

Music gift to ease the pain

UK Doc Gifts School In Memory Of Twins Killed In Jnaneshwari Tragedy

Sumati Yengkhom | TNN

Kolkata: Three years since the Jnaneshwari train disaster on May 28, 2010, UK doctor Narinder Kapur still remembers the twins who died on their way to the first vacation of their life.

He was so moved after going through a TOI report on the seven-year-old sisters that professor Kapur made it a point to visit their school during his maiden visit to the city. Not only that, the brain doctor also gifted a synthesizer to the Jewish Girls' School on Tuesday in memory of the twins.

Twins Shirin and Sharmin were headed for Mumbai on their first ever vacation with their parents Sayed Javed Alam (35) and Sabiya (30). But as fate would have it, the whole family was wiped

out in the worst-ever train tragedy that claimed 147 lives. The parents, who themselves were school teachers, had saved up for years to take their kids out on vacation.

"I was really moved by the tragic end of the two sisters which I got to read in the Times of India. I regularly thought of Shirin and Sharmin and promised to myself that if I ever set foot in Kolkata, I would visit their school and donate something in their memory. That finally has happened," said the neuro-psychologist who was in Kolkata to attend a six-day



Narinder Kapur and his wife Ritu visited the Jewish Girls' School on Tuesday

Twins on vacation found dead in a hug

Seven-year-old Shirin and Sharmin were killed in the Jnaneshwari train disaster on May 28, 2010. The girls were on their first vacation with their parents. They were found dead in a hug on the train tracks.

workshop on developing trained professionals for managing brain injury. Kapur visited the school with wife Ritu.

Shirin and Sharmin were students of Class II at the Park Street street school when the accident occurred.

Known as lively, chirpy and witty, the girls had never gone holidaying. Their parents had been saving for few years to fulfill wishes of the two daughters. The girls were over the moon on their first train ride not knowing that it would also become their last journey in just about three hours after the train chugged out of Howrah station.

"The twin sisters were fun loving and lively. Their tragic end came as a rude shock for the school," said Affine M Cohen, vice-principal Jewish Girls' School.

"The synthesizer will be of great use to students in their music lessons," said principal Apala Datta.

While Kapur's gesture may seem out-of-the box to some, the devout Gandhi follower admits that the kids' ordeal helped him stand through a tough-phase in his own life.

"When I contrasted my situation with that of the twins, their ordeal inspired me to make the most of what life has given to me," said the former president of British Neuropsychological Society. Kapur also contributed to the fund of Acid Survivor Foundation.

Tramways hopeful of better days ahead

Indira Kanjilal | TNN

Kolkata: Shantilal Jain took over the chairmanship of the Calcutta Tramways Company in 2011. Apart from heading a prestigious post of the chairman of a 113-year-old heritage institution, he had also inherited, along with the role a whole gamut of problems that gave him sleepless nights.

The Metro was at large to give it competition and so were the AC CTC buses as a faster transportation option for a faster lifestyle that the city was getting used to.

Jain had to have a workable solution for all these problems and he first looked at ways to generate more revenue to keep the trams going.

"It is still a very viable option. We still are connected in some of the main tracks like Shyambazar, the Maidan, College Street and Esplanade and also Park Circus. But the Howrah connectivity is lost."

Jain rules out privatization. He thinks the railways and even CTC has good infrastructure, a very efficient workshop at Nonapukur where trams are still being rolled out. "One cannot work away from the people. The customer comes first and we even tried to rent out our special

113 GLORIOUS YEARS ...



► First electric tram in Asia ran in Kolkata from Esplanade to Kidderpore...March 27, 1902 & June 14 from Esplanade to Kalighat

► Calcutta & Howrah joined by tram tracks on Howrah Bridge... February, 1943

NEW PROJECTS ON TRACK...

► Single bogie AC and non-AC trams, cafeteria, tie-up with tourism dept for heritage trips, renting them out for birthdays, special occasions, special trams through Puja nights

trams like Banani and Bonolota for birthday bashes, unique marriages etc and our workers too realized the importance of what we had and worked to preserve its glory," he adds.

This summer might see AC trams on city streets. Talks are on with the tourism department and the advertisers. The idea of a cafeteria is also being planned.

The Urban Development Ministry of the government of India has conducted a survey, he says, and presented a report on the Renovation of Calcutta Trams—The Light Rail Transit System and is willing to finance any new projects for this heritage institution. The state is also

busy beautifying the banks of the Ganga and once again we might be able to hitch a ride to Outram Ghat or Babughat. These projects are all in the pipeline, says Jain. There is possibility of tram routes linking Rajarhat, Bantala, he adds.

Personnel officer Aniruddha Bhattacharya, in charge of the Nonapukur tram workshop is extremely upbeat about the future. "With the oil crisis a reality we have a readymade alternative for the transport system," he adds. The trams are still extremely well-loved in the city where buses carry you at break-neck speed and lives are lost at the drop of a hat.

