

# ANDAMAN SHEEKHA

True Mirror of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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## Students of GMSSS Sitanagar block road at Kalighat demands regular Bus Service



**Rabindranath Biswas & John Wilbert**

Sheekha News Service

Kalighat/Diglipur, Dec 15: The school students of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sitanagar, Diglipur blocked the road at Kalighat Bazaar and stopped the STS bus enroute from Diglipur Bazaar (See page 6)

## Member of Parliament requests to charge fare of only one seat from all stretcher patients of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Port Blair, Dec 15: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the (See page 5)

## Viral Social Media message about Child Kidnapper turns out to be fake; Police urges public to double check forward messages before forwarding

**John Wilbert & Rabindranath Biswas**

Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Dec 15: A message went viral on social media

regarding a suspected man allegedly, a child kidnapper, roaming in Bathubasti area has triggered panic among residents of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and leaving thousands of parents and children deeply worried. In that viral message, the photo of a man was shared by many people, and following this, this man was later detained by the Police from (See page 6)

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## Member of Parliament sanctions several Developmental Works for Little Andaman worth Rs. 74,93,311 from MPLADS funds

Port Blair, Dec 15: Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, the Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has sanctioned several developmental works for the people of Little Andaman Islands under various Panchayats worth Rs. 74,93,311 (Seventy-four Lakhs ninety-three thousand and three hundred eleven rupees) from MPLADS fund.

Various development works sanctioned by the Member of Parliament are given below.

1. Installation of Floodlights

(LED) at RRO Playground at Hut Bay Gram Panchayat, Little Andaman for development of sports and cultural activities. Youths of the area will be able to play under Floodlights till night hours.

**At the Cost of Rs.14,93,311.**

2. Construction of children park at RK Pur, Little Andaman.

**At the Cost of Rs. 10 lakhs.**

3. Installation of Multi Gym at Panchayat Bhavan, Vivekananda Pur, Little Andaman for physical activities of youths.

**At the Cost of Rs.15 Lakhs**

4. Construction of Small Mini stadium gallery of 100 seating capacity at Playground, Rabindranagar GP, Little Andaman for sports and cultural activities of the youths.

**At the Cost of Rs.10 lakhs**

5. Installation of multi Gym at Chidambaram Park, Hut Bay for physical activities of youths.

**At the Cost of Rs.10 lakhs**

6. Providing Mortuary Van to the Panchayat Samity, Little Andaman for transportation of dead bodies. At the Cost of Rs.15 lakhs.

## State President, BJP, Ajoy Bairagi Meets Chief Secretary



Port Blair, Dec 15: Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State President, BJP A&N Islands met Mr. Keshav Chandra, IAS, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration at his office today and discussed the below given issues and submitted two different representations with regards to the is-

ssues Concerned. The issues discussed are to release of salary of Anganwadi Workers and providing of Nutritious Food / Ration Articles to Children and to provide immediate relief to 18 families affected / ruined by the construction work of Defence at (See page 6)

## Advisory for Seat Distribution

Port Blair, Dec. 15: The candidates who have applied for allotment of various Professional/Technical/Non-Technical courses reserved at mainland institutions for the academic session 2022-23 have been informed that the counseling of the courses viz. BDS-1 seat (surrendered seat of Cat -IV)(Govt. Dental College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra); BAMS - 1 seat (reserved for Category - III A)(MMM Govt. Ayurvedic College, Udaipur,

Rajasthan) and BHMS-1 seat (reserved seat of Cat-III A) (National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata) will be held on Dec.16, 2022 at 3.30 pm in the Conference Hall of Secretariat. All the interested candidates whose name appeared in the merit list of above courses have been directed to appear in person with all educational qualification certificates/testimonials in original along with five passport size photographs and 2 permanency certificates for sureties

and other documents in support of their category for counseling on the date, time and venue as specified above. If the seats are unutilized from the respective categories, the same may be allotted from Category-V as per merit. No subsequent claim will be entertained or considered from any candidate, irrespective of his merit, fails to appear in person or does not produce necessary certificates in original at the time of counseling/selection.

