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***18th of March
2025***



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Laxmi Nagar PRI Members List Urgent Grievances Before Authorities, Warn of Protest if Ignored



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The PRI Members from Laxmi Nagar Gram Panchayat of Great Nicobar Island has formally submitted a list of critical grievances affecting residents of multiple villages under its jurisdiction to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, along with various key officials of the administration. The Panchayat has also warned of protests and a hunger strike if corrective action is not taken within fifteen days.

The memorandum highlights several pressing issues faced by the residents of various villages, urging immediate government intervention. The key grievances include:

1. Frequent Power Outages Due to Old Electric Cables

The villagers have been facing persistent power interruptions due to old and worn-out electric cables that have not been replaced since installation. Despite assurances from authorities, only a portion of the new cables has been received at Campbell Bay. The Gram Panchayat demands the immediate replacement of the entire stretch of outdated cables to ensure a stable power supply.

2. Delayed Construction of Rural Roads

Two key rural road projects in Vijay Nagar, sanctioned years ago, have not yet commenced due to bureaucratic delays and lack of cooperation from the concerned technical divisions. The affected roads are vital for farmers and residents, providing access to homes and agricultural lands. The Gram Panchayat insists that construction must begin without further delay.

3. Urgent Issuance of Earth Permits

Development activities in Great Nicobar are being hampered due to the non-formation of a committee responsible for issuing earth permits. The Panchayat stresses the need for immediate action to enable smooth progress of essential infrastructure projects.

4. Deterioration of North-South Road

A significant portion of the North-South Road, particularly between 'O' Point and 9.50 Km, and 28 Km to 35 Km, is in dire condition, affecting daily commuters. Responsibility for road maintenance is currently divided between APWD and BRO, but neither agency has taken steps to address the issue. The Gram Panchayat demands urgent repairs to prevent further inconvenience and potential accidents.

5. Non-Functional Ambulance at PHC Gandhi Nagar

The only ambulance serving PHC Gandhi Nagar has been out of order due to a lack of spare parts and mechanics. Repeated appeals for repair or replacement have gone unanswered. The Panchayat demands a fully functional ambulance to cater to emergency medical needs.

6. Growing Monkey Menace Threatens Livelihoods

Villagers have raised concerns over an increasing population of monkeys causing extensive damage to coconut and other crops. Due to legal protections under Schedule A of the Forest Act, locals cannot take action against the animals. The Gram Panchayat requests that forest personnel be deployed to relocate the monkeys to suitable uninhabited islands.

7. Unfavourable Inter-Island Shipping Schedule

The current inter-island ship schedule is reportedly inconvenient for the public. The Panchayat suggests revising the schedule.

8. Delays in Greenfield International Airport Project

Residents of Gandhi Nagar and Shastri Nagar remain in uncertainty regarding their rehabilitation due to the proposed Greenfield International Airport. With no clear communication from authorities, villagers are unsure whether to continue farming or prepare for displacement. The Gram Panchayat urges transparency and expedited execution of the project with proper rehabilitation measures.

9. Land Allocation for Community Development

Development projects are stalled due to delays in issuing land allotments and No Objection Certificates (NOCs). The Panchayat urges concerned authorities to expedite the approval process to enable timely implementation of projects.

10. Irregular LPG Supply

Villagers are facing acute shortages of LPG cylinders, making cooking difficult. The Gram Panchayat demands that each consumer receives at least one cylinder every two months to ensure regular supply.

11. Retention of Work Order System for Cooperative Societies

The administration's move to discontinue the work order system for cooperative societies has raised concerns among rural unemployed youths who depend on it for livelihood. The Panchayat insists that the current system be continued to provide employment opportunities for locals.

12. Increased Funding for MGNREGA and Rural Roads

A reduction in MGNREGA funding has severely impacted employment opportunities and development in villages. The Panchayat calls for additional allocations to sustain rural employment and road construction projects.

13. Demand for Additional STS Buses

Residents have requested two additional STS buses to improve public transportation along the North-South route. The Panchayat has made repeated appeals for these buses, which are essential for daily commuters.

14. Extension of Low-Tension (LT) Power Lines

Farmers residing in interior villages lack access to electricity due to the absence of LT power lines. The Panchayat urges authorities to extend LT lines to provide necessary power connections.

