

16 MAY 2025 | FRIDAY | SRI VIJAYA PURAM | WWW.NICOBARTIMES.COM

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Cycling Champion Esow Alben Hit from Behind by Two Speeding Bikers During Training in Delhi



**Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
16 May 2025**

Esow Alben, India's trailblazing track cyclist from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, sustained minor injuries after being struck from behind by two speeding bikers during a training session near the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi recently.

The 24-year-old athlete, who trains at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Cycling Academy, recounted the harrowing incident on his Instagram account. He stated that while riding in his designated lane, maintaining focus and discipline, two bikers traveling at over 100 km/h collided with

him from behind. The impact resulted in bruises on his hands and buttocks and caused significant damage to his bicycle's rear wheel.

In a video accompanying his post, Esow is seen confronting the bikers, who accused him of riding in the middle of the road. However, bystanders can be heard defending Esow, emphasizing that he was adhering to traffic norms.

Expressing gratitude for escaping with only minor injuries, Esow highlighted the broader issue of road safety for cyclists. "This could've been worse—not just for me, but for any cyclist on the road," he wrote. "We cyclists are not in your way. We are humans. We

are athletes. We represent our nation. Respect cyclists. Give us space. Give us safety."

The incident has reignited discussions on the safety of cyclists on Indian roads. Despite adhering to traffic rules, athletes like Esow face significant risks during training sessions. Esow's appeal underscores the urgent need for public awareness and infrastructural measures to protect cyclists.

As a digital news outlet from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Nicobar Times stands in solidarity with Esow Alben and all athletes striving for excellence. We echo his call: Respect cyclists. Give them space. Ensure their safety.

Evicted by Noon, Back by Dusk: Illegal Fruit Vendors Defy Municipal Action in No-Vending Zone Near Airport



**Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
16 May 2025**

In a startling display of defiance, illegal fruit vendors who were evicted from a designated No-Vending Zone in the School Line area on the afternoon of May 15 were back in business by evening — at the very same spot.

Officials of the Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPNC) were seen clearing the area earlier in the day, confiscating carts and removing vendors operating illegally near the perimeter of the Veer Savarkar International Airport. Trucks were deployed to transport the seized carts, signaling a visible enforcement action.

However, within a span of just a few hours, Nicobar Times witnessed the return of the same vendors — back in place, continuing sales as though no action had taken place. The swift reappearance raises serious questions about the efficacy of the enforcement measures, the strength of local laws, and whether a system of impunity has taken root.

The School Line stretch, where this vending takes place, lies adjacent to the operational runway of Veer Savarkar International Airport — a dual-use facility serving both civilian and defence aircraft. The sale of fruits in open areas close to the runway is a documented aviation hazard due to the increased likelihood of bird attraction, a known cause of aircraft

The potential consequences of such activity are alarming. Bird strikes can inflict severe damage on aircraft, endanger passengers and crew, and result in significant financial losses. The proximity of the vending area to a high-security airport makes the risk even more acute, posing a clear threat to both national defence infrastructure and public safety.

The area has long been classified as a No-Vending Zone precisely to mitigate these risks. Yet, the repeated return of these vendors — often within hours of being evicted — reveals a disturbing pattern of disregard for the law and public safety.

Local residents and observers are left to wonder: Is this a case of weak legislation, lax enforcement, or has the system itself been gamed by those who continue to flout the rules without fear of consequence?

Authorities must now confront the harsh reality that routine evictions are no longer a deterrent. If urgent, sustained, and punitive measures are not adopted, the situation may escalate into a tragedy — one that could have been easily avoided.

The time for symbolic action has passed. What is needed now is lasting enforcement, policy reform, and above all, accountability.

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Veer Savarkar International Airport Unveils Advanced In-Line Baggage Screening System to Boost Security and Passenger Experience



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
16 May 2025

In a significant leap toward modernising airport infrastructure and enhancing passenger experience, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has commissioned an advanced In-Line Baggage Screening System (ILBS) at Veer Savarkar International Airport, Sri Vijaya Puram. The facility was formally inaugurated on May 15, 2025, by Airport Director Mr.

Devender Yadav, in the presence of officials from AAI, AAICLAS, CISF, airline representatives, and passengers.

The newly commissioned ILBS is equipped with CTX 9800 DSI Computed Tomography (CT) scanners — an advanced technology that enables 360-degree baggage screening. The system integrates with the airport's Baggage Handling System (BHS), offering full automation of hold baggage processing and security

screening.

