

ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by **NICOBAR TIMES**

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Power Woes in South Andaman Set to End Soon as NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Floats Tender for Gas Power Project Civil Works



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025**

The power crisis in South Andaman is set to be resolved soon, as the Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands announced on Republic Day 2025 that a tender for the

50 MW LNG Gas civil works tender for Plant in Sri Vijaya the Andaman and Puram had been Nicobar Gas Power Project had indeed been issued. The submission deadline for bids is set for 4 February 2025, at 5:00 PM. According to the tender documents, the estimated cost of the civil works package is Rs. 86.19 Crore. **CONTD...Pg 10...[Click Here]**

CPI(M) Urges Legislation for Job Reservation for Locals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025**

The Andaman and Nicobar State Conference of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has passed a resolution urging the central government to enact legislation ensuring job reservations for local candidates in the government sector across the islands. The party highlighted that

similar provisions have been implemented in other states and Union Territories and emphasized the urgent need for such a law in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Expressing deep concern over rising unemployment in the islands, the CPI(M) noted that the central government has failed to take concrete measures **CONTD...Pg 10...[Click Here]**

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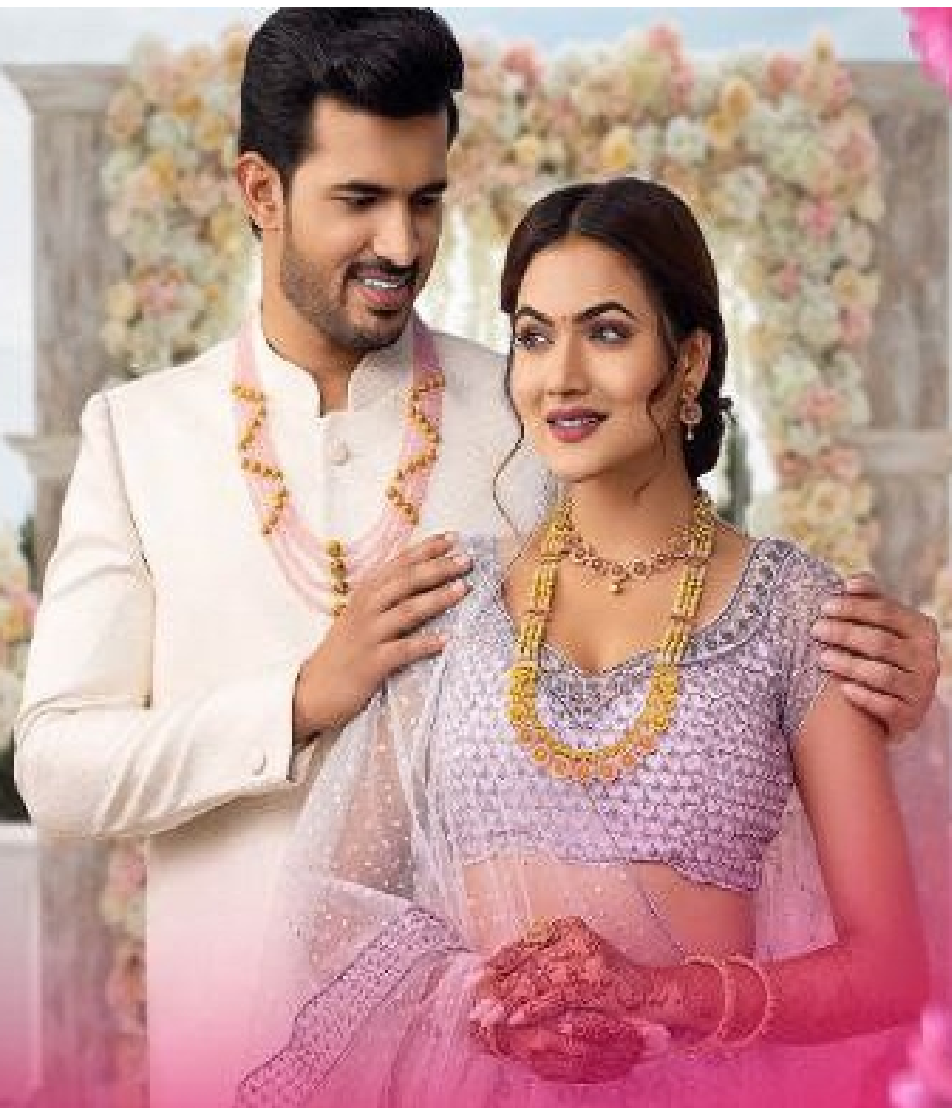
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Massive Developments in Inter-Island Air Connectivity Expected in 2025



