

ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by **NICOBAR TIMES**

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Angshuman Roy Appeals to PM Modi for Free Air Ambulance Service to Evacuate Critical Patients from Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Mainland



**Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
17 June 2025**

Angshuman Roy, the State Youth President of Hindu Rashtra Shakti, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting the launch of a centrally-funded air ambulance service for the people of

Andaman & Nicobar Islands. In his letter, Roy has emphasized the urgent need for a scheme like Madhya Pradesh's Shri Air Ambulance Seva to be implemented in the Union Territory, where residents regularly face life-threatening situations due to the lack of advanced medical infrastructure. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lack many advanced medical facilities, and due to this gap, patients—especially in critical condition—are often forced to travel to mainland cities such as Chennai or Kolkata to receive proper medical care. For those unable to sit upright

Contd...Pg...3...

Pujari of Shiv Mandir Rangat Held with 5.965 Kg Ganja at Sri Vijaya Puram Airport Exit Gate



**Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
17 June 2025**

A Pujari (priest) of the Shiv Mandir in Rangat has been arrested with 5.965 kilograms of illicit ganja outside exit gate of Veer Savarkar International Airport, Sri Vijaya Puram. The accused, identified as Sushavan

Mukherjee alias Mukherjee Pandit, was apprehended on 16th June 2025 by the Anti-Narcotics Police team.

According to the FIR (No. 0006/2025) registered under Section 20(b)(ii) (B) of the NDPS Act, the informer alerted Inspector Vikas Singh, SHO of Anti-Narcotics PS that a person

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Contd..Pg1..Angshuman Roy Appeals to PM Modi for Free Air Ambulance Service to Evacuate Critical Patients from Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Mainland

due to their condition, the only option is stretcher-based transport, which is not only expensive but also logistically complicated.

At present, the cost of transporting a stretcher patient from the islands to the mainland is prohibitively high, often amounting to several lakhs of rupees for just one-way travel. The burden falls heavily on families already distressed by a medical crisis. In addition to the cost, the airlines have their own set of protocols, including the requirement of advance booking

for patients. Even after such arrangements are made, the actual travel depends on whether the airline permits the patient to board, causing further uncertainty and anxiety.

Time is critical in medical emergencies, and any delay in transport can cost lives. The current system, where commercial airlines control the schedule and patient approval, has resulted in tragic outcomes when patients were unable to fly in time. Angshuman Roy, in his appeal, has

stretcher pointed out that this situation makes it absolutely necessary for the Central Government to step in and offer a reliable, timely, and free air ambulance service specifically for evacuation of critical patients from the islands to the mainland.

Roy cited the example of Madhya Pradesh's PM Shri Air Ambulance Seva, launched on 29 May 2024 by Chief Minister Mr. Mohan Yadav, under which people receive free Air Ambulance Services for transportation during

emergencies. He requested that a similar model be adopted for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, tailored to their unique geographical challenges. He has proposed a budget allocation of 55 crore for the project, including the leasing of aircraft, procurement of medical equipment etc.

In addition to the air ambulance service, Roy also recommended the implementation of a Medical Single Window System (MSWS)—a real-time digital platform that would coordinate

emergency approvals, verify Ayushman Bharat Islander eligibility, and facilitate swift inter-agency communication.

Making both inter-island and mainland evacuations smoother and cost-free would bring immense relief to residents, many of whom currently live in constant worry over how they will manage if a medical emergency strikes.

Roy concluded by urging the Prime Minister to use his leadership to implement this life-saving initiative in the islands.

Contd..Pg 1..Pujari of Shiv Mandir Rangat Held with 5.965 Kg Ganja at Sri Vijaya Puram Airport Exit Gate

named "Mukherjee Pandit" was arriving from Kolkata and carrying ganja in his luggage to strike a deal in Andaman. A raiding team was constituted under the direction of Dy.SP (Narcotics) Mr. Balram, DANIPS.

At 11:05 AM, the suspect was intercepted near

the auto stand at Shiv Mandir, the exit gate of Rangat, VSI Airport. Upon questioning, he disclosed his name as Sushavan Mukherjee (34 years), son of Late Subir Mukherjee, resident of Dasratpur, Rangat, North and Middle Andaman. He also revealed that he serves as a Pujari (priest) of

packets were arrested after individually following due legal formalities. marked and weighed in the presence of independent witnesses.

The total weight of recovered ganja amounted to 5.965 kilograms.

The illicit ganja was immediately seized. The accused was

arrested after following due legal formalities.

This case has sparked concern, as it involves a religious figure allegedly abusing his position while engaging in drug trafficking, marking yet another worrying instance of narcotic smuggling into the Islands.