Key Features of the New ILBS Facility:

- **CT-Based Explosive Detection:** The CTX 9800 DSI scanner uses Computed Tomography to create 3D, slice-by-slice images of baggage contents. This allows for more accurate detection of potential threats such as explosives, significantly enhancing airport security.

- **High Throughput Capacity:** The system is capable of handling up to 1500 bags per hour, making it well-suited to efficiently process baggage during peak travel times.

Fully Integrated with BHS: The In-Line Hold Baggage System (HBS) is seamlessly integrated with the airport's Baggage Handling System, ensuring a smooth,

automated flow from check-in to aircraft loading.

From Manual to Modern Prior to the installation of the ILBS, the airport relied on stand-alone X-ray machines for hold baggage screening. These machines, placed near the departure area, required passengers to manually scan their luggage before check-in — a process that often resulted in long queues and congestion, especially during peak hours.

The shift to an automated in-line system eliminates this step. Now, passengers can directly drop their registered baggage at the airline check-in counters, with screening conducted automatically in the background. This upgrade will lead to:

- Faster passenger processing
- Shorter queues and






reduced congestion and convenience

- Improved passenger flow and convenience
- Enhanced overall security

Phased Rollout:



The ILBS facility is being rolled out in phases. From May 15 to May 18, 2025, the system will be operational exclusively for Akasa Air passengers. Starting May 19, 2025, the facility will be available for all airlines operating at the airport.

The inauguration of ILBS at Veer Savarkar International Airport is a testament to AAI's commitment to deploying next-generation infrastructure across India's aviation network. As the primary gateway to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the airport is now better equipped to manage rising passenger traffic with enhanced security and improved service quality.



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Goa Minister Govind Gaude Calls on Lt. Governor Admiral D.K. Joshi During Visit to A&N Islands



The meeting took place as part of Mr. Gaude's visit to the islands from May 14 to 19, 2025. During the interaction, both dignitaries discussed a range of tourism-related initiatives, with a focus on developing niche segments to boost the islands' tourism potential.

Key areas of discussion included the feasibility of introducing offshore casinos, houseboat tourism in the mangrove water channels, astro-tourism, and birdwatching. These initiatives aim to diversify and enhance the tourism experience in the archipelago while ensuring sustainable and responsible development.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
16 May 2025

Hon'ble Minister for Art & of Goa, called on Admiral Vice-Chairman of the
Culture, Sports & Youth D.K. Joshi (Retd.), Islands Development
Affairs, and Rural Hon'ble Lieutenant Agency, at
Development Agency Governor of the Andaman Raj Niwas
Mr. Govind Gaude, (RDA) in the Government and Nicobar Islands and on 15th May 2025.

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Sippighat Bridge in Dangerous Condition, Urgent Repairs Sought by Hindu Rashtra Shakti State President



bridge has already led to frequent accidents and immense inconvenience to the public. If not repaired urgently, it could lead to a collapse or severe damage,” Lall noted in his letter.

He has urged the Lieutenant Governor to direct the Andaman Public Works Department (APWD), Zilla Parishad, and the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to conduct an immediate inspection and undertake urgent structural repairs.

Highlighting the bridge’s strategic importance to local transportation, Lall requested that the issue be treated with the highest priority.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
16 May 2025

Rakeshwar Lall, State
President of Hindu Rashtra

Shakti, has raised serious concerns over the deteriorating condition of the Sippighat Bridge in South Andaman, calling it a major safety hazard for daily commuters.

In a letter addressed to the Lt. Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lall described the bridge as being in a “highly dangerous state,” with large cracks and potholes rendering it unsafe for both pedestrians

and vehicles. He warned that the bridge poses a significant risk of accidents and disruptions, especially with the monsoon season approaching. “The poor condition of the

Copies of the letter have also been sent to the Member of Parliament for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Chief Secretary, the Deputy Commissioner of South Andaman, and all major print media outlets.

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A&N Islands Get Mobile Forensic Vans to Strengthen Crime Investigations



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
16 May 2025

In a major stride toward enhancing forensic infrastructure and strengthening scientific support for law enforcement, the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral D. K. Joshi (Retd.), PVSM, AVSM, YSM,

NM, VSM, flagged off three state-of-the-art Mobile Forensic Vans on Thursday.

The official flag-off ceremony was held in the presence of Chief Secretary Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS; Director General of Police Mr. Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal, IPS; Inspector General of Police (L&O/Intl) Ms. Sindhu Pillai, IPS; and other senior officials from the A&N

Administration and Police Department.

