

A&N to assess ecological impact of rising tourism

Domestic tourism has surged since pre-COVID.



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Andaman and Nicobar government is analysing the impact of opening new islands and the rising influx of tourists in the archipelago to ensure the preservation of the ecosystem while ensuring more islands are opened in a graded manner, officials said.

The island Union Territory known for its pristine beaches and mangrove kayaking tours, has witnessed a significant jump in domestic tourism since pre-COVID years.

“We had a very successful tourist season last year. We were able to overcome the effects of COVID-19, and last year, on an island with a population of 4 lakh, we welcomed 7.2 lakh visitors. This year, we are experiencing substantial growth as well. We have already recorded 6 lakh visitors by September, and our

peak season is during October and November,” Jyoti Kumari, Tourism Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, told PTI.

When asked about the ecological concerns associated with the rising number of tourists, she said, “As an island, we have a carrying capacity. Our advantage is that

access is limited to flights, which naturally restricts the number of visitors. That said, the impact on frequently visited islands is minimal. We are opening new islands and exploring different niche segments.”

The tourism secretary explained that the government recently opened North Sink Island and will

continue to open more islands in a graded manner.

We are proceeding carefully to gauge the response and see how visitors are adapting. We are also opening more areas; the forest department has opened Jolly Buoy and Red Skin Islands, which have a carrying capacity of 200 people.

Crowds now visit for birdwatching, with 32 endemic bird species

“We have a huge number of people coming for bird watching because the Andaman features 32 varieties of endemic birds. So, a lot of bird watchers come to increase their count in a single day. We are also looking at astro-tourism because Andaman has one of the best night skies. Visitors can see both northern and south-

HIGHLIGHT

● Vantage points offer full 360° sky views for observation.

● Union Territory recently launched an astro-tourism policy.

ern constellations.

“There are vantage points that provide

360-degree views of the sky, allowing observation in all directions. The area has zero industrial pollution, which enhances our efforts in promoting astro-tourism. Fishing is also a popular activity among both domestic and international tourists, and we are working to promote that, along with our renowned water sports,” she explained.

| SPIRITUAL LEADER'S LONGEVITY |

Dalai Lama in ‘good’ health, making China ‘restless’

Press Trust Of India

Chinese are waiting for the present Dalai Lama to die.

LUCKNOW: The health of the Dalai Lama, who turned 90 this July, continues to be “very good”, Penpa Tsering, the leader of the Central Tibetan Administration, said on Sunday, adding that the spiritual leader's longevity was making China “restless”.

“They (Chinese) are waiting for the present Dalai Lama to die. But the Dalai Lama keeps saying that he would live another 20 years, maybe till 130 years. His health is very good. So I keep saying that let us see if Communism outlives the Dalai Lama or he outlives Communism,” Tsering told PTI shortly after his arrival in Lucknow on a



Penpa Tsering, the leader of the Central Tibetan Administration.

FASTFACTS

● Dalai Lama confirmed he will have a successor, without clarifying reincarnation or emanation.

● India observers say China can't handle unpredictability.

two-day visit.

Timed around his 90th birthday celebrations in Dharamsala, a

major hub for the Tibetan diaspora and culture in Himachal Pradesh, the 14th Dalai Lama had put speculation to rest by announcing that he will have a successor, though he didn't make it clear if that would be through reincarnation or emanation. According to popular Tibetan belief, Dalai Lamas are “reincarnated” after death.

Tsering, however, said the concept of emanation

- naming a “successor in his lifetime” - is also accepted in the Tibetan belief system, though the Dalai Lama has not cleared the air on how his successor would arrive.

Asked if all this was a ploy to keep the Chinese guessing, Tsering said, “Some of us in India, who watch China closely, believe that one thing that China cannot handle is unpredictability.”

Tsering also said that visits like his were part of a larger plan to create awareness about the Tibetan issue and “challenge China's distortion of facts” even as he accused the neighbouring country of committing “cultural genocide”.

“At times I think we are dying a slow death, as the Chinese are striking at the ‘core’ of our identity,” he said, explaining his outreach efforts for awareness.

Innovation challenge

MUMBAI: Central Depository Services (India) Limited (“CDSL”), Asia's first listed depository and the trusted custodian of over 16.7 crore demat accounts, has launched its first-ever Ideathon, an innovation challenge for students. The Reimagine Ideathon is an initiative under the flagship 3rd Edition of CDSL's Annual Reimagine Symposium. The Ideathon aims to engage young innovative minds in designing solutions that transform how India learns, invests, and grows - to make market participation more responsible and inclusive. The depository ecosystem secures the assets of over 21 crore investor demat accounts. There remains a huge potential to further deepen participation in the securities market and strategically address the barriers preventing citizens from benefitting from this growth story. Building on similar initiatives by regulators such as SEBI and RBI, CDSL joins the effort to encourage young innovators to contribute their perspectives to bringing more people into the financial fold. The initiative seeks to democratize market access by enhancing investor education, and conscious and responsible participation at scale. Participants are open to explore solutions utilizing avenues of their choice, whether through gamification, behavioral nudges, communication, design, technology or community-building.

Special vedic discourse by Swami Omkaranand



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Adopt Vedic knowledge in life rather than merely reading it.

