

STS buses with Pathetic Condition continue to give nightmares to public; Secretary Transport Assures to induct 14 new buses this year

John Wilbert
& Vikramaditya
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Jan 19: Leakages from the roof of STS buses, broken seats, frequent breakdowns, passengers pushing STS buses to start etc are common sights in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, especially in remote Islands. Social media (See page 6)



Tanishq Launches First ever Store in Port Blair

Port Blair, Jan 19: Tanishq, India's largest jewelry retail brand from the house of Tata continues to expand its retail footprint across the country, with addition of its first ever store in Port Blair. The brand new store was inaugurated by Mr. Arun Narayan, Vice President, Category, Marketing & Retail, Tanishq, Titan Company Limited & Mr. Somprabh Singh, Regional Business Head, East, Titan Company Limited in the presence of Business Associate Mr. Tanveer Singh & family at 3:30 PM. As part of the grand inauguration, the brand is offering an irresistible offer wherein customers can get free Gold coins with every jewelry purchase. The offer is valid (See page 6)



Member of Parliament requests exemption of Stamp Duty/Registration fee for transfer of property to their Family members by way of Gift Deed

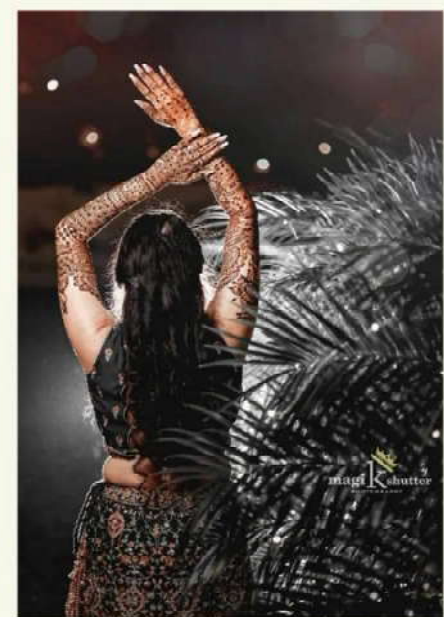
Port Blair, Jan 19: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Lt. Governor to exempt the stamp duty fee and registration fee for transfer of the land by way of Gift Deed to family members in the larger interest of the Islanders. In a letter addressed to the Lt. Governor, the Member of Parliament mentioned that the A&N Administration (See page 6)

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Union Home and Cooperation Minister will be Chief Guest mega event at Port Blair

Port Blair, Jan.19: The Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah is celebrating AzadiKaAmrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week from 17th to 23rd January, 2023, to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence & Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 126th Birth Anniversary. The Prime Min-

ister, Shri Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate a model of the proposed Memorial dedicated in honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to be set up at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, A&N Islands on January 23 at 11 am.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister will also announce the naming of 21 Islands of Andaman and Nicobar in the



name of Param Veer Chakra (See page 6)

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week Celebration in A&N Islands

DATE	PROGRAMME	TIME	VENUE
Jan.23	Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to virtually inaugurate a model of the proposed Memorial in honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to be set up at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, A&N Islands	11 am	Through video conferencing (DBRAIT)
	Naming of 21 Islands of Andaman and Nicobar in the name of Param Veer Chakra recipients		
Jan. 23	Surya Kiran Aerobic Team (SKAT) display	4 pm to 4.30 pm	Marina Park
Jan.23	Cultural programme	5 pm	Netaji Stadium
Jan. 21	Kavi Sammelan	5 pm to 7 pm	National Memorial Cellular Jail
Jan. 21	Performance by Naval Band	7 pm to 7.30 pm	Marina Park
Jan. 21	Classical Dance	7.30 pm to 9 pm	Marina Park
Jan. 22	Naval Band Show & MARCOS Mock Drill	3 pm to 3.45 pm	Marina Park
Jan.22	Surya Kiran Aerobic Team (SKAT)	3.45 pm to 4.15 pm	Marina Park
Jan.22	Music Show	4.15 pm to 6.15 pm	Marina Park

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Port Blair Guru Ki Rasoi Sponsors Island Girl to Compete In National Championship

Port Blair, Jan 19: An Island Girl resident of Prem Nagar Ms. Rupa Shree has come to Team Port Blair Guru Ki Rasoi to help her compete in the national games.

