

**Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers.
February 26, 2024 – March 01, 2024**

Key Developments

Bengal offers closed & unused industry land for new projects

Hon'ble CM led govt has started offering land parcels from closed industry as well as unused land of existing industry for developing new industries. State commerce and industries minister Shashi Panja revealed this at a CII-organised conference, 'West Bengal: Poised to Lead', this week. Bengal's move would be the first time that closed and unused industry land is being offered for new industries in the state. The state govt has already taken a slew of measures in the past one year to solve land hurdles for industry. This includes conversion of leasehold land to freehold against a fee. 9 industrial parks had been set up in recent years with an accumulated land parcel of 1,739 acres, which would be offered to industry. There were 132 acres of land in Durgapur (DPL), 193 acres in Dhakeswari cotton mills plot in West Burdwan and 69 acres of NESCO land near Belur for an industrial park.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=01_03_2024_021_017_toikc_TOI

Prasoon Mukherjee's Universal Success to invest ₹2k cr in Bengal

Universal Success, promoted by Singapore-based Bengali industrialist Prasoon Mukherjee, plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore in Bengal in next six years. Mukherjee said this while speaking about his plans to invest Rs 12,000 crore in the country. The group has already invested around Rs 10,000 crore in the country in a decade. Their businesses are into a few verticals, but their main business is in real estate, in a different form. They have so far finished almost 20 million sq ft of real estate development in eastern India. But now they have moved on from residential to the business of logistic parks, and are also in the business of data centres.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=29_02_2024_020_026_toikc_TOI

State grants ₹72L for research on rare motor neuron disease

Four institutes in Kolkata will start a research project on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a rare motor neuron disease with funds from the Bengal govt. The project will begin by creating a database of patients in the state suffering from this disease. Later, the research team comprising doctors and scientists will try to get to the bottom of the disease with steps like genomic sequencing. Sponsored by West Bengal Govt's Department of Science and Technology, the govt has already released the first lot of fund out of the total allocation of Rs 72 lakh for the initial three years. It is estimated that Bengal could have between 5,000 and 6,000 patients suffering from the disease.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=29_02_2024_004_020_toikc_TOI

Mamata inaugurates 2 mega projects worth ₹2,100cr

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated two mega projects of Shyam Steel and Dhunseri Group in the state worth Rs 2,100 crore from Purulia on Tuesday. Shyam Steel's integrated steel project in Raghunathpur Industrial Park is worth Rs 1,500 crore. The CM later virtually inaugurated the Dhunseri Poly Films venture in Panagarh worth Rs 570 crore. The Shyam Steel group had bought 600 acres from WBIDC (West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation) for the project, which will employ over 5,000 people. It will include a DRI plant, rolling metal and ferro plant, among others.

The CM laid the foundation stone of the Dhunseri Poly Films Plant in the Panagarh Industrial Park of the WBIDC, spread across 38 acres, in Sept 2021. The Dhunseri company had signed a contract with Bruckner Maschinenbau GmbH & Co. KG, a German supplier, for the project.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=28_02_2024_019_009_toikc_TOI

Brazil looks to bolster economic ties with Bengal in several sectors

To bolster economic ties with Bengal, Brazil is setting the ground for business-to-business (B2B) collaborations in various sectors like iron and steel, milk productivity, leather products, bio-fuels, agricultural produce and aquaculture. Four exploratory Brazilian business missions, set to fly to India in the next few months, will visit Bengal to explore opportunities. Brazilian companies want to explore the possibilities of partnerships, collaborations and technological exchange in food processing, aquaculture, leather and paper packaging industries. They know about Silicon Valley here and plan to find avenues in the IT and data centre sector. Plans are afoot to manufacture aircraft parts here. Brazil may also invest in the ethanol production sector in Bengal.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=28_02_2024_019_010_toikc_TOI

Airtel to offer under-river tunnel 5G connectivity for Kolkata metro commuters

Telecom major Bharti Airtel on Monday said it will provide under-river tunnel 5G connectivity to metro commuters in Kolkata by deploying high-capacity nodes 35 metres below river Hooghly. This will make Airtel the first operator to deliver seamless connectivity through the 4.8km stretch in Kolkata's East-West Metro corridor connecting Howrah Maidan with the Esplanade. High-capacity nodes at each of these stations have been deployed for seamless connectivity allowing commuters to use high-speed internet, voice calls, and data transmission. This initiative to provide under-river tunnel connectivity will certainly make a difference to commuters where they will get to access to high-definition video streaming, gaming, multiple chatting, instant uploading of photos, and more, along with enjoying the scenic stretch below river Ganga.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/airtel-to-offer-under-river-tunnel-5g-connectivity-for-kolkata-metro-commuters-12351921.html>

Mahindra Logistics expands its operations in West Bengal

Mahindra Logistics will commence operations of a 1.1 lakh sq. ft. fulfilment centre in Malda, West Bengal, dedicated to handling fulfilment and last-mile deliveries. This centre is a critical part of Mahindra Logistics' supply chain network and will execute efficient and timely deliveries through end-to-end fulfilment and distribution capabilities. Additionally, Mahindra Logistics is also adding 14 last-mile delivery stations, touching approximately 15,000 households daily. As part of the expansion in the Eastern region, the centre is strategically positioned to serve Northern West Bengal, Eastern Bihar, and parts of the Northeast. The facility is a beacon of optimized deliveries with a daily processing capacity of 10,000 orders and an inventory capacity exceeding 15 lakh units; designed to meet and exceed the growing demands of the region.

https://www.business-standard.com/markets/capital-market-news/mahindra-logistics-expands-its-operations-in-west-bengal-124022900200_1.html

Uber partners with Airports Authority of India in Kolkata

Uber on Thursday announced a partnership with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport in Kolkata, West Bengal.

This partnership introduces designated pickup areas within the arrival terminal for both domestic and international flights. Uber will also offer on-site support and clear directional signage, guiding passengers seamlessly from the terminal to the specified Uber pickup zones. This collaboration aims to provide passengers with reliable and hassle-free transportation options upon their arrival to Kolkata.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/uber-partners-with-airports-authority-of-india-in-kolkata/articleshow/108098924.cms?from=mdr>