Tarun Karthick

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands is set to experience a significant boost in air connectivity, with several developments in the civil aviation sector slated to improve travel within the islands. Lt. Governor, on Republic Day 2025, announced

many such developments.

One of the key highlights of his speech was the announcement of Fixed Wing Aircraft services to soon commence under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN) in the Sri Vijaya Puram - Shibpur sector, offering a new avenue for inter-island air travel. This initiative is

expected to ease movement between the islands, providing a much-needed transportation option for residents and tourists alike.

Further strengthening the region's air infrastructure, the Lt. Governor shared that the security vetting of the terminal at Car Nicobar has already been completed. In addition, construction of the Civil Passenger Terminal Building at Campbell Bay Airport is expected to be completed by April 2025. These efforts will significantly enhance connectivity in the southern part of the archipelago.

In a bid to make travel even more seamless between remote islands, the Lt. Governor highlighted the successful demonstration of a Sea-Plane service carried out on November 17, 2024. This demonstration is a part of the plans to connect Sri Vijaya Puram with Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep, and Long Island via Sea-Plane. The bid process to finalize the agency responsible for operating these Sea-Planes is expected to conclude by March 2025, paving the way for regular services. In addition to these advancements, the Andaman and Nicobar

Administration's efforts have resulted in the upgradation of the region's helicopter fleet. Sikorsky helicopters, each with a 12-passenger capacity, have already reached Sri Vijaya Puram. These helicopters, which will serve regular flights, are currently awaiting the completion of necessary formalities before being put into operation. With these strategic developments underway, 2025 is shaping up to be a transformative year for air travel in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, promising greater accessibility and convenience for both locals and visitors.

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Lt. Governor Highlights Major Development Plans for Little Andaman on Republic Day 2025



**Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025**

In his Republic Day 2025 speech, the Lt. Governor emphasized the rapid progress in transforming the islands under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and the Islands Development Agency (IDA). These developments are being accelerated as part of an ongoing commitment to improve the region's infrastructure and economy. A key focus of the speech was

recent decisions made during the seventh IDA meeting held on January 3, 2025, chaired by the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Mr. Amit Shah. The meeting saw decisions on several major initiatives aimed at further enhancing the islands' growth, particularly with respect to Little Andaman.

In a landmark development, the Lt. Governor revealed that Little Andaman will be developed into the Surfing Capital of the Indian

Ocean Region. This bold initiative, which is expected to draw both domestic and international tourism, will position Little Andaman as a leading destination for adventure sports. Furthermore, a medi-city will be developed in Little Andaman and the Island would also be developed as a hub for seaplane operations. The region will see the implementation of numerous transformative projects in tourism

sector, executed through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). These plans aim to modernize the area's infrastructure and boost its appeal as a global tourism and medical hub. With these new projects, the government is hopeful that Little Andaman will not only become a key tourist destination but also a center for innovation and sustainable development in the region.

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HRS Alleges Illegal Activities at Spa Centers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Makes Urgent Appeal to Lt. Governor for Action



3. **Illegal Services:** Some spa centers are said to be offering illicit services that go beyond wellness treatments, contributing to an environment of exploitation and criminal activity.

4. **Lack of Proper Registration:** Many of these establishments reportedly lack necessary registrations, including GST and other official documentation, which further questions their legitimacy.

5. **Unverified Employees:** There are claims that a considerable portion of the staff, hailing from locations like Kolkata, the North Eastern states, and possibly even foreign nationals, are working without proper verification.

In his appeal, Lall has urged the Lt. Governor to take swift action, instructing relevant authorities to investigate these allegations thoroughly. He has emphasized the need for immediate measures to shut down these illegal establishments, ensuring that the welfare of the community, especially vulnerable individuals, is protected.

