

ANDAMAN SHEEKHA

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Staff Crunch and ageing fleet of vehicles and equipments posing serious challenge for Fire Services

John Wilbert
& Vikramaditya
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair: The recent major fire mishap at Aerial Bay bazaar in Diglipur, North Andaman, that has drawn sharp criticism for the key disaster response force particularly allegations of professional negligence, has brought to fore the need for immediate attention of the local government towards some glaring and publicly known deficiencies in the crucial



Andaman and Nicobar Police Fire Services.

Having grown over the years and considered a force to

(See page 6)

Old Lady requests for financial help from Islanders for her treatment at Mainland India

Rabindranath
Biswas

Sheekha News Service

Diglipur, Oct 21: Smti Sandhya Das, a 56 years old patient of hypertension was admitted in GB Pant Hospital following an accident recently. She got her left arm fractured after she fell down owing to dizziness as her blood pressure rose high.

The Doctors of GB Pant Hospital have put their

best efforts to treat the elderly woman, but it involves critical treatment, which can be availed in the hospitals at mainland only, the medics declared. Accordingly, she has been referred from GB Pant Hospital to Ruby Hospital, Kolkata under Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Sadly under this scheme, as per the claim of the medical, cost of most of the expensive medical tests are not

(See page 6)



State President BJP Meets Fire Victims of Aerial Bay, Diglipur

Port Blair, Oct 20: Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State President, BJP A&N Islands, met the Shopkeepers of Aerial Bay Bazaar who were affected by the tragic fire accident which occurred on 18th October 2022. Immediately after



knowing about the unfortunate incident Mr. Bairagi

(See page 6)

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Police Commemoration Day-2022- Andaman & Nicobar Police pays Homage

Port Blair, Oct 21: On 21/10/2022, along with the police forces of States/UTs and different Central Police Organizations, Andaman & Nicobar Police conducted 'Police Commemoration Day Parade-2022' in a befitting manner at Parade Ground, Police Lines to pay homage to the police personnel, who laid down lives during the year while serving the nation. Shri Neeraj Thakur, IPS, Director General of Police, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shri Mohit Shisodia, Air Commodore, A&N Command, Shri Bhisham Sharma, Inspector General, Coast Guard and other senior officers of Andaman & Nicobar Police paid tribute to the brave souls by placing the wreaths & flowers at the "Shaheed Smarak".

21st October is observed as 'Police Commemoration Day' every year. 'Commemoration Day Parade' is conducted by the police forces of States/UTs and different Central Police Organizations to pay homage to 10 policemen, who were killed in Ladakh in the face-off with the Chinese Army in 1959 and all other police personnel who have sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation. Since 1947, nearly 36000 brave policemen have made supreme sacrifice while protecting the nation and its citizens from crime, terrorism



and insurgency. A total of 264 police personnel got martyrdom this year. Their names were respectfully read out by DGP, A&N Islands to mark respect and pay obeisance by observing two minute silence.

To highlight the bravery, valour of martyred police personnel, 'Police Service Flag Day' is observed every year. As part of the 'Police Service Flag Day', different commemorative events are conducted from 21st to 31st October, 2022 every year. On 21/10/2022, A 'Blood Donation Camp' in collaboration with Directorate of Health Services was organized at Drill Hall, Police Line. Shri Neeraj Thakur, IPS, DGP, A&N Islands, Shri Sanjay Kumar Jain, IPS, IGP (L&O) and other senior police officers donated blood. A&N Police planned to conduct/play skits on martyrdom especially in the area of martyrs to create awareness among youths. Eye Camp, Walkathon, Bike Rally, Cyber Awareness Programs, Beach Cleaning Drives, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and display of Police Brass & Pipe Band will also be conducted.

Death Mourned

Port Blair, Oct 21: ANTCC President Mr. Rangalal Halder, Chairman-Campaign Committee ANTCC Mr. TSG Bhasker and the entire family of Congress Party mourn the sudden demise of Mrs. Kanti Devi R/o Junglighat on 21st Oct 2022. She was a very dedicated Congress Leader and was involved with the Mahila Congress and held various portfolios in the Congress. We have lost a very good Human Being and a dedicated Worker. They felt any



conveys their heartfelt condolences and pray to give strength to the bereaved Family Members.

