

ANDAMAN DAILY

by

NICOBAR TIMES

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.....

***17th of March
2025***



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First Captain of Pilpillow Village Seeks PM's Intervention for Mobile Connectivity in Village



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Nicobarese tribal community of Pilpillow village on Kamorta Island has expressed frustration over the prolonged delay in the installation of a mobile tower under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) project. Despite the allocation of land and multiple site visits by officials, no concrete progress has been made, leaving the village without reliable mobile connectivity.

In a recent letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Tanveer Hussain, the First Captain of Pilpillow village, highlighted the community's struggle with the absence of mobile network services. The letter stated that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had entrusted the project to Reliance Jio as part of an initiative to provide 4G mobile connectivity to uncovered villages and national highways in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Hussain mentioned that a team from Reliance Jio had conducted a site survey several years ago, followed by a visit from officials of the Department of Telecommunications, Forest, and Revenue Departments for land allocation. In 2023, the local administration had formally allocated the

land for the tower's construction. However, despite these developments, the work has remained stagnant.

The letter states that despite site surveys, soil investigations, and even a recent survey by the Assistant Engineer of the electricity department for power supply, no work has started. Hussain expressed disappointment that Reliance Jio officials have continued to give false hope regarding the project's progress.

According to the letter, the Department of Telecommunications has repeatedly cited a "media issue" as the reason for the delay. Hussain questioned why land was allocated and surveys were conducted if there were unresolved media-related concerns, stating that the delay has resulted in the wastage of government funds.

The residents of Pilpillow village continue to struggle with communication challenges due to the lack of mobile connectivity. The absence of a mobile network affects emergency services, education, and economic opportunities, leaving the community isolated from the rest of the region.

Through his letter, Hussain has urged Prime Minister Modi to intervene and ensure that the promised mobile tower is installed at the earliest. The community now awaits a response from the authorities, hoping for swift action to resolve their long-standing grievance.



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Hindu Rashtra Shakti Urges Lt Governor to Install GPS in Government Vehicles to Prevent Misuse



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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Hindu Rashtra Shakti (Andaman Unit) has submitted a letter to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, urging the installation of GPS tracking devices in government-owned and hired vehicles to curb their alleged misuse by officials and their families.

In a formal letter addressed to the Lt Governor, the organisation's State President, Rakeshwar Lall, highlighted concerns over the unauthorised use of government vehicles by officials for personal errands. The letter emphasised that vehicles belonging to various departments, including Social Welfare, Agriculture, Fisheries, Education, and the Secretariat, are frequently seen being used for personal purposes, such as ferrying children to schools and private tuition centres.

Despite the existence of the Andaman and Nicobar Vigilance Department, the effective monitoring and control of such misuse remain inadequate. To address this issue, Hindu Rashtra Shakti has proposed a set of measures:

1. Installation of GPS Devices – Government and Government hired vehicles should be equipped with GPS trackers for real-time monitoring,

ensuring that they are used strictly for official purposes.

2. Maintenance of Travel Logs – Departments should maintain detailed logs of trips, including destinations, duration, and purpose. Prior approval should be mandated for non-routine trips.

3. Data Retention for Audits – GPS tracking and travel logs should be stored securely for at least three months to facilitate audits and investigations.

4. Strict Penalties for Violations – Officials found misusing vehicles should face disciplinary action, including cost recovery measures.

The letter argues that implementing these measures will enhance transparency, prevent resource wastage, and restore public trust in the administration. It calls upon the Lt Governor to take immediate action to enforce stricter regulations on the use of government vehicles.

Copies of the letter have also been forwarded to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of

Police for necessary action, as well as to all print media outlets to raise awareness about the issue.