Copies of the complaint have also been sent to the DGP, the Chief Secretary of A&N Administration, the Deputy Commissioner of South Andaman, and local print media for further attention and necessary action.

The ongoing concerns highlight the pressing need for regulatory oversight and accountability to safeguard the integrity of the region's wellness sector.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025

In a formal complaint addressed to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sri Vijaya Puram, Rakeshwar Lall,

State President of Hindu Rashtra Shakti, has raised grave concerns regarding the growing number of spa centers in the region engaged in illegal activities. These establishments, offering massage and wellness services, are reportedly involved in practices that violate local laws and put the health

and safety of the public at risk. Lall's complaint outlines several serious allegations against the spa centers, including:

1. **Unqualified Therapists:** A large number of therapists working at these centers are claimed to be operating without proper

qualifications, raising concerns over the credibility and safety of the services provided.

2. **Unsafe and Unhygienic Conditions:** The spas are allegedly operating in unhygienic and unsafe conditions, posing significant health hazards to customers.



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3rd Panchayat Sthapana Diwas Mela 2025 at Namunagar Concludes



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025

The 3rd Panchayat Sthapana Diwas Mela, held from January 23 to 26, 2025, at Lappa Takri Ground in Namunagar, came to a vibrant

close with a spectacular cultural performance that highlighted the event's success. Over the four days, more than 11 government stalls showcased various schemes by the Government of India, educating the public on opportunities and support available

them. The closing ceremony was attended by Chief Guest SHO PS Ograbraj Dev Anand Pathak, along with Special Guest Dr. Navin, Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services.

They were joined by senior officials including Veterinary Officers Mohammed, Baljeet Kaur, and Sasikala, as well as Pradhans from GP Mithakhari, Mohd. Shafiq, and GP Tushnabad, Anand Amrit Raj. During the event, the distinguished

guests emphasized the government's ongoing commitment to empowering underprivileged communities and promoting new startups, underscoring their vital role in India's path to becoming self-reliant or 'Atmanirbhar.'

As part of the ceremony, the Chief Guest distributed awards to the best-performing stalls. The Department of Animal Husbandry claimed the first prize, followed by the Agriculture Department in second place and PHC Tushnabad securing third. Youths from the local area also took center stage, delivering exceptional cultural performances, which were met with great enthusiasm. The young performers were also awarded prizes by the esteemed guests.

The event saw a significant turnout of visitors from across the Islands, all eager to experience the cultural festivities on the final day.

The Mela concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Pradhan Y. Venkateshwar of GP Namunagar. He expressed gratitude to the guests, visitors, stall keepers, local youths, and the police department for ensuring the smooth conduct of the event. Venkateshwar also announced plans to organize the 4th Sthapana Diwas in 2026, promising an even grander celebration.



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Major Haul of Illicit IMFL Seized by Kadamtala Police



- 1 bottle of 180 ml Double Kick Fine Whisky (seal broken, containing 90 ml).

The liquor was found in the possession of Sujoy Mondal (24), son of the late Niran Mondal, a shopkeeper residing at Uttara Corner. Upon being questioned, Mondal failed to produce any valid permits or licenses for the storage and possession of such a large quantity of liquor.

Legal proceedings have been initiated against the accused under the relevant provisions of the Excise Regulation for unauthorized possession and storage of IMFL.

The operation was conducted under the guidance of Mr. Chandan G.S., DANIPS, SDPO Rangat, with overall supervision by Ms. Shweta K. Sugathan, IPS, Superintendent of Police, North and Middle Andaman District.

The police have reiterated their commitment to curbing illegal activities in the region and have urged the public to report any suspicious or illegal activities. Citizens can contact their nearest police station or reach out via phone at 100, 112, or 03192-273344. Informants' identities will remain confidential, and credible information will be suitably rewarded.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025

Acting on reliable intelligence about the illegal storage and sale of liquor,

the Kadamtala Police successfully conducted a major raid at Shop No. 11, Uttara Market, uncovering a substantial quantity of illicit Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).

