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***29th of March
2025***



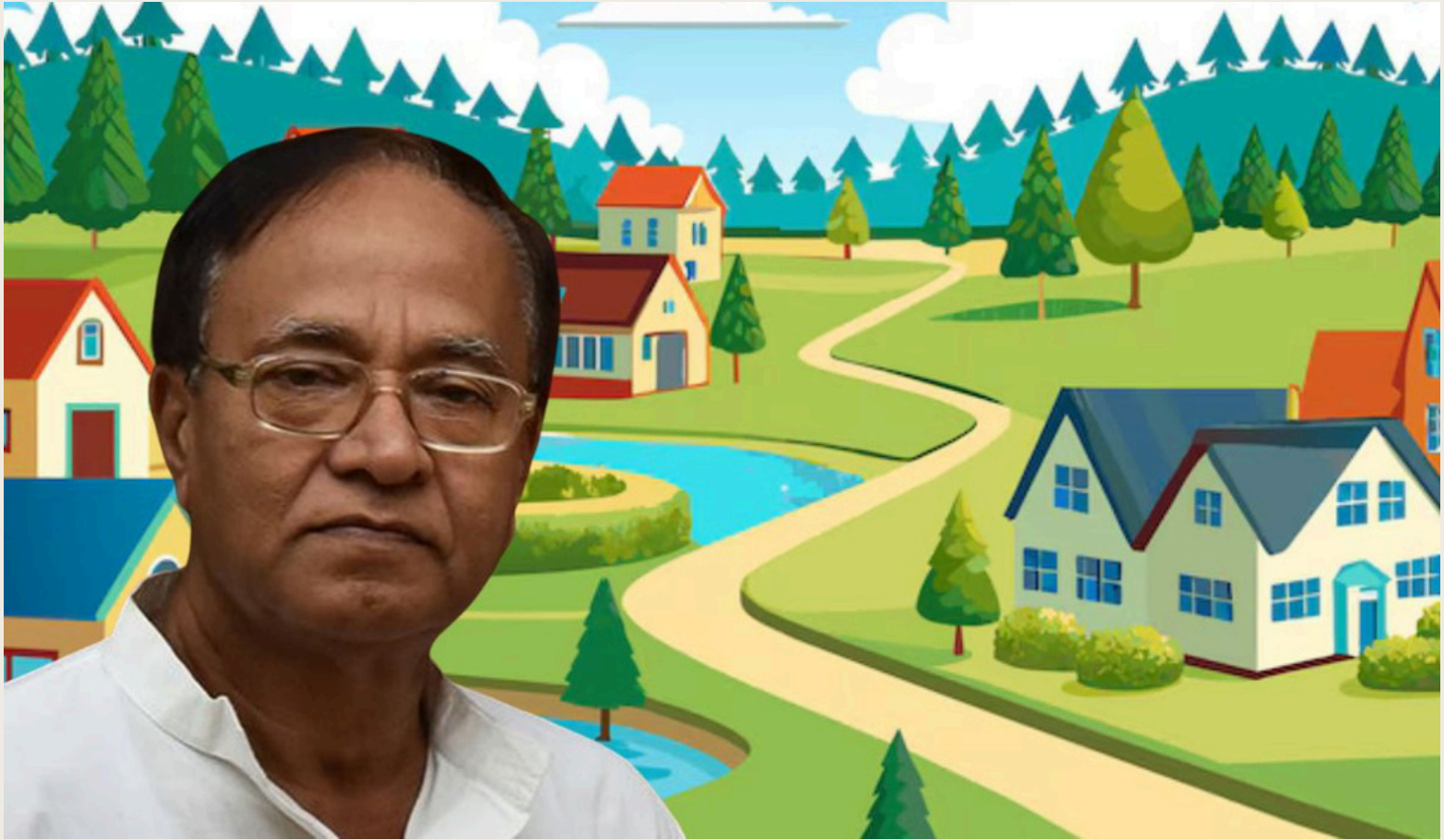
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MP Bishnu Pada Ray Adopts Three Gram Panchayats for Development Under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana



**ROHIT
KUMAR**

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In a bid to promote holistic rural development, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has adopted three Gram Panchayats under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY). The selected Gram Panchayats are Collinpur Gram Panchayat in South Andaman District, Shibpur Gram Panchayat in North & Middle Andaman District, and Arong Village in Nicobar District.

