



IIT KHARAGPUR TO HOLD PRELIMINARY ROUNDS OF FEMINA MISS INDIA 2014 | 4

BAIDYABATI IN CELEBRATORY MOOD AS 'LAKSHMAN-DA' TAKES OVER AS IAF CHIEF | 5



Road cleared for all-night revelry

Park Street To Remain Open To Traffic



Traffic across central Kolkata came to a halt on Christmas as Park Street was taken over by revellers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: If you missed out on that Christmas dinner at Park Street with your family because you had no clue where to park your car, this is your chance to make up for it.

Fresh from their experience on Christmas Day when a part of south and central Kolkata traffic collapsed trying to accommodate 60,000 revellers on Park Street, Kolkata Police has decided against shutting down the party zone on Tuesday evening. However, there might be certain restrictions till early Wednesday morning.

Top officers in Lalbazar said security hazards have "forced" them to keep a few restrictions in place. Park Street and Ho Chi Minh Sarani will be one way from west to east and Shakespear Sarani from east to west. Russel Street and Little Russel Street will be one way from south to north. Middleton Street will be one way from east to west between Camac Street and JL Nehru Road.

No vehicles will be allowed to be parked on Park Street between JL Nehru Road and Wood Street. No vehicles will be allowed to go towards Free School Street from Royd Street up to Park Street. All this will come into effect from 4pm on Tuesday and continue till 4am on the first day of 2014.

Parking will be allowed on Russel Street, Free School Street (between Royd and Marquis streets), Wood Street and RA Kidwai Road (between Royd Street and Shakespear Sarani).

Besides Park Street, cops have warned of vehicular regulation any time on January 1 at various places including the Indian Museum, Victoria Memorial, Birla Planetarium, Alipore zoo, Kali Temple, Thantania Kalibari, New Market area and Millennium Park.

For the first time, police will be deployed through the night on at least 100 crossings. Special speed-bike checking camps will come up in areas around Park Street. Besides the 20 City

Watch police bikes, 51 RFS (16 more than usual) and 12 HRFS vehicles will be on the road. Around 1,000 cops in plain-clothes will merge into the crowd to spot mischief-makers. The stand-down this year will be extended to 6am instead of the usual 2am. A total 5,000 cops will man important zones like Park Street-Shakespeare Sarani, Science City, Ballygunge and Tollygunge. There will be special watch at leading clubs and select bars.

"The UAV Durdanto will be used this year. We are putting special emphasis on securing areas adjoining Park Street, like Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, Camac Street and Shakespeare Sarani. We will also set up 15 assistance booths at strategic locations," said Rajeev Mishra, joint CP (headquarters).

On Tuesday, four deputy commissioners will be in charge of security under the supervision of a joint CP. They will lead over 350 policemen and quick response teams have been stationed for emergencies.

Big-ticket parties are a sell-out

Sumati Yengkhom | TNN

Kolkata: The year-long wait has come to an end. The New Year is finally round the corner. So what are you waiting for? Put on your dance shoes and make the night special.

According to nightclubs and party hotspots in the city, the craze for ringing in the New Year has increased manifold this time around. Most party-goers have planned their night-out much earlier and made their bookings in advance. Clubs, too, are leaving no stone unturned to cash in on the festive fever.

"Apart from regular clients, we are expecting a rush of people who party on occasions. Hence we have divided our nightclub into two zones," said Ritesh Shrivastava, head of operations at 'Shisha'. While the nightclub will have a regular party zone, it will have a 'theme zone' that will take the guests through the journey from 2013 to 2014. With an offer for unlimited food and beverage, 'Passport to 2014' will have special visuals that will make the guests feel that they are transiting into 2014. The nightclub on Camac Street is expecting a footfall of about 800 in total.

"We get a footfall of about 150 to 200 during a regular party. But going by the bookings, we expect the number to cross 300 on the New Year eve," said Sumitro Basu, manager of 'Plush'. The nightclub on Theatre Road will have its in-house DJs Deva and Rohan churning out foot tapping music that would drag even non-dancers to the floor. The party hotspot has two kinds of charges - Rs 4000 and Rs 6000 per couple. Majority of the second package has already been booked.