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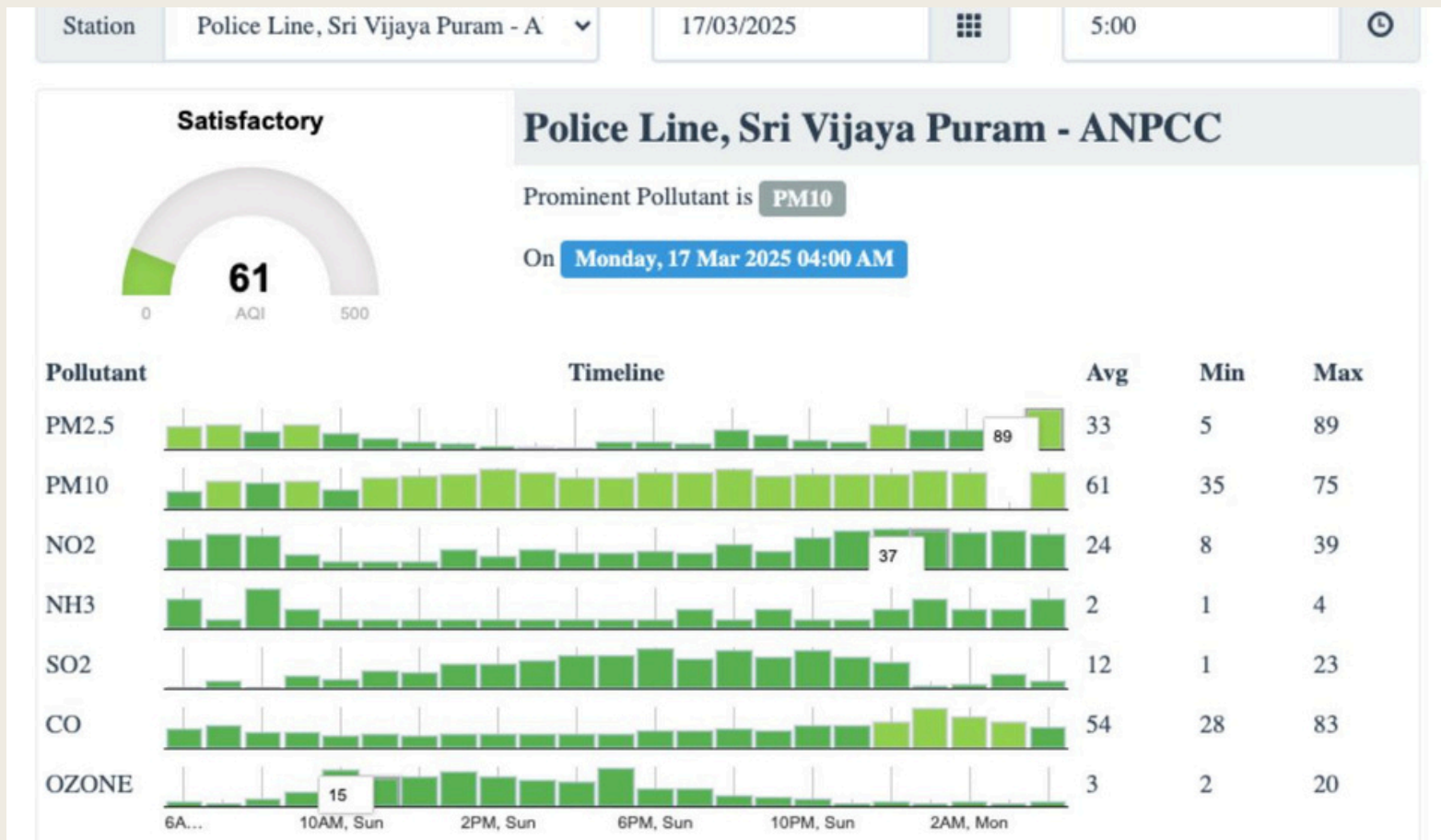
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Real-Time Air Quality Data of Sri Vijaya Puram Now Available on CPCB Portal and Sameer App



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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The Andaman and Nicobar Pollution Control Committee (ANPCC), under the Department of Science and Technology, has set up a Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) behind ITF Ground, Junglighat. This facility enables real-time monitoring of critical air quality parameters, including Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Ammonia (NH₃), Ozone (O₃), and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), along with meteorological data.

To enhance public awareness, digital display boards have been installed at key locations, providing real-time air quality updates. In a significant technological advancement, the ANPCC has successfully linked the CAAQMS station to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) server in New Delhi, ensuring seamless data transmission and integration into the national air quality monitoring network.

Residents can access real-time air quality data through the CPCB's National Air Quality Index portal (https://airquality.cpcb.gov.in/AQI_India/). Moreover, air quality updates, including the Air Quality Index (AQI) and specific pollutant levels, can be viewed via the 'Sameer' app, available on

the Google Play Store. Users can track live air quality updates by selecting 'Sri Vijaya Puram' from the list of monitored locations.