The adoption of these villages aims to transform them into model villages by enhancing infrastructure, improving essential services, and ensuring sustainable development. Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray emphasized that the initiative seeks to uplift rural communities and establish self-sufficient villages that can serve as benchmarks for development across the Union Territory.

Under the SAGY framework, the adopted villages will witness improvements in key sectors such as education, healthcare, skill development, and livelihood opportunities. The initiative also aims to empower local communities by encouraging participation in decision-making and fostering a spirit of self-reliance.

To ensure smooth implementation, the MP has urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps in line with SAGY guidelines and prioritise the developmental activities in these villages.

By adopting these three Gram Panchayats, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray hopes to create replicable models of sustainable development, paving the way for broader progress across the islands. The transformation of these villages is expected to enhance the quality of life of the residents and set a precedent for future initiatives under the SAGY scheme.



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Hasya Kavi Sammelan Leaves Audience in Splits at Sahitya Mahotsav



**VIKAS
KUMAR**

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The Hasya Kavi Sammelan, organized by the Department of Official Language, A&N Administration, as part of the three-day Sahitya Mahotsav at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium, was a resounding success. The evening was filled with laughter, satire, and poetic brilliance, captivating the audience and making it a memorable event.

The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of A&N Islands and Vice Chairman of the Islands Development Agency, Admiral D.K. Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), graced the occasion as the chief guest. The Chief Secretary of A&N Administration, Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, along with senior officers and a large gathering of the public, were also present to witness the lively event.

Renowned Hasya poets from the mainland—Mr. Rajesh 'Chetan,' Mr. Rajesh Agarwal, Mr. Sudeep 'Bhola,' Ms. Monika 'Dehalvi,' and Mr. Upendra Pandey—kept the audience enthralled with their witty and thought-provoking verses. Their poetry, enriched with pun, satire, and humour, highlighted various facets of life, leaving the audience in fits of laughter. Mr. Rajesh Agarwal, who moderated the Sammelan, skilfully invited the poets one by one to present their work, ensuring the evening flowed seamlessly.

More than just a showcase of humour, the Hasya Kavi Sammelan served as a celebration of poetic artistry, encouraging creative expression and nurturing literary traditions. The event reaffirmed the power of laughter, demonstrating that poetry can entertain while offering insightful reflections on life's challenges.

With an impressive turnout and an evening of unforgettable performances, the Hasya Kavi Sammelan stood out as a highlight of the Sahitya Mahotsav, leaving the audience asking for more. (Story Based on PR)

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Vibrant Literary Sessions Mark Second Day of 'Beyond Horizon' Writers' Festival



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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The three-day Literature Festival-Beyond Horizon: All India Writers' Festival, organized by the Department of Art and Culture, A&N Administration, in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, continued to captivate literature enthusiasts on its second day at the auditorium of Tagore Government College of Education (TGCE). The festival, a celebration of literary creativity, has brought together distinguished writers, poets, and literary enthusiasts from across the country to explore the rich diversity of Indian literature.

The second day featured two meticulously planned sessions that highlighted different dimensions of literature, drawing an enthusiastic response from the audience. The first session, titled 'What Makes Specific Stories Timeless Tales,' was chaired by renowned novelist Mr. Benyamin. The panel included acclaimed writers such as Preeti Shenoy (English), Buddhichandra Heisnanba (Manipuri), Swapan Kumar Biswas (Bengali), and Samhita Veda Acharya (English), each bringing their unique perspectives to the discussion.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Benyamin expressed gratitude to Sahitya Akademi for organizing such a

prestigious literary gathering in the picturesque setting of the Islands. He highlighted the significance of literary festivals in nurturing vibrant literary communities by providing a platform for prominent writers to engage with one another and their readers.

