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***22nd of March
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Authorities Crackdown on Ayurveda Quacks Operating from Makeshift Tents in Sri Vijaya Puram



**VIKAS
KUMAR**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

In a significant move to protect public health, the authorities has launched a crackdown on Ayurveda quacks operating out of makeshift tents in various parts of Sri Vijaya Puram. These quacks, often arriving in groups, set up temporary operations across the city, offering dubious treatments for a range of diseases – including conditions that mainstream medical science considers untreatable.

This troubling trend has been recurring in the city, where these fraudulent practitioners operate for a brief period before packing up and returning to the mainland. Their so-called remedies, which lack any form of quality control or regulatory approval, pose serious health risks to unsuspecting residents who fall prey to their false promises.

Nicobar Times had previously highlighted the menace of these Ayurveda quacks, leading to a temporary decline in their activities. However, a fresh wave of quacks resurfaced recently, setting up shop in different areas of the city.

In a recent operation, Nicobar Times witnessed officials from the Deputy Commissioner Office, accompanied by police personnel, dismantling a

tent near Joggers Park where one such Ayurveda quack was operating.

The prompt action is commendable, as it aims to safeguard public health and prevent islanders from falling victim to these fraudulent practices. By taking decisive steps, the administration has sent a strong message that such illegal operations will not be tolerated in Sri Vijaya Puram.



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Online Air Ticket Scam: Man from Sri Vijaya Puram Loses Over ₹41,000 to Fraudster



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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A man from Sri Vijaya Puram has lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police after losing ₹41,744 to an online fraudster while attempting to book flight tickets.

According to the complaint, the victim was searching for air tickets from Sri Vijaya Puram to Kolkata and back on January 26, 2025, when he came across a website with the URL www.mydreamsholiday.com. Shortly after, he received a WhatsApp message from a business account, where the sender assured him of discounted tickets and requested a copy of his Aadhaar card.

Believing the transaction to be genuine, the victim shared the requested details. He soon received a ticket confirmation for the Sri Vijaya Puram-Kolkata sector via WhatsApp and was asked to make a payment of ₹23,580, which he transferred through UPI.

Following this, another ticket confirmation for the return sector from Kolkata to Sri Vijaya Puram was sent, and an additional payment of ₹18,164 was demanded, which the victim again transferred through UPI.

However, when the victim checked the PNR numbers on the official IndiGo website the next day, he discovered that both bookings had been canceled. Upon contacting the fraudster, he was initially assured that the issue was due to a technical glitch and would be resolved. But soon after, the individual stopped responding to calls and messages.

On January 10, 2025, the fraudster sent a message promising to initiate a refund, but no amount was returned. After multiple unsuccessful attempts to reach the individual, the victim reported the matter to the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal on February 6, 2025.



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FIR Lodged Against Auto Driver for Assaulting Fisherman in Junglighat



**VIKAS
KUMAR**

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An FIR has been registered at Aberdeen Police Station against an auto driver named Selvam for allegedly assaulting a fisherman near the Junglighat Fish Market. The case has been lodged under Section 118(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

According to the FIR, lodged on March 21, 2025, the complainant, V. Syamala Rao, a 30-year-old fisherman residing in Fisheries Colony, Junglighat, reported that the incident occurred around 4:30 PM on the same day. Rao stated that while parking his scooty near the fish market, Selvam, a resident of his colony (Fishermen Colony, Junglighat), approached him with a sharp weapon (Dao) and attacked him on the forehead, causing severe bleeding.

After the assault, Selvam fled the scene while bystanders immediately assisted Rao by taking him to G.B. Pant Hospital for treatment. Rao mentioned that he had seen Selvam a day before Holi near the fish market, where Selvam had asked for his mobile number, but no conversation took place.

V. Syamala Rao, in his statement to the police,

expressed that he had no idea why Selvam attacked him.

The police have registered the FIR under Section 118(1) of BNS, 2023, which pertains to voluntarily causing hurt with dangerous weapons. The case is currently under investigation.

Such incidents of violence are becoming increasingly frequent in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and need to be curbed urgently. (Story Based on FIR)



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MP Bishnu Pada Ray Expresses Gratitude to Chief Secretary for Proactive Steps to Address Concerns of Villagers of Manpur



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has expressed gratitude to the Chief Secretary of the A&N Administration for taking swift and proactive steps to address the grievances of villagers of Manpur, under Collinpur Gram Panchayat.