The PRI Members warned that if no action or response is received within fifteen days, PRI members and villagers will stage indefinite hunger strikes and road blockades at Campbell Bay. The villagers assert that they have exhausted all avenues of communication and will escalate their agitation if their grievances continue to be ignored.

The letter is signed by Leela Bathi, Zilla Parishad Member of Laxmi Nagar Constituency, Prahlad Singh, Pradhan of GP Laxmi Nagar, Sarpanch Mr. S. Ayyappan, Up-Pradhan Mr. Sandeep Kalyan, Up-Sarpanch Mr. Paulina Kerketta, and other elected representatives of the Laxmi Nagar Gram Panchayat, reflecting the collective demand for immediate government intervention.



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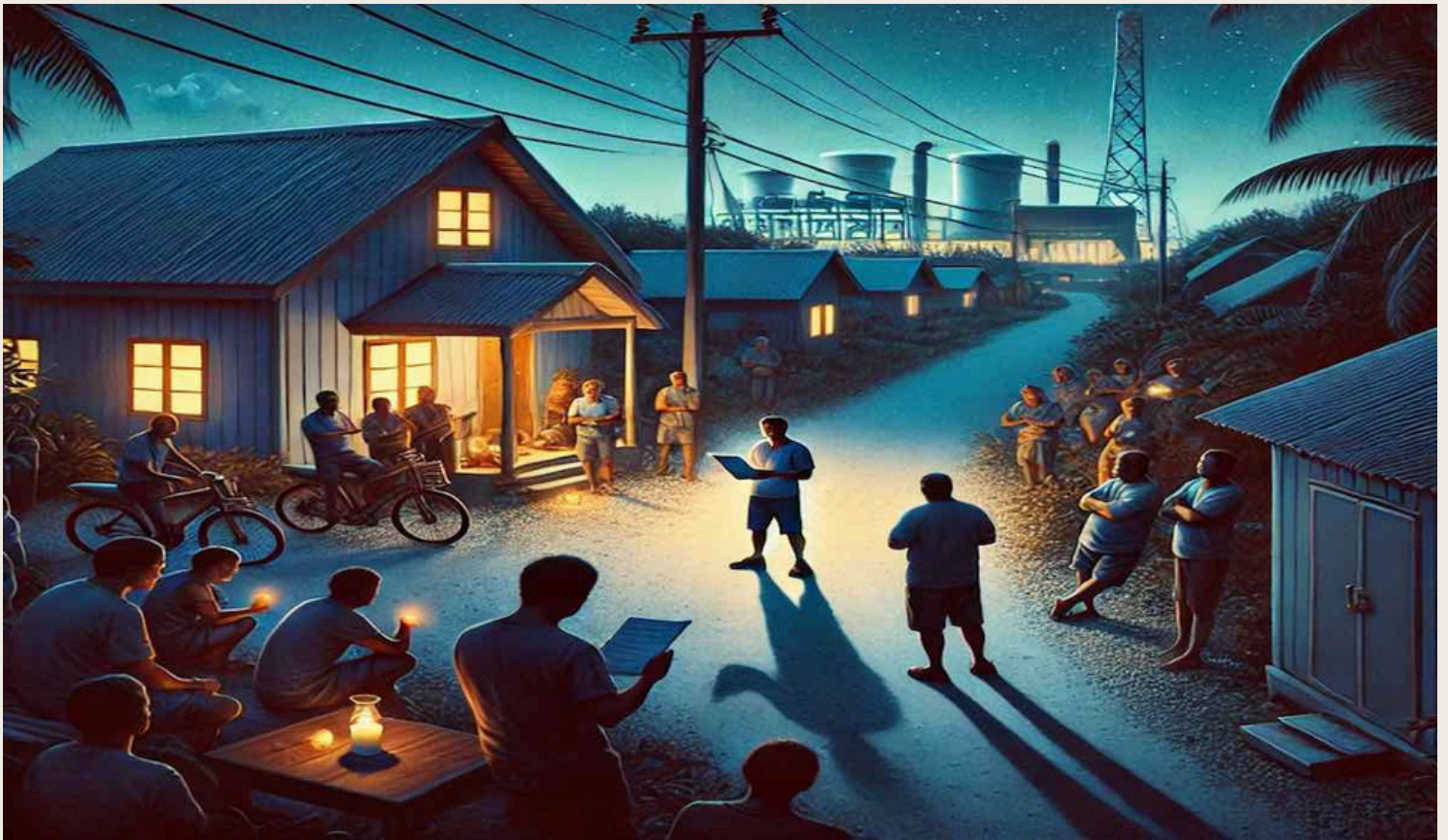
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ANTCC President Urges Swift Action to Resolve Load Shedding Crisis in Swaraj Dweep