A stimulating panel discussion followed, focusing on the topic ‘What is the Impact of Literature Festivals in the Era of Social Media?’ The panelists eloquently explored how social media has transformed the literary landscape, enabling readers to connect with authors and facilitating the wider dissemination of literary works. They also delved into the timeless elements that make certain stories endure across generations, emphasizing the universal appeal of themes, emotions, and cultural nuances. Local speakers contributed by sharing narratives on the rich history of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, highlighting their unique identity as a ‘Mini India’ where unity thrives amidst diversity.

The second session, ‘Poetry: The Mirror of Soul – Poets’ Meet,’ was a mesmerizing celebration of poetic expression, chaired by eminent poet Sheen Kaif Nizam. The session featured captivating

recitations by distinguished poets, including Dr. Subhashree Lenka (Hindi), Rashmi Chowdhury (Bodo), Kalyani Haldar (Bengali), Ayush Dubey (Hindi), Dr. Manju Nair (Hindi), and Bhoominatham (Tamil). Their verses offered profound insights into their emotions, reflections on society, and inner thoughts.

This session provided an inspiring platform for poetry lovers, fostering a deeper appreciation of poetic expression. Budding poets from the Islands, in particular, benefitted greatly from the exchange of ideas, gaining valuable insights into poetic techniques, themes, and the transformative power of words.

As the Beyond Horizon festival unfolds, it continues to serve as a dynamic platform for literary exchange, enriching the understanding and appreciation of literature and poetry among attendees. (Story Based on PR)



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Literature Festival Enters Final Day with Thought- Provoking Sessions

Website: <http://www.sahitya-akademi.gov.in>



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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The three-day Literature Festival, 'Beyond Horizon – All India Writers' Festival,' organized by the Department of Art & Culture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, has reached its final day at the TGCE Auditorium in Sri Vijaya Puram.

As part of the closing schedule, two insightful sessions have been planned for March 29, 2025, offering participants a chance to immerse themselves in the rich literary diversity of the islands. The Sixth Session, titled "Mini India: Weaving Stories of Unity in Diversity," will be held from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM. Chaired by Dr. Rashida Iqbal, this session will feature readings and discussions by distinguished authors and scholars. Mr. Ch. Hemant Rao will present works in Telugu, while Mr. R. Gopalan will contribute with his Tamil narratives. The session will also witness the participation of Dr. Manju Nair, Professor at JNRM, and Dr. Swapan Kumar Biswas, also from JNRM, along with Ms. Kalyani Halder, a dedicated teacher. Adding to the richness of the session, Mr. Krishna Kumar Vishwendra, Mr. Basu Kumar, and Dr. Ram Kripal Tiwari will share their perspectives, making it a vibrant exploration of India's linguistic and cultural diversity.

Following this, the Seventh Session, a "Composite Session of Poetry and Storytelling – Voices of the Archipelago," will take place from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. This engaging session will be chaired by Keshav Chandra, IAS, and will feature captivating readings and discussions by Niharika Bhatt, IPS, Jyoti Kumari, IAS, Vinayak Chamadia, IAS, and Ms. Priyanka Kumari, DANICS, among others. This session promises to be a platform where the essence of the islands' voices will echo through poetry and storytelling, reflecting the vibrant cultural ethos of the region.

The festival provides a golden opportunity for local authors, poets, and literature enthusiasts to engage with diverse literary voices and contribute to strengthening the cultural fabric of these islands. All literature lovers are encouraged to attend and make the most of these enriching sessions, as the festival concludes with a celebration of the literary spirit that binds the nation and its islands together. (Story Based on PR)



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Workshop on Tuna Value Addition Held to Boost Fisheries Sector in A&N Islands



**TARUN
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The Department of Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in collaboration with the National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT), Cochin, organized a workshop on ‘Tuna Value Addition’ on March 28, 2025. Sponsored by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, the event was conducted at the conference hall of the Department of Industries as part of the Government of India’s ‘Tuna Cluster Development in A&N Islands’ initiative. Around 75 stakeholders, including fishermen, fisheries cooperatives, self-help group (SHG) members, and beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), participated in the workshop.