## Heavy Rain Warning

Port Blair, Dec. 15: As per Indian Meteorological Department's weather forecast, heavy rain (07-11 cm) is likely to occur at one or two

places over Nicobar Islands on Dec. 16. For further enquiries / information, one may contact helpline of State Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline No.

1070 & District Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline No. 1077. For any assistance, call Coast Guard, SAR Agency at Toll Free No. 1554.

## Awareness-cum-People's Education programme

Port Blair, Dec.15: An Awareness-cum-People's Education programme was organized in the Community Hall, Ograbraj in convergence with A&N Rural Livelihood Mission, Department of RD & Panchayat, Agriculture, Fisheries, Lead Bank and A&N State Cooperative Bank to sensitize about Prime Minister's Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme, Flagship Schemes of Govt. of India implemented by line Department and initiatives of A&N Administration aiming at promoting self employment and development of Industrial activities utilizing the resources available in agriculture and fisheries sector.

The programme was organized involving the Gram Panchayats of Mithakhari, Tushnabad, Namunaghar &



Chouldari which was attended by 209 participants mostly SHGs, Cooperative Societies, FPOs, Farmers & unemployed rural youth. The Department had also setup 2 dedicated Help Desk for PMFME and PMEGP Schemes manned with Technical Resource Persons for filling and uploading applications in the PMFME and PMEGP portal.

The programme was graced by Shri Rahul Dev, IAS (Pbr.) as the chief guest. Shri Rajender Pal, BDO (Ferrargunj), Shri Umar

Farroq, Lead District Manager, Shri Sindhupathi Raja, Nodal Officer (PMFME), Shri Ramesh Kumar, Assistant Director (Agri.), Ms. Gurjeet Kaur, Extension Officer (RD), Shri Mohammed Shafique, Pradhan (Mithakhari), Shri Venkat, Pradhan (Namunaghar), Shri Tapashi Shah, Pradhan (Chouldari), and Officials of Industries, Fisheries, Agriculture, RD & Panchayat, A&N KVIB and A&N State Cooperative bank were also (See page 5)

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5.	PRE - PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
6.	PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
7.	X - RAY TECHNOLOGY	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
8.	SANITARY INSPECTOR	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
9.	MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN	2YEARS	12 <sup>TH</sup>
10.	OPERATION THEATER ASSISTANT	2YEARS	12 <sup>TH</sup>
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## Port Blair Guru Ki Rasoi Donates Computer System Unit to Govt. Primary School, Ograbraj



Port Blair, Dec 15: The smile and happiness on the faces of the students of Primary School Ograbraj was seen when the School received a Complete Computer System with Printer from Team PBGKR.

When Mr. Bhupinder Singh, Head Master reached out to Mr. Mandeep Grewal, President, PBGKR and requested for the Computer System Unit for the students of Primary School, Ograbraj as it

was a long pending requirement of the School.

Mr. Mandeep Grewal thanked Mr. Dhanbalan, Max Computers to come forward and help Team PBGKR to fulfill the demand of the School.

"We will try their best to serve as many schools as possible, we are thankful to all who are coming forward to support us for the noble causes" added Mr. Grewal.

## Death Mourned

Port Blair, Dec 15: Friends of Jawahar School, 1992 batch A & N Islands express their deepest condolence on the untimely demise of Mr. Mohd Ansar, JE ALHW, who died on 14 of Dec 2022. They pray for the departed soul and for the family to bear the irreparable loss.



## My Visit to Ooty and Mysore: An Experience of Lifetime



**Ms Simran Kiro, M.Sc.  
Final Year, Botany  
Department, JNRM**

I embarked on my 10-day educational-cum-study tour to Ooty and Mysore (via Chennai) with a free spirit and a thirst for adventure and knowledge. The tour was organized by the Botany Department, JNRM. It was my first trip to these far-off locations without my family. So, I was feeling a little overwhelmed. We were, however, a group of 13 M.Sc. final-year students, with a teacher in charge and a lady staff member.

**Day 1: 25th Nov. 2022  
(Journey from Port Blair to Chennai)**

I left my aunt's house at 7  
(See page 4)



## MESSAGE

16th December is celebrated every year as 'Vijay Diwas' to commemorate and celebrate the Indian Armed Forces' victory in the 1971 war. This day gives us an opportunity to express our respect and gratitude towards our armed forces and pay homage to our martyrs.