Following a detailed field visit and extensive discussions with the villagers, Mr. Ray had highlighted several pressing issues requiring immediate intervention. Among the concerns raised were:

- Repair of Tushnabad-Tirur Road: The road has been in a dilapidated condition, causing severe inconvenience to the villagers.**
- Removal of Dangerous Trees: Villagers highlighted the danger posed by trees that threaten safety, especially during adverse weather conditions.**
- Provision of Safe Drinking Water: Cleaning the filter bed and ensuring the availability of clean drinking water to safeguard the health of the community.**

- **Uninterrupted Power Supply:** Ensuring a reliable electricity supply for the residents.
 - **Crocodile Menace:** Shifting crocodiles from areas where they pose a risk to human safety.
- **Establishment of Administrative Facilities:** Setting up a Junior Engineer Office and Patwari Khana to improve governance and service delivery.

In response to these concerns, the A&N Administration, through the Assistant Commissioner of South Andaman, has assured Mr. Ray that these issues will be accorded top priority. The administration has committed to taking swift action to resolve the highlighted matters for the benefit of the villagers.

Acknowledging the prompt response, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray extended his heartfelt thanks to the Chief Secretary for his proactive approach and unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people.



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Skill Development Trainees Introduced to Astro-Tourism to Boost Guiding Expertise



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Tourism Department, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), Bhubaneswar, has launched a 12-day skill development training program on tour guiding, running from March 12 to March 24, 2025, including weekends. The initiative aims to enhance guiding skills while introducing Astro-Tourism as an emerging segment in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

With its pristine night skies and minimal light pollution, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands offer an ideal setting for stargazing and celestial tourism. Recognising this potential, the training program is equipping aspiring tour guides with insights into astronomy-based tourism, night sky interpretation, telescope handling, and sustainable tourism practices.

The Tourism Department has identified the growing global interest in Astro-Tourism and its potential to create new livelihood opportunities for local communities. Mr. Udhay Bhaskar, Founder & Astro Communicator of Andaman Star Gazing and Board Member of Open Space Foundation, is leading the training sessions, sharing his expertise to help participants develop

the skills required to cater to this niche tourism sector. The program has attracted around 100 participants eager to contribute to this innovative tourism segment.

In a significant development, the Andaman & Nicobar Administration is in the final stages of notifying a dedicated Astro-Tourism Policy. The policy aims to formalise regulations, promote investments, and preserve dark sky areas for enhancing astronomical experiences. It will establish key stargazing sites, encourage eco-friendly infrastructure, and integrate local communities into the tourism value chain.

Tour guide aspirants trained under this program are expected to play a crucial role in promoting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a premier Astro-Tourism destination. The Administration remains committed to fostering sustainable tourism initiatives that not only boost the local economy but also preserve the natural beauty of the islands. (Story Based on PR)



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Tourism Department's 12-Day Tour Guide Training Introduces Trainees to Bird Watching to Boost Eco-Tourism



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

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The Tourism Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is successfully conducting a 12-day Skill Development Training on Tour Guiding, aimed at empowering local unemployed youth with essential skills to explore diverse opportunities in the tourism sector. The program covered various aspects of tour guiding, with a special focus on bird watching, a rapidly growing niche that leverages the islands' rich avian biodiversity.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, recognized as one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), are part of the "Sundaland Hotspot" and host two bird endemic areas. With around 218 endemic bird species discovered in the region, bird-watching tourism has emerged as a promising avenue for sustainable tourism. During the training, participants were introduced to essential skills such as tourist engagement, heritage interpretation, and ethical guiding practices. They also received specialised insights into bird identification, habitat interpretation, and sustainable bird-watching practices.

Mr. Arun Singh, President of the Avian Club, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, shared his expertise

on responsible tourism and highlighted the economic potential of bird watching as a sustainable tourism activity. Approximately 100 participants attended the training program, gaining valuable knowledge to enhance their prospects in the tourism industry.

In a significant development, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has notified a Bird Watching Policy and identified 12 birding trails across the islands. The policy defines guidelines for:

- Registration of birders and birding guides**
- Permits and documentation**
- Safety protocols and ethical standards**
- Conservation measures and event management**

These measures aim to regulate bird-watching activities while promoting conservation-friendly tourism and attracting investment in eco-tourism infrastructure.

With the growing demand for knowledgeable and skilled tour guides, especially in niche areas like bird watching, the newly trained participants are

well-positioned to pursue careers in the tourism sector. Their expertise can significantly enhance the tourism experience for visitors while contributing to environmental awareness and conservation efforts.