Ms. Jyoti Kumari, IAS, Secretary (Fisheries), graced the inaugural session as the chief guest. In her address, she commended the Department of Fisheries for facilitating the involvement of NIFPHATT, Cochin—India’s leading institute in fisheries post-harvest technology—for conducting this specialized workshop in the Islands. She expressed confidence that the workshop’s outcomes would significantly contribute to the development of the Tuna Cluster in A&N Islands. Encouraging the participants to engage actively in

the sessions, she urged them to adopt the acquired skills in their fishing and post-harvest practices.

During the event, Secretary (Fisheries) released a booklet prepared by the Department of Fisheries titled ‘Potential and Possibilities of Tuna Value Addition in A&N Islands’.

Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, assured full support from the Fisheries Science Division of ICAR-CIARI in developing a comprehensive plan for Tuna Cluster Development in the region.

Earlier, Ms. Jagtap Kalyani Rajendra, Director of Fisheries, welcomed the gathering and highlighted the department’s training and extension activities, along with recent initiatives aimed at upgrading skills in tuna fishing and post-harvest utilization. Mr. B. Balanayak, Mechanical Marine Engineer, Fishery Survey of India, and Mr. S. U. Maheshwar Rao, Governing Body Member of NFDB, also addressed the audience. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. K. Gopal, Joint Director.

The workshop featured technical and practical sessions by industry experts, including Mr. Chittaranjan Raul, Scientist, ICAR-CIARI; Dr. C. Babu, Fisheries Scientist, FSI; Mr. K. Kamalraj, Processing Technologist; Dr. Nithin C. T., PQAS, NIFPHATT, Kochi; and Mr. Praphul Dev D., Assistant Manager, NABARD. These sessions covered various aspects of tuna fishing, post-harvest management, value addition, marketing, and export.

An interactive session with entrepreneurs and SHG members was also conducted to assess stakeholders' requirements for improving tuna fishing and value addition in the Islands. Additionally, an exhibition stall was set up to showcase various fish value-added products developed by NIFPHATT, Cochin, with the aim of familiarizing participants with innovative seafood products.

The workshop concluded on a positive note, with participants expressing enthusiasm for adopting new techniques and contributing to the growth of the tuna value addition sector in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. (Story Based on PR)

SMART PDS System Migration to MeghRaj Cloud: Ration Distribution to be Affected from March 31 to April 4



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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Ration card beneficiaries and Fair Price Shop (FPS) owners are informed that the migration of the SMART PDS system from NDC Shastry Park to MeghRaj Cloud is scheduled to commence on March 31, 2025.

The migration process, which involves DNS remapping and system testing, is expected to take approximately 3 to 4 days for completion. During this period, access to the ePOS web portals and related web services will remain temporarily unavailable.

As a result, ration distribution will be suspended from March 31 to April 4, 2025. Beneficiaries are advised to plan accordingly and collect their essential supplies in advance to avoid inconvenience.

Normal operations are expected to resume immediately after the migration is successfully completed. (Story Based on PR)



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DIC to Organize Awareness Programmes on PMEGP at Swaraj Dweep



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The District Industries Centre (DIC), under the Department of Industries, is set to organize a series of 'Awareness-cum-Motivational Programmes' on the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and other government-sponsored schemes. These programmes aim to educate and motivate unemployed youth to take up self-employment ventures by availing benefits under various schemes.

The programmes will be conducted in collaboration with Gram Panchayats, the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries, as well as the State Bank of India (SBI), Andaman & Nicobar State Cooperative Bank (ANSCB), and local NGOs. The sessions will begin in the first week of April 2025 and will be held across different parts of Swaraj Dweep.

The primary goal of these programmes is to inform and empower unemployed youth by providing detailed insights into the opportunities available through schemes such as PMEGP. The sessions will also include hands-on guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs on how to submit applications, ensuring that they are equipped to

apply for financial assistance effectively.

Filled-in applications, complete with the necessary documentation, will be collected on the spot and uploaded to the PMEGP online portal. After verification and scrutiny, these applications will be forwarded to the respective banks opted by the applicants for financial support under the PMEGP scheme.