"We are flooded with calls for enquiry and advance bookings. 'Shim-

DANCE FLOOR ON FIRE

Shisha

- > Two party zone, one of them 'theme-based'
- > Unlimited food and beverage

Plush

- > In-house DJs

Shimmers

- > Exotic dancers

The Park

- > Live entertainment and music shows

Swabhumi Heritage Plaza

- > Casino theme
- > Ukrainian dancers
- > Beam laser show



THE CLUB STYLE

CC&FC

- > Mumbai-based singers and dance troupe

Dalhousie Institute

- > Ball room dance

The Tolly

- > Mid-night show on horse jumping and tent pegging
- > Music by DJ Jazzy Joe and band Moon Wind



mers' at Sector V can easily hold about 500 guests, but we expect the footfall to shoot up and hence made arrangements to accommodate an additional crowd," said Vishal Shaw, spokesperson of 'Shimmers' and 'Basement'. While the former will have exotic dancers flown in from abroad, 'Basement' on Sarat Bose Road will have in-house

spinmasters at the console.

"We are gearing up to make the 31st night party very special for our guests. We have an array of events and charges depend on the venue and the inclusion," said a spokesperson at The Park.

The Park will have its guests spoil for a choice. The secret affair at the 'Roxy' is sure to make it a special night

'Chander Pahar' scales new heights

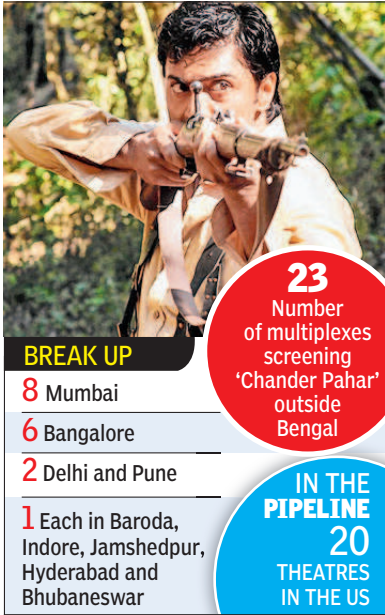
Rohit Khanna | TNN

Kolkata: It's was an uphill task for the makers of 'Chander Pahar' right from the beginning. There were challenges of shooting in the forests of Africa, then there was speculation over the possibility of producers being able to recover the cost and finally, will the film be able to compete with big-budget Bolly flick, 'Dhoom 3'. But barely 10 days after it hit the screen, 'Chander Pahar' has already become a rage among cinema-goers. Not only has it grossed Rs 4.5 crore in the first week, it's smashing records at theatres across metro cities.

As on Monday, the Rs 15-crore movie was running successfully at 23 multiplexes outside Bengal, including eight in Mumbai, six in Bangalore, two in Delhi and Pune and one each in Baroda, Indore, Jamshedpur, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar. In Bangalore, multiplexes have increased number of screens after a week's run.

PVR Cinemas, one of the largest multiplex chains in India, is screening 'Chander Pahar' in eight theaters outside Bengal. "In places like Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, we have seen more than 90% occupancy last weekend. In fact, it was a houseful in Mumbai last Sunday. Significantly, many non-Bengali audiences are coming to watch the movie as sub-titled versions were being screened at these places," said Shiladitya Bora, head of PVR

GUNNING FOR MORE



BREAK UP

- 8 Mumbai
- 6 Bangalore
- 2 Delhi and Pune

- 1 Each in Baroda, Indore, Jamshedpur, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar

23 Number of multiplexes screening 'Chander Pahar' outside Bengal

IN THE PIPELINE 20 THEATRES IN THE US

Director's Rare.

Although multiplex chains have been releasing Bengali films outside Bengal aimed at Bengali-speaking audience outside the state, it was restricted to a very few screens in fewer cities. "We had earlier screened movies like 'Bhootee Bhoishiyat', 'Goynar Baksho' and 'Meghe Dhaka

Tara' outside Bengal, but the response has never been so overwhelming," said Subhasis Ganguli, regional director of Inox. 'Chander Pahar' is also being screened at eight Inox theatres outside Bengal.