On the special occasion of Vijay Diwas, I urge all the residents of A&N Islands to join the whole nation, to remember and salute the selfless service, heroic valour and exemplary sacrifices of the gallant men of our Armed Forces.

**Jai Hind!**

(Admiral D K Joshi)

**PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.) Lt Governor, A&N Islands  
& Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency**

## AFFIDAVIT

I Smti Amita Biswas, (Aadhaar No. 5720 3474 3585), W/o- Shri Sujan Biswas, aged about 59 years., residing at Kishorinagar village, ward No.03, Diglipur Tehsil, N&M Andaman District do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am the permanent resident of these Islands.
2. That my actual and correct name is **Amita Biswas** but due to bonafide mistakes my name has been wrongly recorded as **Anitha Rani Bala** instead of **Amita Biswas** in my Land Record bearing Sy. No.429/29, and area 0.02 hect, situated at Kishorinagar village, Diglipur Tehsil of N&M Andaman District.
3. I hereby declare that **Anitha Rani Bala** and **Amita Biswas** both are the name of one and same identical person.

The above made statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I have not suppressed any material fact.

**DEPONENT**



**SMOKING &  
PASSIVE SMOKING  
CAUSES CANCER**

**QUIT SMOKING  
TODAY**

CAMPAIGN BY ANDAMAN SHEEKHA





## My Visit to...

(From page 3)

a.m. and arrived at Veer Savarkar International Airport. My two aunts and cousin came to say goodbye. Our flight Go Airline was scheduled to depart at 10:55 a.m. but was delayed for unknown reasons. This was my first flight experience, which was okay, and finally, we landed in Chennai at 1:30 p.m. We boarded a minibus and reached the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Taramani. The research institute was founded by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, a pioneer agricultural scientist known as the "Father of the Green Revolution" in India.

We were warmly welcomed by staff members of the MSSRF. We were shown a presentation in the seminar room about MSSRF and their work by the Communication Director Ms. Sangeeta Rajeeesh. Following that, we went to the gallery, where everyone was amazed to see the collection of awards and achievements bestowed upon Dr. MS Swaminathan.

Then, we visited three laboratories: the Microbiology Lab, the Lichen Ecology and Bioprospecting Lab, and the Molecular Biology Lab. After visiting the labs, we explored 2 gardens: (a) Touch and smell garden - In this garden, planted plants' names are written in Braille language which is helpful for blind people (b) Nutrition garden - They planted various plant varieties that are high in nutrients like vitamins and other essential elements. This garden assisted us in providing information about the nutritional contents of various plants. Our MSSRF interactive session ended around 5:15 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., we boarded a minibus and traveled for more than two hours to Andaman Bhavan, which is located in Anna Nagar, about 18 kilometers from MSSRF. I had firsthand knowledge of what it meant to be stuck in traffic!

### Day 2: 26th Nov 2022 (Traveling Day from Chennai to Ooty)

I was looking forward to an exciting journey because we had to travel more than 12 hours by train and bus to reach Ooty. I got up early and was in the Andaman Bhavan lobby at 3:50 am. From being a late

riser, I metamorphosed myself to an early riser! We arrived comfortably at Chennai Central Railway station at 5 am and waited for the Kovai Express train. Our eight hours journey from Chennai to Coimbatore started at 6:10 am. Many vendors were selling various items on the train, such as food, key chains, soft drinks, and so on. It was occasionally irritating to hear the vendors' sounds repeatedly, but they did it to meet both ends. Finally, at 2:05 p.m., we arrived at Coimbatore Railway Station and had lunch at a nearby vegetarian restaurant, which was wholesome and filling.