This initiative marks a crucial step towards improving environmental monitoring and public health awareness in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. With real-time access to air quality data, residents can stay informed about pollution levels and take necessary precautions for a healthier living environment.



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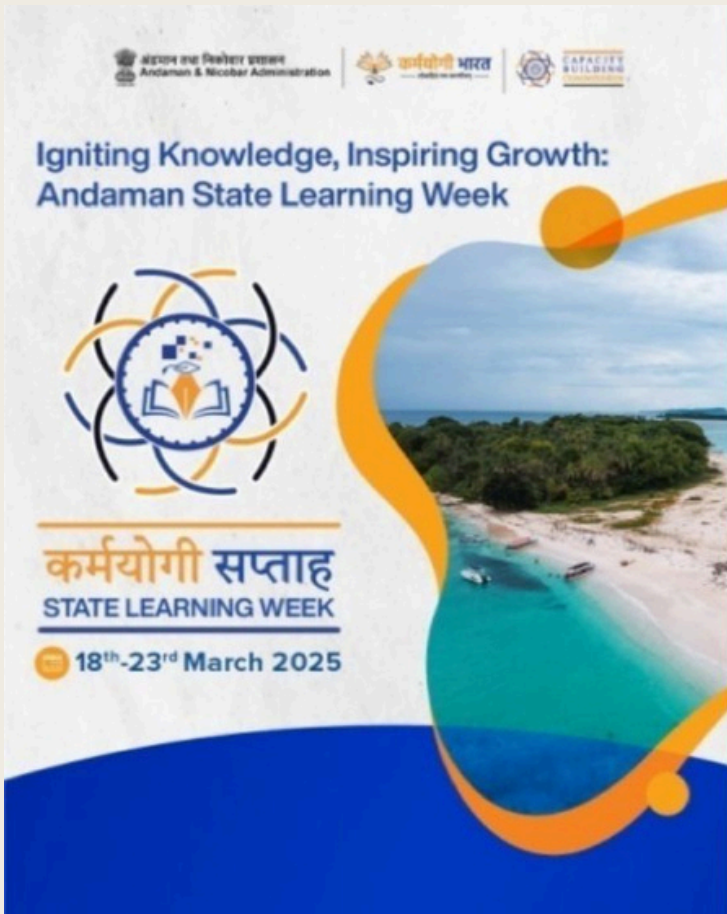
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A&N Administration to Organise State Learning Week in Collaboration with Karmayogi Bharat



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in association with Karmayogi Bharat, is set to organize a State Learning Week (SLW) from March 18 to March 23, 2025. The initiative aims to enhance skill development and professional learning among government employees across the Union Territory.

A workshop to familiarise officials with the State Learning Week Dashboard and provide a basic orientation on the importance of SLW will be conducted on March 17, 2025. The session will take place from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Conference Hall of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology. Heads of Departments, MDO Admins, and an additional staff member with an IT background from each department have been requested to attend the workshop.

To ensure smooth implementation, a dedicated Tech Team comprising 13 employees from the IT Department has been formed. This team will provide technical assistance to departments and staff throughout the SLW from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Departments and stakeholders can reach the

Tech Team via the official email ID (sup-krm-sectt@and.nic.in) or through a dedicated virtual conference link (<https://meet.google.com/dpg-udpw-nuc>).

Regular updates on the State Learning Week will be available through the WhatsApp channel 'ANI STATE LEARNING WEEK.' Employees can join the channel via the provided link: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb9fTq26rsQzhgMV8h2X>.

The Administration has urged all employees to actively participate in the event to ensure its success, fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional growth within the A&N Administration. (Story Based on PR)



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Indian Army Opens Online Applications for Agniveer and Other Categories Recruitment



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

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The Indian Army has commenced online applications for recruitment under various categories for the 2025-26 recruiting year. Aspiring candidates can now submit their applications through the official website, www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. The recruitment notification, published on March 12, 2025, includes vacancies for unmarried male and female candidates under the Agniveer scheme, along with Zonal and Central category enlistments.