Mrs. Gurmeet Singh, Gen Secretary, Sports, PBGKR handed over a cheque of Rs 25,000/- as financial aid.

In 2021 in Rajasthan, Ms Rupa Clinched Gold medal in group khawankay, Silver medal in mix khawankay, Bronze medal in loba. 22nd national sqay championship 2021-22 at Goa she bagged gold medal in loba,



gold medal in group aerosqay. In 8th national Tang Soo Do championship 2021-2022 at Delhi, She Wongold medal in weapon event, gold medal in forms

(phumse) event. On 9th National Tang Soo do championship 2022-2023 which held at Delhi, she again bagged gold medal in forms (phumse) event.

Department Of Agriculture South Andaman Organized a Two Day Training Program on Mushroom Cultivation with UTATMA

Port Blair, Jan 19: The Department of Agriculture South Andaman organized a two day training program on mushroom cultivation with Agricultural Technology Management Agency (UTATMA) at Mrs. Monica Smith's field in which 20 ladies of Wimberlygunj and Kanyapuram village belonging to the self help group had participated. The circle in-charge Mr. Daniel Antony explained about the various types of mushroom cultivation and its benefits. Mr. K. Venkat Ram Babu pradhan of Wimberlygunj was also present in the training. He dis-



tributed the kits to all the trainees. Mrs. N. Shajita Bhanu AFA, Mrs. Lipika Rajwanshi BTM,

Mrs. V. Sunitha Kumar ATM and Mr. K. Rajesh Kumar ATM demonstrated the preparation of mushroom cultivation.

Xi Jinping 'concerned' over Covid cases in China's rural areas

Xi Jinping has said he is "concerned" about the virus situation in the Chinese countryside, state media reported, as millions of people head to rural hometowns ahead of upcoming Lunar New Year celebrations. The Chinese leader also defended his zero-Covid policy -- lifted last month after crippling the economy and sparking nationwide protests -- saying it had been "the right choice". In a series of calls Wednesday ahead of the holiday, the Chi-

nese leader told local officials he worried about the situation in the country's rural hinterlands.

"Xi said he was primarily concerned about rural areas and rural residents after the country adjusted its Covid-19 response measures," state news agency Xinhua reported. He "stressed efforts to improve medical care for those most vulnerable to the virus in rural areas," Xinhua said.

"Epidemic preven-



tion and control has entered a new stage, and we are still in a period that requires great efforts," Xi was reported as saying, stressing the need to "address the shortcomings in epidemic prevention and control in rural areas". Transport authori-

(See page 4)

Death Mourned

Port Blair, Jan 19: Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP-ANI has condoled the sad demise of Mr. Madan

Lall, S/o Late Pandit Laxmi Narayan, R/o Austinabad, aged 71 yrs who expired on 19.01.2023 at Chennai. Mr. Jolly prayed to the Almighty

to give peace to his eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to his bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.

Nepal PM meets families of those killed in Yeti airlines plane crash

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Thursday met with the grieving families of the people who were killed in the Yeti Airlines plane crash in the resort city of Pokhara. Prachanda reached the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital to meet the families. Expressing his condolences to the families, the prime minister directed the hospital authorities to speed up the identification of the bodies, make the process scientific and hand over the bodies to the relatives soon, it said. According to the prime minister's secretariat, Prime Minister Dahal re-

quested the hospital's officials to ask for necessary assistance from the government to establish the deceased's identity at the earliest.

The prime minister also inspected the bodies kept for identification. In one of Nepal's worst domestic crashes, the Yeti Airlines aircraft after taking off from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport on November 15 crashed on the bank of the Seti River between the old airport and the new airport in Pokhara, minutes before landing. Fifty-three Nepalese passengers and 15 foreign nationals, including five Indians, and four crew members were

on board the Yeti Airlines aircraft when it crashed. The five Indians, all from Uttar Pradesh, have been identified as Abhishek Kushwaha, 25, Bishal Sharma, 22, Anil Kumar Rajbhar, 27, Sonu Jaiswal, 35, and Sanjaya Jaiswal. So far, only 71 dead bodies have been recovered and the search is on for the remaining one person.

