

ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by **NICOBAR TIMES**

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Should Patients Have to Beg for Dignified Medical Transport? Why Was an 82-Year-Old Referred Patient Forced to Endure a 10-Hour Journey on a Ship Without Beds?



AI Generated

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

Any discomfort in the human body—be it a simple fever, a persistent cough, or even a minor injury—can be distressing. Now, imagine the agony of an 82-year-old diabetic heart patient, who had just undergone a blood transfusion and urgently needed specialized

medical care, being forced to endure a grueling 10-hour speed boat journey with no proper place to rest. This is not a hypothetical scenario. This is exactly what Mr. Birendra Kishore Talukdar went through.

His daughter, Priyanka Talukdar, brought this alarming ordeal to light through an email to the higher authorities of the Andaman and Nicobar

Administration. Later, she took to the popular Facebook group 'Digital Andaman' to share the harrowing experience her father is going through, sparking outrage among islanders who have long faced similar hardships.

According to Priyanka, her father was admitted to CHC Diglipur on 1st February 2025, where he underwent an emergency

CONTD...Pg 11...

Woman from Buniyadabad Area of Sri Vijaya Puram Duped of Rs 1.04 Lakh in Online Scam



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

A woman from Buniyadabad has fallen victim to an online scam, losing Rs 1.04 lakh to fraudsters who lured her with promises of earnings through hotel review-based tasks. Encouraged by the registered earnings, she reported the incident to the Cyber Crime Police

Station, the incident began on December 19, 2024, when the woman received a WhatsApp message from an unknown number regarding an online platform that offered payments for reviewing hotels. Initially, she received Rs 240 for completing a review without making any investment. Encouraged by the earnings, she reported the incident to the Cyber Crime Police

CONTD...Pg 11...

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Awareness Programme on PM Vishwakarma Scheme Held at Dairy Farm in Sri Vijaya Puram



Rohit Kumar

**Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025**

In a concerted effort to enhance outreach and boost enrolments under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, the Branch MSME-Development & Facilitation Office (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India) in collaboration

with the Andaman & Nicobar Administration hosted an 'Awareness Programme on PM Vishwakarma Scheme' at the SVPMC Community Hall, Dairy Farm, Sri Vijaya Puram. The event saw an active participation of over 140 women from various traditional artisan backgrounds, covering 18 trades under the scheme. The PM Vishwakarma Scheme includes trades

such as carpentry, boat-making, blacksmithing, masonry, tailoring, pottery, and more. The initiative aims to uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople, providing them with access to financial support, skill development, and business opportunities.

The primary objective of the programme was to raise awareness and encourage enrolment among potential beneficiaries, especially in districts with low registration rates. Despite a significant number of artisans in these areas, enrollment has been limited. The programme also sought to inform existing beneficiaries about how to avail the various benefits offered under the scheme.

Mr. G.K. Sinha, Assistant Director In-charge of Branch MSME-DFO, Sri Vijaya Puram, addressed the attendees, elaborating on the Ministry of MSME's schemes designed to support MSMEs and entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. Mr. Janak Rao, Industries Promotion Officer at the Directorate of Industries, Sri Vijaya Puram, explained the process for securing loans under the scheme. Additionally, Mr. Dheeraj Sharma, Centre Superintendent at the

Common Service Centre Education & Training Academy, provided a detailed explanation on the role of the Common Service Centres in facilitating the registration of new beneficiaries. The event also featured a technical session where attendees were presented with a comprehensive overview of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, ensuring they were well-informed on the opportunities available to them. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to support and empower traditional artisans, helping them thrive in today's economic landscape while preserving their valuable crafts.

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ANPCC Promotes Environmental Awareness Among Students in North & Middle Andaman



Tarun Karthick

in North & Middle Andaman.

Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

In a bid to promote environmental sustainability, the Andaman & Nicobar Pollution Control Committee (ANPCC), in collaboration with the Department of Science & Technology (DST), recently held a series of impactful awareness programs across multiple institutions

The sessions, focused on critical environmental issues such as waste management, climate change, and the dangers of single-use plastics, aimed to instill a sense of responsibility towards the environment among local students. Institutions including Government Model Senior Secondary School, Mayabunder,

Mahatma Government Mayabunder, Parishad Kadamtala, Government Secondary Kadamtala, and college

Gandhi College, V.K. Zilla Vidyalaya, and Senior School, hosted the program with the support of respective school and college principals.