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ANTCC President Demands for Installation of Dialysis Service and appointment of Specialist Doctors at the District Hospital of Nicobar

Port Blair, Oct 21: ANTCC President Mr. Rangalal Halder has demanded The Director of Health services for immediate Installation of Dialysis Services and further Appointment of Specialist Doctors at District Hospital of Nicobar.

In the letter addressed to the Director, Directorate of Health Services, Mr. Halder said that to provide maximum Healthcare benefits to the patients by appointing necessary Specialist Doctors and Dialysis Care services in

Bishop John Richardson Hospital, Nicobar District.

He said that the existing District hospital in Nicobar is a key priority to receive affordable multi-speciality care in their place of stay. As patients from Nicobar are making a lot of effort in travelling to Port Blair for procuring their Health care facility and other necessary medical treatments.

He further mentioned that by providing Di-



alysis Services and Specialist Doctors at District Hospital of Nicobar could provide requisite benefits and reduce the time bound for the Patients of Nicobar.

CITU Extends Support to the Ongoing Indefinite Protest Demonstration of APWD Workers in A&N Islands

Port Blair, Oct 21: The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) extends full support to the ongoing indefinite mass

demonstrations of APWD Workers from 19th October, 2022 under the banner of The

SarvajanikNirmanVibagh Mazdoor Sangh (ASNVMS), affiliated to CITU, demanding (See page 4)

Cancellation of Sailing Programme of MV Dering

Port Blair, Oct 21: Director of shipping service is informing that due to the prevailing adverse weather conditions, the scheduled sailing programme of the vessel MV Dering for Diglipur via Mayabunder on

22.10.2022 at 1900 Hrs from Port Blair and her return voyage from Diglipur to Port Blair via Mayabunder on 23.10.2022 at 1230 Hrs has been cancelled. Passengers those who have purchased

their tickets for the above sailings are hereby informed to cancel their tickets and get full refund from STARS Ticketing Counters. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is regretted.

Sailing of MV Swaraj postponed till further notice

Port Blair, Oct 21: Director of shipping service is informing that in view of weather advisory issued by IMD about the formation of low pressure area over North Andaman Sea and adjoining areas and its likely intensification into a Cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal, this Directorate keeping in view the safety of the passengers and the vessel, the scheduled sailing programme

of MV Swaraj Dweep from Chennai to Port Blair on 23.10.2022 has been postponed till further notice. However, a fresh date of sailing of the vessel will be announced in due course.

Due to the above postponement, further schedule of the vessel to Vizag on 28.10.2022 and return voyage from Vizag to Port Blair on 01.11.2022

may also get affected. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is regretted. Passengers can also get update/status from the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay by using the Number 03192 - 245555/232714 & Toll Free Number 18003452714, Chennai Counter Number 044 - 25226873 & Vizag Counter Number 0891-2565584/2562661/2569404.

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PUBLIC ALERT !

₹ 25000/- CASH REWARD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC ON PROVIDING INFORMATION ON MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that on 08/10/2022, case vide FIR No. 45/22 dated 08/10/2022 U/S 363 IPC was registered at Police Station Diglipur on the suspected abduction/kidnapping of a minor boy namely Rohit Mondal S/o Ranjan Mondal (17 years 06 months) from Gandhi Nagar, Diglipur. All possible efforts are being carried out to search the missing boy in and around Diglipur Tehsil but whereabouts of the missing boy could not be traced till date.

The general public is hereby requested to pass any information regarding the whereabouts of Rohit Mondal with the nearest Police station or 112, 100, 03192-232100, 03192-233077/273344 or 9474232107 (SHO Diglipur) at the earliest.

The informer will be rewarded with a cash reward of Rs. 25000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) if the information leads to tracing of the missing boy. The identity of the informer will be kept secret.