Addressing the gathering, the DGP highlighted that the advanced forensic vans, procured from the National Forensic Science University (NFSU), Gandhinagar, are aimed at supporting the effective implementation of the newly enacted criminal laws. He described the development as a "major milestone" in

strengthening the Union Territory's forensic capabilities—enabling faster, more accurate, and scientifically grounded investigations. The DGP also acknowledged the unwavering support of the Lt. Governor and civil administration in bolstering forensic services across the Islands.

Dr. Devinder Kumar, Assistant Director, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), delivered a detailed

presentation on the operational features of the mobile units. Each van is equipped with a full suite of basic and advanced forensic kits, digital tools, and field instrumentation for the on-site collection and preservation of biological, chemical, and physical evidence. These capabilities include analysis of trace materials, bodily fluids, narcotics, fibers, and fingerprints, among others.

Dr. Kumar also announced the upcoming establishment of DNA Profiling and Cyber Forensic units at the newly constructed FSL building, a move expected to significantly widen the scope and depth of forensic services in the Islands.

The Mobile Forensic Vans are aligned with the vision of the reformed criminal justice system and are expected to:

- Enhance the scientific rigour of criminal investigations
- Improve the reliability and admissibility of forensic evidence in courts
- Expedite justice delivery through transparent and efficient processes

Dedicating the vans to law enforcement agencies, Lt. Governor Admiral D. K. Joshi emphasized their critical role in ensuring credible investigations and timely justice in accordance with the rule of law.

The ceremony concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Mr. Jitendra Kumar Meena, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police (CID), who expressed appreciation to the Lt. Governor and all dignitaries for their continued support in strengthening the forensic ecosystem of the Union Territory.

This development marks a transformative chapter in the evolution of scientific policing in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, reaffirming the administration's commitment to modern, evidence-based law enforcement.



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Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse Held at Wandoor Gram Panchayat



Health Department, and the Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA).

During the session, speakers highlighted the serious health, social, and familial consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse. The discussions emphasised the growing correlation between substance abuse and rising incidents of crime and public safety threats.

Officials from various departments shared insights into the rehabilitation process, the challenges faced by individuals struggling with addiction, and the importance of community support in prevention and recovery efforts. The programme also provided information on the range of support services and assistance available to individuals and families affected by substance use disorders.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
16 May 2025

on drug abuse and prevention was held at the Wandoor Gram Panchayat under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, with the aim of sensitising the community about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of collective action in tackling the issue.

The event was organised by the Directorate of Social Welfare in coordination with the Anti-Narcotics Division of the Police Department, the

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Summer Hobby Classes for Kids Inaugurated at Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
16 May 2025

A lively and enthusiastic atmosphere marked the inauguration of the much-awaited Summer Hobby

Classes for Kids at Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Sri Vijaya Puram. The month-long initiative, launched by the Department of Education under the guidance of Director of Education Mr. Vikram Singh, aims to engage young minds in a range of creative activities throughout the summer break. The program, which runs daily from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm until June 17, 2025, was formally inaugurated on May 13 in a

ceremony graced by Mr. Gyan Sheel Dubey, Head of Office and District Education Officer (South Andaman), as the chief guest. Ms. Archana Singh, Deputy Director of Education (Planning) and Principal of the host school, attended as guest

of honour. Addressing the gathering of students and parents, Mr. Dubey emphasized the importance of hobby classes in encouraging creativity and supporting the holistic development of children. He urged the young participants to make constructive use of their time and explore their artistic talents.

Ms. Archana Singh echoed his sentiments, encouraging children to freely express themselves and make the most of the opportunity to refine their skills while having fun.

The Summer Hobby Classes, offered free of cost, feature a wide range of activities including singing, dancing, instrumental music, drawing, painting, and craft. The program is being conducted by a team of skilled and passionate mentors, aiming to provide a rich and fulfilling learning experience for all participants.

This initiative by the Department of Education is expected to leave a lasting impact by nurturing creativity and providing a productive outlet for students during their vacation.

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IGNOU Opens Re-Registration for July 2025 Session; Deadline Set for June 30



session are eligible to apply for re-registration. The process is entirely online and must be completed through the university's official portal at <https://ignou.samarth.edu.in>.

IGNOU has urged all eligible learners to complete the formalities within the stipulated timeframe to ensure uninterrupted continuation of their academic programs.

Vikas Kumar National Open session starting today, Students who were For more updates,
Sri Vijaya Puram, University (IGNOU) 15 May. The deadline admitted during the students are advised
16 May 2025 has commenced the for completing the July 2024 annual to regularly visit the
re-registration process process is 30 June session or the January official IGNOU
The Indira Gandhi for its July 2025 2025. 2025 semester website.

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