According to Nepal's civil aviation body, 914 people have died in air crashes in the country since the first disaster was recorded in August 1955.

The Yeti Airlines tragedy in Pokhara on Sunday is the 104th crash in Nepali skies and the third biggest in terms of casualties.

Iran warns EU against listing Revolutionary Guards as terrorist entity



Iran warned on Thursday that the European Union would "shoot itself in the foot" by listing the Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist entity, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian told the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell, state media said.

On Wednesday the European Parliament called for the EU to list the Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organisation, blaming it for the repression of domestic protesters and the supply of drones to Russia.

A new mental health plan for US army veterans includes free 'suicide help'



Military veterans in the United States will not be able to avail free treatment if they are stuck in an "acute suicidal crisis" as a mental health care plan was announced by the US Department of Veterans. The plan will include free treatment, including inpatient care of up to 30 days, and outpatient care of up to 90 days. Secretary for Veterans Affairs (VA) Denis McDonough said, "Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve—no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they're enrolled in VA care." "This expansion of care will save Veterans' lives, and there's nothing more important than that," he

further said. The health care plan can be used by both VA and non-VA healthcare facilities, and even those veterans that are not enrolled in the VA system can avail the benefits. "Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who was discharged under conditions other than dishonourable," can avail the suicide care, the statement said. Under the new policy, eligible veterans will be paid directly or their treatment costs will be reimbursed.

Xi Jinping...

(From page 3)

ties have predicted that more than two billion trips will be made during a 40-day period between January and February -- nearly double last year's number and 70 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

State media reported that 30.2 million people travelled nationwide on Wednesday alone.

The enormous migration -- one of the world's largest -- is widely expected to bring a surge in virus cases to China's under-resourced

countryside.

Beijing last month lifted a hardline virus policy that saw the state impose grueling lockdowns and mandatory mass testing, hampering China's economy and sending hundreds onto the streets in protests.

Xi defended that tough strategy on Wednesday, insisting zero-Covid had been "the right choice" and had allowed the country to fight "several rounds of outbreaks of virus mutations".

F.No. 9-130/CE/PWD/ES-II/2022/7840
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
ANDAMAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NIRMAN BHAWAN

Dated 18th January, 2023

PRESS NOTICE

Andaman Public Works Department, A & N Administration invited online application to fill up the various vacant post of Group 'B' (NG) and Group 'C' posts vide recruitment notice published dated 16/08/2022 in A & N Administration portal www.andaman.gov.in and department's portal <https://apwd.and.nic.in/index.php>.

The written examination for the said posts will be held as per the following schedule.

S.No	Name of Post	Date	EXAM TIME
1.	Planning Assistant	18/02/2023 (Saturday)	09.30 AM TO 11.30 AM
2.	Assistant (Arch. Dept.)	18/02/2023 (Saturday)	02.30 PM TO 04.30 PM
3.	D/Man Gr-III (Civil)	19/02/2023 (Sunday)	09.30 AM TO 11.30 AM
4.	Architectural Assistant	19/02/2023 (Sunday)	02.30 PM TO 04.30 PM
5.	Surveyor	19/02/2023 (Sunday)	09.30 AM TO 11.30 AM
6.	D/Man Gr-III (E&M)	19/02/2023 (Sunday)	02.30 PM TO 04.30 PM
7.	Junior Engineer (Civil)	26/02/2023 (Sunday)	09.30 AM TO 11.30 AM
8.	Junior Engineer (E&M)	26/02/2023 (Sunday)	02.30 PM TO 04.30 PM

The Admit cards to the eligible candidates for appearing in the written examination for the above mentioned posts of APWD will be issued online from 03rd February, 2023 onwards and will be available till the commencement of respective exams. In case of any difficulty in downloading the online Admit Card, may contact over phone number 03192-231164, 03192-238776 or through email at ceapwd.recruitment@gmail.com.

The eligible candidates are hereby advised to download and take print out of the Admit Card from <https://erecruitment.andaman.gov.in/> under ADMIT CARD link.

The other details related to written examination shall be made available in the official website www.andaman.gov.in and <https://apwd.and.nic.in/index.php>.

