

ANDAMAN DAILY

by

NICOBAR TIMES

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.....

***20th of March
2025***



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Dollygunj's Navashakti Nagar Residents Decry Poor Roads and Drainage Despite Regular Property Tax Payments to Municipal Council



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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Residents of Navashakti Nagar Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Dollygunj, have raised serious concerns over the poor condition of roads and drainage in their locality. In a formal complaint addressed to the Municipal Councillor of Ward No. 17, the society's president, Mr. Senthil Kumar, highlighted the persistent issues that have plagued the area for over a decade.

The complaint specifically pointed out the deplorable state of Marine Colony Road and the society's internal lanes, which have become hazardous for both motorists and pedestrians.

1 Pothole-Ridden Roads: Large potholes have made commuting dangerous, increasing the risk of accidents.

2 Uneven Surface: The road's uneven surface has made driving uncomfortable and potentially damaging for vehicles.

3 Poor Drainage System: Blocked and inadequate drainage has resulted in frequent waterlogging, leading to mosquito breeding and posing health risks.

Despite multiple complaints over the years and the regular collection of property tax from residents, no significant action has been taken to address these issues. The letter stressed that the tax collected for infrastructure maintenance have not translated into any visible improvements.

“The condition of the roads has deteriorated to such an extent that it has become a daily struggle for residents to commute safely. Waterlogging during rains adds to the misery by creating foul odours and unhygienic conditions,” the letter mentioned.

The stagnant water caused by poor drainage has led to an increase in mosquito breeding, raising the threat of vector-borne diseases. Additionally, the unhygienic environment caused by waterlogging and bad odours has become a public health concern.

Expressing frustration over the lack of response despite consistent payment of taxes, the residents have urged the Ward Councillor to take immediate action. They have requested a thorough inspection of the area and the prompt repair of roads, along with a permanent solution to the drainage problem.

The President on behalf of the residents sought urgent intervention to improve the quality of life for residents and ensure public safety.

The residents are hopeful that the municipal authorities will address these pressing concerns and initiate the much-needed repairs without further delay.

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Lt. Governor D K Joshi Highlights Major Maritime Projects of A&N Islands at 4th Sagarmala Apex Committee Meeting



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Vice-Chairman of the Islands Development Agency, participated as a special invitee in the 4th National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) meeting held in New Delhi on March 19, 2025. The meeting aimed to strengthen the objectives of Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

During his address, the Lt. Governor highlighted several ambitious maritime projects spearheaded by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, aimed at transforming the islands into a world-class maritime cluster. He emphasized the upcoming mega projects, including the Ship-Repair and Ship-Construction Hub in the Indo-Pacific region and the International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Galathea Bay, which has been notified as a major port. Once operational, the terminal will rank among the top three ports in India, with a handling capacity of 16.5 million TEUs, significantly boosting India's maritime infrastructure.

The Lt. Governor also spoke about the Port Meadows project, which has been notified as the

first Ship-to-Ship (STS) Transshipment and Customs Port in the region, catering to both exports and imports. Additionally, he mentioned the development of a Deep Water Port at Atlanta Bay, which is poised to become one of the top two or three deepwater ports in India, contributing significantly to India's economic growth and supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat as envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Emphasizing the need for expedited development, the Lt. Governor recommended fast-tracking the repair and reconstruction of jetties across the A&N Islands as part of the first phase. He also urged the timely completion of projects under the Sagarmala scheme to ensure early realization of the maritime goals envisioned for the region.

The Sagarmala Apex Committee plays a crucial role in overseeing and accelerating the implementation of port-led development initiatives, aligning with India's vision of enhancing its maritime capabilities.



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Sports Directorate Invites Students for Free Coaching in Multiple Disciplines



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, A&N Administration, is organizing coaching classes for school-going children to help them develop their skills and utilise their potential effectively.

The coaching sessions will cover a wide range of sports, including Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Basketball, Cycling, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Table Tennis, and Volleyball. Additionally, Aerobic Dance classes will be conducted exclusively for girls and women.

Interested students can register their names at the Office of the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, located at Netaji Stadium, Sri Vijaya Puram, between 10 am and 4 pm on all working days.

This initiative aims to nurture young talent and promote a culture of sports and fitness among the youth in the islands.



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Two New Buses Flagged Off to Boost Public Transport in Car Nicobar



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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In a significant move to enhance public transportation in Nicobar District, Mr. Amit Kale Maruthirao, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar District, flagged off two new buses at the STS Unit, Car Nicobar, on March 19, 2025. The event was attended by Mr. Akash Kishen, Executive Engineer (APWD), and Mr. Banbir Das, Assistant Engineer (APWD).

The initiative, organized by the STS Unit, Car Nicobar, was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Shekar, Assistant Engineer (Mechanical). The introduction of these buses is part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to upgrade transport infrastructure and provide safe, reliable, and efficient commuting options for the residents of Car Nicobar. The buses will cater to the needs of daily commuters, including students, office-goers, and the general public.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Amit Kale Maruthirao reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to strengthening public transport facilities across the district. He highlighted that the addition of these buses will address mobility challenges and contribute to the overall development of the region.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the tribal community, who expressed their appreciation for the Administration's efforts to improve transport services. They welcomed this much-needed initiative, recognising its potential to significantly benefit the local population.