Superintendent of Police
North & Middle Andaman

KVK-CIARI, South Andaman organizes Swachha Bharat Abhiyan

Port Blair, Oct 21: The ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Andaman, organizes a month-long programme under the umbrella of Swachha Bharat Abhiyan from 02nd Oct 2022 to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The series of event started by taking Swachhata pledge at KVK, Sippighat followed by a number of activities like record maintenance, cleaning and painting of the office premises etc. Cleanliness and

sanitation drive was carried out at Chouldari & Guptapara Panchayats under South Andaman district. Specialists from KVK delivered lectures on "recycling of agricultural waste through microorganism, enriched compost preparation, importance of social cleanliness, Nutri-Garden" etc. Awareness was created in market places regarding alternate ways of packaging material, proper disposal of animal waste etc. During the programme attempts were also

made to motivate farmers and farming community to become a part of this National Mission by keeping the premises of their houses, community halls and other public places clean. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Pr. Scientist & Head, KVK and coordinated by subject Matter Specialist of ICAR-KVK, South Andaman.

The programmes were organized under the guidance and supervision of Dr Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director CIARI, and Port Blair.

Ward Members Visit

Predominantly Areas Inhabited by Ranchi Community

Port Blair, Oct 21: The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Mr. Suneel Anchipaka, IAS, along with Mr. Dilkhush Meena, IAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SA), Mrs. Pramila Kumari, Adhyaksha, Zila Parishad, Tehsildar, Ferrargunj, Zila Parishad member, and concerned Gram Pradhan, ward members visits the areas predominantly inhabited by Ranchi community in Mithakhari, Namunaghar, Brindaban, Tushnabad Gram Panchayats.

During the visit, the DC (SA) interacted with the Ranchi community residents in these areas. The common issues raised during the interaction were frequent power cuts, irregular distribution of LPG cylinders, water supply, construction/repair/maintenance of roads etc.

In Mithkhari GP, the people raised the issue of electricity cut due to which activities of people were affected badly. The residents further requested for set apart of land for playground and PHC, separate Power sub-station, separate feeder for the Gram Panchayat and shifting of one of the transformer from Surya Chakra. Regarding the issue of irregular supply of LPG cylinders DC (SA) directed the concerned distributor to prepare monthly schedule for LPG cylinder distribution and strictly adhere to the schedule. The Tehsildar, Ferrargunj and the



area Patwari were also directed to handover the unutilized old building constructed under MPLAD fund to the Gram Panchayat, so that it can be used for multipurpose activities. It was informed that the road work towards Boating house and Boating house complex will be undertaken by Zilla Parishad, South Andaman for which estimate has been prepared already. In Namunaghar Gram Panchayat, Ranchi Community people requested for Primary School renovation including compound wall construction, and set apart land for development of Mini Stadium. Officials were requested for maintenance of Street light and water pipeline and it was informed that the construction of road under Special Financial Assistance has been proposed. The ranchibasti people requested to cover them under PMAY scheme as they were settled there by APWD and have been living for 70 years without pattas. In Brindaban Gram Panchayat, upon the request of Ranchi community members, DC (SA) directed Tehsildar, Ferrargunj to submit proposal along with public for set

apart of land for Bus stand development. It was further informed that the maintenance work of road from Shaitan Khari to Ferrargunj will be taken up by APWD. In Tushnabad Gram Panchayat, the ranchi community members requested for renovation of Community Hall and set apart of land for construction of Anganwadi building and road connectivity through GPDP works. The DC (SA) requested the Gram Panchayat to submit the estimates for the renovation of the community hall and further concerned officials were requested for proper repair and maintenance of water pipeline and street lights. The Ranchi community expressed their gratitude towards the District Administration for the special focus given to all the above mentioned areas during COVID times. The DC (SA) motivated the Ranchi community members that the District Administration is committed for the welfare and overall development of South Andaman District and the District Administration requests the public to come forward with genuine issues related to development of their area.