Applications are invited from domiciles of 11 districts in Tamil Nadu under the Recruiting Office (Headquarters), Chennai. The districts include Cuddalore, Vellore, Tirupathur, Ranipet, Tiruvannamalai, Chennai, Thiruvallur, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Kancheepuram, and Chengalpattu, along with Puducherry district of the Puducherry Union Territory and all districts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The recruitment will cover several categories, including Agniveer General Duty, Agniveer Technical, Agniveer Clerk/Store Keeper Technical, Agniveer Tradesman (10th Pass), Agniveer Tradesman (8th Pass), Soldier Technical Nursing Assistant, Sepoy Pharma, and Agniveer General

Duty (Women Military Police). Candidates may apply for up to two categories based on their eligibility. The Common Entrance Examination (CEE) will be conducted in 13 languages, including Tamil. Bonus marks will be awarded to ITI and diploma holders, as well as NCC-certified candidates. The application process is exclusively online, and submissions must be completed before the deadline on April 10, 2025.

Admit cards for the online written examination, scheduled for June 2025, will be issued online. Candidates are advised to regularly check the official website and their registered email IDs for updates regarding their admit cards. The Indian Army has emphasized that the recruitment process is fully automated, fair, and transparent. Candidates are strongly advised to beware of touts and fraudulent agents who falsely claim to guarantee selection. The Army has reiterated that only merit, hard work, and preparation will determine selection.

For further assistance, candidates can contact the Recruiting Office (Headquarters), Chennai, located in Fort Saint George Complex, or reach out via telephone at 044-25674924. (Story Based on PR)

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Water Bowl Campaign Raises Awareness on Animal Welfare Among Students



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

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In a significant initiative to promote animal welfare and responsible animal husbandry practices, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Sri Vijaya Puram, successfully conducted a Water Bowl Campaign as part of the Animal Husbandry & Animal Welfare Awareness Month, observed from February 14 to March 13, 2025.

The campaign, launched under the broader initiative of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India, aimed to educate and engage school children in activities that encourage compassion towards animals, especially during the harsh summer months.

As part of the awareness drive, 3,528 students from 70 schools across the region were sensitised about good animal husbandry practices and animal welfare. The children were encouraged to provide food and water for birds and animals, learning to place clean, fresh water at various locations using eco-friendly materials. Demonstrations were conducted to teach students how to set up water bowls and maintain them effectively.

To make the initiative more engaging, students were encouraged to observe and record the number and species of birds visiting the water bowls daily. Educational materials, including pamphlets, fliers, and posters, were distributed across schools, and video clips highlighting themes of compassion, animal abuse, and transformation stories were screened.

Several schools organised water bowl decoration competitions, fostering creativity and enthusiasm among students. Additionally, students took a pledge to care for animals and work towards their welfare, reinforcing the campaign's core message.

The initiative received an overwhelming response, with students participating enthusiastically and showing keen interest in continuing the practice. The success of the campaign highlights the growing awareness and commitment of young minds towards animal welfare, ensuring a more compassionate future for animals in the region. (Story Based on PR)



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Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs Announces State-Level Video and Poster Making Competition Under SBM-G



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Directorate of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Institutions & Urban Local Bodies (RD, PRIs & ULBs) has announced a State-Level Video Making and Poster Making Competition under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G). The competition will be held on March 22, 2025, at respective Block Offices across the region.

The event aims to encourage creative expression and awareness on key themes related to rural development and sustainability. Participants can create content based on topics such as Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village, Healthy Village, Child-Friendly Village, Water-Sufficient Village, Clean and Green Village, Self-Sufficient Infrastructure, Social Justice and Security, Good Governance, and Women-Friendly Village.

The competition is open to all, including school and college students as well as the general public. Those interested in the video-making category are required to shoot an HD-quality original video and submit it in CD or Pen Drive format to their respective Block Development Office (BDO) on or before March 22, 2025. Late submissions will not be entertained. The poster-making competition will take place physically at the respective BDO

offices on the same day. Participants must bring their own chart paper and colours, as no materials will be provided by the organizers.

To recognize outstanding contributions, the Directorate has announced cash prizes for the winners. In the video-making category, the first prize winner will receive ₹25,000, the second prize winner will get ₹15,000, and the third prize winner will be awarded ₹10,000. In the poster-making category, the first, second, and third prize winners will receive ₹10,000, ₹7,000, and ₹5,000 respectively.