Minister Jayant Chaudhary Inaugurates 'Kaushal Manthan'-Regional Skill Workshop in Hyderabad; Lt. Governor of A&N Islands Attends



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
17 June 2025

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the Southern Regional Workshop of Kaushal Manthan at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Hyderabad, on 16th June.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State

(Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and attended by 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.

In his address, the Minister emphasized the need to move beyond rigid, uniform models in

skill development, advocating instead for locally driven strategies that reflect regional economic realities and the aspirations of India's youth. "Skill development cannot have prescriptive templates," he noted. "We must empower States to craft solutions rooted in their local contexts."

As part of the Ministry's forward-looking approach, Mr. Chaudhary announced the establishment of two Centres of Excellence—at the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) in Hyderabad and Chennai. These centres, part of a national plan to set up five such institutions, will focus on high-quality instructor training and skilling in emerging

domains. To raise standards across Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), the Minister mandated that all newly recruited instructors obtain certification under the Craft Instructor Training Scheme (CITS). States were urged to amend their Recruitment Rules to make CITS certification compulsory, aligning with National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) norms. The goal, he stressed, is to ensure instructional quality and parity nationwide.

Mr. Chaudhary also proposed introducing a robust grading and assessment system for State-run ITIs to foster accountability and

improve outcomes. He called on States to utilize platforms like DISHA meetings to engage elected representatives and build greater awareness around the economic and social benefits of vocational training.

Key areas identified for focus included strengthening industry linkages, raising the profile of vocational education, and promoting language-based training to support international workforce mobility. Highlighting the transformative power of investing in youth, the Minister noted that while the results may take time, they yield lasting returns for individuals and for the nation.

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Lt. Governor Attends 'Kaushal Manthan' Workshop in Hyderabad, Highlights Investment Potential in Fisheries, Tourism & Hospitality in A&N Islands



regional skill development efforts. Discussions centered on integrated approaches, quality training, and the creation of local job opportunities aimed at building a future-ready workforce.

In his address, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor highlighted key skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives undertaken by the A&N Administration. He emphasized the Islands' growing potential for investment in fisheries, tourism, marine products, and hospitality sectors.

He further noted that with the advent of mega infrastructure projects in ports and shipping, the Islands are poised for significant development, opening up new avenues for employment and economic growth.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
17 June 2025

Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.), PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM, Hon'ble

Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Vice Chairman of the Islands Development Agency, attended the 'Kaushal Manthan' - Southern Regional Workshop in Hyderabad.

The workshop was chaired by Mr. Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and was hosted under the aegis of the Ministry of

Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The event focused on promoting collaborative growth, exchanging innovative ideas, and enhancing

Admiral Joshi also interacted with delegates from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), encouraging their active role in shaping a skilled and self-reliant workforce in the region. (Story Based on PR)

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Monsoon Book Reading Festival 2025 Inaugurated by Chief Secretary Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar at State Library



drawing sessions for Children with Special Needs (CwSN), interactive storytelling, book reading events, and treasure hunts—all designed to inspire creativity and curiosity among participants across different age groups.

Demonstrating his commitment to inclusive education, the Chief Secretary interacted warmly with the students, offering encouragement and motivating them to actively participate in the week's intellectually stimulating and creative activities. The festival's agenda also includes craft-making, quiz competitions, story and slogan writing, news reading, and documentary film screenings, all thoughtfully curated to nurture a lifelong love for learning.

Highlighting the importance of reading in today's fast-paced digital era, Dr. Kumar stressed that developing reading habits is vital not only for intellectual growth but also for fostering critical thinking, creativity, empathy, and informed citizenship.

He lauded the Education Department for organizing the festival and creating a vibrant space for students to engage with literature and broaden their horizons.

The Chief Secretary's inspiring presence and message set a visionary tone for the festival, reinforcing the Administration's dedication to building a knowledge-driven and literate society. (Story Based on PR)

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
17 June 2025

The Monsoon Book Reading Festival 2025 was inaugurated on 16 June 2025, by Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary of the Andaman &

Nicobar Administration, marking the start of a week-long celebration dedicated to literature, learning, and the promotion of reading habits.

The festival, held from June 16th to 22nd at the State Library in Sri Vijaya Puram, aims to foster a love for books among young readers

and provide an engaging platform for students and book enthusiasts to come together and share ideas.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp by the Chief Secretary, who was accompanied by Mr. L. Kumar, IAS, Secretary (Education), Mr. Vikram Singh,

Director (Education), along with senior officers of the Education Department and a large gathering of enthusiastic school children.

Following the inauguration, Dr. Kumar toured the library premises where various programmes and competitions were already in progress. Activities included

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Training Programme on Hygienic Fish Handling Conducted for Onge Tribe at Dugong Creek



Participants viewed demonstration videos covering fishing methods, preservation techniques, and hygienic fish handling. Mr. Nesnas E.A, Assistant Fisheries Development Officer, emphasized the rich marine resources available in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and their nutritional benefits. He also provided detailed guidance on the proper use and operation of fishing gears to improve fish catch efficiency.

