

News Wrap – West Bengal
Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers
February 12, 2024 – February 16, 2024

Key Developments

Hyd firm enters Kol with healthcare & edu services.

Hyderabad-based Accolade group has entered the Kolkata market with a freemium business model by which the company will render both healthcare and joboriented education services on a single digital platform with its digital business, Ascend – KnowPedia. Their target customer is the whole population of Bengal with smartphones or electronic gadgets. Their business venture was born out of a necessity –while elderly people living alone can get diagnostic care and medical consultation, the youths looking for jobs can sign up for preparatory courses. They are partnering with various hospitals, diagnostic clinics and medicine shops to run this business.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=16_02_2024_020_009_toikc_TOI

Infosys plans to employ 3k staff once new campus is operational.

During a visit to the New Town campus, officials were provided with a tour of the campus, in which Infosys plans to employ around 3,100 people once fully operational. The total investment in the project is around Rs 600 crore, according to a report submitted to the state-level environment impact assessment authority in 2021. The project was revived for a third time in 2017, when state govt prepared an alternative proposal that offered to convert the leasehold land to freehold. This was the first project where freehold land was offered, which now became a policy.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=16_02_2024_020_001_toikc_TOI

IEEMA to set up incubation centre in Kol for startups.

Electrical and electronics manufacturers across the country are exploring partnerships with startups in Kolkata for smart technology solutions in the production of modern home appliances. The Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) is set to start an incubation centre at a new business park off EM Bypass for engaging startups to innovate user-friendly solutions in electronics and electrical devices or home appliances. Founded in 1948, the IEEMA is the apex body of manufacturers of electrical, industrial electronics and allied equipment in India. These incubation centres will give the manufacturers a platform for interaction with startups and link them with equity investors as well.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=15_02_2024_019_019_toikc_TOI

Bengal set to get 10th private med college.

Bengal is set to get its 10th private medical college with the laying of the foundation for an MBBS college by Institute of Neurosciences Kolkata (I-NK) on Monday. With this, the total number of medical colleges in the state will go up to 34, 24 of them being govt-run. CM

Mamata Banerjee virtually laid the foundation for I-NK Medical College and Hospital, which will come up in Khamar Naobad near Rajarhat. Snayu Tirtha campus will run on the PPP model. I-NK has acquired 33 acres for the project, under which a multispecialty hospital, with 600-800 beds, will first come up. An initial fund of Rs 500 crore is being pumped in. They have plans for a neurosciences university in Rajarhat, but at a different location.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=13_02_2024_004_022_toikc_TOI

SAIL's IISCO steel plant may infuse Rs 20,000-24,000 cr in Bengal

Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) may invest Rs 20,000-24,000 crore in setting up a four-million-tonne greenfield steel plant at its IISCO plant in West Bengal. It plans to produce high-end flat hot rolled coil (HRC), including for automotive applications, at its existing site at Burnpur and has received in-principle approval. After numerous delays and discussions regarding potential foreign partners for a joint venture, SAIL has finally decided to undertake the flat steel expansion project independently, likely relying on imported technology. The project is expected to be completed within the next 3-4 years.

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/sail-s-iisco-steel-plant-may-infuse-rs-20-000-24-000-cr-in-bengal-124020501511_1.html

Tata Power Renewable Energy installs 1,000 kW solar project in West Bengal

Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) has commissioned a 1,000-kilowatt bifacial solar system project in West Bengal. Bifacial solar system comprises solar panel which captures sunlight from both surfaces and produces power from two sides. TPREL has successfully commissioned a pioneering 1040 kW Bifacial Solar System project with Chengmari Tea Estate. This marks the first-ever installation of on-ground bifacial modules in eastern India. The project is expected to generate around 1.5 million units (MUs) of energy annually and reduce carbon footprint of 29,420 lakh tonnes, which is equivalent to planting 47,000 teak trees.

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/tata-power-renewable-energy-installs-1-000-kw-solar-project-in-west-bengal-124012900454_1.html

Alipurduar-Kolkata bus services to be launched this week.

After a long gap, the North Bengal State Transport Corporation (NBSTC) is set to commence the Alipurduar-Kolkata bus service. NBSTC chairman Parthapratim Roy will inaugurate the services during his visit to Alipurduar this week. In addition to the resumed Kolkata route, two new buses will operate between Alipurduar and Siliguri. Alipurduar is a major tourist district, attracting visitors from Kolkata and facilitating travel for both locals and tourists. This resumption will not only ease the journey to Kolkata but also benefit Alipurduar's business community by establishing a direct link for transporting goods from Kolkata.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/alipurduar-kolkata-bus-services-to-be-launched-today-552271>

Jal Swapna project to provide drinking water to 20K households.

Work to construct reservoirs and lay pipelines is going on in full swing under the Jal Swapna project in Bhetaguri Gram Panchayat I in Dinhata. The project undertaken by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department, aims at supplying drinking water to households. As many as 20,000 households will benefit from this project. Under this scheme, two reservoirs will come up in Ruyerkuthi and Kharija-Baladanga villages at a cost of Rs 6 crore each. The work is scheduled to be completed by 2025. Pipeline laying work is also on.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/they-run-govt-of-ravan-at-centre-mamata-slams-bjp-over-farmers-protest-552330?infinitemscroll=1>