

**Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers.  
March 11, 2024 – March 15, 2024**

**Key Developments**

**Country's first underwater metro train commences commercial services.**

Commercial services of the country's first underwater metro train commenced in Kolkata on Friday, last week, with hundreds of passengers erupting into jubilation on their first ride. A train began its journey from the Howrah Maidan station on the East-West metro corridor of Kolkata at 7 am with loud cheers and claps from commuters, while another started from Esplanade station at the same time. A special illumination of the inner wall of the tunnels under the river with blue light has been arranged to give the effects of water around the moving rake. The under-river section of the tunnel is 520 metres long, and a train took around 45 seconds to cross it.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/country-s-first-underwater-metro-train-commences-commercial-services-124031500202\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/country-s-first-underwater-metro-train-commences-commercial-services-124031500202_1.html)

**Siliguri: CM unveils about 78 projects worth over Rs 300 crore.**

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a total of 78 projects in the Jalpaiguri district worth Rs 331.02 crore. Banerjee said that the “Bengal Model” is now being followed by some states with a scheme on the lines of Lakshmir Bhandar. She inaugurated 35 projects which cost Rs 153.56 crore and laid the foundation stones of 43 projects worth Rs 177.46 crore in the Jalpaiguri district. The works include extension of Gajoldoba Mega Tourism project at a cost of Rs 51 crore; a new girls and boys hostels at Jalpaiguri College have been set up; telemedicine services at 84 health centers in Maynaguri; two Critical Care Unit blocks in Jalpaiguri District Hospital and Jalpaiguri Medical College and Hospital along with a statue of Bir Birsha Munda, unveiled in Jalpaiguri.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/siliguri-cm-unveils-about-78-projects-worth-over-rs-300-crore-555782>

**Godrej Security expanding in new urban areas.**

Godrej Security Solutions — a part of Godrej & Boyce — is set to expand its reach in the new township areas of EM Bypass, Rajarhat and New Town as well as suburbs like Madhyamgram. With this penetration, the company is anticipating about 20%-25% growth in business in FY 25. As part of its business-to-consumer (B2C) strategy to reach out to new urban areas, the company has already started coming up with outlets in various malls. It is exploring the possibility of tie-ups with electronic retail chains and local hardware dealers to create a customer base, according to Pushkar Gokhale, executive vice president and business head, Godrej Security Solutions.

[https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=15\\_03\\_2024\\_015\\_013\\_toikc\\_TOI](https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=15_03_2024_015_013_toikc_TOI)

### **Shree Cement buys 5 ready-mix concrete plants.**

City-based cement manufacturer Shree Cement has made a foray into the ready-mix concrete (RMC) business with the purchase of five plants in Mumbai from StarCrete LLP. On Tuesday, Shree Cement announced that it had signed an Asset Purchase Agreement with StarCrete LLP to acquire the RMC plants having an aggregate capacity of 422 cum/hour at an aggregate consideration of Rs 33.5 crore. The strategic foray into RMC segment is a step ahead in our vision to become a multi-product company centred around core cement business. The RMC segment is expected to clock healthy growth since there has been a govt push for large infra projects and a boom in housing construction.

[https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=13\\_03\\_2024\\_021\\_006\\_toikc\\_TOI](https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=13_03_2024_021_006_toikc_TOI)

### **CK Birla Group's HIL acquires Crestia, subsidiaries for ₹265 cr**

HIL, a part of the \$2.9 billion CK Birla Group, this week inked an agreement with Crestia Polytech for acquisition of Topline and its four subsidiaries — Topline Industries, Aditya Polytechnic, Aditya Industries and Sainath Polymers — for Rs 265 crore. Topline is a popular brand of pipes and fittings in Kolkata and other parts of eastern India. Crestia and its subsidiaries, which have an estimated turnover of Rs 330 crore in FY 2024, own three flagship brands like Topline, Rockwell and Soniplast. The manufacturing facilities of HIL are located at Faridabad, Golan and Thimmapur. Following the acquisition of Topline, their manufacturing network will be strengthened in the eastern region through its manufacturing facility at Fatuha in Patna. This acquisition is part of their move to accelerate their business in the Rs 55,000-crore Indian PVC pipes and fittings market. This will also give their business a strong foothold in Kolkata and other parts of eastern India.

[https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=12\\_03\\_2024\\_020\\_004\\_toikc\\_TOI](https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=12_03_2024_020_004_toikc_TOI)

### **State plans tourism task force to promote Bengal destinations.**

The Bengal government is gearing up to make tourism a major revenue-earning option by hard-selling Bengal abroad as well as to domestic tourists. There are plans for setting up of a tourism task force for better display and promotion of all major destinations with the help of a firm, to be hired as a consultant soon. The firm will be responsible for setting up of a tourism promotion strategy document for the state government. They are also supposed to help develop more weekend tourism destinations so that city dwellers can go out for a quick break. The state tourism department is looking for consultants to help implement different schemes and policies for Bengal and to also aid in attracting private investors in the tourism sector. Even, plans are afoot to create a concept note for investment in the Bengal tourism sector. The firm will do market research as well to promote tourism.

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### **Kol to get direct flights to Sikkim, Kerala soon.**

This summer, holidayers can look forward to direct flights to two popular destinations — Sikkim and Kerala. While SpiceJet has indicated that it can resume operations to Pakyong in Sikkim sometime this month, Air India Express is likely to introduce flights to Kochi in Kerala next month. SpiceJet is likely to operate flights from Pakyong to Kolkata and Delhi from March end. They are waiting for the

approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Meanwhile Air India Express will announce a flight to Kerala next month. Sources said IndiGo was also looking at a direct flight between Kolkata and Kochi, but nothing had been finalised yet.

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### **Min launches 2 women-run power stations**

Two power stations in Bengal — the first of their kind to be operated by all-woman teams — were inaugurated by state power minister Aroop Biswas last week. Power secretary Shantanu Basu was present at the occasion. WBSETC's 132KV gas-insulated substation in Salt Lake and WBSEDC's Elita Garden Vista 33KV sub-station in Rajarhat will help meet additional demand of customers in the fast-growing part of the city. While 26 women make the workforce of the former sub-station, eight women would run the latter.

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