

# Creativity: It's Kolkata's hiz bazz

### City Of Joy Can Be Paris Of The East By Playing To Its Strengths, Feel Panellists

From the City of Joy to the Paris of the East — it's but a small jump, feel some of Kolkata's top-notch entrepreneurs and business honchos.



Kolkata can truly be the country's creative capital. "It is more logical to do that, rather than trying to make it an industrial hub," he said.

Abhishek Rungta, the founder of Indus Net Technologies and president of TIE, argued that Kolkata has always been a creative and cultural city. "We should try to do the creative side of business," he felt. "Building business does not always mean large money. We can make an Uber or Google of India, which can change people's lives."

Sen, additional chief secretary, IT department, Prashant Jalan, founder and chairman, Bengal Nestor's Industries Limited, Subhrajyoti Sanyal, CEO, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park; Manisha Sharaf, co-founder of Truckhall and Superprocure; Chandradeep Mitra, a professor at IIM Calcutta; and Suvayu Ray, project director, project management division, PwC.

Sen pointed out that Kolkata has virtually been the unspoken innovation capital of India for decades. According to him, the Bengal government was creating an ecosystem for startups across the state. "We are actively doing lot of things," he said.

Sen added that the IT and MSME departments were jointly working to set up a centre of in-



● Last date for registration | October 6, 2019  
● Ideas should be Kolkata-centric, which you think can make Kolkata a better place to live in

novation. "It is called Fuljostovara-Webel Centre for Excellence for Innovation for Industry

Website link: [www.timesinnovationchallenge.com](http://www.timesinnovationchallenge.com)



TALKING HEADS: (Above and right) Panellists at the Times Innovation Challenge; (left) audience members listen to the discussions

4.0," he said. Incidentally, Industry 4.0 is the subset of the fourth industrial revolution that concerns Industry 4.0. The fourth industrial revolution encompasses areas that are not normally classified as industry, such as smart cities.

Sen pointed out that the real challenge would be to solve real-life problems through innovation. "We need innovative ways to tackle solid waste management. People are living longer. What is the solution for them to have a stress-free life? We have done Snehodhya (a retirement haven for senior citizens). But we need more such things."

Ray, who works closely with the state government, said the



primary focus of the state government is to create jobs, so innovation should be in line with that. Jalan believes the main thing is not to copy others. "Whatever we do, we should try to be original. Mentoring and handholding is also very important," he added.

Students from leading educational institutes — St Xavier's College, Jadavpur University, Amity University, Heritage Institute, IISER and GMIT — were gathered in large numbers for the panel discussion.

## 'Not just money focus, innovate to solve problems and inspire'

Abhiro Banerjee & Abhishek Chakrabarty

Startups in Kolkata need to go beyond the sole idea of making money and place more importance to innovation, felt the panel of experts at the Times Innovation Challenge Kolkata. Budding entrepreneurs should explore the country for a better understanding of the startup scene and work on plans to upgrade their businesses.

"It's not always about raising funds and making money. The idea should be to try out and explore newer problem-solving methods. The primary focus should be on innovation. Startups should see what new they can bring to the business," said Abhishek Rungta, founder, Indus Net Technologies.

Rungta's advice was for startups to start out with co-entrepreneurship, which would help them to explore the country. "We should come up with something that is more creative than hi-tech," he added.



A moment during the panel discussion

us grow better." Suvayu Ray, project director, PwC's project management division, also stressed the importance of innovation. "Innovation is extremely important to create jobs. The government hands out funds to innovators to create jobs based on transparent selection process. For this, we announced a hackathon on August 15," he said. "Winning is not important. If the solution has got takers — within or outside the government — it will be adopted."

Subhrajyoti Sanyal, CEO, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, said, "The first challenge for entrepreneurship is to inspire the youth to find solutions. Hackathons should encourage open innovation and ask youngsters to find problems first. This may shed light on areas that we never knew existed."