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E.O TO CHIEF ENGINEER
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Canada: 'Drug overdose claiming lives of many students from India'

Toronto: The drug overdose problem in the Canadian province of British Columbia may also be claiming the lives of several students from India. This issue has come to the forefront amid reports that a single gurdwara in the town of Surrey in the Metro Vancouver region has come across several deaths of such students, particularly those from Punjab.

This tragic phenomenon was first reported by the outlet Press Progress, which cited bodies of such young victims being prepared for funerals and the remains being transported back to India by the Gurdwara Dukh Nivaran Sahib in Surrey.

The gurdwara's president Giani Narinder Singh Walia told the Hindustan Times that they had come across six cases of deaths of young students from Punjab due to drug overdoses since November last year. In fact, the gurdwara is in the process of preparing to send the remains of the latest victim back to India on January 24. The reason they become aware of the cause of death is that victims' parents often contact the gurdwara for help in making these arrangements and grant them power of attorney. As a result, the gurdwara receives post-mortem reports from the British Columbia Coroner's Service. The gurdwara has been involved



in this manner with regard to the untimely deaths of students over the last two years and there were 16 such cases so far that they were aware of, and the majority of the victims were young men.

Part of the reason behind this tragic phenomenon, he felt, was the "pressure" the students were under. "Their parents have big dreams for them in Canada. Then the face the reality at the ground level of how difficult life can be here and some turn to drugs for relief." "They are 18, 19, 20-years-old, facing reality here. They suffer from depression, anxiety, too much pressure," he said.

There's an added complication as the matter is rarely raised within the community because of the stigma associated with drug use. Walia said they are planning on addressing the issue by holding a seminar in February. "We have to talk about this openly, if we want to save others," he said.

That opinion is

shared by others, like the South Asian Mental Health Alliance, which tweeted, "These issues are not new. They've just been swept under the rug over & over. Please, don't allow that to happen anymore."

Drug overdoses have been a big problem in British Columbia in recent years. The provincial government stated that a total of 1,644 lives were lost to toxic drugs between January and September 2022, the largest number ever recorded in the first nine months of a calendar year. However, race-based data on fatalities is not collected by authorities, so the impact on the Indo-Canadian community can only be gauged through anecdotal information from sources such as the Surrey gurdwara. That, of course, only captures part of the overall crisis leading to those like Walia to call for such information to be generated and released so the quantum of the problem can be understood.

'Something like Kanjhawala case would've...': DCW chief after being dragged by car

Hours after Delhi Commission (DCW) for Women chief Swati Maliwal was allegedly dragged by a car after its driver made lewd gestures at her near New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the early hours of Thursday, she said something similar to the Kanjhawala case would have happened to her - had the driver not let her go. Speaking to the news agency ANI, Maliwal said, "If the Chairperson of the Women's Commission is not safe in Delhi, then imagine the situation".

"Late last night I was inspecting the situation of women's security in Delhi because I wanted to see if any changes were actually made after the Anjali (Kanjhawala case) incident.

I was standing opposite the AIIMS bus stop when I saw vehicles starting to stop one by one. One white Baleno stopped in front of me and the driver -who was in a drunken state - kept asking me to enter his car," Maliwal told ANI.

She added, "After refusing several times, he left but then came back 10 minutes later and started molesting me. When I tried to get a hold of him, he locked my hand in the mirror of the car and dragged me till at least 10-15 meters." "As soon as I and a man from my team screamed, he left me- but had he not, something like Anjali (Kanjhawala case) would have happened to me," the DCW chief said. According to Maliwal, the driver was stinking of alcohol. "There were

empty liquor bottles in the car," she added. Meanwhile, the Delhi police have identified and arrested the accused - Harish Chandra (47).

Deputy commissioner of police (south) Chandan Chowdhary said that the police officials received a PCR call around 3.12 am after which a police team including ACP Hauz Khas reached the spot at around 3.20 am. "The police took a written complaint from Maliwal and sent her and the accused for medical examination," the DCP added.

A case was registered under the IPC in which Sections of molestation (354) were also included. Other sections include 323/341/509 IPC and the 185 Motor Vehicles Act.

Delhi women's panel chief dragged after confronting drunk man for lewd gestures

Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal said a car dragged her after its driver made lewd gestures at her near New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the early hours of Thursday.

