

MISSION BRIEFING

TO: Field Analyst

FROM: Mission Control

SUBJECT: Operation River Run - Locate Agent 'RIVER'

Our field agent, codenamed 'RIVER,' is on the move with critical intel and has gone dark. We need you to pinpoint his intended destination based on his last, fragmented transmission.

AGENT'S LAST MESSAGE:

"Mission compromised. I have the package, but they're onto me. My journey started from the man-made island in Kochi, that sprawling hub of naval bases and port trusts. I crossed the historic bridge to the mainland and left the island at 17:00 sharp.

Had to move fast. Hopped on the nearest express train to Bengaluru from one of the main city stations. The train screamed out of the city, leaving its urban glow behind.

About a half hour into the journey, the monsoon rain let up for a moment. To the east, I could see the unmistakable sight of large passenger jets taking off and landing, their lights piercing the dusk. A major travel hub, but not for me today.

After crossing another wide river, the last cluster of town lights vanished behind us. The train picked up speed again, and the world outside dissolved into a deeper darkness as the landscape just... opened up. The dense trees and houses fell away, replaced by an immense, flat blackness that stretched to the horizon. It wasn't empty, though. The fields were flooded, a vast, dark mirror under the monsoon sky. Every so often, the lonely light from a distant farmhouse or a single streetlamp would appear, its reflection glittering on the water below. For a moment, it looked like the stars had fallen from the sky and scattered across the earth. The hypnotic clatter of the wheels was the only sound. Out there, in that sea of darkness and light, there was a strange sense of peace. A dangerous feeling on a job like this, but welcome nonetheless.

That quiet didn't last. The very sound of the train changed, jolting me from my thoughts. The crossing was unlike any before; this wasn't just another river, it was a vast, sandy artery draining the heart of the highlands. The wheels roared with a hollow echo on the long iron bridge, a drumbeat signaling a final departure from the coast. Below, the riverbed sprawled wide and pale in the faint light, a sleeping giant.

Immediately as that roar subsided, the train seemed to surrender its momentum, crawling forward into the iron heart of the network. The world outside became a slow-motion labyrinth of steel, a place of pure function where track after track peeled away into the darkness.

I could sense the main station off to the side—a detached island of sterile light and implied humanity—but our path was a darker one. We were kept to the periphery, navigating by the

colored eyes of signals that blinked in the oppressive gloom. The sheer complexity of it was suffocating; every screech of the wheels on the switches felt like a warning.

We were a ghost in the machine, and for a terrifyingly long moment, I felt trapped in its gears.

Now, we're picking up speed again, but the landscape is changing for good. The terrain is flattening, the air feels drier, more brittle. There's less cover out here. That slow crawl has shredded my nerves. My cover feels thin and the signal is starting to break up. If this is my last message, the flag is where this train is headed: the very next logical stop for an express on this line. It's a quiet town, I've heard, a place that has served as the backdrop for countless stories, both real and imagined. Find my location."

YOUR OBJECTIVE:

Use the landmarks and descriptions in the agent's message to trace his train route. Identify the station he refers to in his final clue. You may need to use mapping services and railway information to follow the trail.

The Flag Format: `flag{<Station Name(Follow IRCTC naming)>}` (The flag is case-insensitive).