A police team, led by Sub-Inspector

P.M. Krishna Kumar, Station House Officer (SHO) of PS Kadamtala, and comprising ASI Buddhiswar Haldar, HC Sailen Halder, and PC(D) Santosh Kumar, swiftly reached the location and executed a thorough search. The operation resulted in the

recovery of:

- 30 bottles of 180 ml Double Kick Fine Whisky (sealed).
- 1 bottle of 375 ml Milestone Blue Triple Distilled Grain Whisky (seal broken, containing 150 ml).

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Absconding POCSO Convict Arrested After 1.5-Year Manhunt by Diglipur Police



inputs. Their tireless efforts culminated in Mondal's arrest in Sri Vijaya Puram on January 26, 2025.

This arrest underscores the dedication, professionalism, and commitment of the Diglipur Police to ensuring justice for victims and maintaining the rule of law. The success of the operation is a testament to their unwavering resolve to hold criminals accountable and foster a safer community.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of Mr. Ankesh Yadav, DANIPS, SDPO Diglipur, and the overall direction of Ms. Shweta K. Sugathan, IPS, Superintendent of Police, North and Middle Andaman District.

The police have urged the public to come forward with any information regarding criminal or illegal activities. Citizens can report such matters to their nearest police station or contact the police through helpline numbers 100, 112, or 03192-273344. Informers' identities will remain confidential, and they will be suitably rewarded for their cooperation.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025

In a major breakthrough, the

Diglipur Police successfully apprehended Sameer Mondal, an absconding convict, after a relentless 1.5-year manhunt. Mondal, who was convicted in a POCSO (Protection of Children

from Sexual Offences) case by the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta Circuit Bench at Sri Vijaya Puram on August 25, 2023, had fled immediately after the court's verdict.

Determined to bring the fugitive to justice, the Diglipur Police launched an extensive operation, employing advanced technical surveillance and acting on credible intelligence



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AATO Celebrates Republic Day at Corbyn's Cove Beach



occasion of Republic Day, underscoring the importance of the day in celebrating India's democratic values and the Constitution that upholds the rights and duties of every citizen.

The ceremony also saw AATO members distributing sweets to everyone present, adding a touch of warmth and camaraderie to the event. The presence of tourists alongside the local community and water sports operators symbolized the inclusive spirit of the Republic Day celebrations in the islands.

Republic Day holds a special significance across India, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, known for their natural beauty and cultural diversity, celebrated it with equal zeal. Corbyn's Cove Beach, a popular destination among tourists and locals alike, served as the perfect backdrop for the event, blending patriotism with the serene charm of the Andaman coastline.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
28 January 2025

The Andaman Association of Tour Operators (AATO) marked the

76th Republic Day with great fervor and patriotism at the picturesque Corbyn's Cove Beach. The celebration, attended by AATO members, water sports operators, local residents, tourists, and beach duty staff,

reflected the unity and pride of the island community. The event commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by AATO President, Mr. M. Vinod, followed by the rendition of the

National Anthem, creating a moment of solemnity and national pride.

Mr. M. Vinod, addressing the gathering, congratulated all islanders and tourists on the