Unemployed youth from Swaraj Dweep interested in establishing self-employment ventures in the manufacturing, service, or trading sectors through the PMEGP scheme are encouraged to attend the awareness sessions. Participants are requested to bring the following documents: 1. Aadhaar Card 2. One passport-size photograph 3. Local Certificate 4. Category Certificate (if applicable) 5. Educational Qualification Certificate.

For additional information, aspiring entrepreneurs can contact the District Industries Centre (DIC), Udyog Parisar, Middle Point by calling 03192-232819/232601.



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Congress Chief Urges Urgent Intervention to Improve Conditions in Female Ward at GB Pant Hospital



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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The Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee President, Mr. Rangalal Halder, has formally requested the Directorate of Health Services, A&N Administration, to take immediate steps to improve the deteriorating conditions in Female Ward 2 of GB Pant Hospital.

In his letter, Mr. Halder highlighted the challenges faced by patients in the ward, which accommodates around 30-40 individuals. He pointed out that inadequate ventilation and poor hygiene standards have created an uncomfortable environment, further aggravated by non-functional or insufficient fans that prevent proper air circulation.

He also raised concerns about the overall deterioration of the ward due to prolonged neglect and lack of maintenance. “The walls have not been repainted for a long time, and the shortage of sanitation staff has worsened the unhygienic conditions. Only one sweeper is assigned to the entire ward, which is insufficient to maintain the required hygiene standards,” Mr. Halder stated.

To address these concerns, Mr. Halder has made three urgent appeals to the Directorate of Health Services:

1. Installation of Three Air Conditioners to improve air circulation and comfort.
2. Increase in the Number of Sweepers to ensure proper cleanliness.
3. Immediate Maintenance Work to restore the ward to acceptable standards.

Emphasizing the importance of providing a safe and comfortable environment for patients, Mr. Halder urged the administration to take swift action and address these pressing issues without delay. (Story Based on PR)



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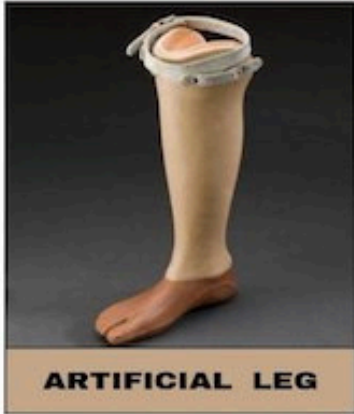
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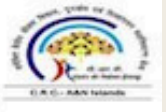
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Fishermen Welfare Association Expresses Gratitude for Insurance Premium Subvention Scheme for Fishing Vessels Under PMMSY



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

READ STORY ON WEBSITE

The Fishermen Welfare Association of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has extended heartfelt thanks to the Central Government for approving the implementation of an Insurance Premium subvention scheme for fishing vessels and boats (Marine Hull & Machinery) under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

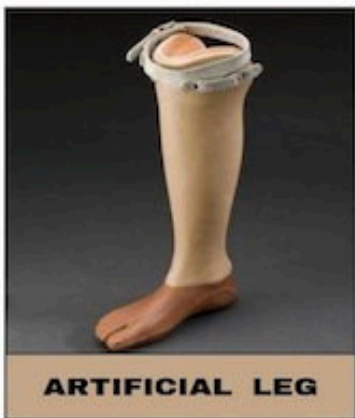
In a letter addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Mr. Rajeev Ranjan Singh (alias Lalan Singh), and other senior officials, the association acknowledged the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) for issuing the approval via letter No. NFDB/PMMSY/ Vessel Insurance/ 2024-25 dated March 4, 2025.

The scheme offers a significant insurance premium subvention where the central government covers a major share, reducing the financial burden on fishermen. As a result, the registered 4,027 vessel owners in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be able to avail of this beneficiary-oriented scheme, ensuring financial and livelihood security against both foreseen and unforeseen events.

