

4-year-old sexually assaulted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A four-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a minor in outer Delhi's Begumpur area.

Police said they are yet to apprehend anyone in the case, which happened last week, as the child has not been able to identify the accused. The incident came to light when the child complained of pain in her abdomen. When she was taken to a local hospital, doctors confirmed that the child was sexually assaulted sexually.

A case was registered, following which the cops took the girl to her school for identifying the accused. On being questioned, the girl pointed to a PWD labourer's 16-year-old son, but it was found that the boy was not present at the spot during the incident. Later, the girl also pointed at her cousin. No one has been apprehended because of the lack of clarity, police said.

A case under sections of POCSO has been registered against unknown persons.

DDA to ready Rohini flats by Oct

Agency Says All Flats To Be Ready Before Results Of Housing Scheme Draw

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New Delhi: DDA, which is building 10,000 one-bedroom flats in Rohini, has finished work on hundreds of them and is planning to complete many more before the results of its 2014 housing scheme draw are announced in October-end.

The housing agency has promised to use state-of-the-art technology in the construction of these flats in Rohini's sector 34 and 35. Some of them are autoclave aerated concrete blocks to regulate temperature and reflect heat; fly ash bricks to keep rooms cool, and provisions for rain water harvesting.

The rooms are 28 square metres large. All the buildings in the complex have four storeys with two flats on each floor.

The flats are easily accessible as verandas have been constructed to connect the buildings. Engineers in the area say that construction has been going on without a

VARIED CHOICE

DDA flats to be available under various categories, including the new stock (24,223) and the old ones (811), under the 2014 housing scheme

Type of flat	How many
LIG	23,078
MIG	561
Janta	545
EWS	700
HIG	21
Expandable (Type 'A')	129
Total	25,034

pause. "The major civil construction work has been completed in most of the flats. We have to finish the rest of them and take up auxiliary work like electricity and landscape".

As a safety measure, DDA has installed fire hy-

drants in every building. The flats will go on sale for Rs 14.5-Rs 16.5 lakh when the housing scheme opens in the beginning of September. This scheme—DDA's 43rd—has close to 95% of its houses for the poor and low-income group. This is for the

first time since DDA began offering houses through schemes.

Another category of flats—which might become one of the most sought after sections—will be the two-bedroom apartments in Mukherjee Nagar, Narela, Rohini



Photo: Piyal Bhattacharjee

For the first time since DDA began offering houses through schemes, 95% of its houses this time are for the low-income group

and Kalyan Vihar. At Mukherjee Nagar, the flats with plinth area of 126 square metres will go for close to Rs 70 lakh. There are 112 flats on offer in this complex, which has 10 storeys, a lift and CCTV cameras.

However, residents of Mukherjee Nagar who had bought flats in DDA's last housing scheme in 2010 offer a word of caution.

"Scaffolding in the complex has been falling off. Three cars were recently damaged and we have been told that fresh tenders have been issued to repair the portions of the building. Not even five years have passed since occupants started moving in and the complex is already crumbling," a resident said.

Locals fear land sharks may return

►Continued from P1

Many villagers in the Mangar area have been concerned that real estate companies will start building in the ecologically sensitive area which used to be common community land.

The land where the road was being constructed falls under sections 4 and 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act, where most non-forest activities are restricted.

The National Green Tribunal had in April directed the Haryana government and Union environment ministry to identify forest stretches in the area within a month — a process that is currently on.

Though Mangar Bani is not notified as a forest yet, numerous agencies including the environment ministry have suggested that the ecologically sensitive area be protected.

The Bani and other parts of the hills are classified as a natural conservation zone (NCZ) in the draft regional plan 2021. Organizations such as the Snow Leopard Trust have also



CLEARING: The company allegedly expanded dirt tracks by felling 40 trees

found evidence of predators such as leopard in the area.

"The company was trying to expand and strengthen the dirt tracks so that it is viable for transporting heavy equipment. They could also be laying soil on the rocky surface of the hill to make it appear like agricultural land," said Chetan Agarwal, an environmental analyst.

Forest staff has broken elevated parts of the road with an earthmover but couldn't do much about the stretch that has already been constructed.

Sunil Harsana, a villager and local activist said the forest department was immediately informed when villagers saw trees being damaged.

"The forest staff thankfully

The land where the road was being constructed falls under sections 4 and 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act, where most non-forest activities are restricted

arrived on time and took action. But we are worried as companies may start constructions again," he said.