Key presentations were delivered by resource persons from DST, including Law Officer Ms. R. Svathi Lakshmi, Junior Scientific Assistant Ms. Pavya, and Artist Mr. P. Senthil Kumar. They provided insightful discussions on various forms of pollution—air, water, and land—highlighting their causes, and effective preventive measures. Special attention was given to the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on marine

ecosystems and biodiversity.

A highlight of the program included the screening of videos that demonstrated advanced waste treatment technologies such as incineration, pyrolysis, and recycling. The sessions also covered regulatory measures implemented by ANPCC to monitor industrial compliance with environmental standards and curb pollution.

In addition to these presentations, the importance of the global plastic treaty and the circular economy model was emphasized as a pathway towards sustainable business practices. The students actively participated in discussions on the environmental hazards of Single-Use Plastics (SUP)

and were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily lives.

To further inspire action, the program distributed cloth bags, pamphlets, and posters promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over 300 students from the participating institutions engaged in the sessions, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental issues and motivating them to become ambassadors for change.

Through this initiative, ANPCC is empowering the youth of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to take proactive steps in addressing pressing environmental challenges, contributing towards a greener and more sustainable future for the region.

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Hindu Rashtra Shakti Requests Facilitation for Islanders Attending Maha Kumbh Mela



1. **Facilitation Point:** A dedicated point at the Andaman Guest Houses (Chennai, Kolkata, and New Delhi) to provide islanders with essential travel information and assistance.

2. **Help Desk:** A help desk to resolve any issues islanders may face during their stay.

3. **Reservation of Accommodation and Food:** A system that allows islanders to reserve accommodation and food in advance, ensuring a hassle-free visit.

The letter has also been forwarded to the Chief Secretary of the A&N Administration for necessary action, with copies also sent to the print media.

Rohit Kumar

Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

Hindu Rashtra Shakti has

submitted a formal request to the Lieutenant Governor to support islanders traveling to the upcoming Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj. The request

aims to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for those participating in this significant religious event. In a letter addressed to the

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Rakeshwar Lall, State President of Hindu Rashtra Shakti, outlined three key provisions to assist islanders:

Hindu Rashtra Shakti is hopeful that the authorities will take swift action, facilitating the smooth travel and stay of islanders at the sacred gathering.



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Biological Park Chidiyatapu Celebrates World Wetland Day with Tree Plantation Drive



commitment to environmental conservation. A special participant, M.L. Stoll, a tourist from Germany, also contributed to the event by planting a fruit-bearing tree.

In his address, Mr. Lal emphasized the vital role of wetlands in maintaining biodiversity and water quality, urging the community to work together for their protection. He praised the Biological Park staff for their ongoing efforts to conserve the region's natural resources and promote sustainable practices.

Mr. A.C. Tilak, Deputy Director of the Biological Park, welcomed the gathering and highlighted the significance of World Wetland Day in fostering greater awareness and collective action towards the protection of vital water bodies.

The event served as a reminder of the critical need to safeguard these unique ecosystems for future generations.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

The Biological Park in Chidiyatapu marked World

Wetland Day with a tree plantation event aimed at raising awareness about the importance of wetlands on 2nd February 2025. The

celebration, which took place around local water bodies,

focused on planting saplings of indigenous tree species to help preserve the natural ecosystem.

The event was graced by Mr. Naresh Chander Lal, Padmashri

Awardee and Swachh Bharat Mission Ambassador, who served as the chief guest. Mr. Lal, along with the staff and workers of the Biological Park, planted a Ficus species tree, symbolizing their

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Block Level Sports Event Held at Billiground with Focus on Fitness and Mental Health



honor, and Mr. Dilip Kumar Das, another Zilla Parishad Member, was also present to witness the event.

The Block Level Sports featured a variety of competitive events. Group competitions included Men's Volleyball and Women's Tug of War. Individual events for men included the 4x100m Relay Race and the 200m Race, while women competed in the 100m Race and Shot Put.

The winners of the events were awarded prizes by the chief guest and other dignitaries. Notably, the winners will move on to represent the block at the upcoming District Level Sports Meet, as highlighted by Mr. Sukharanjan Biswas, Deputy Director (OSD).