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE


Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC) President, Mr. Rangalal Halder, has urged the administration to take immediate action to address the prolonged load shedding issue affecting Swaraj Dweep. In a formal letter to the Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Mr. Halder highlighted the severe impact of frequent power outages on residents and local businesses.

During his recent visit to Swaraj Dweep, Mr. Halder observed firsthand the hardships faced by the island's inhabitants due to power cuts lasting between 8 to 10 hours daily. He noted that the prolonged electricity shortages have not only disrupted daily life but have also hampered economic activities, leaving residents frustrated and struggling to cope with the situation.

Expressing deep concern over the longstanding nature of the issue, Mr. Halder stated that no effective measures have been implemented to resolve the crisis. He stressed the urgent need for the administration to intervene and restore a reliable and uninterrupted power supply to the island.

The ANTCC President has given the administration a 15-day ultimatum to address the crisis. He warned that if no concrete steps are taken within this period, the Congress party will stand in solidarity with the people of Swaraj Dweep and escalate the matter across various platforms to ensure their grievances are heard and resolved.

Residents of Swaraj Dweep continue to endure significant hardships due to the ongoing power crisis, and they now look to the administration for swift and effective intervention.

     	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mouth Cancer (Early & Advanced Mouth Cancer) ❖ Throat Cancer ❖ Thyroid Cancer ❖ Reconstructive Surgery after Head & Neck Cancer ❖ Lateral Skull Base Surgery ❖ Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery ❖ Head and Neck Reconstruction ❖ Nasopharynx Cancer ❖ Larynx Cancer ❖ Other HEAD & NECK Related Issues 	

LG Reviews Presentation on Himachal's Medicare Model for Possible Adoption in A&N Islands



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

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Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Vice-Chairman of the Islands Development Agency, reviewed a presentation by the Health Department on the Medicare Infrastructure of Himachal Pradesh. The review, held at Raj Niwas, was aimed at exploring the feasibility of adopting Himachal's Medicare model in the Union Territory.

The meeting, attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar and senior health officials, focused on strategies to enhance the functioning of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) in the islands. Discussions also revolved around measures to address the shortage of specialist doctors, incorporating key insights gathered from a recent field visit by A&N representatives to Himachal Pradesh. (Story Based on PR)



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A&N Islands Sign Two Agreements and One MoU Worth Rs. 500 Crore for Power Sector Modernisation



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

In a major step toward modernising the power distribution network in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, two agreements and one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth over Rs. 500 crore were signed on March 17, 2025, at Sri Vijaya Puram. The signing took place in the presence of the Chief Secretary of A&N Administration, Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS.

The agreements include a Smart Metering project valued at Rs. 53.26 crore, a Loss Reduction initiative costing Rs. 247.12 crore, and an Interconnection of Islands project worth Rs. 208.04 crore. These were signed by the Secretary (Power) on behalf of the A&N Administration and senior officials from Power Grid, which has been designated by the Ministry of Power as the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for these initiatives under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The RDSS is a central government initiative aimed at strengthening and modernizing India's power distribution sector. The newly signed agreements and MoU are expected to enhance power quality and reliability while ensuring a more sustainable electricity distribution system across the A&N

Islands. The scheme focuses on three critical areas: Loss Reduction, Smart Metering, and the Interconnection of Islands.

Loss Reduction: This component aims to upgrade the outdated electricity distribution infrastructure to minimize losses and enhance efficiency. Key measures include replacing old transformers, constructing new substations, augmenting existing ones, replacing old or frayed conductors with covered conductors, feeder segregation, building additional high-tension (HT) lines, and strengthening transmission lines. These upgrades will help minimize power outages and voltage fluctuations.

