



Hariprasad Chaurasia (flute) and (right) N. Rajam (violin). Pictures by Sumit Sanyal

On Tuesday (concluding day): Amjad Ali Khan (sarod) and Deborshee Bhattacharjee (vocal). Entry free.

FOCUS ON TOURISM & HEALTH CARE

Wish list for French town of yore

SUDESHNA BANERJEE

Chandernagore: A co-creation workshop to figure out how best to utilise the dilapidated Registry Building if it is restored has thrown up some eye-popping lacunae in the former French colony.

Through Sunday, 32 students, some local and the rest from Confluence, Lyon, IIM Nagpur and Jadavpur University, crisscrossed Chandernagore, speaking to residents to figure out what the town lacked in terms of tourist comfort and resident need.

"The environment is fertile to create something together. But we got a sense that people do not care about their French heritage. The aim is to make them proud of their town," said Charles Ober and Domittle Roy, architecture teachers from Lyon.

Four groups, each headed by a management student, surveyed four areas — lodging, restaurant, library and health care. They made a presentation before Aishwariya Tipnis, the conservation architect who is heading the Know Your Indo-French Heritage project, being held as part of Bonjour India, organised by the French Embassy and Institut Francais.

"Tourists come only for Jagaddhatri puja. So it is not viable to offer lodging. The



The dilapidated Registry Building. (Sudeshna Banerjee)

sole private hotel, Ritz Manor, was shut when we went. Homestays can be a solution till the Registry Building is available," said IIM boy Shreeram Sakkhari.

His classmate Viswanath Sherabu pointed to the lack of restaurants with proper ambience. "We can offer Indian and French cuisine at the Registry Building."

Gaurav Agrawal's team pitched for a library. "There are no modern facilities, like computer or Wi-Fi. at the two libraries in town. Students without computers at home have to travel out of town to take online exams," he said.

The lack of intensive care units at the local hospitals was also a concern for the

fourth group, headed by Omshree Sawant.

"There is often a gap between conceptualisation of a project and the ground reality. So the project fails in the long run. That's why I wanted the survey and mapping done before the design for renovation," Tipnis told Metro.

The findings will be part of the exhibition put up when ambassador Alexandre Ziegler visits on Friday.

At Harihar Sett's century-old house, an adda on Chandernagore's heritage was held on Sunday evening. It drew participants like illumination wizard Sridhar Das and Savendu Modak, great-grandson of confectioner Surya Kumar Modak.