Second Counselling of DIET, Garacharma

Port Blair, Oct 20: DIET has informing some of the seats under various categories are lying vacant at DIET, Garacharma. To fill up the vacant seats, the second counselling of eligible candidates for admission to two-

year D.El.Ed. Course at Dr. S. R. DIET, Garacharma for the session 2022-23 shall be held on 28-10-2022 (Science, 09.00 am) & 29-10-2022 (Humanities, 09.00 am) in the auditorium of DIET on the basis of Final Merit List as per schedule given below.

Sl. No.	Category	Vacant Seats (Science)	As per Final Merit list (Science)	Vacant Seats (Humanities)	As per Final merit list (Humanities)
1	I (Tribal)	01	Cat. I Sl. No. 08	01	Cat. I Sl. No- 10 to 17
2	II (CGEW)	02	Cat. II Sl. No-01 to 03	03	Cat. II Sl. No- 01 to 06
3	III a (Pre-42)	Nil	Nil	01	Cat. III a Sl. No-10 to 66
4	III b (Settlers)	01	Cat. III b Sl. No- 18 to 55	Nil	Nil
5	IV (10 Years Continuous Edn.)	02	Cat. IV Sl. No-18 to 165	Nil	Nil
6	Differently abled (Divyang)	01	Differently abled (Divyang) Sl. No-0	Nil	Nil
7	Teacher's ward	01	Teacher's ward Sl. No-09 to 11	Nil	Nil
8	Sports			01	Cat. V All eligible candidates from Science & Humanities
	Total	08		06	

They Further added, if any seat remains vacant after second counselling in Cat I to IV & special categories as specified above shall be allotted from the final merit list of Cat-V (General) of the respective stream on the same day, as such all the eligible candidates of Cat V (General) are requested to be present on the day of second counselling.

Also the Candidates selected for admission to this course during the counselling session shall be given admission on the same day. The selected candidates should de-

posit the admission fees (Rs/- 2080 for hostellers & Rs/- 980/- for day scholars), copies of certificates along with original certificates, two passport size photographs and other documents may be submitted on the day of admission, failing which, admission will not be considered. Those who fail to attend the counselling session in time will not be considered for admission to the course and the next eligible candidate in the merit list shall be considered for admission. Also they provide phone numbers for clarifications: 9434275511, 9933204507.

Unnat Bharat...

(From page 4)

Responsibility and Rural Development on 21.10.2022.

During the inauguration the Chief Guest Dr. R. Murugesan, Director (NIRD & PR NERC) has informed the gathering that real India lives in villages by depending on agriculture and allied activities as their livelihood. The various income generating activities are being carried out by them with the assistance of schemes like Aajeevika for sustainable livelihood development, he added. Dr. Murugesan has further underscored the concept of CSR and its process, steps in developing a CSR Strat-

egy.

Through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode especially with the support of CSR the Atmanirbhar Bharat activities could be accelerated in collaboration with Panchayat Raj Institutions, he added. Dr. H. K. Sharma, Principal, JNRM, spoke on the importance of rural development and community partnerships through HEIs. Dr. K. Venkatesan, HOD, Home Science and Coordinator of this programme spoke about the Institute Social Responsibility through Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and adoption of villages. Altogether 100 students and faculty members attended this webinar.

Team PBGKR...

(From page 4)

theresidents of Abbhuday Complex at Ferrargunj which has Old Age Home, Divyang Home and Children Home. Team Guru Ki Rasoi second year celebrate Diwali with the residents of Abbhudaya Complex Ferrargunj.

Sweets and Crackers were distributed among the kids and diya with sweets

to elderly to spread joy and happiness.

Diwali embarks the festival of win against evil and by lighting diya and spreading light to kill darkness. Mandeep Grewal, President, PBGKR said "We are blessed and super happy to celebrate Diwali for thesecond year in a row at Ferrargunj and we only wish to do so as long as possible.

