

Underground stretch becomes Patna metro's biggest challenge

Faryal.Rumi@timesofindia.com

Patna: With Patna Metro services now extended from Patliputra Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) to Malahi Pakri, the focus has shifted to the project's most challenging phase — the construction of the underground sections of Corridors I and II, which will connect key parts of the city while minimising disruption to traffic.

To ensure the work does not affect traffic on Nehru Path, one of Patna's busiest arterial roads, the urban development and housing department on Thursday initiated a comprehensive traffic management plan for the next phase of construction.

At a meeting chaired by urban development and housing minister Nitish Mishra, officials reviewed measures to ease traffic congestion during the proposed underground tunnelling between Vidyt Bhawan and Rukanpura under Corridor I. As the tunnel will pass beneath Nehru Path, the minister directed officials to ensure public convenience remains the top priority throughout the construction period.

Nitish said infrastructure development and efficient traffic management must go hand in hand and asked the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), the executing agency for the project, to conduct a detailed survey of the construction zone.

Based on the findings, DMRC has been asked to submit a comprehensive traffic management and construction plan within 15 days, covering diversion routes, traffic regulation measures and co-ordination among all departments concerned.

Meanwhile, construction is progressing rapidly on Corridor II, where the 8-km underground stretch from Rajendra Nagar to Patna Junction is expected to transform east-west connectivity in the capital. The section will have six underground

TRAVEL BOON

"I travel towards ISBT almost every day for work. Earlier, it would take 30 to 40 minutes during traffic. Now the journey is completed in just a few minutes and without the stress of sitting in traffic jams."

Munna Pathak | Patrakar Nagar

"People will prefer the metro over personal vehicles once they realise how much time it saves. It will also reduce traffic congestion. Now, I can commute much more easily by the metro."

Minakshi Agarwal | Rajendra Nagar



People travel on a Patna metro train after the inauguration of the extended services up to Malahi Pakri station on Thursday

"Parking has become a major problem in this area. Now I can leave my vehicle at home and take the metro. It saves fuel, time and the hassle of driving through congested roads. The metro is comfortable, punctual and will save both time and money."

Sumit Shrivastava | Defence Colony

"Metro has finally provided the locality with a modern transport system that matches its growing population. This is only the beginning. Once the underground section up to Patna Junction opens, people across the city will prefer the metro over private vehicles."

Bhawna Patani | Naya Tola

"Women commuters feel more secure on the metro than on crowded public transport. The stations are well-maintained and the journey is much more comfortable. Earlier, we depended on autos and buses, which were often overcrowded and delayed."

Savita Sahay | Kankarbagh

Improved connectivity to benefit students: Samrat

Continued from P 1

He said the addition of Malahi Pakri Metro Station would provide lakhs of residents in east Patna with a faster, safer and more convenient mode of transport.

Calling the inauguration a landmark step for Bihar's urban infrastructure, Samrat said the govt is committed to developing a modern, safe and environmentally sustainable public transport system. He added improved connectivity would benefit students, office-goers, traders and other daily commuters

while encouraging greater use of public transport across the city. Samrat asked officials to maintain the pace of construction and complete the Patna Metro Rail project within the stipulated timeline. He said timely execution of the remaining work was essential to provide world-class transport facilities to the people of the capital at the earliest.

Metro services are now operational on a 6.5-km elevated stretch of the Blue Line between Patliputra Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) and Malahi Pakri. The operational corridor has five stations — ISBT, Zero Mile, Bhootnath, Khemnichak and Malahi Pakri. However, trains are currently not halting at Khemnichak station, which has been opened for operational purposes but is yet to begin passenger services.

stations — Rajendra Nagar, Moin-ul-Haq Stadium, Patna University, PMCH, Gandhi Maidan and Akashvani — before terminating at the underground Patna Junction interchange station.

Once completed, commuters will be able to travel directly from Patna Junction to

ISBT without changing trains. The entire Blue Line will then span about 14.5 km with the underground section targeted for completion by the end of 2026.

Metro officials said, "The TBMs are also working on the stretch between Gandhi Maidan and Akashvani."

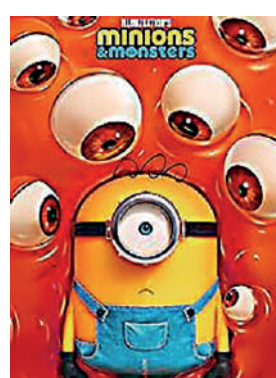
CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Minions and Monsters (Comedy, Animation)

★★★

Cast: Pierre Coffin, Allison Janney, George Lucas, Christoph Waltz
Direction: Pierre Coffin
Duration: 1h 30m
Language: English (UA)

Set in 1920s Hollywood, the Minions are desperately searching for a new evil master. Every attempt ends in disaster because one of their own always messes things up. But this chaos unexpectedly turns them into Hollywood celebrities. The bigger question is whether they can handle fame while also dealing with a monster outbreak that they accidentally help unleash.



and energetic. Director and co-writer Pierre Coffin (also the voice of minions) along with writer Brian Lynch come up with a very interesting premise. Setting the Minions in a nostalgic Hollywood era is perhaps the most promising idea the franchise has had so far. The vintage sets, silent-film style comedy, and old studio atmosphere give the film a fresh look compared to the

Minions and Monsters is the seventh film in the famed Despicable Me franchise and the third standalone Minions movie (after Minions (2015) and Minions: The Rise of Gru). It begins on a surprisingly strong note. The opening portions set in the early 1900s show the Minions wandering through different jobs and villains before ending up in Hollywood, and these early scenes are genuinely funny

earlier entries.