Debashis Sen | ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, IT, WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT

Harsh Neotia | CHAIRMAN, AMBAJA NEOTIA GROUP

Prashant Jalan | FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NESTOR'S INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Abhishek Rungta | TIE PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, INDUS NET TECHNOLOGIES

Subhrajyoti Sanyal | CEO, IIM CALCUTTA INNOVATION PARK

Suvayu Ray | PROJECT DIRECTOR, PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIVISION, PWC

Chandradeep Mitra | CEO OF PIPALMARA ADVISOR & MENTOR OF IIM CALCUTTA INNOVATION PARK, VISITING PROFESSOR, IIM CALCUTTA

## 70-year-old falls while boarding bus, run over

### Driver Booked For Negligence

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: A 70-year-old woman, who was trying to board a Behala-bound government bus, was run over by it at the Rashbehari Avenue and Purna Das Road crossing close to Triangular Park. Police said the woman, a resident of Barisha in Thakurpukur, met with the accident around 4.25pm on Tuesday.



The spot where the woman was run over. (R) The accident vehicle

WITBC bus seriously injured a pedestrian around 9pm on Monday. The pedestrian, Usha Banti Saha (70), was trying to cross the road at the Behala Train Depot when the bus playing between Esplanade and Borah hit the woman. Her condition is critical, said cops quoting doctors.

A recent analysis has found that 19 accidents taking place in the past two months are either due to passengers getting off moving buses, coming in front buses and slipping off the footboard. The most recent one saw a 46-year-old tailor standing on the foot-



The spot where the woman was run over. (R) The accident vehicle

board of a government bus negotiating a narrow and congested road in Haridevpur. The passenger lost his left arm after it was ripped off when the elbow got caught in the wedge of a building's corner.

"We will begin a special drive in this regard soon. The aim is to inculcate the best practices," said DC (traffic) Santosh Pandey. The cops said they will be speaking to transport experts and even bus manufacturers in this regard. "The AC buses are the best option. But it is the private sector, whom we want to regulate," said an offi-

## NEWS DIGEST

### Judicial custody for Raghiv

Raghiv Parwez, who is accused of ramming his Jaguar into a Mercedes, resulting in the death of two Bangladeshi residents last month, was sent to judicial custody till September 9. The son of the Arsalan group had fled to Dubai immediately after the accident and the family turned in his younger brother, Arsalan. Raghiv was later arrested and sent to police custody. Raghiv's lawyers plead for bail but was turned down.

### Golf Green suicide

Two days after the mysterious death of a youth under an under-construction building in Golf Green close to Central Park, the police have established the identity of the victim as Santosh Singh Adhikari, a resident of Assam's Jorhat. According to cops, Adhikari was a 26-year-old and was suffering from depression.

### Woman kills self, 'poison's' child

A 19-year-old woman was found dead and her nine-

### month-old son seriously ill in Bansdroni on Tuesday. Cops suspect the woman, Kobita Mondal, had consumed poison and tried to kill her son. They have ruled out the possibility of homicide. "Kobita started vomiting since Monday night. Her son Abhijit showed the same symptoms. Bilhash Mondal (24), her husband, a rickshaw-puller by profession, took them to a local doctor on Monday evening. The doctor reportedly did not provide any medicine to Kobita but treated the child," said DC (SSD) Sudip Sarkar.

### Stepson held for theft of meat trader's house

A 20-year-old, SK Niazuddin alias Shaal, has been arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 7.5 lakh and jewellery worth Rs 7.5 lakh from his stepfather — SK Bablu (33), a wholesale meat trader — on August 25. Bablu was out on a holiday with his family at the time of the burglary. The cops have also arrested Shaal's friends Md Riyaz (20) and Aryan Dubei alias Sabir (19), who helped in the crime. The stolen booty was recovered from them. The three were identified once the cops went through the CCTV footage.

## Narco test in doctor death case

Dwipayan Ghosh @timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The police have decided to carry out a narco test on the brother of a 48-year-old doctor, Chandreyi Das Chowdhury, who died 14 months ago.

The decision was taken after the victim's brother, Joy (40), agreed to the test. The woman was found dead at her residence on May 22, 2018.

Chandreyi was a resident of a flat off Southern Avenue and worked at a clinic in Kasba's Rajdanga area. "This is the second time cops took an attempt to carry out the test. Earlier, Joy had initially agreed for the test but had backed out later."

Cops said the post-mortem report of Chandreyi, which was prepared by the autopsy surgeon during inquest started by the cops at the Bhowanipore police station, stated the death was homicidal in nature.

"Death was due to the effects of manual strangulation," the report stated.

