusher unit, prompting its immediate sealing.

The public is strongly cautioned against engaging in or supporting any illegal mining activities. The District Administration remains vigilant and committed to taking strict action against violators to safeguard the islands' natural resources and environment.

Residents are encouraged to confidentially report any instances of unauthorised encroachments, illegal mining, or construction activities. Reports can be made to the District Control Room at 03192-240127/238881/1070 or via WhatsApp at 9531888844. Informants can rest assured that their anonymity and protection will be maintained.

Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram,
11 January 2025

In a decisive move against unlawful mining activities,

the District Administration of South Andaman has sealed a stone crusher unit in Bimblitan village after uncovering illegal extraction and transportation of stone boulders.

Previously, a fine of 4,90,000 (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Thousand) was imposed under Section 201 (6) of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms

Regulation, 1966, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Mines and Minerals Rules, 2012. However, the individual responsible has failed to pay the penalty and continues to flout legal



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