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration remains committed to fostering local employment through sustainable tourism initiatives that balance economic development with the preservation of the islands' ecological heritage. (Story Based on PR)



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Department of Animal Husbandry Promotes Azolla and Hydroponic Fodder Cultivation in Little Andaman



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, in collaboration with UT-ATMA, organized a day-long demonstration on Azolla Cultivation and Hydroponic Fodder Cultivation at Hut Bay, Little Andaman, on March 19, 2025. The initiative aims to improve the availability of nutritious fodder and feed for livestock, ultimately contributing to increased milk production.

The demonstration was conducted at the farm of Mr. Prakash Mondal, a resident of Hut Bay. Dr. Mohammed, Senior Veterinary Officer (SVO), Hut Bay, explained in detail the method and practices involved in cultivating Azolla, a nutrient-rich livestock feed supplement. He highlighted the numerous benefits of incorporating Azolla into livestock feed due to its high nutritional value. Dr. Mohammed urged the participants to adopt Azolla cultivation as a cost-effective alternative to expensive livestock feed, which can significantly reduce the cost of animal rearing.

In addition to the Azolla demonstration, inputs and guidance on hydroponic fodder cultivation were also provided to the participants.

On the following day, March 20, another

demonstration was held at the field of Mr. Shukra Tirkey at Netaji Nagar, where a low-cost goat shelter design was showcased. Dr. Mohammed emphasized that a simple shed with adequate space and ventilation is sufficient for ensuring optimal goat production.

These initiatives are part of the department's ongoing efforts to introduce innovative and sustainable practices in livestock management, thereby supporting the local farming community in enhancing their productivity and income. (Story Based on PR)

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UT Seed Sub-Committee Discusses Release of 18 New Crop Varieties in A&N Islands



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Union Territory (UT) Seed Sub-Committee for Agricultural and Horticultural Crops convened a crucial meeting on March 20, 2025, under the chairmanship of Ms. Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), A&N Administration, at the Secretariat. The meeting focused on considering the release of 18 new varieties of crops developed by the Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI) for cultivation in the islands.

The varieties proposed for consideration include:

- Rice: 6 varieties**
- Green Gram: 5 varieties**
- Black Gram: 2 varieties**
- Brinjal: 2 varieties**
- Malabar Tamarind: 2 varieties**
- Indian Bay Leaf: 1 variety**

The introduction of these new varieties aims to enhance agricultural productivity across the islands, with specific traits such as disease resistance, higher yield, and adaptability to local conditions. The committee emphasized that these improvements could significantly benefit local farmers by increasing output and reducing losses due to pests and diseases.

Dr. Dilip Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Commissioner (Seeds-QC) and Co-convenor of the UT Seed Sub-Committee, joined the meeting in hybrid mode. He highlighted concerns about the heavy reliance of local farmers on seeds procured from the mainland, emphasizing the need to promote locally produced seeds. Dr. Srivastava stressed that locally sourced seeds would not only reduce dependency on imports but also ensure better accessibility and availability for island farmers.

He also raised concerns regarding the availability of breeder seeds, which are essential for producing high-quality seeds. Ensuring a steady supply of breeder seeds would be critical in sustaining the production of superior seed varieties locally.

A significant highlight of the meeting was the proposal to release the Indian Bay Leaf variety, Dweep Tej-1. If approved, Dweep Tej-1 will become the first officially recognized variety of Indian Bay Leaf in the UT, marking a milestone in its cultivation. The Indian Bay Leaf, widely used in culinary preparations and valued for its medicinal properties, enjoys high local demand, especially from the hospitality industry.

Ms. Pallavi Sarkar underscored the export potential of Malabar Tamarind and Indian Bay Leaf varieties. If successfully cultivated and introduced on a large scale, these varieties could open avenues for significant export opportunities, boosting the income of local farmers and contributing to the UT's economy. Their unique characteristics and rising demand in domestic and international markets position them as valuable export commodities.

The meeting witnessed active participation from members of the Seed Committee, seed producers, traders, and farmers. Their insights and suggestions added value to the discussion, ensuring that the proposed varieties align with the practical requirements of the farming community in the islands.

