

**Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers
February 19, 2024 – February 23, 2024**

Export of sea shrimp to the US from Bengal likely to start soon

The export of sea shrimp to the US from the coastal states, including Bengal that has been stalled since 2018-19 may start soon with an expert team from the US presently camping in Cochin to inspect whether TED (turtle excluder devices) has been installed in fishing nets. The US had banned the export of sea shrimp from India stating that these shrimps are caught by nets without TED. ICAR-CIFT (Central Institute of Fisheries Technology) has designed fishing nets fitted with TED as per directions from the US. A team from the state Fisheries department is expected to reach Cochin by December 24 for a hands-on presentation of the effectiveness of TED fitted nets.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/export-of-sea-shrimp-to-the-us-from-bengal-likely-to-start-soon-553203>

Boosting tourism: GTA all set to launch 'Mission Mirik'

The GTA is all set to launch 'Mission Mirik' with the aim of a clean and green Mirik that would contribute to boosting tourism in this lake town. A number of programmes have been lined up, including a two-day-long tourism festival by the GTA followed by a 'Himalayan Festival' by the Tourism department of the Government of West Bengal. They will soon declare the areas around the lake in Mirik as a plastic-free zone. This will be implemented strictly with fines imposed if anyone is found using plastic in this zone or littering. The GTA will hold a two-day-long tourism festival on March 1 and March 2. The festival will include cultural programmes, showcasing local food, heritage, and culture.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/boosting-tourism-gta-all-set-to-launch-mission-mirik-553034>

West Bengal govt sanctions Rs 2.9 crore for LED project

The state government has given approval and financial sanction of Rs 2.9 crore to the urban development department for the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) to switch over from high pressure sodium vapour lights to LED and restore all faulty cable lines on the stretch from Kamalgazi flyover end to Padma Pukur More on Southern Bypass towards Baruipur. Under the green city mission scheme, the state government was funding the urban local bodies to install LED lights in their respective areas. Civic bodies including the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Bidhannagar municipal corporation, New Town Kolkata Development authority and other municipalities were switching to LED lights, replacing the old sodium vapour lights.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/west-bengal-govt-sanctions-rs-29-crore-for-led-project/articleshowprint/107815161.cms>

500-wagon order for Braithwaite

Central PSU Braithwaite & Co Ltd has received an order worth Rs 180 crore to supply 500 wagons to the railways. These are BCVM-C type wagons, also known as brake vans attached to rakes. The company has been diversifying into services and construction for a sustainable turnaround and to

attain high growth, as wagons were 95 per cent of the business in 2018 but now it has come down to 55 per cent. The company is striving to boost the total order pipeline, which was Rs 1,734 crore as of December 2023. They also introducing new revenue verticals which was important for a sustainable turnaround with better profitability.

<https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/textview/462189/42741185/71.html>

Plan to promote adventure tourism.

The Eastern Himalaya Travel & Tour Operators Association (EHTTOA) has decided to promote cross-border tourism and adventure tourism in eastern India. The decision was made at a meeting of the association in Kalimpong this week. Their association is working to promote tourism in Bengal, Sikkim and as a whole in the Northeast and have also decided to promote cross-border tourism as our state, especially north Bengal, shares borders with Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The association will explore all options to encourage adventure tourism which will eventually augment the footfall of tourists.

<https://epaper.telegraphindia.com/textview/462187/4201038/71.html>

Eastern Railway embarks on ambitious station redevelopment.

In order to provide passengers with modern amenities akin to global standards, Eastern Railway has announced a comprehensive redevelopment plan for numerous stations across its Sealdah, Howrah, Asansol, and Malda divisions. Under the banner of the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme,' a total of 28 stations under Eastern Railway's jurisdiction have been earmarked for redevelopment. The scheme, which aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, aims to revitalize railway infrastructure while integrating contemporary facilities with the rich heritage and culture of the region. The redevelopment plan promises a harmonious blend of modernity and heritage, with stations set to feature state-of-the-art facilities including green building elements, access control gates, escalators, and free Wi-Fi.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/eastern-railway-embarks-on-ambitious-station-redevelopment/articleshowprint/107857891.cms>