

Synopsis of the main developments and investments in West Bengal April 6 – April 12, 2024

Key Developments

Airport plans wildlife study for flight safety

To ensure safety of aircraft operations and to cut down on instances of birds hitting planes and animal interference during landing or take off, Kolkata airport authorities have embarked on a comprehensive bird and wildlife aircraft hazard assessment and management study. The initiative aims to maintain a database of bird and animal species present in and around the airport, their habitats and factors that attract them to the airfield and suggest remedial measures. While in the past the airport authorities have pruned trees and deployed guards to drive away birds and animals, this time, they are calling for an agency to conduct a comprehensive survey. The scope of work covers surveys, analyzing data and developing a wildlife hazard management plan for the airport over a oneyear period. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 19.4 lakh, with an earnest money deposit of Rs 38,700.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=12_04_2024_002_003_toikc_TOI

Airtel 5G touches 3.5m users in Bengal.

Bharti Airtel, one of the leading telecommunication service providers in the country, has announced that its 3.5 million customers were availing 5G service in Bengal. Currently, the company's 5G service covers all districts of the state. Airtel has clocked a "significant increase" in the number of 5G users in the state in the past six months. Airtel has also collaborated with Poco to offer a sub-Rs 10K 5G smartphone. Retail expansion in the region to increase the physical format of stores has further augmented consumer connect to help customers upgrade conveniently to 5G service.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=12_04_2024_015_001_toikc_TOI

Amazon ties up with local shops for community new year items

About 15,000 local shops across Bengal have joined the Amazon India platform to deliver fresh flowers, rangoli and puja essentials required for rituals during new year celebrations of different communities like Poila Baisakh, Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Bohag Bihu and others. Shops selling home furnishing, kitchen apparels, personal care, computers and peripherals have also joined Amazon for this occasion. The local partner shops of the e-commerce company are located in Kolkata, Howrah, Durgapur, Nadia, Hooghly and Kharagpur. This year, close to 4,700 sellers are offering about 60,000 festivals-themed products across India through our platform. Amazon hopes the number of sellers will grow on their platform.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=10_04_2024_014_004_toikc_TOI

Kolkata port sees jump in cargo handling.

In its 154-year history, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP Kolkata), including Kolkata Dock System (KDS) and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), achieved a milestone in 202324 fiscal by handling 66.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo, marking a 1.1% increase from the previous record of 65.6 million tonnes moved in 2022-23. Chairman Rathendra Raman attributed this throughput to a series

of strategic initiatives to enhance productivity, safety measures, business development, and capacity utilization. The complex handled 49.5MMT in FY 2023-24, marking its highest cargo volume since its inception and surpassing the previous record of 48.6MMT in FY 2022-23, representing an increase of 1.9%. Meanwhile, KDS managed 16.8MMT of cargo in 2023-24 compared to 17MMT in 2022-23.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=08_04_2024_010_015_toikc_TOI

Airport expansion takes off to host 2.8 cr flyers annually.

Airport's T2 terminal is undergoing a Rs 130-crore expansion to increase its passenger handling capacity. Sections of the terminal have been cordoned off to add more floor space in the domestic section, while a module will be constructed next to the international wing. The expansion will add 5,600 sq m (60,300 sq ft) and increase the annual passenger handling capacity from 2.6 crore to 2.8 crore. The expansion in the existing terminal and the two-level modular expansion at the end of the south-western end of the international terminal will lead to an additional space of around 3,000 sq m (32,300 sq ft) in the departure level and 2,600 sq m (28,000 sq ft) in the arrival level. The expansion will increase space in the boarding or security hold area post frisking and hand luggage scan, as well as the number of bus departure gates. In the international wing, the layout of the arrival and departure floors will also be changed.

https://epaper.indiatimes.com/article-share?article=07_04_2024_002_001_toikc_TOI

Credo launches fashion incubation centre in Kolkata

Credo Centre of Excellence, in partnership with the Apparel Skill Council, has unveiled the "first" fashion incubation centre in the country in Kolkata to boost the Rs 40,000 crore textile industry of West Bengal. This is the first fashion incubation centre in India and the first PPP model centre approved by the Apparel Made Ups Home Furnishing Sector Skill (AMHSSC) Council under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The council has three more centres in Gurugram, Guwahati, and Tripura, which carry out basic tailoring training and are fully owned by the government.

<https://theprint.in/economy/credo-launches-fashion-incubation-centre-in-kolkata/2031371/>

Govt push for skill devp for budding designers.

Apparel, Made-Ups, Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council (AMHSSC), under the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship has spearheaded the launch of Credo Center of Excellence in the city today. The programmes offered by the Center of Excellence are designed to facilitate mass skill development and empowerment, providing participants with nationally recognized certifications aligned with the National Education Policy. For the industry, these programmes will lead them to have access to a pool of sector-specialized trained human resources. For educational institutions, they signify the delivery of relevant skill development programs, empowering students with nationally accepted certifications. And for participants, they offer high-speed access to skill-based training and entrepreneurship opportunities.

<https://www.thestatesman.com/bengal/govt-push-for-skill-devp-for-budding-designers-1503287803.html>

State to seek help of Dutch govt to boost its horticulture sector.

The Food Processing Industries and Horticulture (FPI&H) department will come up with a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for cultivation of vegetables and fruits with technical assistance from the Netherland government. The department has already identified 30 acres of land at Pancha Block, some 42 odd kilometers from Purulia town for setting up the CoE. The Dutch government promised to assist in preparation of the detailed project report (DPR) for the CoE. The dept. hopes to complete the DPR preparation by April- May. This CoE will aim to set a benchmark in pursuing agriculture on dry land where rainfall is less and thus low availability of water poses a challenge.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/state-to-seek-help-of-dutch-govt-to-boost-its-horticulture-sector-558986>