With the potential approval of these new varieties, the UT is set to witness a transformative phase in its agricultural sector, paving the way for increased self-reliance, higher productivity, and new export opportunities. (Story Based on PR)



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Port Management Board Launches Trial Version of Port Entry Pass Management Software



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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In a move aimed at enhancing ease of doing business, the Port Management Board (PMB), in collaboration with SOVTECH, has launched the trial version of the Port Entry Pass Management software application.

Port users can access the trial version of the software through the URL <https://testuat.andaman.gov.in/vms/> and familiarize themselves with its features. The trial period will last for 20 days, during which users are encouraged to explore the system and provide feedback to PMB. Feedback can be shared via email at cpapmb2015@gmail.com or aepmb2016@gmail.com.

The inputs gathered during this phase will be used to refine and enhance the software before its official launch, ensuring a seamless and user-friendly experience for all stakeholders.

The Port Management Board remains committed to delivering efficient and technology-driven services, and it seeks the cooperation of all stakeholders to make this initiative a success.

Electricity Department Urges Public to Observe 'Earth Hour' on March 22



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

In a bid to promote environmental awareness and collective action against climate change, the Electricity Department has appealed to the public to participate in 'Earth Hour' by switching off all non-essential lights and power-intensive equipment on March 22, 2025, from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

'Earth Hour' is a global initiative that encourages individuals and communities to unite in a symbolic act of turning off lights for one hour to highlight the need for climate action and sustainable living. The Electricity Department has urged consumers to power down decorative lights, high mast/flood lights, and other non-essential electrical appliances during this hour to contribute towards reducing carbon emissions and conserving energy.

The department emphasised that this simple yet impactful gesture can serve as a moment of reflection on how small efforts can collectively make a significant difference in building a greener planet. By joining millions across the globe in observing 'Earth Hour,' residents can demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding the environment.

The public is encouraged to participate wholeheartedly in this movement and help make 'Earth Hour' 2025 a success by taking this small step towards a sustainable future.



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NITI Aayog Member Dr. Arvind Virmani Meets Lt. Governor at Raj Nivas



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member of NITI Aayog, met with Admiral D.K. Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Vice Chairman of the Island Development Agency (IDA), at Raj Niwas on 21st March 2025, during his visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from March 21 to March 24, 2025.

With a series of mega projects underway across key sectors such as shipping, ports, greenfield airports, tourism, hospitality, and allied industries under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the discussions focused on attracting big-ticket investments to boost the region's growth.

Dr. Virmani and Admiral Joshi explored modalities to extend special financial incentives and introduce a favourable regulatory framework to ensure the timely and efficient execution of these projects.

The development highlights the ongoing efforts of the Government of India to accelerate economic growth and enhancing local livelihoods.



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Prince Group Hosts Andaman's Biggest Auto Carnival at ITF Ground



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

[READ STORY ON WEBSITE](#)

‘Andaman Automobile Carnival’, organized by Prince Group, is creating a buzz in the islands with its week-long showcase of top automobile brands and exciting offers. The event, which began on March 17, is being held at ITF Ground, VIP Road, and will conclude on March 23, 2025. Auto enthusiasts and families alike are flocking to the venue between 2 PM and 8 PM to explore the best of the automobile world.

The carnival has brought together leading car and bike manufacturers under one roof, including Toyota, Tata, Honda, Nissan, Bajaj, KTM, and many more. The event offers a range of benefits to attendees, including:

- Exchange Benefits: Trade in old vehicles for the best market value.**
- Low EMI Rates: Avail of competitive prices and affordable EMI options.**
- Instant Financing Facility: Get 100% funding for new vehicles on the spot.**
- Free Car Check-Up and Wash: Complimentary vehicle inspection and cleaning.**
- Spot Exchange Facility: Immediate trade-in and upgrade to a brand-new vehicle.**

In addition to jaw-dropping offers, the carnival promises a wholesome experience for families. Children can enjoy amusement rides and snacks, while buyers can avail themselves of exclusive gifts with on-spot bookings. Renowned financial institutions such as SBI, Mahindra Finance, Manappuram Finance, Cholamandalam, Shriram Finance, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and Toyota Financial Services are facilitating hassle-free financing for interested buyers.

Speaking about the event, a spokesperson from Prince Group said, “We are thrilled to bring the biggest automobile event to the Andaman Islands. The response so far has been phenomenal, and we look forward to welcoming more visitors over the weekend.”

With just a day left, the Andaman Automobile Carnival is drawing large crowds eager to make the most of the exciting offers and exclusive deals. Islanders are encouraged to visit the venue before the carnival wraps up on March 23, 2025, and take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



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