Work on Adra power plant may start soon

Jayanta Gupta | TNN

Kolkata: If things go according to plans, work on the 2X660 MW thermal power plant in Purulia's Adra is likely to start soon. The Rs 7,700 crore project will be a joint venture between NTPC and Bharatiya Rail Bijlee Company Ltd (BRBCL).

Sources said that necessary clearances have been received and the West Bengal Wasteland Development Corporation Ltd will start clearing the land in Manpura for the plant shortly. The land belongs to the Indian Railways and was leased out to the state forest department with a clause that it would be taken back when required.

The MoU for this power plant was signed on October 31, 2010, when Mamata Banerjee was the railway minister. The Indian Railways consume about 17 billion units of electricity ev-

ery year, of which 14.5 billion units are used for traction purposes. From the present level of 3,500 MW of peak requirement, it is estimated that the demand for electricity over the next 10 years will be nearly 6,000 MW.

The Adra power plant is to be set up using 'super critical technology'. The equity contribution of the railways and NTPC will be 28:74 and the power generated will be wheeled through the national and state transmission networks to railway load centres in the eastern, northern and western regions.

"The power plant will require about 7.42 million tonnes of coal per annum. Based upon recommendations of the Central Electricity Authority, the Ministry of Power has recommended coal allotment to the Ministry of Coal. NTPC and BRBCL have also applied to the Ministry of

The power plant will require about 7.42 million tonnes of coal per annum. NTPC and BRBCL have also applied to the Ministry of Coal for allocation of coal block on January 29, 2013. Damodar Valley Corporation has confirmed that it will supply the water required

A source

Coal for allocation of coal block on January 29, 2013. Damodar Valley Corporation has confirmed that it will supply the water required," a source revealed.

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and public hearing have been completed as per the Term of Reference approval received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. "A meeting has also been held with the additional chief secretary (forests) to resolve the issue of payment in connection with cutting of trees on the railway land that will be required for the project. Felling of trees will start shortly," the source added.

A consortium was engaged to prepare the feasibility report, detailed project report and site studies report, based on which the applications for clearances were made. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has already granted clearance to the project. The Extended Board of Railways has also approved it. All these reports have been forwarded to NTPC by the railways.



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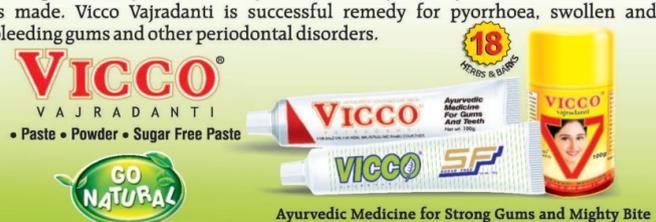
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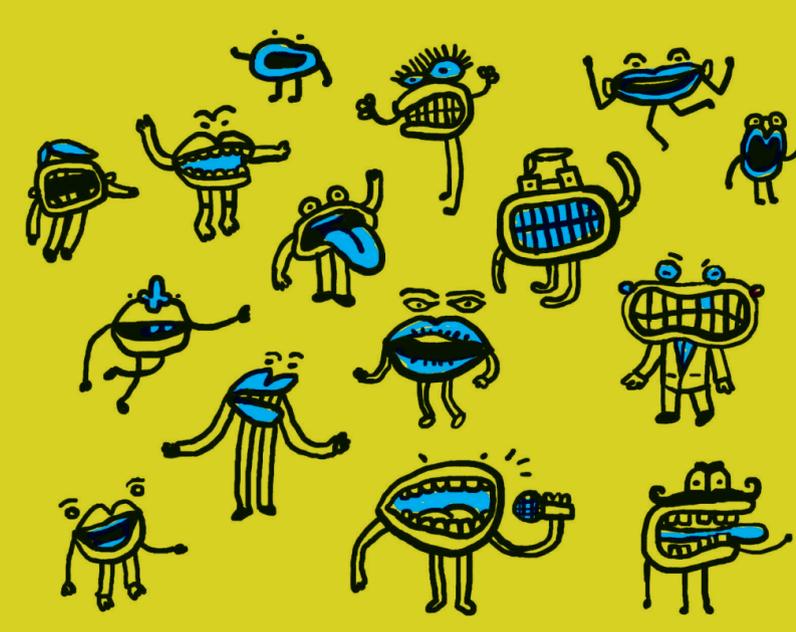
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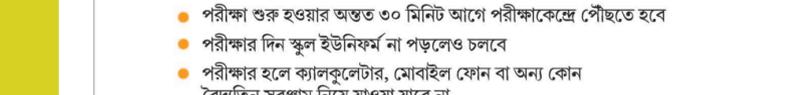
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