We took a minibus from Coimbatore to Ooty at 4 p.m. Midway, the driver stopped the bus for a break and we energized ourselves with snacks for the meandering ride ahead. I drank salted lemonade and also brought some snacks. As we moved uphill, I began to feel a chill. I noticed a change in vegetation as we got closer to Ooty, which is at an elevation of 2240 meters. Around 8:30 p.m. we reached Ooty. Finally, I was in Ooty - the Queen of Hill Stations! It was bitterly cold, and a few of us were shivering because we were experiencing cold for the first time, and our bodies were in shock, unable to adjust to the new environment. We stayed at the Tamil Nadu Hotel Unit II, a beautiful and comfortable TTDC government property that had been pre-booked for us. Everyone fell asleep right after dinner!

### Day 3: 27th Nov (Ooty first day tour)

It was our first day in Ooty and the most beautiful day. My day began early at 5:00 a.m., with some unfinished writing from the previous day. We had a delicious complimentary buffet breakfast served in the hotel restaurant at 8:00 a.m. Our minibus "NITIN" arrived on the hotel premises at 8:30 a.m. We started our local Ooty sight-seeing tour at 9:05 a.m.

Tea and Chocolate Factory: Our first stop was at the Tea and Chocolate Factory. I saw various types of chocolate, such as roasted almond chocolate, fig chocolate, dark chocolate, and so on. In the tea factory, we saw firsthand how tea leaves are transformed into a hot cup of tea after going through various processes. We brought chocolate and tea and tasted some free sample tea.

Pine forest: Our sec-

ond location was a pine forest, which we explored for half an hour. We collected pine cones and learned about these plants' adaptations. We also took pictures of the scenery. This is a well-known location where many movies, songs, and TV shows have been filmed.

Wenlock Down: It is a hilltop with a stunning view of the meadows and valley. We climbed the winding path to the top of the hill. And once there, the views are breathtaking all around! There are beautiful meadows all around. We had some of the most memorable times running around and taking great photos because it was drizzling. Monica, a friend and an avid photographer, did an excellent job photographing the valley with her prized DSLR camera!

On the way, we saw the Pykara Dam, which is used for hydropower generation. Finally, we had our lunch in a small dhaba near the Pykara Waterfall.

Pykara Waterfall: We continued our tour by walking towards Pykara Waterfall. It took us 10 minutes to reach the waterfall. It was a breathtaking view, and I wondered at the marvel of nature. We spent almost an hour amidst the amazing nature and collected specimens of mosses, lichens, and *Selaginella* that were growing luxuriantly.

Cauvery silk factory Our next stop was the Cauvery Silk Factory Shop. It had some nice collections of silk sarees, wooden statues of Hindu gods and goddesses, essential oils, sandal wood items. Many of these items were made by a Dravidian ethnic group called the Toda tribes.

### Wax museum

The final spot of our first-day Ooty tour was the Wax Museum. The museum houses stunning wax replicas of freedom fighters such as Mahatma Gandhi, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and many others. We ended our day by visiting an unplanned destination - the Horror Room. It was quite terrifying due to the sounds and horrifying statues. We arrived at our hotel on Charring Cross Road around 6:00 p.m.

### Day 4: 28th Nov (It's our Toy train day)

It's our second day in Ooty. We headed off for a mesmerizing Nilgiri Mountain Toy Train journey from Ooty to Coonoor and back. My day

began quite early, and after our complimentary breakfast around 7:45 am, we reached the beautiful Udhagamandalam station. The toy train arrived at the station around 9 a.m. The toy train took over an hour to reach Coonoor, passing through picturesque tea gardens, dense forests and tunnels. I enjoyed every single breathtaking view from the slow-moving toy train!

### Sim's Park

We visited two places in Coonoor. The first was Sim's Park. This is a biological park and botanical garden that spans more than 28.35 acres and contains over 800 plants from various countries around the world. All plants are given a common name, a scientific name and the year they were introduced into the biological park. Among the many attractions in this park are Rudraksha, the bead tree, and the Queensland Karry Pine, a beautiful ornamental tree. Some of these plants were introduced as early as 1889. We collected bryophyte specimens growing in the wild. We ate a delicious lunch at the nearby Marathi dhaba "Mahalakshmi" and then rested for a while.