A big push in releasing Bengali films outside Bengal came with Jeet-starrer 'Boss'. The movie was screened in theatres in cities like Lucknow, Kanpur, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Indore, Nagpur, Bhopal, Ranchi and Jamshedpur apart from metro cities. "It was accepted well and ran for around two weeks despite a delayed release," said Utpal Acharya, country head (distribution & acquisition) of Reliance Entertainment. Later, Prosenjit-starrer 'Mishar Rahasya' and Rituparno Ghosh's 'Satyanweshi' was also screened at a number of theatres outside Bengal.

"The response from outside Bengal has been huge this time. Although it cannot be compared with the response that we get from audience in Bengal, it is opening a new area of revenue for the film industry in the state," said Srikanth Mohta, founder of Shree Venkatesh Films. It is also planning to release 'Chander Pahar' in 20 theatres in the US in January.

With responses from audience outside the state growing rapidly, Reliance entertainment is betting big on Prosenjit-starrer 'Jatiswar'. "We will launch it in cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and Baroda. We will also launch the movie in North America, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong," said Acharya.

Tiger breeding to restart at zoo

Krishnendu Mukherjee | TNN

Kolkata: If 2013 took Alipore Zoological Gardens to new heights for its adoption scheme, the zoo is set to hit another high note in the New Year with its captive breeding programme for the tigers and lions.

While captive breeding of tigers in the zoo last happened almost a decade back in 2005, that of the lions took place even before that. Some even claimed that this will probably be the first time that two pure Asiatic lions will be bred in the zoo.

"The technical committee of the state zoo authority has already approved the proposal. It will be presented in its governing body meeting next month for a final nod," said zoo director K L Ghosh. However, member secretary of state zoo authority, TVN Rao, said the technical committee's say is final here.

So, when will the zoo authorities embark upon the project? As soon as the winter rush is over, said the zoo director. "We are planning to start the project with the captive breeding of the tigers. But unless the year-end and New Year rush is over, we

CARE IN CAPTIVITY



WHEN WILL THE PROJECT START?

The zoo authorities will initiate the programme as soon as the winter rush is over. They will start with the captive breeding of tigers

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THAT TIGERS WERE BRED IN CAPTIVITY?

In 2005. Two cubs were born then

- > Cross breeding of tigers and lions brought the zoo in the eye of the storm earlier and it stopped the practice in 1985

- > At present, the zoo has five tigers, three male and two female, and a pair of Asiatic lion. It also has three white tigers

can't start working on it because it needs a lot of planning. Besides, the mating pairs too will need time and isolation," Ghosh said.

According to Ghosh, they have a male tiger in the zoo that has the bloodline of Sunderbans big cats and is capable to mate. "We might consider it for the programme so that the cubs get a new gene pool," he said. However, he couldn't recall whether it was a rescued Sunderbans tiger.

The zoo at the moment has

five Bengal tigers — three male and two female. Besides, it has three white tigers as well. On the lions, the zoo director couldn't confirm the date when they were bred in captivity for the last time. At present, the zoo has a pair of Asiatic lion, brought from the Hyderabad zoo three years back, and three hybrid lions, two male and a female.

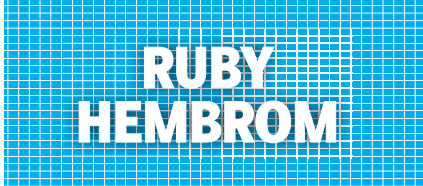
Since the Central Zoo Authority of India (CZAD) has strongly recommended against the breeding of hybrids, the zoo

cannot breed the hybrid lions and hence the Asiatic lions were brought from its counterpart in Hyderabad.

However, conservationists raised question over such move saying it won't serve the purpose of conservation and will only raise the footfall in the zoo.

"Zoos should take up captive breeding programmes, but the idea is not to draw tourists only. We have to keep in mind that the tigers that we have now will not live forever. The generation should move on and this is where a zoo plays a crucial role," said Ghosh.

