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NEWS COVERED

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Garacharma - Bimblitan
Road Called off after
Assurance from EE, APWD**

**8th International Day of
Yoga Celebrated
Befittingly in the Islands
from Diglipur to Campbell
Bay.**

**BJP Holds Press
Conference, Lists Out
Issues Highlighted before
Amit Shah and J P Nadda**

Protest for Repair of Garacharma - Bimblitan Road Called off after Assurance from EE, APWD



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[Rohit Kumar](#)

Rohit Kumar

Port Blair, 22 June 2022

The villagers of Teylerabad and Bimblitan had blocked the Garacharma - Bimblitan Road from 9:00 Am on 22 June 2022 to protest against the dilapidated condition of the road. The villagers had earlier protested on 24 September 2022 to press for the repair of the same road.

Recently they had written a letter to the Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Administration informing him of the dilapidated condition of the road.

They had also informed the Chief Secretary that they would go on protest on 22 June 2022, if their letter fails to attract the attention of the administration.

During the protest Executive Engineer, CD-II, Prothrapur reached the site and assured the villagers that APWD would immediately engage road roller for improvement of the road condition, he also assured of deploying labours for cleaning of drains alongside the road.

The EE further informed the villagers that the tender for

the improvement of the rural road from Garacharma Jn to NTS Jn will be floated within two days. He also assured that the tender will be opened within 15 days and the work for the improvement of the road will start within 30 days.

The villagers called off the protest after the Executive Engineer gave them the assurances in writing.





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8th International Day of Yoga Celebrated Befittingly in the Islands from Diglipur to Campbell Bay



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[Tarun Karthick](#)

Tarun Karthick

Campbell Bay, 22 June 2022

Together with the rest of the country and world, the 8th edition of International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated befittingly in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from Diglipur to Campbell Bay. The main function was held in the precinct of the iconic National Memorial Cellular Jail. Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development and AYUSH was the chief guest on the occasion while Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd),

Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency was the guest of honour.

In his address, the Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development and AYUSH expressed his happiness in attending this year's Yoga Day celebration at the historic National Memorial Cellular Jail. Due to the sincere effort of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi , 21st June has been recognized as the International Day of Yoga (IDY) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in year 2014.

He said that the 8th edition of IDY is organized in India and across the globe on the theme 'Yoga for Humanity' which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Mann Ki Baat address and it focuses on 'Brand India at Global Stage' while showcasing its iconic places.

The Minister remarked that this year, the major attraction of the IDY observation is the 'Guardian Ring', whereby the yoga celebrations happening across the world is relayed throughout the Yoga Day. 'The Guardian Ring' underlines 'One Sun, One earth' concept and

showcases the unifying power of Yoga, the Minister said. He mentioned that to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Common Yoga Protocol demonstration was planned at 75 heritage/iconic sites of tourist importance across the country promoting India Branding (Monument in the Background). The Ministry with its various stakeholders has chalked out a 100 days' countdown programme of 8th International Day of Yoga wherein 100 organizations promoted yoga in 100 places/cities, the Minister added. International Day of Yoga (IDY) has not only boosted Yoga's popularity over the

years but also expanded its geographical presence by inspiring its adoption in several new territories, the Minister said.

Describing the National Memorial Cellular Jail as a sacred place, the Minister also reminded the gathering about the role played by the freedom fighters in the freedom struggle history of India's Independence. Many known and unknown freedom fighters made supreme sacrifices in this Jail for the cause of the motherland, he said.

Referring about the benefits of Yoga, the

Minister said, people from all over the World have benefitted from Yoga. We must promote debates and discussions on the power of yoga, he said urging all to come together and inspire their near and dear ones to perform yoga, as healthy mind and healthy body are the secrets to a healthy life, the Minister mentioned. He also appealed one and all to make yoga an integral part of their daily life to stay fit and healthy.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor greeted the people of A&N Islands on the occasion of Yoga Day and said that the Hon'ble