A State-Level Felicitation Programme will be organized at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, where winners will be honoured. The date of the felicitation ceremony will be announced in due course. Interested participants can contact their respective BDO offices for further information. (Story Based on PR)



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Transport Department Organizes Road Safety Awareness Camp at Ograbraj



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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Road accidents and the resultant fatalities and injuries remain a serious concern for both the Government of India and the Andaman & Nicobar Administration. In a concerted effort to enhance road safety awareness among citizens, the Transport Department organized a day-long Road Safety Awareness Camp at Ograbraj on March 13. The event also facilitated doorstep service delivery for various transport-related services. The camp was held with the active participation of the Mithakhari and Tushnabad Panchayats.

The Road Safety Awareness Camp-cum-'Parivahan Vibhag Aapke Dwar' initiative was inaugurated by Dr. Jatinder Sohal, Director of Transport, at the Community Hall in Ograbraj village. The event witnessed the participation of local residents from Mithakhari, Tushnabad, Ferrargunj, Tirur, Collinpur, and neighbouring villages.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sohal commended the enthusiasm of students and other attendees in learning about road safety laws. He stressed the importance of careful and defensive riding, particularly for youngsters using two-wheelers, which account for the majority of road accidents and fatalities. He urged all road users to follow

traffic laws diligently to ensure safer roads.

Dr. Sohal also highlighted the administration's objective of bringing essential services to citizens' doorsteps. He emphasized that road safety initiatives would only be effective with the active participation of all stakeholders, including the public.

Guest of honour Mr. Mohammed Aslam, Retired DySP, shed light on common traffic violations and their underlying causes. Pradhan of Mithakhari Panchayat, Mr. Mohammed Shafique, and Pradhan of Tushnabad Panchayat, Mr. Anand Amrit Raj, appreciated the Transport Department's efforts in promoting road safety awareness.

Additionally, the Medical Officer of PHC Tushnabad stressed the importance of immediate medical attention for road accident victims during the 'golden hour' to save lives. He also outlined basic first-aid procedures for attending to accident victims. Mr. Basit Ali, Motor Vehicle Inspector from the Transport Department, presented data on past road accidents, analyzed their causes, and suggested preventive measures to curb such incidents.

Earlier, Deputy Director (Transport), Mr. B. Binoy, welcomed the gathering and provided insights into the ongoing Road Safety Campaign. He emphasized the significance of adhering to road safety practices in daily life.

As part of the event, a quiz competition on road safety was conducted, with teams from five Panchayats participating enthusiastically. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Somasekharan Pillai, Assistant Engineer, STS Ferrargunj.

The camp proved to be highly beneficial for the participants, as 174 individuals successfully cleared the learner's test and obtained learner's licenses. Additionally, several citizens availed themselves of registration and driving license-related services provided at the camp. (Story Based on PR)



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DEPwD Calls for Government and NGOs to Submit EOI or PSP for Skill Training Program for PwDs



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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The National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP) is a dedicated skill development program aimed at providing high-quality vocational training for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The primary objectives of this scheme are to enhance the skills of PwDs through quality vocational training, enabling them to gain meaningful employment, and to empower them to become self-reliant and contributing members of society.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has announced a revision of its Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for NAP-SDP. This revision aims to streamline the process of engaging Government and Non-Government Organizations in providing skill training to PwDs, ensuring greater efficiency and transparency in the program's implementation.

Interested Government and Non-Government Organizations are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) or Project Specific Proposal (PSP) through the PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal. The training programs must be aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and approved by the National Council for

Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).

For further information, the guidelines of the NAP-SDP scheme, along with the revised SOP, are available on the official website: <https://depwd.gov.in>. (Story Based on PR)

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Earthquake and Fire Mock Drill Conducted at Agriculture Directorate



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

In adherence to the Chief Secretary's directive mandating quarterly mock drills across all departments of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, the Directorate of Disaster Management conducted an Earthquake and Fire Mock Drill at the Directorate of Agriculture, Sri Vijaya Puram, on Wednesday.

The drill, organized in coordination with the District Administration, A&N Police, Health, and Fire Departments, aimed to assess the Agriculture Department's preparedness for emergency situations.

