

**West Bengal - Weekly News & Economy Wrap**  
**Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers.**  
**January 01, 2024 – January 05, 2024**

**Key Developments**

**Haldia Petrochemicals breaks ground on Rs 3,000 cr chemical plant in Bengal.**

Petrochemical major Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd on Wednesday announced that it has carried out the groundbreaking ceremony for India's largest phenol plant in West Bengal's Haldia. The Rs 3,000 crore project is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2026. This plant is also the first on-purpose propylene plant in India based on Olefin Conversion Technology (OCT) from Lummus Technology. It will enable the city based HPL to become India's first integrated player in the phenolics chain. The overall chemical business portfolio is expected to increase by an additional Rs 5,000 crore with the commissioning of the plant.

[https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/haldia-petrochemicals-breaks-ground-on-rs-3-000-cr-chemical-plant-in-bengal-124010300829\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/haldia-petrochemicals-breaks-ground-on-rs-3-000-cr-chemical-plant-in-bengal-124010300829_1.html)

**Bengal plans tea hub in port area**

The Bengal government has identified a plot of land in the port area of Calcutta to set up a dedicated tea hub to promote value addition of tea for the domestic and the export markets. Inspired by Dubai's DMCC Tea Centre, which is a major blending, packaging and tea export hub in West Asia, the Calcutta facility will have a common testing unit and a packaging and blending facility for the smaller tea producers. Plots will also be made available within the tea park, spread over 20 acres, for bigger players to set up their own units. The port will lease out the plot to the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC), which will make the initial investment to set up the facilities. The project, which has been on the drawing board for long, gained momentum when chief minister Mamata Banerjee visited Dubai in the second half of 2023 to scout for investment.

<https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/textview/457387/33152257/71.html>

**Bengal government recently approves proposals for 17 new cold storage units across the state**

The Bengal government has recently approved proposals for 17 new cold storage units across the state, which will help potato farmers store an additional 17,000 tonnes of the tuber. The proposals for the construction of 17 new cold storage units came during the BGBS (Bengal Global Business Summit) this year. These units will be built within two years. Five cold storage units will come up in Cooch Behar. Two will come up in Jalpaiguri and Birbhum. Alipurduar, Murshidabad, North Dinajpur, East and West Midnapore, Bankura, East and West Burdwan will get one each. The Bengal government has recently approved proposals for 17 new cold storage units across the state, which will help potato farmers store an additional 17,000 tonnes of the tuber. Bengal produces around 90-100 lakh tonnes of potatoes in districts such as Hooghly, Bankura, Birbhum, East Burdwan in the south, and Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, North Dinajpur in the north.

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/bengal-government-recently-approves-proposals-for-17-new-cold-storage-units-across-the-state/cid/1990668>

### **Liquor sale: 'State earns over Rs 750 cr revenue'.**

Bengal government has earned a record revenue of more than Rs 750 crore in only 7 days through selling of liquor between December 25 and 31. The cumulative figure of revenue earned by the state in December was around Rs 2,100 crore. The sales went up by 40 per cent in this period compared to the figure registered in Bengal in normal days. The sales figure in the last 7 days of December seemed to have surpassed the revenue that was generated in the state during Puja days in 2023. It was learnt that liquor stock in the Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) category witnessed the maximum sale in the recent time with country liquor taking a backseat. The demand for foreign liquor was overwhelming, a fact that was also corroborated by some of the leading wine retailers in the city.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/liquor-sale-state-earns-over-rs-750-cr-revenue-546756>

### **Jalpaiguri civic body plans to install water ATMs in town.**

The Jalpaiguri Municipality plans to install water ATMs at various locations in the town, prioritising the service of its citizens. Additionally, a dedicated municipal ward office will be established in each ward to bring the municipality closer to its residents. Both these projects were outlined in the revised municipal budget of 2022-23. While the municipality has already constructed toilets in different places for the convenience of visitors, the lack of drinking water in crucial areas poses a challenge for those on the road. To address this issue, the municipality has decided to introduce drinking water ATMs. These ATMs will offer a cost-effective solution, allowing individuals to access drinking water for a nominal fee of Rs 2.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/jalpaiguri-civic-body-plans-to-install-water-atms-in-town-546562>

### **About 42K farmers to get agri loans through co-op societies**

With the aim of enhancing farmers' income and employment opportunities, the state government will provide loans through co-operative societies. A total of Rs 141 crore will be given to around 42,000 farmers under Jalpaiguri Central Co-operative Society, which includes the areas — Jalpaiguri, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad, Mekhliganj in Cooch Behar district and Alipuduar. These loans will be given to Co-operative societies like Primary Agriculture Co-operative Society (PACS). Farmers have to create PACS to avail the loans. Each farmer will get a loan of Rs 20,000 to 1 lakh with 4 to 7 per cent interest. The state government wants to enhance the income of farmers. Therefore, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced the agricultural loan for the farmers.

[https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/about-42k-farmers-to-get-agri-loans-through-co-op-societies-546884?infinite\\_scroll=1](https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/about-42k-farmers-to-get-agri-loans-through-co-op-societies-546884?infinite_scroll=1)

### **Three Bengal handloom sarees recognised as GI products.**

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee informed that three handloom saree items of Bengal - Tangail of Nadia and East Burdwan, Korial & Garad of Murshidabad and Birbhum - have been registered and recognised as GI (geographical indication) products. Dhatrigram and Samudragarh villages of East Burdwan and Fulia Township of Nadia district are mainly famous for Tangail saree of Bengal.

Additionally, some new areas namely Nabadwip, Krishnanagar I & II blocks, etc. in Nadia, and Purbasthali, Tamaghata, Katwa in East Burdwan have also gained recognition for this product. Korial saree weaving at Mirzapur village under Raghunathganj I Block in Murshidabad and Panhgechia and Gaganpur village under Murarai I & II blocks in Birbhum, is the specialty of that region due to skilled weavers. Garad saree of Mirzapur and Perapur under Raghunathganj block I and II of Murshidabad and Gaganpur and Pancgechia of Birbhum, is made up of hundred per cent pure silk.

<https://millenniumpost.in/bengal/three-bengal-handloom-sarees-recognised-as-gi-products-546929>

**Sunderban Honey' gets GI tag, certificates to be given soon.**

'Sunderban Honey', which is exported to different parts of the country and abroad, has been registered and recognised as a GI (Geographical Indication) product. The honey collectors, popularly known as 'maula' take risks to venture deep into the forest of the Sunderbans for honey collection. Hence, this honey getting the GI tag has special significance. More than 2000 families in Sunderbans earn their living through honey cultivation. Every year from March- April, the Forest department issues boat licenses (BLC) to traditional honey collectors so they can enter the forest to collect honey. The entire collection is purchased and marketed by West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (WBFDC).

<https://millenniumpost.in/bengal/sunderban-honey-gets-gi-tag-certificates-to-be-given-soon-546928>