### Pasteur Institute of India

We went to the well-known research institute Pasteur Institute of India, which is a pioneer in the production of vaccines such as those against rabies, polio, anthrax, and DPT. We were shown a detailed PowerPoint presentation of vaccine production technology and were able to freely interact with the institute's scientists. It was a fantastic learning opportunity for me. The interaction session was concluded with a group photo.

We took a bus from the Pasteur Institute to the Coonoor bus stop. We made it to Coonoor railway station just 10 minutes before the train's departure time of 4 o'clock. We arrived in Ooty at 5.10 p.m. and went straight to our hotel for some much-needed rest.

### Day 5: 29th Nov (The Garden Day)

Today is the final day of our Ooty tour. I awoke around 5:30 a.m. after a restful night's sleep and ate my complimentary buffet breakfast in the hotel restaurant at 8:00 a.m. After that, we began our final day in Ooty by walking towards our much-antici-

pated destination: the famous Ooty Botanical Garden. The garden covers an area of 55 acres and contains a variety of vegetation, such as flowering plants and succulent plants in the glass house, numerous types of ferns in the Fern House, and large rooted trees in the ground. However, flowering plants are the main attraction, and there is also a beautifully organized cactus garden. I ended up purchasing two young plants (succulent and flowering) from the sales counter.

With our HOD's permission, we went shopping and ate fast food at well-known restaurants in the evening.

### Day 6: 30th Nov (Traveling day from Ooty to Mysuru)

Today was the day we traveled by bus from one state to another, from Tamil Nadu to Karnataka. I've turned into a morning person these days. We had to get to the Ooty bus stop before 6:30 a.m. We had reserved an autorickshaw the day before and arrived at Ooty bus station on time. We ate our breakfast of brown bread with jam while waiting for the bus. I saw the sun for the first time in Ooty, and it felt great to soak up the early morning rays. We took the Karnataka State Government Bus, and I had a window seat. I took full advantage of my window seat and observed the changing vegetation and climate as we descended.

I noticed the temperature rising during the trip. We drove through Madumalai Tiger Reserve, seeing various animals and bird species. As we passed through the border gate and entered Karnataka, the name of the reserve changed from Madumalai Tiger Reserve to Bandipur Tiger Reserve. I was very amused! We arrived in Mysore at 2:10 p.m. and checked into our pre-booked hotel, Kaveri Hotel Bed and Breakfast, which was a short walk from Mysore Palace. After freshening up and eating lunch, we walked to "The Mysore Palace" at around 4:00 p.m.

The Mysore Pal-  
(See page 5)

## Member of...

Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India to give special concession to all stretcher patients of Andaman and Nicobar Islands so that they have to pay the cost of only one seat instead of nine seats to Airlines Companies.

In a letter addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation the Member of Parliament added that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated nearly 1200 KM (approx) away from nearest Airport in Mainland India, Chennai and Kolkata,

for serious medical cases, evacuation in passenger aircraft is the only option.

He added that in the recent past for evacuation of serious stretcher patients from Port Blair till now family members of the patient had to pay Rs. 1,32,000 (One lakh thirty two thousands) one way, excluding cost of tickets for patient attendants.

He pointed out that nearly two months back the rate of tickets for stretcher patients has been almost doubled without any valid reason to nearly Rs. 2,41,000

(two lakh forty one thousand only), which has come as a massive blow to the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, most of whom can't afford to buy tickets for stretcher patient in such a high rate in case of medical emergency.

He mentioned that charging such an exorbitant amount from stretcher patients during the time of medical emergencies is unethical.

The member of Parliament further pointed out that before 2007 for some years the Government of In-

dia had fixed the rate for stretcher patients from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, under which a stretcher patient had to pay only Rs. 29,000 approx (lump-sum rate), which used to be issued through ANIIDCO. But in 2007 the fare was revised.

He mentioned that in 2009, replying to a Parliament Question the Civil Aviation Ministry has stated that Air India had revised the stretcher fare with effect from 15.05.2007 from a single fare to six fares for

carrying invalid passengers on stretcher from Port Blair since they need to remove a maximum of 9 seats for accommodating the stretcher.

He pointed out that if cost of 9 seats are calculated, considering Rs. 10,000 as average fare for one seat then also the total cost remains Rs. 90,000 which is much lower than Rs. 2,41,000 (two lakh forty one thousand only), the present fare.