The exercise commenced at 11 am with a simulated earthquake and fire scenario. Agriculture Department teams swiftly executed safe evacuation procedures, search and rescue operations, and administered first aid to the injured. The communication team promptly alerted key emergency response units, including the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC-1070), District Emergency Operation Center (DEOC-S/A-1077), and Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112), alongside Fire, Police, and Health Departments for necessary assistance. Fire tenders and ambulances arrived at the scene,

ensuring timely intervention and medical aid.

A debriefing session was conducted at 11:30 am to review the drill's execution and identify areas for improvement. Officials from the Disaster Management, Police, Fire, District Administration, and Health Departments emphasized the importance of basic disaster management training for Agriculture Department personnel to enhance their response capabilities in real emergencies.

The quarterly mock drills aim to strengthen disaster preparedness and ensure efficient coordination among various departments in times of crisis. (Story Based on PR)



CIARI Conducts Training on Integrated Farming System for Nicobari Farmers in Nancowrie Group



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI) conducted a twin programme aimed at improving the livelihoods of Nicobari farmers through the Integrated Farming System (IFS) and Agro-Advisory Services. The initiative, held on March 12 and 13, was organized by the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Integrated Farming System in collaboration with Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva and the Zonal Agricultural Office, Nancowrie.

The programme covered four villages—Kakana, Pilpillow, Chotta Enaka, and Hitui—where small agricultural implements were distributed to support farming activities. A total of 195 farmers participated in the awareness-cum-training programme, which focused on sustainable agricultural practices and enhanced farm productivity.

Dr. I. Jaisankar, Senior Scientist (Agroforestry) and Principal Investigator of the AICRP on Integrated Farming System, explained the scope and benefits of the IFS model. He emphasized the integration of tuber crops, fish, poultry, and cattle farming, alongside waste recycling, organic waste management, and integrated pest and disease

control. The use of multipurpose tree species and CIARI technologies was also highlighted as a means to boost farm income.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Abhilash and Mr. T. Harshang Kumar, both Scientists at CIARI; Dr. Santosh Kumar, Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Car Nicobar; and Mr. M.K. Arsad, AFA, Department of Agriculture, Nancowrie.

To aid farmers in their agricultural pursuits, a range of tools and resources were distributed, including 95 axes, 55 hand saws, 102 crowbars, 102 spades with handles, 105 bend knives, 2 garden pruners, and 250 kg of Dweep Bioconsortia.

The initiative was conducted under the guidance of Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, CIARI, as part of the institute's ongoing efforts to enhance sustainable farming practices in the region. (Story Based on PR)



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Kisan Mela – 2025 & Dweep Agro-Eco Walk to Be Inaugurated on March 18



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), in collaboration with its Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), is set to host the Kisan Mela – 2025 on March 18 and 19 at the Mela Ground within the Garacharma Research Complex. The two-day event will serve as a platform for farmers, researchers, and policymakers to engage in meaningful discussions, bridging traditional agricultural wisdom with modern scientific advancements to enhance sustainability and productivity in the sector.

Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will be the Chief Guest for the event and will formally inaugurate both the Kisan Mela and the Dweep Agro-Eco Walk at the Sippighat and Garacharma farms of the institute. The event will also be graced by Ms. Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Secretary of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, as the Guest of Honour.

One of the key attractions of the event will be the Scientist-Farmer Interaction, providing a unique opportunity for farmers to interact directly with agricultural experts and researchers. A quiz competition will be organized to engage visiting

farmers and stakeholders, allowing them to test and expand their agricultural knowledge. The event will also feature an exhibition of modern farming techniques, showcasing sustainable agricultural practices, cutting-edge innovations, and technological advancements in the sector. A special focus will be placed on the display of local products, promoting indigenous agricultural produce and farm-based products from the region. Additionally, farmers will have access to high-quality planting materials and other essential agricultural resources through the sale of seeds, seedlings, and byproducts.

The Dweep Agro-Eco Walk, an initiative to highlight sustainable farming methods and eco-friendly agricultural practices, will also be launched during the event. The walk will provide participants with firsthand exposure to innovative farming techniques implemented at the institute's farms.

The Kisan Mela – 2025 aims to inspire and empower the farming community of the islands by equipping them with knowledge, resources, and exposure to the latest advancements in agriculture. The event is expected to attract a large number of farmers, agri-entrepreneurs,

students, and industry stakeholders, making it a significant occasion for the agricultural sector in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.








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