A practical hands-on session allowed the Onge community to engage directly in repairing old nets and operating cast nets. Additionally, trainees received aid materials including fish baskets, gloves, water jerry cans, and T-shirts.

At the conclusion of the programme, Mr. Aswath M., Tribal Welfare Officer of AAJVS, appreciated the efforts of the Department of Fisheries and MPEDA in organizing the training. Speaking on behalf of the Onge community, he requested the continuation of such programmes in fisheries and aquaculture. He also appealed for the provision of fishing boats under the UT Plan and expressed interest in aquaculture activities in confined environments, proposing the implementation of an Aquaculture Demonstration project involving community participation.

The training team also included Mr. Sitangshu Ghosh, Assistant Fisheries Development Officer (SA), and Mr. G. Shibu, PCOM of the Department of Fisheries. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates and a vote of thanks by Mr. Vicky, Captain of the Onge community. (Story Based on PR)

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
17 June 2025

The Department of Fisheries, supported by the Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Chennai, and AAJVS, organized a specialized training

programme on 14 June 2025 for the Onge Tribe of Dugong Creek, Hut Bay. The initiative focused on hygienic and sanitary handling of fish, the nutritional importance of fish consumption, various fishing techniques, and repair of fishing nets.

Conducted as part of the Skill Development

programme for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the training was attended by 30 selected members of the Onge community.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Jeyabal, Joint Director of MPEDA, Chennai, who highlighted the vital role of

fish consumption in meeting the protein needs of rural communities. The sessions began with Dr. Arulmoorthy, State Coordinator for NETFISH-MPEDA, who elaborated on hygienic protocols to maintain fish freshness and reduce bacterial contamination to ensure safe consumption.



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Beach Yoga Session Held at Champin Village Ahead of International Yoga Day 2025



Nancowry, and Yoga Instructor Smti Rajmani, the session aimed to promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Dr. Shabnam, Medical Officer (Homeopathy), also extended her support during the programme.

Village Captain Mr. James, staff from the Community Health Centre, and villagers took part in the Common Yoga Protocol session, embracing the calming surroundings of the beach to deepen the experience of mindfulness and community connection.

The event served as a precursor to the main celebration on 21st June and aligned with nationwide efforts to spread awareness about the benefits of yoga for holistic health. (Story Based on PR)

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
17 June 2025

In the run-up to the 11th Beach, drawing active International Day of Yoga, a participation from local Beach Yoga Session was residents and health officials. organised on 17th June The event echoed this year's 2025, at Champin Village global theme, "Yoga for One

Earth, One Health." Led by Dr. (Lt. Col.) Nirmal Kumar Bajpai, Medical Officer In-Charge of CHC

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Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse Held at Delanipur Sanitary Office under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan



Inspectors from Ward Nos. 3, 7, and 8, representatives from SVPSC, and Safai Mitras. The session aimed to educate participants about the harmful effects of substance abuse, emphasize the importance of early intervention and rehabilitation, and promote active community involvement in creating a drug-free society.

A key highlight of the programme was a street play and a self-composed poem performed by the Swachta Awareness Team, creatively focusing on the dangers of addiction while also promoting messages of cleanliness and sobriety.

This initiative is part of a broader series of activities being conducted across the Union Territory under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to mobilise citizens and stakeholders in the collective fight against drug abuse.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,

17 June 2025

As part of the ongoing

observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Directorate of Social Welfare organized an awareness programme at the Delanipur Sanitary Office. The event was conducted under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) and in collaboration with SVPSC, Anti-Narcotic-CID, and the

Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts. The programme witnessed the participation of Senior Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary

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'Yoga Bandhan' Event Held in Front of Cellular Jail in the Run-Up to International Day of Yoga 2025



Humanity.” The term ‘Bandhan’ signifies bond or connection, and the session was designed to highlight the unifying force of Yoga, with a special focus on discipline, teamwork, and emotional well-being, especially among youth and uniformed personnel.

Around 30 NCC cadets and Yoga professionals participated in the event, performing various Yoga asanas in synchrony with great enthusiasm and commitment. Their collective effort reflected the core values of unity and harmony that Yoga promotes across individuals and communities.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
17 June 2025

As part of the nationwide celebrations for the 11th

International Day of Yoga monument, which stands as (IDY) 2025, a flagship event a solemn reminder of India’s freedom struggle, held in front of the iconic Cellular Jail at Sri Vijaya Puram. The historic event.

The event was organised under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH and formed a key part of this year’s IDY theme — “Yoga for Health, Harmony, and

The event not only celebrated the essence of Yoga but also reinforced its role in fostering resilience and togetherness in society. (Story Based on PR)

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