KAMAL VIHAR: Eminent educationist, thinker and international Vedic speaker Swami Omkaranand Saraswati, dedicated to national service and originally from Shimla Hills, visited Arya Samaj Kamal Vihar Sector 6 on Sunday as the Special Guest Speaker. Having earlier travelled for Vedic promotion to countries in North and South America including Guyana and Suriname, Mauritius, and recently Singapore and Malaysia, he addressed the gathering with an inspiring discourse. Swami ji urged everyone to adopt Vedic knowledge in life rather than merely reading it. He stressed the principle from the Yajurveda – “Enjoy with renunciation” – and encouraged people to share their resources with those in need. He noted that Arya Samaj has always been committed to service, but due to a lack of dedicated

FASTFACTS

● Share resources with those in need.

● Swami ji praised the legacy built by Lala Lajpat Rai and Mahatma Narayan Swami.

volunteers its expansion has slowed, while later organisations have grown rapidly, calling for serious introspection. Remembering the founders and guiding souls of Arya Samaj with gratitude, Swami ji expressed pride in the legacy strengthened by great personalities like Lala Lajpat Rai and Mahatma Narayan Swami. He praised the current dynamic leadership of Arya Yogi Ram Sahu and his team and honoured him with a Kullu shawl. In return, Arya Yogi Ram Sahu felicitated Swami ji with a garland and shawl. The event was attended by around 70-80 members, followed by refreshments. Office bearers including Minister Arya Brij Kumar Sahu, Treasurer Arya Ramkumar Sahu, and several key members were present.

‘Surrendered ULFA(I) militant to be kept in Assam’

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The circumstances and other details of the surrender of Arunodoi Asom, also known as Arunodoi Dohotia, and his bodyguard have not yet been shared by officials.

TEZPUR: Top ULFA(I) insurgent Arunodoi Asom, who surrendered before security forces, will be kept in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

He said the militant will be kept in custody in Tinsukia in Upper Assam.

The circumstances and other details of the surrender of Arunodoi Asom, also known as Arunodoi Dohotia, and his bodyguard have not yet been shared by officials.

Asked about Dohotia's surrender on the sidelines of a programme at Rangapara in Sonitpur district, Sarma said, “As far as I know, they won't be taken to Delhi. They will remain in Tinsukia. At the most, they will be taken to Guwahati to meet the DGP.”

“The Assam government does not have any

plan to take them to Delhi,” he added.

On peace negotiations with ULFA(I), the chief minister said it can progress only if the proscribed outfit's chief Paresh Baruah comes forward.

“Talks can happen only with Paresh Baruah. There is no point talking with someone else,” he added.

The chief minister also did not elaborate on where the surrender took place.

Dohotia, a senior leader of the militant outfit, is among the accused named by the NIA in killing of Assam Police officer Bhaskar Kalita during an operation against the ULFA(I) in 2018.

NEWSLINE

CHANDIGARH

‘Support local artisans’



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday said people should take pride in products made by local artisans and give priority to purchasing them to support small entrepreneurs.

He was addressing the closing ceremony of the ‘Saras Aajeevika Mela-2025’ at the Parade Ground in Panchkula, an official statement said.

Earlier, Saini visited stalls set up by women self-help groups (SHGs), artisans and craftsmen from various states and showed keen interest in their products.

Praising their skills, he said the production of swadeshi (indigenous) goods strengthens Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat and furthers the ‘Vocal for Local’ initiative.

He urged women entrepreneurs to produce items that can compete with foreign goods in quality and craftsmanship.

MUMBAI

Comedy war zone

The kitchen fires are crackling, the aprons are on, and the laughter is already bubbling over as COLORS brings back the no. 1 non-fiction show of 2025, ‘Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment’. This homegrown culinary comedy reality show has won the hearts of audiences with its unfiltered celebrities and unscripted kitchen conversations. With a staggering reach of 185 million on television and dominating COLORS’ social media conversations with 1 in 3 interactions about Laughter Chefs. Now, it returns, plating fresh chaos and a brand-new season of kitchen mayhem with a bigger appetite and even bigger ambition. The sparks are about to fly from the stove as your favourite bawarchis cook up a bawaal like never before.

| ALLEGATION |

‘Bulldozer rule’ under Samrat Chaudhary

Press Trust Of India

HAJIPUR: CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya on Sunday alleged that the “Home Department has been snatched from Nitish Kumar” by the BJP, and that Bihar is headed towards “bulldozer rule” with Samrat Chaudhary as the state home minister.

The Home portfolio, which had earlier been with Chief Minister Nit-



ish Kumar, has now been allotted to BJP's Samrat Chaudhary.

Addressing a memorial meeting in Hajipur in remembrance of CPI (ML) Liberation leader

Visheshwar Prasad Yadav, who died during electioneering in Supaul, Bhattacharya said, “Now, there will be the rule of bulldozer, and not law, on the lines of Uttar Pradesh.”

Bhattacharya asserted that his party will firmly fight against “bulldozer rule”. Asserting that Bihar has entered a “dangerous era”, he claimed that the recent Bihar assembly elections were marred by “unprece-

dented irregularities”.

“Around 70 lakh names were removed from the electoral rolls, and 20-25 lakh new names were added,” he said, alleging that this “altered booth-level voter balance”. Bhattacharya also criticised the pre-poll facilitation of public funds, saying, “Rs 30,000 crore was handed out under various schemes after four years of absolute ignorance towards people.”

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