Special Surveillance Carries Out by Food Safety Department

Port Blair, Oct 21: In the ensuing festive occasion, during which the demand for sweets, savories, milk and milk products like khoya, paneer etc increases across the country, in such scenario, the preventive actions including carrying out special surveillance/enforcement drives by Food Safety Department is an effective tool to curb the malpractices while ensuring safety of such products. Accordingly, the officials of the Food Safety Department conducted special drives in the last few days in South Andaman District. As a part of

these drive samples of sweets, savories, milk and milk products etc. were collected from various manufacturers/bake houses and sweet stalls for its analysis through FSSAI notified laboratories. Further, strict vigil is being kept on the manufacturing and sale of sweets, savories and milk products during the on-going festive occasion. The Commissioner Food Safety, A&N Islands/Dy. Commissioner, South Andaman District has requested all the FBOs to refrain from using any chemicals or preservatives in food items which



are not permitted under the Act. The general public is also requested to may pass information or lodge complaints or grievances on toll free No. 1077 or 03192-236168, 03192-236112.

(From page 1)

Old Lady...

covered.

On the other hand, the elderly indigent woman became bereaved the day her husband died two years ago while she has no son to look after her in her old age; she is putting up with her sister. She is survived by and on the mercy of her three daughters who are married and who have their own families to see. Besides, her all the three sons-in-law are pvt. workers and are from a financially weaker section.

Smti Das a wretched widow and who is already

crippled with high BP has been put in a grievous situation after she has been referred to mainland with her broken arm. She is now ruefully pleading with the people to generously extend her financial help so that she may proceed to the mainland and get her arm cured by the right treatment.

With the help of some collection the family has arranged a ticket for reaching Kolkata for treatment but the family can't afford the cost of lodging, boarding and also the

cost of various tests conducted by Mainland Hospitals, which are not covered under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, as it is claimed.

The old lady has appealed to all generous people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to contribute some amount for her treatment. The amount in the shape of financial help may generously be deposited in her Bank Account No. 638502010004923 or call her family member at 9933281244 for any kind of support, she added.

(From page 1)

Staff Crunch...

reckon with as first responders to natural disasters, the network of Fire Stations spread across these islands has mostly drawn praise from citizens in the recent years (barring a few unfortunate incidents) and the allegations into the Aerial Bay mishap appears to be serious in nature.

Shortage of manpower, delay in filling up of sanctioned posts, declining number of technical officers in the senior rank owing to superannuations and delay in departmental promotions, ageing fleet of vehicles and equipments, hurdles in execution of modernization plans are among the major issues that has started taking a toll on the force.

As per reports, the A & N Police Fire Service is currently running short of around 400 staff in various cadres. Retirement of many senior officers this year has left a void in the technical arm in the crucial agency. Delay in filling up such posts holding Departmental Promotional Committee (DPC) meetings has become the need of the hour.

It is also learnt that many other officials in the Fire Services Department are due to attain superannuation in the year 2024 and shortage of staff will only add to the work burden on the existing pool of staff adversely hampering the functioning of the agency that is directly related to public lives and property.

As per reliable information, the

Fire Station at Diglipur is currently running short of staff owing to delay in filling up of sanctioned vacancies, routine transfer and postings, retirement of staff etc and the limited number of fire fighters presently posted at the Fire Station (headed by an Assistant Sub Inspector) are facing countless problems in carrying out their mandated duties.

The Fire Station that covers a massive jurisdiction of around 900 sq.kms and a population of over 1 lakh including remotely located hamlets, forest areas etc presently has 3 Fire Tenders, one Ambulance and one Utility Vehicle. However, delay in timely maintenance of existing vehicles and equipments, execution of modernization plans is reportedly caused mainly by staff crunch at the Station and seeks immediate attention of the senior officers in the Andaman and Nicobar Police Fire Services.

"The Andaman and Nicobar Police Fire Services has 24 Fire Stations located in different parts of this geographically distributed island territory. But due to acute shortage of staff, most of these Stations are being headed by Constable-ranked staff. With an approximate staff strength of nearly 400, lack of promotions, delay in filling up of sanctioned vacancies etc have been long troubling the hardworking employees of the department. Allocating crucial tasks supervised in the techni-

cal wing of the headquarters of the Fire Services (lying or left vacant after retirements) to competent and eligible officials, at least on Current Duty Charge, can probably be one immediate way-out to ensure proper supervision of Fire Stations located in outer islands, address their concerns on priority basis, keep a track on timely execution of modernization plans as also get staffing issues resolved ensuring proper coordination with higher officials in the Andaman and Nicobar Police Fire Services. We just hope the authorities concerned pay timely attention in this regard. However, as a team we are a committed force. We're fire-proof and each one of us give their best to maintain the hard-earned reputation of the agency, despite prevailing challenges," said a firefighter, who doesn't wish to be named.

