

ANDAMAN DAILY

News & Views from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by **NICOBAR TIMES**

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Unanswered Questions Linger After 9-Year-Old Boy Found Hanging in Campbell Bay: Suicide or Staged Murder?



SUICIDE OR STAGED MURDER?

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

Campbell Bay, the southernmost town of India in the remote Nicobar district, is grappling with shock and sorrow following the mysterious death of a 9-year-old boy, who was found hanging from the roof truss of a nearby house on the evening of 13th June 2025.

The incident took place near the Fisheries Ice Plant and Cold Storage in Campbell Bay. According to preliminary accounts, the boy—a student

—was discovered hanging by a rope from the truss of the terrace of a building adjacent to his home. He was first found by his elder sister and his uncle, who reportedly brought the body down. With the help of two locals, the child was rushed to the local hospital on a motorcycle, where doctors declared him brought dead.

While the initial reports suggested suicide, the deeply disturbing nature of the case has ignited public skepticism and a growing belief among locals that the death may involve foul play.

Sources who were present at the scene during the police's initial inspection told Nicobar Times that a solid cement block and a jerrycan were found near the spot where the boy was allegedly hanging. The presence of these objects has raised questions about the feasibility of a child of such a young age orchestrating a hanging in that manner.

The house where the incident occurred is owned by a businessman whose family is said to live mostly outside Campbell Bay. The building reportedly remains unoccupied for most of the time, and the

only resident is usually away at work during the day. The terrace of the house is accessible via an external staircase, making it possible for anyone to reach it without entering the main house.

Following the discovery, police launched an investigation and conducted a forensic examination of the site. As of 14th June, the postmortem of the deceased boy is expected to be conducted, which may offer further clarity on the cause and circumstances of death.

Local residents have expressed disbelief over the possibility of suicide, citing the child's age and developmental stage. "A nine-year-old child barely understands the finality of death, let alone plans and executes something as complex as a suicide," said a resident who requested anonymity. Others echoed similar sentiments, demanding a thorough and transparent investigation.

Globally and in India, suicide among children below 10 years of age is exceedingly rare. Mental health experts note that children under 10 generally lack the cognitive maturity to comprehend death

as irreversible. While there have been isolated instances of children mimicking suicidal behaviour—especially those exposed to trauma, abuse, neglect, or harmful content—such incidents remain anomalies.

The psychological and logistical complexity involved in suicide makes it statistically and developmentally improbable for a child of nine years to take such a step, especially without leaving behind signs of distress or intent.

The tragic incident has left Campbell Bay residents in mourning and confusion. The community now awaits answers—was this truly a tragic, rare suicide, or are there darker forces at play? The truth, they say, must come out.

As the postmortem report and forensic findings are awaited, one thing remains certain: a young life has been lost under deeply troubling circumstances, and a grieving community demands justice—be it for a child driven to an unfathomable act, or one who may have become the victim of a horrific crime.



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District Planning Committee Meeting Concludes in Car Nicobar with Focus on Inclusive Development



Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

A two-day District Planning Committee (DPC) meeting was successfully conducted on June 11 and 12, 2025, at the District Office Conference Hall in Perka (HQ), Car Nicobar. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Amit Kale, IAS, Deputy

Commissioner of Nicobar District, held in the presence of Hon'ble Member of Parliament Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray. The session witnessed active participation from Chairmen of Tribal Councils across the Nicobar Islands, along with heads of 23

government departments.

The primary agenda of the meeting was the finalisation of the Annual Action Plan for the fiscal year 2025–26, review of the implementation status of various government schemes, and addressing developmental concerns flagged in previous DPC sessions.

All 23 line departments presented their proposed Annual Action Plans along with Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on past issues, reflecting a commitment

transparency and accountability in local governance.

Tribal Council leaders played a proactive role in the discussions, bringing forward region-specific challenges related to infrastructure development, public service delivery, and livelihood generation. Their participation contributed to a constructive and collaborative atmosphere aimed at developing community-centric solutions. Deputy Commissioner Mr. Amit Kale emphasized the need for seamless inter-departmental

and coordination and the timely execution of developmental projects. He assured tribal leaders that their genuine concerns would be addressed in a structured and phased manner through appropriate administrative measures.