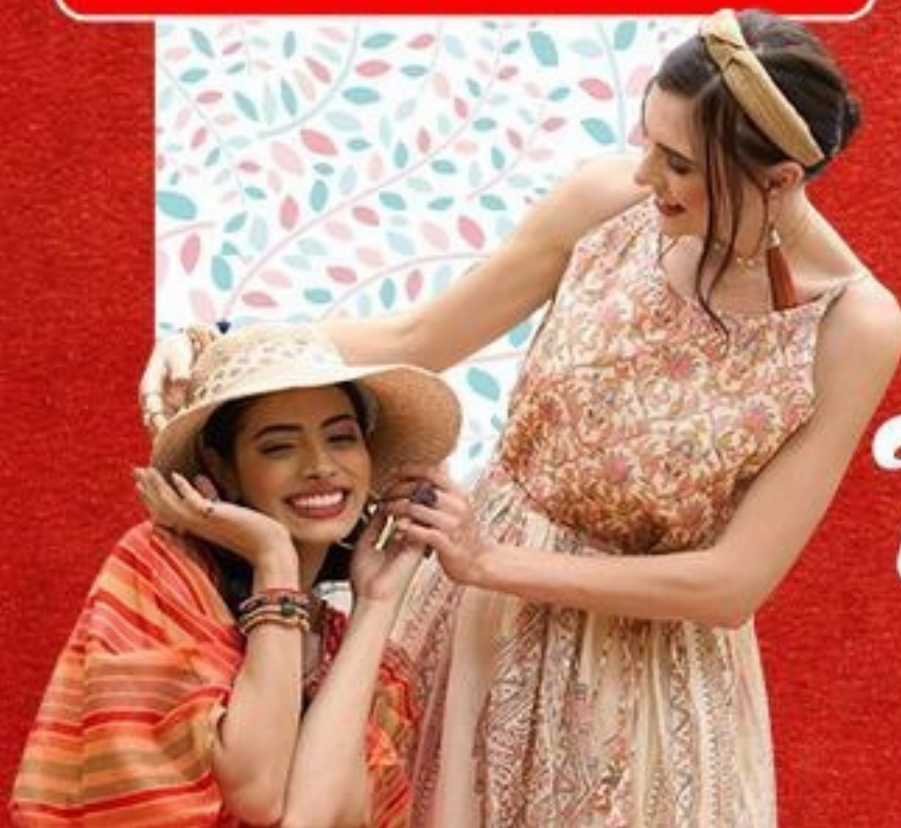
This celebration not only highlighted the unity of the islanders but also showcased the commitment of AATO in promoting community engagement and tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



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CONTD Pg 1...Power Woes in South Andaman Set to End Soon as NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Floats Tender for Gas Power Project Civil Works

The bid opening date is scheduled for 5 February 2025, at 3:00 PM. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), and this project is expected to significantly improve the power supply situation in the region.

South Andaman has struggled with power shortages for an extended period, with residents and businesses alike

suffering from unreliable electricity supply. For years, a permanent solution to the issue has been a pressing need.

In a bid to address these concerns, Member of Parliament (MP) for Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, had earlier submitted a letter to the Prime Minister, detailing the power supply issues faced by the Islands. The MP highlighted the underperformance of the grid-connected solar power projects

in Sri Vijaya Puram as a contributing factor to the ongoing power crisis. Despite these setbacks, proposals for additional grid-linked solar projects were still under consideration, an issue that Mr. Ray flagged it as problematic in his letter.

Additionally, Mr. Ray reminded the Prime Minister of his 2018 announcement to set up a 50 MW RLNG-based power plant to meet the Islands' energy needs. The

project, however, was stalled without clear justification, further exacerbating the power challenges faced by the region. In a December 2024 press release, the MP confirmed that he had urged the Prime Minister to intervene and expedite the RLNG project, leading to a positive outcome. Following this, the Prime Minister directed the Power Minister to re-initiate the approval process, culminating in the green light for the RLNG project. This was confirmed by Mr. Shripad Naik,

Hon'ble Minister of State for Power, New & Renewable Energy, in a communication to the MP on 26 November 2024.

The civil works tender for Andaman & Nicobar Gas Power Project is a crucial step in bringing this long-awaited energy solution to fruition, and the completion of the 50 MW LNG Gas Plant promises to significantly alleviate the power woes of South Andaman.

CONTD Pg 1...CPI(M) Urges Legislation for Job Reservation for Locals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

to address the issue. The resolution, submitted to the Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration by CPI(M) State Organizing Committee Secretary D. Ayyappan, attributed the worsening employment scenario to factors such as the ban on the creation of new posts by successive central governments

and delays in filling existing vacancies. The conference also pointed out the significant influx of mainland candidates applying for positions advertised by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. Referring to the recent recruitment drive conducted ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the CPI(M) highlighted that the

several mainland candidates participated in the examinations, while the Administration has yet to release the final selection lists. The CPI(M) resolution underscored legal challenges that have hindered the reservation of government jobs for locals. It noted that the Central

Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and the Calcutta High Court have, since 1987, consistently ruled that executive orders from the Ministry of Home Affairs for reserving posts for local candidates are unsustainable without legislative backing. The Supreme Court has also upheld these rulings. The party criticized

successive central governments for their failure to enact a law addressing this issue, which continues to disadvantage the island's youth. The CPI(M) reiterated its demand for immediate legislative action to ensure local candidates are prioritized in government recruitment, thereby safeguarding their employment opportunities.