Smart Metering: The implementation of prepaid smart meters for consumers, along with system metering at the feeder and distribution transformer levels, will revolutionize power consumption monitoring. The integration of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) will provide consumers with accurate billing, real-time energy usage tracking, and increased transparency in electricity consumption. Additionally, the Power Department will be able to detect power theft, reduce losses, and improve revenue collection,

ensuring better service delivery.

Interconnection of Islands: This initiative is a preparatory step for the future High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link with the mainland. The interconnection will be established at a 66 KV voltage level and will help create a unified grid covering 86% of the total consumer base. This upgraded 66 KV grid will enhance power resource utilization, reduce outages, and improve system efficiency by minimizing transmission losses. The project will include five major substations located in Bambooflat, Bakultala, Rangat, Mayabunder, and Diglipur.

The signing of these agreements marks a crucial milestone in the implementation of the RDSS in the A&N Islands. The UT Administration remains committed to providing a reliable and sustainable power infrastructure to meet the growing needs of consumers across the islands. These initiatives are expected to bring long-term benefits by enhancing energy efficiency, reducing losses, and ensuring a stable power supply for residents and businesses alike. (Story Based on PR)

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Revised Sailing Schedule for MV Sentinel; Route Extended to Campbell Bay



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

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Shipping Department has revised the sailing schedule of the vessel MV Sentinel, originally set to depart for Nancowry on March 27, 2025. Due to administrative reasons, the route has now been extended to include Campbell Bay.

As per the updated schedule, MV Sentinel will depart from Haddo Wharf at 7:00 AM on March 27, 2025, and sail to Campbell Bay via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, and Nancowry. The vessel will commence its return journey to Sri Vijaya Puram on March 30, 2025, at 8:00 PM, following the same route.

Passengers are advised to stay informed about further updates through the official website of the Shipping Department or by contacting the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay via Helpline Number 03192 – 245555/232714 or Toll-Free Number 18003452714. (Story Based on PR)



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SBI-RSETI to Offer Free Beauty Parlour and Tailoring Training for Women in A&N Islands



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

The State Bank of India's Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI-RSETI) will conduct free training courses in Beauty Parlour Management and Women's Tailoring for unemployed women in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The program is set to begin on March 20, 2025, and participants will receive certificates upon successful completion.

The training initiative, organized under the guidelines of the Ministry of Rural Development, aims to empower women by equipping them with vocational skills. Special preference will be given to candidates from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households and members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Interested candidates are required to bring their qualification documents and can contact SBI-RSETI for enrollment at Landline: 03192-236723 or Mobile: 9474291495 / 9933215939 / 9933210215 between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

The training sessions will be held at SBI-RSETI, 2nd Floor, SBI Regional Business Office, SBI Complex, Mohanpura, Aberdeen Bazaar, Sri Vijaya Puram – 744101.

This initiative presents a valuable opportunity for women seeking skill development and self-employment in the region. (Story Based on PR)

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Hindu Rashtra Shakti Seeks Affordable Air Travel and Air Ambulance Services for Residents of A & N Islands



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands unit of Hindu Rashtra Shakti has urged the Ministry of Civil Aviation to take steps to enhance air connectivity and medical evacuation services in the archipelago. In a letter addressed to Union Civil Aviation Minister Mr. Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu, the organization highlighted the pressing need for low-cost air travel options and a dedicated air ambulance service for the islanders.

The letter emphasized that the high cost of air travel continues to be a major challenge for residents, students, businesses, and tourists, restricting mobility and hampering economic growth. Additionally, the lack of dedicated air ambulance services has posed significant challenges in emergency medical evacuations, putting lives at risk.

The Hindu Rashtra Shakti Andaman and Nicobar unit proposed several measures to address these concerns, including:

1 Increasing Budget Airline Operations – Encouraging more low-cost airlines to operate flights between Sri Vijaya Puram and mainland India to make air travel more affordable.

2 Providing Airfare Subsidies – Introducing government-backed subsidies or incentives to reduce airfare costs for residents.

3 Establishing a Dedicated Air Ambulance Service – Setting up a 24/7 emergency air ambulance service with advanced medical facilities to ensure timely medical evacuations.