The meeting concluded with a strong sense of shared purpose, reaffirming the administration's commitment to inclusive development, responsive governance, and the holistic well-being of the tribal communities of Nicobar District.

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ANTCC Holds 'Mourn Sabha' to Pay Tribute to Victims of Air India Flight Tragedy



Chief Spokesperson, Block Presidents, Mahila Congress representatives, Youth Congress leaders, City Congress functionaries, Minority Department members, SVP/MLA Councillors, Zilla Parishad members, and party workers gathered to express their heartfelt condolences.

The gathering offered prayers for the eternal peace of the departed souls and conveyed their solidarity with the bereaved families affected by the devastating incident.

The ANTCC, in a statement, extended its deepest sympathies to all those impacted by the tragedy and joined the nation in mourning the irreparable loss of lives.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

Territorial Congress Vijaya Puram to pay tribute to the victims of the tragic Air India flight crash that occurred in Ahmedabad on 12th June 2025.

ANTCC President, Mr. Rangalal Halder, Campaign Committee Chairman Mr. G. Bhasker, along with senior party leaders, the ANTCC

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Earthquake and Fire Mock Drill Conducted at Inter-Island Helicopter Terminal in Sri Vijaya Puram



The drill began with a simulated earthquake, which triggered structural damage and led to a fire in a designated area of the terminal. Fire and Emergency Services teams responded swiftly, deploying fire tenders to control the blaze, while Search and Rescue (SAR) teams conducted immediate evacuation and rescue operations. Injured individuals received prompt first aid at the site.

Personnel from the Directorate of Civil Aviation, technical team of Pawan Hans Ltd., A&N Police Security staff, and IRBN actively participated in the drill, contributing to its seamless execution.

Following the exercise, a debriefing session was held under the leadership of the Incident Commander. Observers from participating departments reviewed the operation, praised the teams for following standard operating procedures, and provided constructive feedback. The session also identified areas for improvement and offered key recommendations to enhance future emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

In line with the Chief Secretary's directive for quarterly mock drills across departments, the Directorate of

Disaster Management, Aviation, Sri Vijaya Puram. Andaman & Nicobar Administration, successfully conducted a large-scale mock drill simulating an earthquake followed by a fire outbreak at the Inter-Island Helicopter Terminal, Directorate of Civil

The mock exercise, held on 13th June 2025, aimed to assess real-time disaster preparedness, evaluate inter-departmental coordination, and

test emergency response mechanisms under simulated crisis conditions. It was organized in close coordination with the Directorate of Health Services, A&N Police Fire Services, and the District Administration.

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CHC Nancowry Leads Cleanliness Drive at Chota Enaka Under District-Wide Cleanliness Initiative



The event saw enthusiastic participation from the village captain and local villagers, who actively joined the CHC team in cleaning the area. Volunteers embraced the campaign's motto: "Our Land, Our Pride-Let's Keep it Clean & Green."

Dr. Bajpai praised the strong community spirit and underlined the importance of such collaborations in advancing the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and building a healthier society.

Alongside the cleanliness efforts, messages promoting social awareness were also shared, including: "Join us for a Clean-Up Drive for a Cleaner, Healthier Community" and "Say NO to Drugs, YES to Life."

This collective action exemplifies how district-led initiatives can empower communities to create lasting, positive change.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

As part of the District-Wide Cleanliness Drive initiated by

the District Administration today at Chota Enaka. Centre (CHC), Nancowry. The drive aimed to promote hygiene, environmental responsibility, and public health awareness in the local community.

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Land Allotted for Zilla Parishad Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya in Guptapara After Two-Decade Effort



Adhyaksh of South Andaman, who first envisioned the project during his tenure as a Zilla Parishad Member in 2005. His persistent efforts were aimed at improving educational opportunities for children in rural areas such as Manglutan, Guptapara, Wandoor, Sippighat, and nearby villages.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Adhikari expressed deep satisfaction and emotional fulfillment at the development. "This school will not just be a center for academic learning—it will be a pillar of values, discipline, and opportunity for generations to come," he stated.

He further assured that construction will begin at the earliest, with a strong commitment to opening the school for students as soon as possible.