Cross breeding of tigers and lions brought the zoo in the eye of storm earlier. A cross between a Bengal tiger and an African lion, Rudrani — a 'tigon' born in 1970 — produced a litter of seven 'litigon' cubs after mating with an Asiatic lion in 1976. One of these 'litigons' were marketed by the zoo authorities as the largest living big cat in the world. It died at the age of 15 in 1991. The zoo stopped its hybrid programme in 1985, after there was criticism from the scientific community which claimed that such hybrids suffer from 'genetic abnormalities'.



This IT professional gave up a cushy job to keep Adivasi folklore alive



presents KOLKATA HEROES

An initiative by The Times of India

Sumati Yengkhom | TNN

The passion to give something back to her community drives this young tribal woman to venture into an unknown terrain. Ruby Hembrom gave up a well paid job in the IT sector in Delhi five years ago and returned to Kolkata to preserve the dying Santhal language.

With single-minded devotion, this 35-year Santhali is making the Adivasi voice heard the world over by turning the oral tradition of millennia into books and music CDs in English and taking them beyond the community barrier.

"I quit my job as a learning and development professional with IBM to do something for my community. I was clueless to what I exactly I wanted to do until I attended a course in publishing in Kolkata," recalls Hembrom. The permanence of the written word hit her like a brain-wave. Would the stories she heard from her grandma be lost for ever? Will anyone else ever hear it?

Hembrom started collecting and collating folklore of the Santhals that have been orally passed down generations and which are in danger of being lost. Her first two books — 'We Came From Geese' and 'Earth Rests On A Tortoise' — were mythical stories about the origin of Santhals. They were written and illustrated to make them interesting.

Ruby roped in like minded friends Joy Tudu and Luis A Gomez, who has worked with various indigenous publications in Latin America, to found a publishing house, Adivaani (Voice of the Adivasi), about a year ago. Adivaani's publications include 'Whose Country is it Anyway' by Gladson Dungdung, an activist from Jharkhand, and 'The Santal and Biblical Creation Traditions: Anthropological and Theological Reflec-



CHRONICLER: Ruby Hembrom wants to preserve Santhal lore in books and CDs

tion' by Timotheas Hembrom.

"It is important to write in English so as to make the larger society know about the tribals, their culture and life. Being a Santhal myself, it was easy to start writing or translating works of the Santhal tribe. But we want to do the same for other tribes too," said Hembrom.

In fact, an organization that works in tribal areas has sought Hembrom's help in developing an English language skill programme for tribal children. Hembrom

will be involved in a project in learning centres for tribal children in Birbhum. Her illustrated book on Santhal creation will be used as a resource for such classes.

"Thrilling tales of alien culture on these children won't be very effective. With Santhali books, they will find and immediate connect," says Hembrom. Next on Adivaani's list is a book on Adivasi freedom fighters who she says have been deprived their rightful place in modern Indian history. She is creating a bank



Pix: Sukanta Mukherjee

of stories on living unsung Adivasi heroes — sports stars, social crusaders.

"Books are the best platforms to announce Adivasi presence and to have our voices heard," said Hembrom, a law graduate from Calcutta University. Surely the voice of the quiet girl who kept a quiet profile in class during her school days at La Martiniere School for Girls has al-

BOOKS ARE THE BEST PLATFORM TO GET ADIVASI VOICES HEARD

ready started reaching to at least the youths of her community to begin with. Many look up to her to address different issues including education and social problems.

"I still remember schoolmates making fun of me for my looks and dark complexion. Someone asked me why I didn't polish my face when I polished my shoes in the morning. Looking back, I realize how ignorant they were. I would be very happy if the books we are working on help them enrich their knowledge about Adivasi," said Ruby.

"As kids we used hear tales of Santhal creation during tribal story-telling sessions. But these days many have moved to the cities for work and such lore, which is an integral part of the community, is losing significance. Reproducing them in written form and music CDs will not only benefit children of the community but all over the world," said Joy Tudu, a St Xavier's College Kolkata graduate.

KNOW A HERO?

Log on to kolkataheroes.com to send in your suggestion about a hero you think deserves to be on our list