According to police sources, Chandreyi lived on the third floor of her flat, along with Joy and their mother, Kalyani (73).

## Indian Museum gets new director

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Rejesh Purohit, who was the director of Indian Museum, was reappointed to Allahabad Museum on Monday. Arjit Dutta Chowdhury became the new Indian Museum director, the oldest and biggest heritage treasure of the country in a ministry of culture order, which reached Indian Museum late in the afternoon, named Chowdhury as the new IM director.

### ORDER FROM MIN OF CULTURE

Chowdhury, known for being a stickler for rules, will now have triple charges. Besides being the IM director, he is also the director general of National Council of Science Museum (NCSM) and that of National Library For Chowdhury, the Indian Museum top post is not new, as he was at the helm of affairs during the museum's bicentenary celebration.

Purohit, who was accused of sexually harassing an intern at Indian Museum, was sent on leave on Monday. Museum sources revealed he was asked to go on leave to facilitate free and fair probe into the allegations.

Purohit could not be contacted despite several attempts. The messages sent to him on his mobile also remain unanswered.

Chowdhury told TOI "I will be quite an enormous task to put things back to normalcy at this very important institution." "An official said, "Indian Museum has its own share of problems. A lot of posts are lying vacant. Priorities have to be taken. I'd like to see how things will be in the future."

Museum officials, who have worked with him during his earlier stint, have faith in him. "Chowdhury is a thorough gentleman known for his unwavering focus on museum administration," one of the officials at the museum said.

## BJP's Mukul visits Sovan residence

Kolkata: Sovan Chatterjee and Baisakhi Bandyopadhyay had BJP leader Mukul Roy as a guest at their Golpark apartment on Tuesday, two days after Baisakhi told reporters on Saturday that both of them wanted to be re-elected from BJP's party they had recently joined from Trinamool Congress.

## TOI-VGSOM CAMPAIGN

The Vinod Gupta School of Management (VGSOM), IIT Kharagpur, recently organised a prize distribution ceremony in coordination with the institute's Marketing and Advertising (MAD) Club to felicitate students, who conducted a drive on behalf of TOI, ET, Sunday and ET Wealth. The top 15 teams were awarded certificates. VGSOM dean Prabina Rajh and MAD Club faculty coordinator Bigab Dutta stressed

## Garden Reach kids cartwheel into internet sensations, win praise from Nadia Comaneci

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Twelve-year-old Jashika Khan from Garden Reach and her classmate, 13-year-old Mohammad Eliazuddin, had no idea that a 15-second video of them performing a combination of cartwheels and somersaults on their way to school would turn them into an internet sensation. The video, recorded by their dance teacher for fun and posted online, caught the attention of gymnasium Nadia Comaneci, who shared it on her Twitter handle.



Screen-grabs of Jashika and Eliazuddin in action

dances for the past four years. Since they had interest in gymnastics, I started their physical training three years ago. They copy natural talents. Most importantly, Jashika and Eliazuddin love doing this. They are hardly aware that their moves are considered world standard among gymnasts," Sek-

## Screen-grabs of Jashika and Eliazuddin in action

bourhood, Jashika's father is a driver and her mother works in a tailoring shop, while Ajazuddin's parents are labourers.

Both Eliazuddin and Jashika, who is popularly known in the locality as 'Lovely', are yet to come to terms with their new-found celebrity status.

"When I saw them perform, I would not resist the temptation of recording them and uploading them on social media," Rao added.

His efforts didn't go in vain. On the video, Comaneci — whose career spanned from Montreal Olympics in 1976 — Tweeted: "This is awesome." Nadia's tweet was immediately responded by a minister of state for sports, RJRiju, who wrote in his tweet: "I'm happy that @nadiacomancedotorg loved it... It becomes very special. I love to see these kids take it to me." "The state is keen on inspiring talented kids. I've asked them to come to Netaji stadium. I will help them personally and see to it that

We want us to be relieved. We may tender our resignation." "We that mastering sales skills was an important part of acquiring business knowledge. Chaser Express won the competition. j indoor stadium on Wednesday? "I have been teaching them har Rao, their dance teacher, said. Residents of the same neigh- They seem to be hardly aware that their gymnastics moves road, their heavy schoolbags on their back, just to impress they get proper help from the government," Shukla told TOI.

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