Hence, he requested the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation to intervene in this

(From page 1)

(See page 6)

## Awareness-cum...

present.

In his inaugural address, the chief guest briefed about the importance of this programme considering the scenario of A&N Islands in terms of unemployment vis-à-vis the potential of A&N Islands in different sector. He also urged participants to avail the schemes of the developing agencies for

their economic development.

The BDO explained about PM Aawas Yojana and other block schemes and motivated the participants to utilize the opportunities created by the Govt. for addressing their personal needs. ShriSindhupathi Raja, Nodal Officer (PMFME) delivered key note address and gave detailed presentation about

PMFME scheme of MoFPI implemented by Industries Department under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahatsov. Besides this, other Flagship and UT Schemes implemented by Line Departments and implementing agencies viz. PMEGP, PM MatsyaSampada Yojana,

Standup India, Social Security's Scheme etc. were explained in details by their representatives.

In the concluding session, the forum was opened up for interaction and Q&A session for the participants in which clarification sought by the participants on the different schemes were answered by the Department

representatives. The CRPs accompanied by the SHGs requested for creating marketing assistance ensuring availability of packaging material, poultry chicks & other inputs for livelihood of farming community. The programme ended with a proposal for conducting frequent awareness programme at different panchayat of A&N Islands.

(From page 2)

## My Visit to...

ace is a massive, mesmerizing, and eye-catching masterpiece of architecture. We were allowed to enter barefoot. There was a crowd of thousands of people visiting the palace. I saw many pieces of silver, gold, and stone furniture and statues used by Mysore's kings, queens, and royal families. The most expensive piece of furniture, the *Golden Howdah* which served as the Maharaja's seat during the Mysuru Dasara procession, weighs over 750 kg and is constructed entirely of pure gold. Teak wood was used to make the doors. I'm in awe of the skilled craftspeople who created this magnificent palace. Next, we went to St. Philomena Church, which was located near the Mysore Palace.

St. Philomena's Cathedral: It is one of the oldest and tallest churches in Asia. Its architecture and design are meticulously detailed, and it contains statues of Jesus Christ, Mother Mary, and St. Philomena. It is a holy place for Christians and believers, and visitors come for prayers, confession of sins, and many other reasons.

We finished our first day in Mysore by shopping at Nexus Center City Mall and returning to the hotel by taking an autorickshaw booked

through the OLA service app.

### Day 7: 1<sup>st</sup> Dec (Last day of our Mysore tour)

Mysore is a historical city in South India known for its magnificent monuments. On our last day, we visited some of the famous places like Mysore Zoo, the Bonsai Garden, etc.

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens: We arrived around 9:15 a.m. and walked through the entire zoo. It was massive, covering an area of 250 acres and containing a diverse range of species. In 2017, Mysuru Zoo celebrated its "125th anniversary" (quasiquicentennial). I saw a variety of birds, snakes, and other animals. The zoological gardens' diverse flora and fauna were eye-catching, as I was seeing them for the first time.

Then we went to Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Ashram, where we saw the Bonsai Garden and Shuka Vana (a rehabilitation center for birds).

KishkindhaMoolika Bonsai garden: Bonsai is the practice of miniaturizing plants and growing them in trays or pots. The term "bonsai" is derived from the words "bon" (tray) and "sai" (tree).

The garden was filled with bonsai plants, some of which had been planted as early as 1942. The calm and

soothing environment of the garden gave me meditation vibes. The garden was beautifully organized, and I was quite astonished!

The Shuka Vana was located in the opposite direction of the Bonsai Garden. It is an aviary in which birds are cared for. Aside from the birds, there were statues of numerous gods and Maharishis. It was a relaxing sensation. We had our lunch on the premises of the Ashram, which was simple and delicious and only cost forty rupees. Around 1 pm, we left the ashram for our next destination, Chamudi Hills.