The event underscored the importance of sports as a tool for fostering both physical health and mental wellness, aligning with the overarching theme of a healthy and prosperous nation.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

In a collaborative effort, Nehru Yuva Kendra Rangat, Desh

Bondhu Youth Club, and Netaji Yuba Samiti Billiground organized a Block Level Sports event on 1st February 2025 at the Billiground playground. The event, held under the theme

“Swasth Rashtra - Samradh Rashtra,” aimed to promote physical fitness and mental well-being through sports. The event was graced by

several dignitaries, with Mr. Manojit Halder, Pradhan of Harinagar Gram Panchayat, serving as the chief guest. Mr. Shankar Mondal, Zilla Parishad Member, was the guest of

An advertisement for G's Goenka's Super Summer Sale. The background is a vibrant purple and blue gradient with floral patterns. In the center, a man in a yellow striped shirt and light blue shorts points towards the text. To his left, a woman in a white crop top and light blue skirt stands next to another woman in a floral dress. In the bottom left corner, a young girl in a white dress and sunglasses holds a glass of orange juice. The text "Starting @ ₹199" is prominently displayed on the left. The brand name "G's Goenka's" is written in a large, stylized font at the top right, with "Super Summer Sale" below it. At the bottom, a red banner lists the locations: "Aberdeen Bazaar | Bathu Basti | Bambooflat | Diglipur". The logo "DreamDzyner" is visible in the bottom right corner.

Awareness Programme on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act for Private Sector Companies on 4th February 2025

Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Work Place Act, 2013 (POSH)



Hall of Tagore Govt. College of Education, Sri Vijaya Puram. Organised for both employers and employees, the programme will focus on understanding rights and responsibilities under the POSH Act. Key topics will include how to foster a secure workplace free from harassment, effective complaint-handling procedures, and ensuring compliance with legal protocols.

Expert speakers on the POSH Act will lead the session, offering valuable insights into establishing robust grievance redressal mechanisms.

Companies are urged to send at least one representative to the session to ensure proper implementation of the POSH Act within their organisations. This initiative is crucial for swift action and compliance with the Act's provisions. For further details, contact 03192-240127.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

In a move to bolster

adherence to the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (POSH) Act, an awareness programme will be held for representatives of private sector companies

with more than 10 employees. The initiative is aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of the legal framework necessary to

create a safe and respectful work environment.

The session is scheduled for February 4, 2025, starting at 10 a.m. at the Conference



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Beach Cleanup Drive Organised at Rangat to Promote Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Tourism



Over 40 participants joined the cleanup drive, collectively removing a significant amount of waste from the beach area.

The drive not only contributed to a cleaner environment but also provided a platform for engaging discussions on vital topics such as the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), the importance of cleanliness, and potential developmental initiatives to enhance tourism in the Rangat Tehsil, particularly around the Dhaninallah Beach region and neighboring villages.

In his closing remarks, the Assistant Commissioner of Middle Andaman expressed heartfelt thanks to all those involved and emphasized the importance of consistent, collective efforts in maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. He also highlighted how such initiatives contribute to creating a cleaner, greener Rangat Zone, which is crucial for attracting eco-friendly tourism to the area. The Assistant Commissioner encouraged continued participation in environmental conservation efforts, underlining their role in shaping a better future for the region.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

In a proactive move to foster environmental conservation and sustainable tourism, the

Assistant Commissioner of Middle Andaman organized a beach cleanup drive on 1st February 2025, at Dhaninallah Beach in Padmanabhapuram village, Rangat. Spearheaded by his leadership, the initiative

saw enthusiastic participation from government officials, local representatives, and community members alike. The event was attended by a range of dignitaries, including

the Tehsildar of Rangat, Block Development Officer, Pradhan of Nimbutala, as well as officials from the Office of ACMA, Tehsildar Office, Rangat, and the Gram Panchayat of Shivapuram.



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Noor-e-Huda Islamic Conference Concludes with Overwhelming Participation



community leaders. The event featured special sessions tailored for youth, management bodies, and parents, addressing key topics related to education, leadership, and community welfare. A highlight of the conference was the inauguration of a new school building project for Iqra Public School. The foundation stone was laid by the distinguished guests, symbolizing a significant step towards educational development in the region.

In a major announcement, SKSSF Andaman revealed the launch of Al-Birr Play School, a renowned play school chain of Samastha, in the Andaman Islands. This initiative underscores the commitment to strengthening early childhood education in the community.