The establishment of ZPVKV, Guptapara, is expected to significantly enhance access to quality education in the region, fulfilling a long-standing promise to the community and laying a strong foundation for the future of South Andaman's youth.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

In a landmark development for the education sector in South

Andaman, the long-standing vision of establishing a Zilla Parishad Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya (ZPVKV) in Guptapara has taken a major step forward. The Deputy Commissioner of

South Andaman has officially allotted one hectare of land near Guptapara Junction—formerly a rubber plantation site—for the construction of the school. The allotment was issued under

Order No. R.C. No. 481/2024/DC/SA.

This milestone marks the culmination of a 20-year pursuit by Mr. Prakash Adhikari,

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TSG Charitable Foundation Holds Condolence Meeting for Victims of Air India Flight 171 Crash



prominent figures from the aviation industry, business community, political circles, and social service organizations. The gathering reflected a unified expression of sorrow and support for the bereaved families.

A two-minute silence was observed in remembrance of the departed souls, followed by the offering of floral tributes. The atmosphere was one of collective mourning and heartfelt prayer.

Addressing those present, Mr. TSG Bhasker extended his deepest condolences to the families affected by the tragedy. He offered prayers for the eternal peace of the victims and expressed solidarity on behalf of the entire foundation.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

In a solemn gathering marked by grief and memory of the victims of the tragic Air India Flight 171 crash. The event was held on 13th June 2025, organized a pay tribute to the passengers and crew who lost their lives in the unfortunate incident. Led by its Chairman, Mr. TSG Bhasker, members of the foundation were joined by

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South Andaman District Administration Cracks Down on Illegal Tobacco Sales Near Educational Institutions



clear violation of COTPA regulations. The illicit items were promptly seized, and action has been initiated against the violators as per legal provisions. In the School Line area, similar violations were detected, leading to the formal confiscation of banned products and issuance of strict warnings to the offending vendors.

The District Administration has reiterated its firm commitment to maintaining a tobacco-free environment around educational institutions. Officials have warned that such inspection drives will continue to be conducted regularly and that any future violations will invite strict legal action.

To strengthen community participation, the public has been urged to report any instances of illegal tobacco sales near schools and colleges. Reports and queries can be directed to the District Control Room via phone at 03192-240127 / 238881 / 1070 or through WhatsApp at 9531888844. The administration has assured that the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential.

Tarun Karthick
Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

In a decisive move to promote a healthier environment for students, the District

Administration of South Andaman has launched a targeted inspection drive to curb the illegal sale and possession of tobacco products near schools and colleges.

Acting under the provisions of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, Revenue Officials carried out surprise inspections across multiple high-footfall zones, including Aberdeen Bazaar and

School Line, focusing on areas within the 100-yard no-tobacco buffer zone mandated by the Act.

During the operation, several shops were found stocking contraband tobacco products in

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Special Lecture on Turtle Nesting and Sustainable Tourism to be Held Today in Sri Vijaya Puram



biodiversity and sea turtle conservation.

This knowledge-sharing session aims to underscore the ecological and economic significance of turtle nesting sites, particularly in the context of the Olive Ridley sea turtles that visit the Andaman shores annually. These marine species serve not only as ecological keystones but also as flag-bearers of marine conservation and nature-based tourism.

Prof. Shanker will explore the delicate balance between tourism development and wildlife conservation in island ecosystems, offering insights into how responsible tourism can turn turtle hatchlings into symbols of hope for a sustainable future.

The Department of Tourism has extended an open invitation to researchers, conservationists, tourism stakeholders, and students to attend the session. The event is expected to foster dialogue and inspire action toward a tourism model that harmonizes with nature and ensures the long-term well-being of the islands.

Tarun Karthick

Sri Vijaya Puram,
14 June 2025

In a significant initiative to promote sustainable and eco-

conscious tourism in the islands, the Department of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, in collaboration with the Andaman and Nicobar Environment Team (ANET), will be hosting a special lecture titled

“From Hatchling to Hope: Leveraging Turtle Nesting for Sustainable Tourism in the Islands” on June 14 at 11 AM. The event will be held at the Training Hall of the Directorate of Disaster Management.

The lecture will be delivered by Prof. Dr. Karthik Shanker, a renowned marine ecologist from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. Prof. Shanker is widely recognized for his pioneering work in marine

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