The Administration has reiterated its dedication to further enhancing transportation services to improve connectivity and accessibility for islanders in the coming months.



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Mahila Congress Stages Protest in Sri Vijaya Puram, Demands Immediate Implementation of Women's Reservation Law



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

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The Andaman & Nicobar Mahila Congress Committee, under the directive of Mahila Congress National President Ms. Alka Lamba, organized a protest in Sri Vijaya Puram on Tuesday, demanding the immediate implementation of the 33% women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

The protest, led by State Mahila Congress President Ms. Zubaida Begum, witnessed enthusiastic participation from key party leaders and members. The protest march began from Gandhi Bhavan, where a large number of Mahila Congress members raised slogans, expressing strong opposition to the BJP-led Central Government for delaying the implementation of the Women's Reservation Law, despite its passage in Parliament.

Prominent leaders who joined the demonstration included ANTCC President Mr. Rangalal Halder, ANTCC spokespersons, leaders from various frontal organizations, departments, and cells, along with PBMC councillors and PRI members. The march symbolised a collective demand from Mahila leaders and Congress members for immediate action on the long-pending legislation

aimed at enhancing women's representation in legislative bodies.

Addressing the gathering, several political leaders highlighted that the delay in implementing the law amounted to a betrayal of women's rights and aspirations. They urged the Central Government to fulfill its commitment and ensure that women receive their rightful representation in decision-making bodies.

The protest concluded with the passage of a strong resolution, calling on the government to prioritize women's political empowerment and uphold the constitutional promise of gender equality in governance.



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Earthquake and Fire Mock Drill Conducted at Labour Commissioner's Office



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

In adherence to the Chief Secretary's directive for quarterly mock drills across all departments, the Directorate of Disaster Management, A&N Administration, conducted an Earthquake and Fire Mock Drill at the Labour Commissioner's Office, Sri Vijaya Puram, on March 19, 2025. The exercise aimed to assess the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of the department and was carried out under the supervision of Mr. K. Srinivasa Rao, Labour Commissioner, A&N Administration.

Prior to the drill, a Table Top Exercise was held at 10 am in collaboration with the District Administration, A&N Police, Health, and Fire Departments. During the session, officials finalized the earthquake and fire scenarios and assigned roles and responsibilities to the Incident Commander and departmental teams.

The mock drill commenced at 11:05 am, simulating fire and disaster alarms followed by the execution of safe evacuation procedures. Emergency communication was established with the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC – 1070), District Emergency Operation Centre (South Andaman – 1077), and Emergency Response

Support System (ERSS – 112). The response teams efficiently carried out search and rescue operations, provided first aid, and implemented other emergency measures. The Incident Commander declared an ‘All Clear’ at 11:30 am, signalling the successful conclusion of the exercise.

A debriefing session was conducted post-drill, where the Labour Commissioner commended the active participation of the staff and acknowledged the support extended by the resource departments in ensuring the smooth execution of the exercise. He reiterated the Labour Department’s commitment to strengthening its preparedness and response systems to effectively manage disasters in the future.



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Poster and Video Making Competition on SDG Themes to be Held at Prothrapur Block



**ROHIT
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The Directorate of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and Urban Local Bodies (RD, PRIs & ULBs), A&N Administration, will be organizing a State/Block Level Video and Poster Making Competition on various Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) themes. The themes include Poverty Free & Enhanced Livelihood Village, Healthy Village, Child Friendly Village, Socially Just & Socially Secured Village, Self-Sufficient Infrastructure, Clean & Green Village, Water Sufficient Village, Village with Good Governance, and Women Friendly Village.

In this regard, the C.D. Block Prothrapur will be conducting the Block Level Poster Making Competition on March 22, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Conference Hall of Panchayat Samiti, Prothrapur. Participants have been directed to report by 9:30 am with their own materials, including paper and colours, as no supplies will be provided at the venue.

For the Video Making Competition, interested candidates are required to shoot high-definition (HD) videos based on the SDG themes and submit the entries in CD or Pen Drive format to the Office of C.D. Block Prothrapur by 12:30 pm on March 22,

2025. Late entries will not be entertained under any circumstances.

The competitions are open to school/college students and residents of Gram Panchayats under the jurisdiction of Prothrapur Block, including Sippighat, Calicut, Beodnabad, Govind Nagar, Shyam Nagar, and Neil Kendra.

					
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Little Andaman Forest Division Organises Biodiversity Awareness Drive at Nallah Mundi Beach



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

In an inspiring display of community solidarity and environmental consciousness, the Little Andaman Forest Division organized a comprehensive biodiversity awareness program at Nallah Mundi Beach, Rabindra Nagar, on 19th March 2025. The event witnessed active participation from a wide cross-section of the community, including Pradhans from five panchayats – Netaji Nagar, VK Pur, RK Pur, Hut Bay, and Rabindra Nagar – along with Zilla Parishad members, Panchayat Samiti members, and the Pramukh. Their collective presence highlighted the growing acknowledgment of the crucial role that local governance bodies play in protecting biodiversity.