Activists have sent a letter to the Haryana forest department. "The land falling within the broken down pillars which is claimed by the company, has dense forest growth of native Aravalli species such as dhak, dhau and ronjh."

The letter cites a stay order by National Green Tribunal (NGT) which states, "The state government is also directed not to issue any permissions permitting fragmentation of the areas falling in village Mangar, gairmunkan pahar in district Faridabad till the next date of hearing and in any case without leave of the tribunal."



Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee



INFECTIOUS ENTHUSIASM: The energetic beats of Delhi Drum Circle kept people on their toes

Delhiites feel liberated, dance away at Raahgiri

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhiites don't need an excuse to dance. And this Sunday, many at the weekly Raahgiri in Connaught Place's Inner Circle danced with abandon to the energetic beats of Delhi Drum Circle.

The group, formed in 2009, doesn't use instruments that many would recognize but morning walkers found themselves drawn to the heady music and the energy vibrating through the scores of onlookers.

"Delhi Drum Circle used to play at the deer park but suddenly we were asked to leave. Now we have regular fixtures at the PVR Priya complex," said Richa Kapoor, a member of DDC. "Raahgiri is a great initiative because it has opened up a market like Connaught Place for street music. Usually we avoid playing at places other than our fixed spots because we might be asked to leave anytime. But if Delhi would permit music on its streets, it would create great a positive energy among people," she said.

Raahgiri is an initiative by Delhi Police and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), along with Embark India. It is supported by The Times of India. The concept promotes options that can be explored when an area is pedestrian-



Kids had a field day cycling and skating without killjoys

A biz platform too

The huge turnout at the event has offered great business opportunities. Many go there every week just to advertise their ideas and concepts. A theatre group, for instance, went around promoting a play they will be performing later this week

ized. Promotion of street music, which is popular and encouraged in several other countries, is one such option.

Like other Raahgiri days, Delhiites flocked to CP this time too for their weekly dose of fun on the streets. The empty parking lots became the venue for gully cricket, badminton and football. "As a kid, I used to play on the street outside my house and traffic was never a problem. My children

unfortunately could not enjoy such simple pleasures. Today, my son and his friends are playing cricket in the parking lot. It is great fun," said Sudhir Pandey, a businessman.

NDMC is planning to organize social awareness projects at Raahgiri in future. OP Mishra, director (projects), said that Art of Living camps would be held in a week or two while blood donation was another aspect that NDMC is considering seriously.

New Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi, who is a regular at Raahgiri, said that NDMC would be taking the concept to all their popular markets to encourage people to walk and cycle. "It is about promoting healthy and green living. People have to be given an option of going to a place that is closer to their houses," she said.

Pregnant woman found dead, kin cry foul

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 32-year-old pregnant woman was found dead in her house in central Delhi's Anand Parbat area on Sunday afternoon.

Though the cops suspect that the woman, Sunita, committed suicide by hanging herself, her family members have alleged that she was murdered by her in-laws for dowry. The woman's husband and in-laws have been detained for questioning.

The matter was reported when the doctors of Sardar Patel Hospital, near Patel Nagar, informed the cops about a dead woman being brought to them with injuries on her body and her family members claiming that she had committed suicide. The woman had injury marks on her throat and right eye, police said. A team of cops went to the house and found Sunita's dupatta and a stool that she might have used to kill herself.

However, Sunita's family members have alleged that she was being tortured by her in-laws for the last six years. They said her husband, Roh-tash (33), who owns a packaging plant, had been asking Sunita's brother for money to buy a plot. They further said that Sunita was pregnant and was to deliver next month.

Sunita's brother, Vikram, said that she married Roh-tash in 2008 but had left his house after her in-laws harassed her for dowry. He said that he did not register a complaint but approached a woman welfare body in Dwarka. "The officials at the welfare body had asked us not to reveal the matter to the in-laws as it might lead to further complications. They passed on the case to the police," he said. The cops have ordered an SDM probe in the case.



Sunita

Protest against fee hike

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: More than 200 people, including women and children, marched from Tol-stoy Marg to Jantar Mantar on Sunday, protesting against the hike in swimming fees at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex in Talkotra Stadium.

Sports Authority Of India (SAI) has recently hiked the

fees by five to 10 times.

The hike aims to bring in "club culture" in a government set-up, protestors said, adding that most people go to the pool because swimming reduces the risk of many ailments.

They further said, the fees should be made affordable so that more people can join the facility, which isn't catering to its full capacity.

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