

Mayor: Get 24X7 water, but pay for it

METERED SUPPLY

ROUND-THE-CLOCK WATER SUPPLY TO BE FUNDED BY ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Beneficiary	Special Features
Residents of Behala, Joka and neighbourhoods off EM Bypass	Water supply in every household will be metered. Based on consumption, consumers will have to pay tariff
Project Cost	
₹450 crore, to be provided by ADB, besides Rs 100 crore to be paid by the KMC for water supply augmentation scheme	The KMC will construct 3 water booster stations and 5 overhead reservoirs
	200-km water pipelines will be laid to ensure supply of filtered water to every household

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Twelve years ago, a Trinamool-run KMC board tried in vain to impose water tariff in the city as the party chief, Mamata Banerjee, did not endorse the proposal mooted by Asian Development Bank in lieu of its Rs 1,800 crore loan to refurbish city's drainage and water supply system. Former mayor Subrata Mukherjee may have failed to introduce water tax in 2004, but his successor, Sovan Chatterjee, is all set to revive the scheme.

Chatterjee on Tuesday announced an ambitious plan for the city's water supply front: round-the-clock filtered water supply to residents of Behala, Joka and those living in neighbourhoods off EM Bypass. However, the supply will not come for free. According to Chatterjee's proposal, every household will have a metered water connection and residents will have to pay according to their consumption. This is a mandatory clause set by the Asian Development Bank in lieu of paying Rs 450 crore for an overhaul of water supply in areas that go dry in summer.

"We will make sure that lakhs of residents in Behala, Joka and some areas off Bypass will be supplied water ro-

und-the-clock. Taps will not run dry. But such uninterrupted supply will be metered and the beneficiaries will have to pay for it," Chatterjee said.

Under the Rs 450-crore project, the KMC will construct three water booster pumping stations—two at Behala and Joka and the third one at Prantik Palli in Kasba off EM Bypass. These booster pumping stations will help maintain water pressure in far-off places. This apart, five overhead water reservoirs will be built to ensure filtered water is stored and supplied to residents of the localities concerned, whenever there is a crisis. With the concept of providing water to Behala and Joka 24X7, the KMC water supply department has undertaken the construction of a treatment plant with a capacity of producing 50 million gallon water every day. This plant will be in addition to the existing treatment plant that has the capacity of producing 180 million gallon filtered water.

Apart from the ADB finance, the KMC was also set to receive a grant from the Centre under AMRUT for the construction of two booster pumping stations and rejuvenation of the century-old Tallah reservoir, Chatterjee said on Tuesday.

Musical, colour crackers to add to dazzle

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Kolkata: Move over 'dodma' and 'Kali patka', colourful Rainbow Fog, Crackling King and Magic Tree are here to dazzle you.

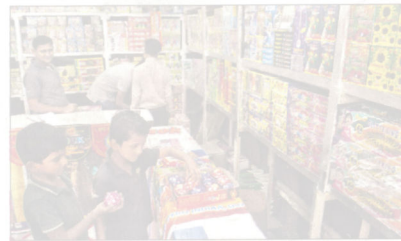
With the state restricting the noise levels of firecrackers to 90 decibel, buyers are now looking to experiment with fireworks that promise to burst into myriad shades, accompanied with musical notes. "This festive season, a lot of new products have been introduced that are colourful and makes different kinds of sound, none too loud. Though it is difficult to identify musical sound from noise while a cracker is being burst, some

FESTIVE FERVOUR

varieties have been introduced. All the musical sounds are kept within the prescribed limits," said a seller at the stall of Satcovrie Das and Company, which has been running firecracker business over generations.

Among the new musical fireworks are Crackling Queen and Crackling King. Each priced at Rs 350, they are like a tubri (flower pot), which burst

SHADES OF DIWALI



Tiny tots browse through fireworks at Maidan Baji Bazaar

Magic Tree

A shower of sparkles and glitter erupts from a cell in a tree formation, accompanied with a musical sound

Price: ₹400 each

Crackling King

Showers sparkles with a crackling sound; comes in various shapes and sizes

Price: ₹350 each

Avatar 50

Shoots 50 colourful fire balls in the air; it resembles the fireworks display during big tournaments

Price: Rs 850 each

Nattiya Dhara

Colourful fireballs that shoot into the sky one after another in different shapes

Price: Rs 180 each

Rainbow Fog

Emanates light of nine different shades from a shell

Price: Rs 200 each

Photo: Subhoyoti Kanjilal

reworks, such as Avatar 50, Jamai, Nattiya Dhara and Rainbow Fog. "Rainbow Fog emits lights of nine shades once the cylinder is ignited. Avatar 50 and Jamai shoot colourful fireballs into the sky that end in a shower of stars and dazzling sparkles. Avatar 50 throws up 50 such fireballs. These fireworks are similar to the ones that are popular at the inauguration or closing ceremonies of world class events. Both the products are among the high-priced crackers in the market," said Brindavan Paul, owner of Tulsi Das and Sons stall. Top 10 is a new entrant that shoots fireballs into the sky which then flashes into 10 different shapes.

Favourites among the colourful displays in the sky are Akaash Barsha, which shoots 12 tri-colour shells, one by one, which then burst into dazzling flares. Colour Boomers is a similar product, another top earner.