Regarding shortage of manpower when contacted the SP of Fire Services, Varsha Sharma told Andaman Sheekha Daily that the department is well aware of this issue.

She added that the Department is working on the recruitment process, which is taking some time to complete. "Soon positive results will come," she added.

Regarding the allegations of professional negligence during the Aerial Bay fire accident she said that the matter is under investigation. "Our team is collecting reports," she added.

Advisory to General Public and Tourist View Inclement Weather

Port Blair, Oct 21: Director of shipping service has information all passengers/general public that due to prevailing adverse weather conditions, the

status of the announced schedule for Saturday the 22nd October, 2022 in respect of Foreshore sector vessels are detailed below :-

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE VESSEL	DEPARTURE TIME	DESTINATION PORT	STATUS
1.	MV Dering	1900 Hrs	Port Blair to Diglipur via Mayabunder (Return voyage on 23.10.2022 at 1230 Hrs)	Cancelled
2.	MV Bambooka	0630 Hrs	Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep	All sailings are subject to favourable weather condition.
	MV Bambooka	1400 Hrs		
	MV Kamorta	1700 Hrs		
	MV Kamorta	0600 Hrs		
	MV Bambooka	0900 Hrs		
	MV Bambooka	1630 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep to Port Blair	Will be reviewed one hour prior to scheduled departure of the vessel.
3.	MV Strait Island	0630 Hrs	Port Blair to Shaheed Dweep	
		0845 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep to Port Blair	
4.	MV Chouldari	1100 Hrs	Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep	
		1430 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep to Port Blair via Shaheed Dweep	
5.	MV Baratang	0615 Hrs	Rangat via Shaheed Dweep, Swaraj Dweep, Strait Island & Long Island (Return voyage on 23.10.2022 at 0615 Hrs)	

Similarly, in the prevailing weather conditions, operation of Harbour/Vehicle ferry services between Chatham, Bambooflat, Phoenix Bay, Dundas Point, Panigat and out stations may also get disrupted/suspended in short notice depending upon the weather condition.

They mentioned, Passengers can also get update/status of the vessels from the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay by using the Number 03192 - 245555/232714 & Toll Free Number 18003452714. The passengers and tourists are advised to plan their journey suitably to avoid any inconvenience.

State President...

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flew to Diglipur from Port Blair on 19th and met the victims along with the District leaders of Diglipur. After reaching there Mr. Bairagi looked after the arrangements made for the affected Shop keepers.

Mr. Ajoy Bairagi with District President, Diglipur along with all leaders, and elected rep-

resentatives of Diglipur collected and distributed relief materials like Ration items, cash, clothes and many more essentials to the affected people. Further after reaching Port Blair Mr. Ajoy Bairagi will meet the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration along with the shopkeepers who have lost everything in the tragic fire incident.

WANTED

Chef (Indian/Chinese/continental)-1
Kitchen helper-1
Wild Heart
Cafe & Restaurant
Jodakilannear Petrol Pump
Ph-9679505013

LAND FOR SALE

400 Sq meter Singal Patta, Wimberley Gunj,
Kamsrait Dam Road
Ph No: 9933203909, 9474236793

PLOT FOR SALE

Plot for sale @ Namunagar on main roadside. Each plot 200 sqmtr. Interested Parties May contact: 9474205042, 9933265706.

Land For Sale

200 sq. mtrs. Land in Tushnabad price at Rs. 4 Lakh
200 sq. mtrs. Land in Wimberlygunj price at Rs. 12 Lakh
200 sq. mtrs. Land in PatharGudda & Macca Pahad
Interested Party may
Contact to 9933712807/ 9474214859