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“When we view the world with an open heart, we will be able to understand that everything is unique.

A sculptor creates statues from both large stones and small stones. A sculptor never sees the ugliness in a stone; he only sees its true hidden form. When we view the world from our heart, we forget ourselves; we forget our individuality; we give more importance to others. We all have the same abilities hidden within; we just need to awaken them.”

- AMMA

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DATES THAT MATTER

November 17 »
International Students Day

November 19 »
World Toilet Day

November 19 »
International Men's Day

November 20 »
Universal Children's Day

November 21 »
World Fisheries Day

November 21 »
World Hello Day

November 21 »
World Television Day

November 25 »
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

November 29 »
International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People

3rd Sunday of November »
World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

Galloping their way into people's hearts

Khushboo D. Jain

Muruganapathy: The villagers in the tribal hamlets of Muruganapathy and Iyyampathy are all set to welcome horse-hoof sounds as a part of their everyday life.

In a project initiated and headed by Pravin Patkar of the Department of Social Work in Amrita University, horse carts are being built for facilitating sustainable physical transportation in these tribal villages. The villages are located about 4 kilometres away from Navakkarai in the suburbs of Coimbatore and have no access to transport. The only subway connecting the village with the outside world is too narrow for buses and too expensive for auto travel. Around 600 poverty-struck tribals here cannot afford even meagre expenses. Hence Dr. Patkar along with his team came up with the cost-efficient and eco-friendly alternative of horse carts.

Since the villagers had the art of keeping horses in the past,

the project is aimed at renewing their skills so as to benefit them in a holistic way. The aged, differently abled, critically ill and school-going children will be the primary beneficiaries of this initiative. In an e-mail to Campus Beats, Dr. Patkar says that the horse cart based solution will facilitate the development process which is currently blocked due to the transportation problem. A core team of villagers have been formed to manage the project. The cart is being built according to the specific requirements mentioned by them. The cart has iron wheels, aluminium seats and is covered with tarpaulin at the top. These factors ensure the strength and safety of the vehicle. It can accommodate approximately 15-20 children for a ride. The locals have also unanimously decided to grow fodder for the horses in a plot of land. They have also decided to nominally charge the users in order to make the project viable. A separate bank account will be created to manage the sa-



A model of the horse cart displayed behind main block near lab 7

lary of the driver appointed as well as the profits. If the project is successful, the team also aims to enlarge the capacity and build more horse carts for similar villages with the profits earned. Dr. Thirumalini S., Chairperson of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in Amrita Un-

iversity, Amrita Nagar headed the actual designing and manufacturing of the horse cart. The Lakshmi Mills Company Limited in Coimbatore is the sponsor for the first horse cart which costs around 1.5 lakhs. The team is yet to buy the horses.



Golden Hours - A beautiful evening at the university campus; photo courtesy- Alan Jose

SMS Confirmation of GPMS by January

Pintu Prakash

Amritanagar: The Gate Pass Management System (GPMS) implemented in the campus is set to undergo a sea-change with the addition of SMS confirmation facility by January.

The latest addition is an attempt to make the system more student-friendly. The message alerts will help the students eliminate their worri-

es regarding the issue of gate passes. Along with this upcoming facility, there is also an option for parents to receive messages regarding their wards' movement. "It is not for policing but to reassure the parents about their children's safety" says M. Sreevalsan, Head - Information and Communication technology services (ICTS). GPMS was started with the laying of optic fibre cables

and other infrastructure in last December. Eight swiping machines will be established in total. Out of these, four machines have already started functioning. The students can apply for gate pass from any system connected to the network within the campus at any time. They can make a request for the pass by logging in using their ID and password. The status of the request can be tracked ro-

und the clock. Also, the pass will expire within one and a half hours of the scheduled time.

"Students as well as the administration enjoy the huge advantage of time saving and elimination of the usage of paper. The acquirement of the list of students staying in the campus make a better work flow for the authorities," adds the ICTS Head.