Addressing the gathering, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Mr. Sunil Kumar underscored the importance of community participation in preserving biodiversity. He emphasized the need for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to assume leadership and take proactive measures to safeguard the region's ecological wealth. "Community engagement, coupled with robust support from PRIs, can catalyze sustainable conservation initiatives that protect our rich ecological heritage," remarked Mr. Kumar, stressing the importance of grassroots-level efforts.

The program featured a series of interactive sessions aimed at promoting environmental awareness and action. Participants were sensitised to the importance of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance and human well-being. One of the highlights of the event was the symbolic release of Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings into the sea, signifying hope and commitment toward marine conservation efforts.

Discussions also focused on strategies for peaceful coexistence with wildlife, with emphasis on habitat restoration, conflict mitigation, and responsible waste management to reduce human-wildlife confrontations.

A significant highlight of the program was an intensive beach cleanup drive at Nallah Mundi Beach, where over 50 PRI members and forest staff worked together to remove plastic waste and other debris. This hands-on initiative reflected the community's dedication to maintaining the ecological health of the region.

The event concluded with a renewed pledge from all stakeholders to champion conservation efforts at the grassroots level, reaffirming their

commitment to protecting the fragile biodiversity of Little Andaman.

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Awareness Drive on 'PM Vishwakarma' Scheme Conducted Across Car Nicobar Villages



PM Vishwakarma
Yojana



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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The Extension Office, Industries Department, Car Nicobar, in collaboration with various stakeholders, successfully conducted a series of awareness programmes on the 'PM Vishwakarma' Scheme across all villages of Car Nicobar from February 3 to March 8, 2025. A total of 457 tribal youth and villagers actively participated in the programmes, which aimed to enhance public outreach and provide crucial information about the scheme, especially to those engaged in traditional Nicobari Hodi (canoe) making and mat and basket weaving.

During the sessions, the Industries Promotion Officer, Car Nicobar, explained the benefits of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, outlining the incentives offered, eligibility criteria, required documentation, and the registration process. He encouraged villagers to enroll based on their respective trades, highlighting how the scheme could significantly improve their socio-economic status and enhance their livelihoods. To ensure the message was fully understood, the Supervisor (Coir), Extension Office, Car Nicobar, presented the information in Nicobarese language, making it easier for participants to grasp the scheme's advantages.

Representatives from the Fisheries Department and Village Level Workers from the Block Development Office, Car Nicobar, also contributed to the awareness drive. The Fisheries Department emphasised the opportunities available in the fisheries sector and elaborated on how the PM Vishwakarma Scheme could benefit those involved in traditional occupations.

Adding to the impact, Village Headmen, Secretaries, and Village Council representatives actively participated by addressing the villagers in Nicobarese and motivating them to take advantage of the scheme's benefits. Pamphlets detailing the PM Vishwakarma Scheme were distributed to all participants, ensuring that the information was widely disseminated across the villages.

The awareness programmes successfully created a platform for empowering local artisans and traditional workers by equipping them with the knowledge and resources needed to enhance their livelihoods through government support.



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DIET Garacharama Launches 5-Day 'ICT Competency-Based Teaching' Workshop



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

Dr. S.R District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Garacharama, inaugurated a transformative five-day in-service teacher training workshop on 'ICT Integrated Competency-Based Teaching' on Tuesday, aimed at equipping Primary School Teachers (PSTs) with advanced digital pedagogical tools. The workshop, held at the DIET campus, marked a significant stride toward modernizing classroom practices in alignment with national education goals.

The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Gyan Sheel Dubey, Principal, DIET, while Dr. Sarswati, Lecturer and Faculty In-Charge, presided over the inauguration. In her keynote address, Dr. Sarswati highlighted the importance of adopting ICT-based teaching methods to nurture student competencies aligned with evolving learning needs.

The workshop has drawn 50 enthusiastic PSTs from the South Andaman and Wimberlygunj Educational Zones. Over the next five days, participants will undergo module-based training focusing on key themes such as:

- Integrating ICT Across Subjects: Leveraging**

digital tools to enhance teaching-learning processes.

-Promoting Digital Wellness: Educating students on responsible digital behavior and addressing cyber threats.

-Utilizing Government Educational Platforms: Effectively using platforms like DIKSHA, e-Pathshala, and SWAYAM to enrich classroom delivery.

A key highlight of the workshop will be the hands-on sessions where teachers will create innovative e-content using TAB devices issued by the Education Department. These tablets, distributed to all PSTs, are part of a broader initiative to accelerate ICT adoption in classrooms and bridge the digital divide in education across the islands.

The training program aligns with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes integrating technology into education to equip students with 21st-century skills. By combining theory, practical demonstrations, and peer collaboration, the workshop is expected to redefine classroom experiences and empower

educators to implement competency-based learning effectively.

The initiative reflects DIET's commitment to fostering a tech-enabled learning environment that prepares both teachers and students for a digitally-driven future.



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