4 Strengthening Healthcare Coordination – Collaborating with the Ministry of Health and local authorities to improve medical evacuation processes and ensure swift hospital admissions at destination.

5 Upgrading Airport Infrastructure – Expanding and modernizing Veer Savarkar International Airport to accommodate more flights, improve passenger facilities, and enhance navigation systems.

6 Ensuring Reliable Cargo Transport – Enhancing the transportation of essential goods, medical supplies, and perishable items through cost-effective air cargo services.

7 Developing an Emergency Response System – Integrating air ambulance services into disaster management plans for better response during natural calamities.

8 Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) – Encouraging collaboration between government agencies and private enterprises to sustain affordable air travel and emergency services.

The letter was also forwarded to key government officials, including the Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Chief Secretary, the Member of Parliament, and the Secretaries of the Health and Tourism Ministries, urging their support for the initiative.

Hindu Rashtra Shakti believes these measures will significantly improve connectivity, healthcare accessibility, and tourism in the region, ultimately contributing to the holistic development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



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Disaster Management Directorate Conducts Mock Drill on Earthquake and Fire at Directorate of Rural Development & Panchayats



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

In line with the Chief Secretary's directive for quarterly mock drills across all departments, the Directorate of Disaster Management, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, conducted a comprehensive earthquake and fire mock drill at the Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayats, Sri Vijaya Puram, on Monday.

The drill, organised in collaboration with the District Administration, Andaman and Nicobar Police, Health Department, Fire Services, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and Electricity Department, aimed to evaluate the department's preparedness and response to disaster situations.

Prior to the exercise, officials from various resource departments finalised the earthquake and fire scenarios and outlined the roles and responsibilities of incident command teams during a table-top exercise at 10 AM. The full-scale drill commenced at 11:15 AM, simulating disaster alarms, safe evacuation procedures, emergency communication with the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC - 1070), District Emergency Operation Center (DEOC - 1077), and Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - 112). Teams efficiently executed search and rescue

operations, provided first aid, and coordinated resource deployment.

The emergency response teams successfully managed the mock crisis, and after ensuring all safety measures were in place, the Incident Commander issued an 'All Clear' signal at 11:45 AM, marking the conclusion of the drill.

Following the exercise, a debriefing session was conducted, where observers commended the active participation of officials and staff. They emphasized the importance of basic life-saving training for all employees to enhance their readiness for real-life emergencies.

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration remains committed to strengthening disaster preparedness across departments to ensure swift and effective responses during crises.