Sri Chamundeshwari Temple: We took a bus to Chamudi Hill, which is 3300 feet above sea level. Because of the high altitude, I experienced dizziness while traveling. Chamundi Hill's vegetation was completely different. It was more of a shrubby environment. We arrived at 2:05 p.m., five minutes late. As a result, we had to wait 1.5 hours for the temple gates to reopen at 3:30 p.m. I realized the importance of time! During this time, we went shopping in ChamudiBazaar and met up in front of the temple at 3:15 p.m. Sri Chamarajendra Temple is a Hindu holy place that was built in the 12th cen-

tury. It's a goddess temple with separate tikka and prasad areas. We completed our Mysore tour with this temple visit and returned to our hotel.

### Day 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec (Traveling from Mysore to Chennai)

The 10-hour train ride was significantly longer than the previous one. So, we planned ahead of time for the long journey. We had our breakfast and packed *kichdi* prepared by the hotel staff for our lunch. We reached Mysore railway station by cab around 9:40 a.m. for our train, the Bhagmati Express, and waited on the train for its departure at 10:30 a.m. The train ride was not very comfortable and seemed to last forever, but we, as a team, made some wonderful memories and grew closer and more helpful to each other, which was well worth the discomfort. We arrived at Chennai Central Railway Station at 7:55 p.m. and took a cab straight to Andaman Bhavan, Annanagar.

### Day 9: 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec (Rest and Rejuvenate day)

I was looking forward to a rest day. So, it was basically a self-study day, and we had no plans for any additional tour visits. On this particular day, we ate our special breakfast after 8:30 a.m. and then returned to our assigned

rooms. I slept for two hours and finished my tour diary, as we were required to do so each day. The staff at Andaman Bhavan called us for lunch around 12:30 p.m., and we took our meals, which were pure vegetarian thalis. With the permission of the HOD, we went to the nearby VR Chennai Mall along with the lady staff. I brought some items, ate some food and soft drinks, and returned to Andaman Bhavan on time.

### Day 10: 4<sup>th</sup> Dec (Back to home - Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

Today is the last day of our educational tour of the M.Sc. batch 2021-2022. We gathered in front of Andaman Bhavan's counter around 7:15 am and left for Chennai International Airport. We boarded our flight. Everyone was getting a bit nostalgic about their time together in the hills and valleys. As our plane descended, I could see my lovely and magnificent emerald islands from above. It was a serene experience. We safely completed our 10-day educational and study tour and returned home. This tour's beautiful memories will live on in my heart forever. I am grateful to the Botany Department, JNRM, and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for allowing us to visit some of the best institutes and biogeographical sites in India.

(From page 4)



## U.S. Mission India Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Elizabeth Jones visits Chennai

### Meets business and cultural leaders, visits First Solar/ facility

CHENNAI, DECEMBER 15: U.S. Mission India Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones met with U.S. and Indian business people during her visit to Chennai on December 14 and 15. Ambassador Jones acknowledged the strong U.S.-India commercial ties, demonstrated by over one thousand U.S. companies present in South India.

At a December 14 reception for commercial, cultural, and business leaders hosted by Consul General Judith Ravin, Ambassador Jones lauded the innovation of firms based in South India that are working to address common challenges like climate change and clean energy transitions through emerging technologies. She added, "Earlier today, I visited First Solar's solar panel manufacturing facility, made possible through a \$500 million loan from the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and support from the Indian central government and the Tamil Nadu state government. When fully operational in 2023, the facility will illuminate two million homes, generate thou-



sands of jobs, and help India meet its climate targets, while reducing dependence on fossil fuels." The seven-year \$500 million U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) debt financing for First Solar Inc., the largest American solar manufacturing company to build a solar-panel factory in Tamil Nadu, is one of the biggest deals in the history of the U.S. agency. During her visit, Ambassador Jones also underscored that the United States looks forward

to supporting India's leadership of the G20 in the coming year to engage on crucial priorities that deepen our partnership in sustainable and inclusive growth, climate change, and tackling the food crisis. She emphasized Mission India's tireless work to address demand for visa services following the past two years of processing disruptions, and shared that the State Department has made aggressive plans to staff all Mission India consular sections to their highest levels ever.

## Member of...

matter and give special concession to all stretcher patients of Andaman and Nicobar Islands so that they have to pay the cost of only one seat instead of nine seats

to Airlines Companies, which will be a great support to the family members of serious patients.