In a tweet in Hindi, Maliwal said she was assessing the situation of women's security in Delhi when the driver, who was a drunk, harassed and caught hold of her. She said her hand got stuck in the car and she was dragged. Maliwal said that god saved her life and added if she is not safe in Delhi, then one can imagine the situation of women's safety.

Police identified the accused as Harish Chandra, 47, a resident of Sangam Vihar. They added he has been arrested. Deputy commissioner of police (south)

Chandan Chowdhary said a special police patrol reported that the man in a white Baleno made lewd gestures at a woman and dragged her at 3:11am.

Chowdhary added the patrol saw the woman on the pavement opposite AIIMS gate number two and stopped to inquire whether she was in distress.

Chowdhary said the woman was later identified as Maliwal, who told them the man was drunk and stopped near her. "He asked her to sit in the car with bad intentions. When she refused, he went and again came back after taking a U-turn from the service lane. He once again asked her to sit in the car."

Chowdhary said the driver rolled up the car window and her hand got stuck when Maliwal went to confront him. "She was dragged for 10-15 metres."

'Yes, development slowed down when...': PM Modi's dig at MVA in Mumbai; praise for Shinde-Fadnavis duo

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched several development projects and transfer benefits under PM-SVANidhi in Mumbai, he took a veiled dig at the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi government as he said the development work of the double-engine government got stalled in between. "This is the first time after the Independence that India is dreaming big.

Otherwise, India spent a lot of time discussing poverty and seeking help from others. Now is the time when the world too has confidence in India's big dreams," PM Modi said, adding that Eknath Shinde told him about his experience at Davos. "Everywhere this is the emotion for India now," PM Modi added.

In the coming 25 years, many cities in Maharashtra will add speed to India's development, PM Modi said. "That's why Mumbai needs to be prepared for the future. Till

2014. Mumbai Metro was 10-11km. But the moment you brought the double-engine government, the speed increased," PM Modi said. "Work is going on a mission mode to expand the network of the Indian Railways. Mumbai locals will also benefit from it.

The double-engine government wants to ensure that every people get the amenities that were beyond their reach a few years ago. That is why we are developing railway stations like airports," PM Modi added.

As PM Modi launched the Mumbai Metro line, he said this will help in the development of the suburban areas surrounding Mumbai. Referring to the Dharavi redevelopment, PM Modi also made a strong pitch for upcoming civic election as he said progress can't happen in Mumbai unless the local administration is willing to make that progress. "There is no dearth of money for Mumbai, but that money should be utilised without corruption," PM Modi said.



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Union Home...

(From page 2)

Awardees. This event will be live screened in a function to be held in the Auditorium of DBRAIT, Port Blair. The Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah will grace the function to be held at DBRAIT, Port Blair.

As part of the celebrations, the mega event at Port Blair also includes a cultural programme at the historic Netaji Stadium on January 23 at 5 pm.

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah will be the chief guest on the occasion. Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), the Lt Governor, A&N Islands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency will also grace the occasion.

The evening will be followed by performance by renowned singer, Sukhwinder Singh with live band. The other highlights of the evening include presentation of a dance ballet on the life of Netaji choreographed by eminent Choreographer Ms. Tanusree Shankar and various dance performances.

Prior to the main

event on January 23, the A&N Administration has also planned events to pay tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. As part of it, a KaviSammelan by renowned poets will be organized at National Memorial Cellular Jail on January 21 from 5 pm to 7 pm. Noted poets from mainland will present poems on patriotic theme. Naval Band will perform at Marina Park from 7 pm to 7.30 pm on January 21 followed by a cultural programme comprising of dances of different States showcasing the rich cultural heritage of India from 7.30 pm to 9 pm at Marina Park. On January 22, noted singer, songwriter, performer, Ms Neha Bhasin and her troupe will perform on patriotic songs from 4.15 pm to 6.15 pm at Marina Park. Naval Band and MARCOS mock drill show will be held from 3 pm to 3.45 pm at Marina Park on January 22 followed by Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) display from 3.45 pm to 4.15 pm. Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) display will also be held on January 23 from 4 pm to 4.30 pm at Marina Park.

Tanishq Launches...