B. Hema Raju, General Secretary of the association, expressed optimism that this initiative would greatly benefit the fishing community in the islands. Copies of the letter were also forwarded to Mr. S.U. Maheswar Rao, Governing Body Member of A&N Islands for the National Fisheries Development Board, and Mr. Janardhan Gangapitra, National Convenor of the Central Fishers Welfare Association, New Delhi.

The association has reiterated its commitment to safeguarding the interests of the fishing community and ensuring they reap maximum benefits from government schemes aimed at their welfare.

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Dhairya NGO Urges Additional Sailings During Summer Vacation Between Sri Vijaya Puram and Campbell Bay



**TARUN
KARTHICK**

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Dhairya, a prominent NGO based in Sri Vijaya Puram, has appealed to the Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) to introduce additional sailings between Sri Vijaya Puram and Campbell Bay during the upcoming summer vacation.

In a letter addressed to the Director of Shipping Services, Abdul Sajid, President of Dhairya, highlighted the pressing need for extra sailings to accommodate the surge in passengers during the vacation period. The letter emphasised that a large number of teachers, students, and government employees travel between these destinations during the summer, and the existing sailing schedule often proves inadequate, leading to significant inconvenience.

“The current schedule is unable to meet the increased demand during the summer vacation, resulting in travel difficulties for many passengers. Additional sailings will help ease this burden and ensure smoother and more efficient travel,” the letter stated.

Dhairya has urged the Directorate to take prompt action and schedule extra sailings to facilitate hassle-free travel during the peak season. The

NGO expressed confidence that the authorities would address the matter promptly in the interest of public convenience.

The request has been met with positive anticipation from the local community, who hope that additional sailings will alleviate the travel challenges faced during the summer months.

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Farmers Urged to Contact Electricity Department for Solar Pump Installation Under PM-KUSUM Scheme



**TARUN
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The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has sanctioned 34 stand-alone solar pumps and 436 individual grid-connected solar pumps under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the financial year 2024-25. The scheme, launched in March 2019, aims to reduce diesel dependency in the agricultural sector and boost farmers' income by promoting solar energy adoption.

The scheme will be implemented by the Electricity Department of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, focusing on two key components:

Component B: Stand-alone Solar Pumps:

Under this component, farmers in off-grid areas will receive assistance to install stand-alone solar agricultural pumps or replace existing diesel pumps. Priority will be given to small and marginal farmers, especially those using micro-irrigation systems.

– Pump Capacity: Solar PV capacity in kW will be capped according to the pump capacity in HP, as per MNRE guidelines. For instance, a 3 HP pump

can have a solar capacity of up to 3 kW.

– Financial Assistance: Farmers will receive 50% of the benchmark or tender cost (whichever is lower) as Central Financial Assistance (CFA), with 20% of the cost borne by the farmer through self-financing or bank loans. Additionally, a 30% subsidy from the Union Territory (UT) Administration is expected to be notified, subject to approval.

Component C: Individual Pump Solarisation (IPS):

This component focuses on solarisation of grid-connected agricultural pumps to ensure reliable day-time solar power for farmers. The initiative aims to incentivize farmers to conserve water by enabling them to sell surplus solar power to the Electricity Department.

– Solar Capacity: Farmers can install solar PV systems with a capacity up to twice that of their pump capacity in kW. This will allow them to meet their irrigation needs while earning additional income from surplus solar power.

– Financial Assistance: Similar to Component B,

50% of the benchmark or tender cost will be provided as CFA. Farmers will contribute 20% of the cost, with the option of self-financing or availing a bank loan. Additionally, a 30% subsidy from the Union Territory (UT) Administration is expected to be notified, subject to approval.

How to Apply:

Interested farmers, Water User Associations, and UT-based irrigation systems can contact the Office of the Executive Engineer (NRSE), Electricity Department, Opp. Marine Hall, Mohanpura, Sri Vijaya Puram, A&N Islands – 744101 for further details. The office can be reached at Ph: 03192-230276 during working hours.

The PM-KUSUM scheme is expected to significantly contribute to the adoption of renewable energy in the islands, reducing carbon emissions and ensuring a sustainable future for the agricultural sector. (Story Based on PR)



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