Priced Rs 2,200, 100 Shots was a top draw at the Lake Town Baji Bazaar set up to cater to those who cannot possibly travel all the way to Maidan. "It has just been a day since we set up our stalls. Hopefully, the sales will be good over the next few days," said the owner of Debnath Baji Shop.

into a shower of dazzling sparkles, making a crackling sound. Whistling Wheels (Rs 100 a pack) are a variation of sparklers that burns with a whistling sound, while Honda Wheel, which costs Rs 150, is a musical charki. "Magic Tree rises into a fountain of sparkles and glitter, turning into a tree-like shape and accompanied with musical sound. Though priced Rs 400

each, it is selling like hot cakes," said another seller at Baji Bazaar in Maidan.

On the very second day of the most eagerly awaited fireworks market, Aditya Basak, a Class-II boy, dragged his mother Rumki to get his set of favourite bajjis. "Ever since he learnt about the Baji Bazaar; he had been pestering me to bring him to Maidan. On Monday, I managed to stop

him from visiting, saying most of the stalls would not be up, but today, he would not listen to any other excuse," laughed Rumki, a Tangra resident. Aditya meanwhile was busy picking his choice from the array of sparklers, rockets which opens up with parachutes, charkis and tubris.

Apart from the musical crackers, Baji Bazaar has also put on offer new colourful fi-

Rebuffed, man shoots at woman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: A 28-year-old woman in Beliaghata was shot in her head at close range, a price she had to pay for apparently rebuffing a man who wanted to marry her.

The accused is a 36-year-old doctor from Raiganj in North Dinajpur, who came all the way to the woman's home on Kallitala Road at Beliaghata on Tues-

MBA 'stalker' held

An MBA degree-holder was arrested from New Town on Monday night for allegedly stalking and sending indecent texts to an old schoolmate. Joydeep Sinha Roy (26) was picked up based on a complaint of harassment and threat by a 26-year-old woman. **TNN**

day evening. When she refused to accept his marriage proposal, he shot her. The woman's condition is critical.

Police said the victim, who has filed for divorce, opened a profile on a matrimonial site where she met Dey. She reportedly visited Dey's Raiganj home three months ago. "She alleged Dey raped her at gunpoint," said a neighbour.

Marriott opens its doors to Kolkatans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: US-based hotel chain JW Marriott on Monday unveiled a super-deluxe hotel in Kolkata, the eighth JW Marriott brand facility in the country.

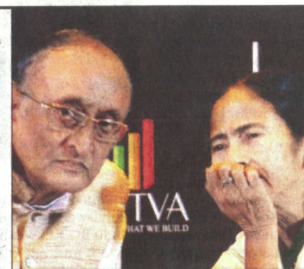
While Marriott International plans to set up 85 hotels to its India portfolio by the end of this year, the Kolkata luxury facility is the first Marriott hotel in the east; the next stop is at Siliguri, where the chain plans to come up with an 138-room Courtyard by Marriott hotel. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who inaugurated the hotel, was visibly happy with the new super-deluxe entrant in the city's hospitality sector. "I am proud that the hotel chain has started its operations in Kolkata, I am aware of its activities across the globe. Marriott will be of great help as Bengal is a popular tourist destination for many, Kolkata being the gateway to Nepal, Bhutan and Singapore," she said.

The facility, jointly developed by real estate groups Mani and Sattya, has 281 rooms, of which 191 are now available, and the remaining 90 will be opened in the next phase. The serviced apartments are located in its 28-storey

LUXURY STAY

On Offer

- ▶ 191 rooms; 90 more in Phase II
- ▶ A speciality restaurant serving Asian food
- ▶ 30,000sq ft of banquet space, including a 14,000 sq-ft ballroom
- ▶ Infinity pool on the 4th floor, especially decorated with lights
- ▶ Special spa
- ▶ An 183-seater nightclub



Mamata Banerjee and Amit Mitra at the JW Marriott inauguration on Tuesday

tower, Vivara. "For us, this hotel will be an iconic luxury hotel for this part of India. After the merger with Starwood hotels, the chain has 80 operating hotels in the country and we plan to get the number to 85. We see Bengal as a

decade-long growth story," said Rajeev Menon, chief operations officer, Marriott International, Asia-Pacific (excluding greater China). Mani Group chairman Sanjay Jhunjhunwala pointed out they invested Rs 1,200 crore for the hotel and the serviced apartments.

By beginning its operations in Bengal, Marriott joins international chains Swissotel, Novotel and Hyatt that have their properties in the city. "To aim and start this class of hospitality was a challenge for Bengal. The state was not looked upon as a destination that can afford high-quality hospitality. But we didn't agree with it and went ahead with the idea. This is one of the best properties in east India," said Sanjay Jhunjhunwala, CEO, Mani Group.

"A JW Marriott Hotel in Kolkata marks a great milestone for Marriott International," said Neeraj Govil, area vice-president (south Asia), Marriott International.

SWACHH BHARAT

AIR QUALITY INDEX PM2.5

Delhi	189	Moderate
Tomorrow	200	Moderate
Pune	79	Good
Tomorrow	73	Good
Mumbai	115	Moderate
Tomorrow	118	Moderate
Hyderabad	90	Good
Chennai	75	Good
Kolkata	162	Moderate

Source: SAFAR (PM2.5-10µm) (10 stations)
US Embassy data calculated as per Indian standards by SAFAR (MOES-ITM-IMD)
Based on 1 Station Data Per City at 4pm