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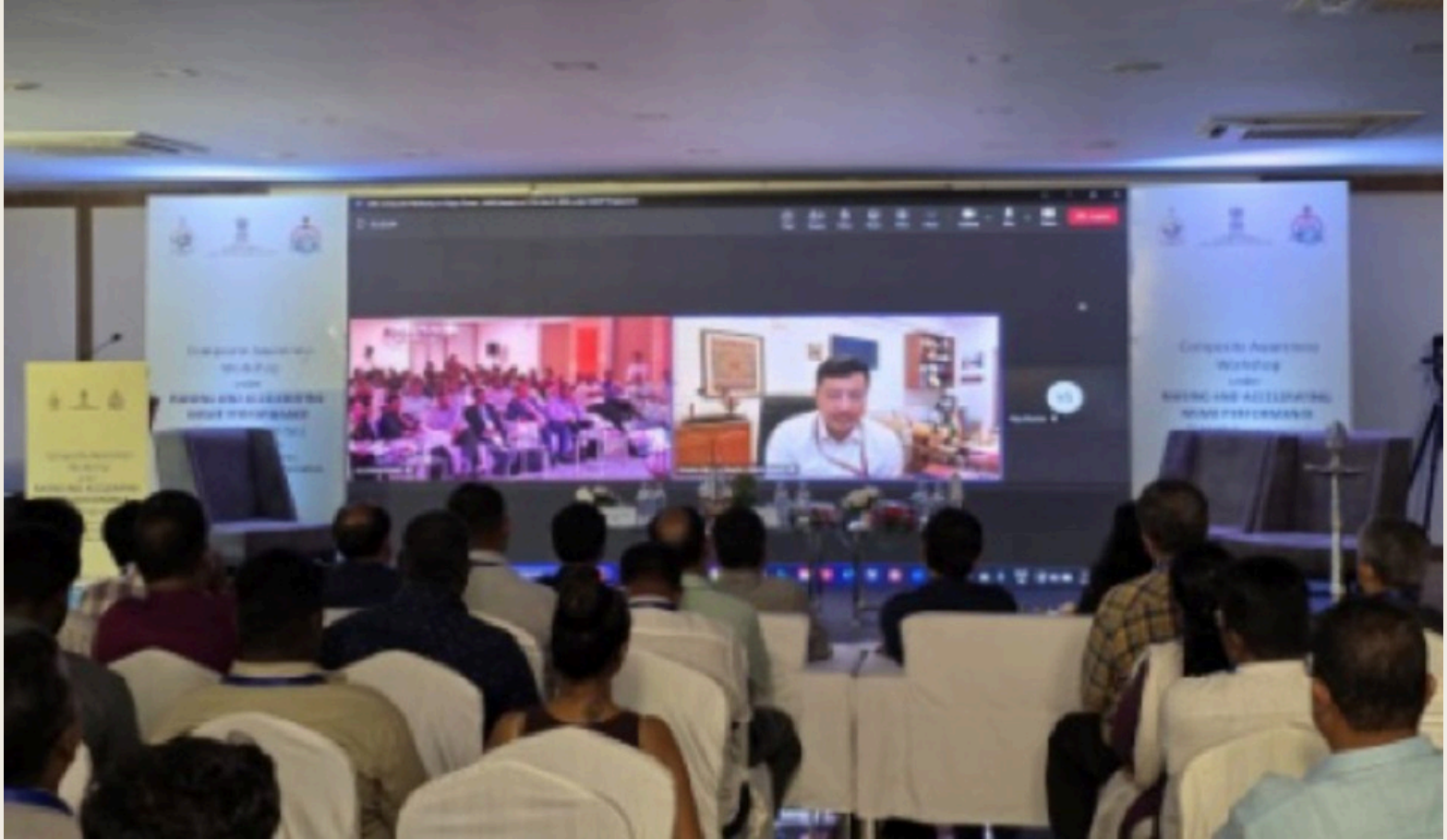
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Competitiveness Composite Workshop Under RAMP Programme Organised in Andaman & Nicobar Islands



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Industries, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Administration, organized a Competitiveness Composite Workshop under the World Bank-supported Central Sector Scheme 'Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) Programme. The initiative aims to tackle challenges faced by MSMEs through a series of interventions, including newly introduced sub-schemes under RAMP.

The workshop focused on raising awareness about various initiatives of the Ministry of MSME, including existing schemes such as the MSME Champions Scheme and the National SC/ST Hub Scheme. It also highlighted new initiatives launched under RAMP, such as the MSE Green Investment and Financing for Transformation (MSE GIFT), MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE), MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative, and the Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments. Additionally, efforts supported under RAMP, including the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)

compliance, were discussed.

The event witnessed active participation from a large number of MSMEs, industry associations, central and state government representatives, banks, and financial institutions. Representatives from the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Quality Council of India, and Invoicemart made presentations on various schemes and initiatives.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Vinamra Mishra, Director, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, stated that the workshop is part of the ‘Sarkar Aapke Dwar’ outreach initiative. He emphasized the Ministry’s commitment to supporting MSMEs through digital and technological solutions aimed at improving access to credit, markets, and technology while addressing delayed payments and fostering environmental sustainability. He highlighted the significance of the MSME Champions Scheme and stressed the need for promoting innovation through hackathons and commercialisation of intellectual property.

Dr. Milan Sharma, National Project Management Unit (PMU) Head for the RAMP Programme,

underscored the importance of bringing more women into the formal sector to help them avail the benefits of various schemes, particularly those tailored for women entrepreneurs. She also spoke about the MSME TEAM Initiative, which aims to enhance digital market access for MSMEs through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Additionally, she elaborated on the newly launched schemes promoting sustainability and circular economy practices under RAMP.