The Member of Parliament also requested to is-

sue necessary directions to all private Airlines Companies to allow evacuation of stretcher patients as presently only Air India is allowing stretcher patients.

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## Viral Social...

the Bathubasti area.

To know the truth behind this message, Andaman Sheekha Daily contacted a senior Officer of Andaman and Nicobar Police who said, "Few days ago people of Mahaveer Nagar Bathubasti area reported an information about a suspect man who was roaming without any purpose in the area, and based

on the report, we have interrogated the man whom we have detained. On interrogation, it was revealed that he is a resident of Bambooflat and he is a mentally disturbed person. He is also a habitual wanderer who keeps on roving in the nearby areas," the Police Official said.

"Nothing could be established about the sus-

pected man, and later after initial warning the man was released." the Officer further said.

However, the Police Officer requested the people not to share anything on social media without any authentication and urged the people, if anything suspicious is found in the local area, to report it to the nearby Police Station.

(From page 1)

## PLOT FOR SALE

Plot for sale at Tushnabad at Rs 4 lakh  
Only 18 plots left, Single patta will be provided  
Contact: Rahul Singh 9474214859, 9933712807

## PLOT FOR SALE

Plot for sale at Tushnabad at Rs 4 lakh  
Only 15 plots left  
Single Patta will be provided  
Plot for sale @ Ograbraj 200 sqm Rs 10 lakh  
Only 10 plots available  
Contact: Rahul Singh: 9474214859

## LOST

I PRATIMA DAS, W/o Shri SAMIR CHANDRA DAS, R/o AMBER CHAD, DIGLIPUR, NORTH & MIDDLE ANDAMAN-744202 lost my ISLANDER IDENTITY CARD, bearing No.10101200469702 somewhere in between AMBER CHAD to AERIAL BAY JETTY on 02-12-2022. Finder may please contact: 9474272105.

## Students of...

(From page 1)

to Ramnagar in the morning today.

As per report, the students of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sitanagar, Diglipur blocked the road at Kalighat Bazaar and stopped the bus at about 07.00 AM when they learnt that the STS bus providing the service to them was under repair and it wouldn't be able to make the morning trip.

Owing to this road blockade, the traffic of either side reportedly came to a standstill.

The students coming from Kalighat village and its nearby areas who go to Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sitanagar, Diglipur and travel by STS bus have been facing adversity for the last few days owing to irregular bus service in the route.

They also revealed that, sometimes the bus develops snag in mid-jungle and the students have to walk several kilometres to reach their destination; while on some other occasion, they are compelled to travel by some pvt. carriages like jeep etc but these pvt vehicle owners charge them a hefty fare which the indigent students can't always afford. And the breakdown of buses happens on to and fro movements thereby putting them in unspeakable difficulties. They become late in school in the morning, while they reach home late in the evening owing to this erratic bus service, they bemoaned. And these

are the prime reasons why they resorted to blockade the road and bus, the students said. The local Police intervened in the matter and tried to solve the issue, but it yielded no fruitful result. The students along with parents wanted the Assistant Commissioner's presence and intervention so as to resolve the issue.

In the meantime, staffs of the STS Unit Diglipur reached the spot and said that henceforth the bus service would be regular, but the students remained unsuited on their stand and demanded the AC's intervention.

Following this, the Tehsildar Diglipur arrived on the scene. The students then put forth their demand before the Tehsildar and demanded that the buses meant for them should regularly ply on the route and it is also ensured that the buses don't remain under repair. The Tehsildar assured the harried students and their parents that he would take up the issue with the Assistant Commissioner and resolve the problem on priority thereby giving strict order to the STS Dept. to provide a regular bus service for the students. Convinced by the Tehsildar, the students freed the bus. Another bus was provided for these students at around 10.00 AM when they were already for their school, the report further said.

## State President...

(From page 2)

Doctors Colony, Nayagaon Village

Issues Raised by Pradhan, Rangat regarding non availability of Quarry

Products, permission for Earth cutting and diversion of land for Development and other important issues, were also discussed.