Prime Minister of India has very precisely said, "Yoga is a Symbol of Universal aspiration for Health and Wellbeing and it is a health assurance in zero budget". He stated that yoga is a priceless gift provided to humanity by our forefathers which ensures mental and physical health. The Lt. Governor mentioned that due to the sincere effort of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, 21st June has been recognized as the International Day of Yoga (IDY) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in year 2014. In the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the benefits

offered by Yoga have become even more important for physical and mental well-being, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor stated that the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) devised by the AYUSH Ministry intends to create general awareness among the masses the benefits of yoga practices in attaining peace, harmony and wellbeing. Yoga practices and AYUSH System Of Medicine are very popular in A&N Islands and various AYUSH Wellness Centres are functioning in A&N Islands. A&N Administration is focusing on providing better AYUSH

System of Medical treatment and facilities for the Islanders. He said, the Prime Minister of India during his visit to these Islands laid the foundation stone for an AYUSH Hospital at Port Blair. In the first phase, a 30-bedded building was inaugurated by the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah during his visit to these Islands in October, 2021. The Lt Governor said, there is also a proposal for creation of two new 50 bedded AYUSH Hospitals one each at Junglighat, Port Blair and Rangat.

The live telecast of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's

speech was also screened at the venue. Thereafter, the Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development and AYUSH and Hon'ble Lt Governor, A & N Islands alongwith the Adhyaksah, ZPSA, Smti Pramila Kumari, Chairperson, PBMC, Smti U. Kavitha, senior officers of A&N Administration and others participated in Mass Yoga Demonstration (Common Yoga Protocol) and performed Yoga Asanas and Pranayams under the guidance of yoga instructors at the premises of National Memorial Cellular Jail.

Welcoming the gathering, the Commissioner- cum- Secretary (Health), Shri Vikas Anand said, Yoga is a holistic approach to health and well-being, balancing mind, body and soul. Stating that nothing is important than one's health, the Commissioner- cum- Secretary urged everyone to make Yoga a part of one's daily life & experience its benefits.

The International Day of Yoga (IDY) programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Secretary (Health), Shri Arjun Sharma.

On IDY 2022 Yoga was also performed at Indira Point (India's Southernmost Point) in front of the iconic lighthouse to spread awareness on the importance and health benefits of yoga.





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BJP Holds Press Conference, Lists Out Issues Highlighted before Amit Shah and J P Nadda



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[Tarun Karthick](#)

Tarun Karthick

Campbell Bay, 22 June 2022

Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State President, BJP, Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member, BJP and Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Ex-Member of Parliament, A & N Islands recently met Mr. Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Mr. J.P Nadda, National President, Bharatiya Janata Party at New Delhi and informed them of various issues of the Islands. The delegation of leaders was led by Mr. Y Satya Kumar, National Secretary, BJP. Upon returning from New Delhi the leaders called for a

Press Conference today and informed the media of the issues they raised before the Union Home Minister and National President, BJP.

Mr. Ajoy Bairagi while speaking during the Press Conference informed the Media that they had a very fruitful meeting with the Union Home Minister and the National President of BJP.

Mr. Ajoy Bairagi informed that the following issues were raised before the dignitaries at New Delhi:

1. Katchal Tamil Settlers Resettlement Issue

Mr. Bairagi informed that BJP has been raising the issue of rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamil Settlers. BJP also took the leaders of the Sri Lankan Settlers to New Delhi earlier and raised their issue before the Ministers.

The delegation demanded that the Katchal Tamil Settlers should be resettled at Shaitan Khari in South Andaman as ample land is available in the Rubber Plantation area.

2. Regularisation of Encroached Revenue Land

Mr . Bairagi informed that Sheker Singh Commission had recommended 7th May 2022 as the cutoff date for regularisation of the encroachment, but due to the ineffectiveness of the UPA regime, the same was not implemented. He also informed that the Vivek Rae committee was formed to review the Sheker Singh commission report, by the Home Ministry, during the last tenure of the NDA Govt. He informed that the Vivek Rae Committee also favoured the cutoff date set by Sheker Singh Commission.

Mr. Bairagi added that they requested for early regularisation of encroached land.

3. Allotment of land to Dependent Members of Pre-42 & Registered Settler Families and to Pre-78 and Post-78 Forest Encroachers

Mr. Bairagi informed that in the IDA meeting held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, it was decided that land will be allotted to dependent family members of Pre-42 and Registered Settler Families.