(From page 1)

from 19th to 21st January 2023. The new store is located at No. 2 Middle Point, Opposite Bengali Club, Next to Hotel Shompen, Port Blair, South Andaman, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 744101 and spans across a retail area of 2138 sq. ft. It features some of the most stunning jewelry designs from a range of elegant collections of Tanishq. From the latest festive collections such as 'Alekhya', to the perfect blend between tradition and modernity 'Utsaah' collection, the store has a range of mesmerizing jewelry suitable for all occasions and preferences. It also has grand and exclusive 'Uttama' and 'Aishani' collections catering to the unique style sensibilities of the customers. Apart from the collections, the store will feature a wide range of plain and studded jewelry designs with unique inspiration and excellent craftsmanship.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Arun Narayan, Vice President, Category, Marketing & Retail, Tanishq, Titan Company Limited said "We are extremely happy and delighted to launch our very first store in Port Blair. Being

the most loved jewelry brand in the country, our aim has been to always provide excellent customer service support to all our customers. We consistently aim to reflect Tanishq's commitment towards providing our customers the joy of shopping for every occasion under one roof, and we believe that this retail expansion is another step in the same direction. The store houses exquisite jewelry designs in Gold, Diamond and Bridal jewelry to suit diverse needs, and each piece comes with intricate works of art rich in splendor with unique design sensibilities. There's jewelry for everyone and every occasion at Tanishq. We are also providing a safe and convenient shopping experience to all our customers with Gold Standard of Safety measures".

Addressing media persons Mr. Tanveer, business associate Tanishq said that opening of Tanishq store is good not only from the view point of customers but also it is good because it is generating employment for local youths. He said that many local youths have been

appointed in Tanishq stores and they were imparted training at Kolkata because of which they are now professionally doing good in this job.

Mr. Jaikarbusiness associate Tanishq thanked all the senior officials of Tanishq for all their guidance and help in setting up this store at Port Blair.

Tanishq, India's most-loved jewelry brand from the TATA Group has been synonymous with superior craftsmanship, exclusive designs and guaranteed product quality for over two decades. It has built for itself the enviable reputation of being the only jewelry brand in the country that strives to understand the Indian woman and provide her with jewelry that meets her traditional and contemporary aspirations and desires. To stress on their commitment to offer the purest jewelry, all Tanishq stores are equipped with the Karat meter which enables customers to check the purity of their gold in the most efficient manner. The Tanishq retail chain currently spreads across 400+ exclusive boutiques in more than 240 cities.

Member of...

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through an order No.274/19 F.No. 3-21/SR/Stamp Duty/2015 dated 22nd October, 2019 has fixed circle rate for per square metre of lands of different villages of South Andaman, N&M Andaman and Campbell Bay in Nicobar District for the purpose of effecting transfer of interest of land and immovable property by way of Conveyance/ Gift/ Exchange etc in various ar-

reas of this Union Territory.

He said that on this issue a large number of Islanders have approached him stating that many recorded tenants wish to transfer their share of landed property to their family members by way of executing Gift Deed.

He added that but due to imposition of stamp duty fee of 6% and Registration fee of 1% over the to-

tal valuation of landed property, Islanders are unable to bear the stamp duty/registration fee since the financial status of the recorded tenants are very weak and because of which, it would be difficult for them to bear such expenses. "Moreover they are not going to sell or get any profit out of the said land," the Member of Parliament mentioned.

STS buses with...

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platforms are flooded with such videos, showing how poorly the STS buses are managed. Not only this many routes there is a heavy demand for STS buses but the Transport Department is not able to provide buses due to poor condition of buses and also due to shortage of buses. At present, the State Transport Service here has 14 units in different Islands while the headquarter is based at Port Blair.

It is expected that the bus once inducted in STS, it will complete at least 04 Lakh kilometres in its maximal capacity but actually

many buses have crossed the 6 lakhs kilometres mark, which is the prime reason why a large number of the buses are in horrible shape.

When contacted the Secretary-Cum-Director of Transport Department, Mr. Vishwendra today said that the Department is well aware of the issue and the Department has already started work in this regard. He said that the Department of Transport has already floated a tender for 14 new buses, which will replace the ATR buses and the replaced buses will be sent to North and Middle Andaman as per the requirements.