

CHANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



PORT BLAIR, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 RNI REGN. No. ANDENG/2006/19155 :: PAGES : 6 :: Rs. 3/-

Runway Re-Carpeting at Port Blair Threatens to Disrupt Tourist Footfall in the UT

FHRAI Appeals to the Civil Aviation Minister for Urgent Intervention

New Delhi, Feb 22: India's apex Hospitality Association and the voice of the hospitality industry - Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) has submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation - Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia requesting his urgent intervention in avoiding disruptions in flight movements at the Port Blair

Airport. The Andaman & Nicobar Command has directed shutting down the only runway of Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair for four days a week from March to May 2022 for its re-carpeting work and a NOTAM has been issued in this regard.

FHRAI has stated that the closure of the airport poses a serious threat to the hospitality and tourism

industry in the UT which has already suffered 75-80 per cent revenue loss due to the pandemic. With advanced technology options available today, FHRAI has appealed to the Ministry to explore alternatives to carry out the work at the airport without shutting down operations.

"Tourism is the backbone of Andaman and Nicobar Islands' economy. Veer Savarkar International

Airport is the only fastest connectivity option available for the islands with the country's mainland. Closing it for four days a week from March to May 2022 will disrupt life and business on the Islands. Typically, tourists prefer to visit the Islands for only about 4 to 5 days. The disruption in flight movement will discourage them from visiting the

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