He also informed that the land allotment and financial package were also decided for Pre-78 and Post-78 forest encroachers in the same meeting.

Pre-78 Forest Encroachers received the land promised to them, but Post-78 Forest Encroachers did not receive the land.

The leaders requested land allotment to the left-out categories.

4. One Time Relaxation for Building Violations under PBMC

The leaders demanded

one-time relaxation for Building Violations under PBMC.

5. Regularisation of DRMs in PBMC

There are 249 vacant posts in PBMC. Out of the 249 posts, 189 posts are of Work Charged Mazdoor and 60 posts are of Sanitary Mazdoor.

400 Mazdoors are already working in PBMC for the last 20 years against the 249 vacant posts.

Leaders demanded that based on seniority these

Mazdoors should be regularised.

6. Filling up of the Vacant posts under Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Around 10,000 posts under Andaman and Nicobar Administration are vacant.

Leaders demanded that all the posts should be filled up.

Mr. Vishal Jolly while speaking to the Media informed that the following issues were highlighted before the national leaders:

1. Reservation of Jobs for Islanders

Leaders requested the dignitaries to provide reservations in jobs to Islanders for Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C posts.

2. Rollback to the Exorbitant Increase in Stamp Duty and Registration Charges

Earlier stamp duty was 1.5% and registration charges were 0.75% and the total of both was 2.25%.

Now it has been enhanced to 6% for women and 7% for men.

The leaders demanded a roll back to the exorbitant increase in Stamp Duty and Registration Charges. They also demanded zero stamp duty for gifting the land.

3. Other Land Issues

The leaders requested allowing the sale of a part of one's land. They also demanded the removal of restrictions on the sale of land after diversion, at present if diversion of land is carried out it cannot be sold for 10 years. The leaders informed that these are not rules, but are implemented by way of administrative orders.

Diversion & Conversion of land is not being carried out for almost three years and because of which, Central Govt. Schemes are not being implemented properly. People are also not able to construct their houses. Leaders demanded to start the diversion & conversion of land immediately.

4. Rollback in the Curtailment of the Powers of the Elected Representatives

Leaders informed that the powers of the PRIs under 73rd Amendment of the Constitution have been

curtailed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the powers of the elected representatives have been given to the officials. Leaders requested restoration of the powers to the PRI Members.

5. ST/OBC Status to various Communities

Ranchi Community of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is socially, and economically backward.

Leaders demanded reservation for the Ranchi Community by providing ST or OBC status. They also demanded revision of OBC

in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and inclusion of Tamil, Telugu, Malayali and other communities who have claimed OBC Status.

6. Settlement of the issue of Compensation in Lieu of Land to the Tsunami Affected Farmers

During UPA regime Tsunami affected land was taken from the affected farmers and compensation of just Rs. 9 Lakhs/Hectare was given to them. The farmers are unhappy with the compensation amount.

Leaders demanded settlement of the Compensation in lieu of land issue as per the recommendations of the Vivek Rae Committee. The committee recommended Rs. 34 Lakhs/Hectare compensation.

Leaders demanded that those who wish to take compensation should be given the compensation. They further recommended that the farmers whose land is reclaimed or reclaimable should be allowed to keep their land if they wish to do so.

Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray also spoke to the media and highlighted the following issues presented before the dignitaries:

1. Increasing the Financial support to Panchayati Raj Institutions

The leaders demanded increasing the financial support to Panchayati Raj Institutions. They demanded a total of 30% of the UT Budget should be distributed to Panchayati Raj Institutions for the effective development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

They highlighted that a Pradhan can only construct 1 Km of road in a year, a Zilla Parishad and a Samiti Member can only construct 0.5 Km of road from the finances allocated to them now.

2. Revival of ANISHI Scheme

Leaders demanded the revival of ANISHI Scheme for Islanders.

3. Improvement in Electricity Supply

Leaders demanded improvement in Electricity Supply by Construction of an LNG Power Plant.

Mr. Bishnu also added that during the visit of Mr. Abdul Kalam to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands he had recommended the construction of a Nuclear Power Plant in the Islands.





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