Mr. K. Chandrasekharan, President of the Andaman & Nicobar Chamber of Commerce & Industry, extended support to the MSMEs and lauded the Ministry's efforts in raising awareness about the available schemes. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in strengthening the MSME sector in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Rakesh Das, Director of the Department of Industries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, commended the Ministry of MSME for its efforts under the RAMP Programme. He urged MSMEs to actively participate and leverage the initiatives to drive dynamic growth in the sector.

The workshop served as a significant platform for

MSMEs in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to gain insights into various government initiatives aimed at enhancing their competitiveness and sustainability. (Story Based on PR)

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Andaman & Nicobar Administration to Launch State Learning Week in Collaboration with Karmayogi Bharat



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration, in collaboration with Karmayogi Bharat, will launch the State Learning Week (SLW) for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The week-long initiative, which will commence today, will run until March 23, 2025, aiming to enhance the skills and knowledge of government employees across various departments.

In preparation for the event, an orientation workshop was conducted on March 17, 2025, at the Conference Hall of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology. The workshop provided an overview of the SLW Dashboard and emphasized the significance of the initiative. Mr. A.S.P.S. Raviprakash, IAS, Secretary (AR&Trg./IT), graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Mr. Henry V Arokiya Raj, Program Manager at Karmayogi Bharat, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India, served as the resource person. The session was attended by approximately 78 officials from various departments under the A&N Administration.

Earlier, Dr. Utpal Sharma, Special Secretary (IT), extended a warm welcome to the attendees.

To ensure smooth execution and technical support throughout the SLW, a dedicated Tech Team comprising 13 IT Department employees has been formed. The team will provide real-time assistance to departments and staff between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM during the event. Support can be accessed through the dedicated email ID sup-krm-sectt@and.nic.in or via the virtual conference link: <https://meet.google.com/dpg-udpw-nuc>.

Additionally, updates on the State Learning Week will be shared through the WhatsApp channel "ANI STATE LEARNING WEEK." Interested participants can join the channel using the following link: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb9fTq26rsQzhgMV8h2X>.

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration urges the active participation of all its employees to make the State Learning Week a resounding success, fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional development.



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Atul Smrity Samity Supported by Publishers & Booksellers Guild Kolkata, and EZCC Kolkata Set to Organise Andaman Book Festival 2025



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

Andaman Book Festival 2025 is set to be organised from March 19, 2025 from 04 Pm Onwards, at the Atul Smrity Samity Auditorium. Organized by Atul Smrity Samity with the support of the Publishers & Booksellers Guild, Kolkata & EZCC Kolkata, the festival aims to foster a culture of reading and literary appreciation among islanders.

The inaugural ceremony will feature distinguished guests, cultural performances, and an exclusive book exhibition showcasing titles from various publishers. The festival seeks to bring together authors, book lovers, and students to celebrate the joy of reading.

Beyond the inauguration, the festival includes a series of engaging competitions designed to ignite young minds:

- Inter-School Debate (March 20, 3:00 PM): Students will debate the motion "Books are the ultimate teachers for life."**
- Inter-School Quiz Competition (March 21, 3:00 PM): A test of knowledge and quick thinking between school teams.**

- **Sit and Draw Competition (March 22, 3:00 PM):** Young artists from Classes VI to X will depict their "Love for Books."

All competition winners will receive their prizes at the end of their respective events.

With a blend of literary discussions, student competitions, and book displays, the Andaman Book Festival 2025 is poised to be a landmark event in promoting literacy across the islands. (Story Based on Communication from Atul Smrity Samity)

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Professor Phanithi Prakash Babu Assumes Charge as Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University



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Professor Phanithi Prakash Babu has officially taken charge as the Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University. His appointment was made by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, in her capacity as the Visitor of the University, under Statute 1(A) of the Pondicherry University Act, 1985. The Ministry of Education confirmed the appointment through an official communication dated March 6, 2025.

Professor Babu assumed office on the morning of March 17 at the university campus in Puducherry. Following his formal takeover, he paid a courtesy visit to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry, Mr. N. Rangasamy, at the Legislative Assembly. Later, he addressed a gathering of Deans and Heads of Departments at the institution campus.

His tenure is expected to bring fresh initiatives and academic advancements to Pondicherry University. (Story Based on Communication from Pondicherry University)



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