Unfortunately, once the Minions actually arrive in Hollywood, the narrative starts repeating itself. The film keeps relying on similar gags, and after a while it begins to drag. One accident leads to another, then another, without the story moving forward in a meaningful way. The Minions remain undeniably cute. The voice work by director Pierre Coffin is spot on. Their gibberish dialogue is equal parts funny and frustrating because you can only understand bits and pieces of it. The problem is that these cutesy antics can only carry a film so far when the screenplay keeps going in circles.

One actor who deserved more screen time is Allison Janney. Her soothing narration works well whenever it appears, and the film could have used her more often to explain what is happening. Since the movie is aimed mainly at children, a little more clarity would have helped. What really stands out are the Hollywood references. The film is packed with nods to classic cinema: the old Warner Bros. era, a faithful homage to A Trip to the Moon, and several silent-era slapstick callbacks. There are clear inspirations from

Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Harold Lloyd, including visual gags that recall Modern Times, Steamboat Bill, Jr., and Safety Last!. Film lovers will definitely appreciate these touches.

But the gibberish-spewing yellow figures, who are clearly perfect merchandise mascots, still need solid writing behind them. Slapstick is not the issue; that has always been the DNA of the Minions. The makers simply could have made it funnier and tighter. For Pierre Coffin, this is his first solo directing effort after co-directing the Despicable Me films and the first Minions film. You can see his affection for cinema history in almost every frame. The problem is that the film tries to pack in too much and eventually collapses under its own weight.

What should have been a harmless, enjoyable, no-brainer ride gradually turns into a dragfest. The pace improves during the climax, but by then it feels like too little, too late. The Minions are still adorable, but the next installment needs a much stronger screenplay to match the energy of these yellow one-eyed cuties.

— Ronak Kotecha

RATING SCALE

TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★★ | VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

Teaching skills to be tested in asst prof recruitment

B K Mishra | TNN

Patna: In a significant change to the recruitment of university teachers in Bihar, candidates applying for assistant professor posts will now have to demonstrate their teaching skills before an interview board with the exercise carrying substantial weight in the final selection.

Under the 2026 statute for appointment of assistant

professors, which received the assent of governor-cum-chancellor Syed Ata Hasnain on Wednesday, teaching demonstrations will carry 13 of the 25 interview marks. The demonstrations will be video recorded to ensure transparency and fairness.

The final merit list will be prepared on the basis of a 175-mark written examination and a 25-mark interview, comprising 13 marks for tea-



ching skills and 12 marks for interaction with the interview board. The new statute replaces the 2020 recruitment rules. The statute also introduces a maximum age limit of 43 years as on Aug 1 of the year in which the recruitment advertisement is issued. The earlier statute had no upper

age limit.

Candidates must have at least 55% marks at the master's level and should have qualified the UGC/CSIR NET or the state-level State Eligibility Test (SET)/State Eligibility Test (SET). Applicants with a PhD in the relevant discipline may be exempted from the eligibility test requirement. All eligible candidates will have to appear for written exam.

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Walk In Interview on 17th July 2026 (Friday)

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Pooja N. Prasad, W/o Late Nishant Kumar Prasad, R/o Road No. 1A, 204 Patliputra Colony, Patna - 800013, Bihar, hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from Prem Shila Devi to Prem Shela Devi and my date of birth from 1.7.1965 to 1.1.1959 for all purposes.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Nilam Lata, W/o RAJEEV SINGH, R/o Jamuhari, Arwal, declare that my name is previously mentioned as "NEELAM LATA" in the school records of my daughter SHREYA LATA. My correct name is "NILAM LATA".