The conference was conducted with the support of Samastha Andaman, Andaman Range Jamiyatul Muallimeen, Port Blair Range Jamiyatul Muallimeen, and SKSSF. The event witnessed an outpouring of unity and commitment from various sections of society, demonstrating the community's strong sense of purpose and collaboration.

ASMJ extended its heartfelt gratitude to the general public for their overwhelming participation. Special appreciation was conveyed to the Shipping Department of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration for arranging ferry services to facilitate participants' return. The Andaman and Nicobar Police were also acknowledged for their cooperation in ensuring the smooth execution of the event. (Story based on a PR by ASMJ)

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
03 February 2025

The three-day Noor-e-Huda Islamic Conference concluded on a high note on 2nd February 2025, witnessing the

enthusiastic participation of over 5,000 attendees. The event, organized by the Andaman Sunni Muslim Jama'eth (ASMJ), marked the centenary celebration of Samastha Kerala Jamiyatul Ulama and the 25th anniversary of Iqra Public School,

Wimberly
The conference was graced by the presence of Samastha President, Sayyidul Ulama Sayyid Jifri Muthukkoya Thangal, who delivered the keynote address. He emphasized the

Gunj.
significance of education deeply rooted in socio-religious values. Other distinguished attendees included Sayyid Nasir Hayy Shihab Thangal, Sayyid Abbas Ali Shihab Thangal, Samastha Joint Secretary M.T. Abdullah Musliyar, and various other scholars and



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Cond..Pg 1..Should Patients Have to Beg for Dignified Medical Transport? Why Was an 82-Year-Old Referred Patient Forced to Endure a 10-Hour Journey on a Ship Without Beds?

blood transfusion and multiple tests. His health remained fragile, and doctors at CHC Diglipur referred him to GB Pant Hospital in Sri Vijaya Puram for further care and specialized treatment. Given his state, the family requested that he be transported by helicopter. However, their request was denied on the grounds that labor patients are given priority for Helicopter Travel. Instead, they were assured that a bed and medical staff would be available on a ship.

In a cruel turn of events, no suitable ship was available. As a result, Mr. Talukdar was forced to travel on M.V. Hutbay, a

vessel equipped only with seats and chairs—entirely inadequate for a critically ill, elderly patient. Priyanka shares that her father is resting on the hard floor near the seats, with his mother's saree serving as a makeshift sheet. The ten-hour journey would subject him to immense physical discomfort.

Speaking to Nicobar Times, Priyanka Talukdar and her husband expressed their deep anguish. They confirmed that Mr. Talukdar would reach Sri Vijaya Puram on the morning of 3rd February, having suffered unimaginable discomfort throughout the journey.

Priyanka has since

demanded immediate action from the authorities:

- A formal explanation for why her father, despite his critical condition, was denied proper and comfortable transportation to Sri Vijaya Puram.

- Accountability and strict action against those responsible for this negligence.

- A firm commitment from the Directorate of Health Services to ensure no other patient is subjected to such hardship in the future.

This is not just about one patient; it is about an entire population that continues to suffer due to inadequate patient

transport facilities. While the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has facilitated emergency transfers even at utterly odd hours with the help of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, glaring gaps remain. Patients in need of urgent medical care should not have to fight for a dignified transfer.

Medical referrals should not be dictated by logistical convenience. The system must prioritize the well-being of patients over bureaucratic policies. The choice of transport should not be at the discretion of officials; rather, if a patient requests helicopter evacuation, it should be provided without hesitation. If additional

helicopter sorties, diversions, or any other arrangements are required, they should be facilitated.

Islanders living in remote areas do not have access to specialized healthcare, making it the Administration's responsibility to ensure that patients receive comfortable transportation to the only tertiary care hospital in the region.

The fundamental question remains: should patients and their families have to beg for dignified medical transport in times of crisis? The authorities must act now to prevent such distressing experiences from happening again.

Contd..Pg 1..Woman from Buniyadabad Area of Sri Vijaya Puram Duped of Rs 1.04 Lakh in Online Scam

proceeded to follow the instructions given by the scammers.

Over time, she was asked to deposit amounts in different stages, with promises of even higher returns. She ultimately lost Rs 1.04 lakh through multiple transactions.

However, when further demands were made for additional payments, she

realized she had been defrauded and subsequently reported the matter to the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal before filing an FIR with the police.

The Cyber Crime Police Station of Andaman and Nicobar Police has registered a case under Sections 318(4) and 319(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

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