AFFIDAVIT

I, Shripati Devi, W/o Aklu Prasad, R/o Dhekan Lachhman Tola, P.S.- Dhekan Bazar, P.S.- Mithari Mufassil, Dist.- East Champaran, Solemnly Affirm & Declare Vide Aff. No. 13921, Dtd. 01/06/2026 My name is Shripati Devi, as per my Aadhar No. - 3188 7387 2982. However, my previous name was Sita Devi, based on which my Aadhar was previously created. However, now my correct name will remain Shripati Devi. I had an account with Indian Bank with my previous name, Sita Devi, as account number 6428153244. I wish to have it corrected to Shripati Devi.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Md. Tahsin, S/o Late Md. Harun Rashid, R/o-Daryapur Kori Tola, P.O.-Bankipur, P.S.- Pirabore, Dist.- Patna, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare vide Affidavit No. 7214 dtd. 15.06.2026 that I previously known as Md. Tahsin Ekh Laqui @ Md. Tahsin. That both the names "Md. Tahsin Ekh Laqui" and "Md. Tahsin" refer to the one and same individual, who is myself. That from now onward I will be known as "Md. Tahsin" for all future purposes.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Jyoti Kumari, W/o Ravindra Kumar, R/o Simri, Bisfi, Madhubani, Bihar declare that my daughter's name is incorrectly recorded as Aisha Kapri in her Aadhar card. Her correct name is Bhavya Suman as per birth certificate. In future, she shall be known as Bhavya Suman. Affidavit No. 9419, Dt. 25/06/2026.

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Four held for kidnapping, killing Class VIII student

Dilip Kumar | TNN

Bettiah: Police on Thursday arrested four people for allegedly abducting and murdering a 15-year-old boy who had gone missing while returning home from school in West Champaran district. The arrests followed the recovery of the victim's body from the Tilave river.

The victim, Sonu Kumar, a Class VIII student from Inarwa village under Kangli police station, had been missing since June 30. His mother, Sharda Devi, informed police that he had not returned home after leaving school.

In a written complaint lodged on July 1, she alleged that Sonu had been abducted by Shamshul Ansari alias Pogia and 17 others while he was returning from Senuwariya Private School. Based on the complaint, Kangli police registered an FIR and launched an investigation.

Acting on the instructions of West Champaran (Bettiah) SSP Kumar Gautam, a special investigation team led by the Narkatiaganj SDPO was formed to probe the case.

Police arrested four accused — Shamshul Ansari alias Pogia and Muslim Ansari of Maswas village in West Champaran, Ajay Kumar alias Sagar of Bhelahi in East Champaran, and Sahil Kumar of Siswa village.

According to SSP Gautam, the murder stemmed from a personal dispute involving Sonu's younger sister. Shamshul was allegedly in a relationship with the girl but became upset after she started talking to another youth. Police claimed Shamshul had complained to Sonu, who supported his sister and allegedly threatened him.

Maha TET probe: Hajipur cyber cafe raided, 3 detained

Kshitiz@timesofindia.com

Patna: Maharashtra Special Task Force (STF), assisted by Vaishali police, raided a cyber cafe in Hajipur late on Wednesday as part of its investigation into the Maharashtra Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) paper leak. Three people, including the cafe operator, were detained for questioning during the operation.

The raid was conducted at a cyber cafe on Kachahari Road and continued until around 1 am on Thursday. Police seized digital devices and documents suspected to be linked to the case for forensic examination.

Police sources said the Hajipur cyber cafe came under the scanner during the Maharashtra investigation. Investigators suspect it may have been used to prepare or provide fake identity cards, certificates or other documents connected with the examination. However, police have not officially confirmed its exact role.

Town SHO Sikandar Ku-

STF ACTION

Police seize digital devices and documents

The cafe is suspected to have prepared fake exam documents

Police are also searching a cyber cafe in Patna

The Maharashtra TET was cancelled after the paper leak

mar said, "A raid was conducted at the cyber cafe on Kachahari Road in connection with an exam-related investigation underway in Maharashtra."

He said Maharashtra Police were leading the operation while Vaishali police were providing logistical support. Further details would emerge after the investigation is completed.

The detained operator's elder brother said the family had been searching for him since Wednesday evening after he stopped answering phone calls.

"When we reached the cyber cafe, we found that a raid

was underway. The investigation team told us Sonu was arrested in connection with the Maharashtra TET paper leak case. They are also searching for my younger brother Vikas, who lives in Patna," he said.

The detained operator, a resident of Sahdei Buzurg in Vaishali, has been running the cyber cafe since 2009. Police suspect links between him and the alleged mastermind from Samastipur district. Police are also searching another cyber cafe in Patna after the name of the operator's younger brother surfaced during the questioning of three accused arrested in Maharashtra.

More than 4.28 lakh candidates had registered for the Maharashtra TET. The examination was cancelled after the question paper was allegedly leaked about 24 hours before the June 28 test. The investigation now spans multiple states with Maharashtra STF teams continuing searches in Bihar and other locations.

Complete 1 crore TB screening by Aug 14, says govt

Patna: Chief secretary Pratya Amrit on Thursday directed all departments and district officials to implement tuberculosis (TB) screening drive in "mission mode" and ensure completion of one crore screenings by August 14. He warned that laxity at any level in this campaign of national importance would not be tolerated. He asked district officials to personally review progress every week and fix field-level accountability to make Bihar TB-free. During a high-level review of the TB screening programme under the TB-Free India campaign, the chief secretary expressed concern that against the state's targeted population of 2.76 crore, only 0.39 crore people, or 14%, have been screened so far. Most districts are still below 20% screening coverage, Amrit said, stressing that stronger coordination among departments and district administrations is essential to achieve the target. TNN