Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers

July 25, 2026 – July 31, 2026

Key Developments

Mercstone teams up with Thai co Assara to make e-scooters in Bengal

City-headquartered Mercstone International Pvt Ltd and Thailand-based Assara Electric Co have partnered to set up an electric scooter manufacturing unit in Bengal. The facility will see phased investment of around Rs 250 crore. Bengal Finance minister Swapan Dasgupta, who was present at the announcement, said, "They will set up the facility in Howrah's Sankrail." He added that the manufacturing plant will be a big step for the state and the government hopes to provide a "very hospitable climate." State transport minister Arjun Singh, who was also at the event, said the government was promoting electric vehicles because of its focus on sustainability. As part of the partnership, Assara Electric will provide advanced technology, technical know-how and critical raw materials while Mercstone International will set up the manufacturing and production facilities, provide skilled manpower and oversee marketing, sales and after-sales support. Assara Electric plans to initially invest 250 million Thai Baht (around Rs 71.3 crore) and gradually increase investment.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/mercstone-teams-up-with-thai-co-assara-to-make-e-scooters-in-bengal/articleshow/132715562.cms

Bengal approves 3 new thermal power plants, eyes Rs 30,000 cr investment

Bengal is set to attract investments of over Rs 30,000 crore with the state government deciding to set up three 800 MW supercritical/ultra-supercritical thermal power units. Among these, two will be developed at Santaldih under PPP model, for which the government has invited applications from corporate entities. The third unit will be set up by the state-run West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd (WBPDCL) at Bakreswar. "During this summer, peak demand in the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd (WBSEDCL) network was over 10,000 MW, while the combined generation capacity of WBPDCL and WBSEDCL was around 7,000 MW. The shortfall had to be met through supplies from central generating stations such as NTPC and DVC, as well as power purchases from the open market at higher tariffs. The situation has prompted the state to set up new large power plants. The power department, on behalf of WBSEDCL, has issued a Request for Qualification (RFQ) document, which outlines the qualification requirements for selecting a bidder to construct and operate two 800 MW new coal-based thermal power plants on the available land at Santaldih Thermal Power Station (STPS).

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/bengal-approves-3-new-thermal-power-plants-eyes-rs-30000-cr-investment/articleshow/132663344.cms

Metro extends service hours, adds more trains on both Green and Blue lines

On the Blue Line, now functional between Shahid Khudiram and New Garia, the first trains will leave the terminal stations at 6am instead of 6.50am from Monday to Saturday. The last train for Dakshineswar will leave Shahid Khudiram at 10.15pm instead of 9.35pm. The interval between two trains will range from 6 to 15 minutes. The number of services on weekdays will go up to 272, up from 260. On Saturday, there will be 258 services, instead of 246. On Sundays, there will be 158 services instead of 152. On the Green Line, which links Sector V and Howrah Maidan, the first train for Sector V will leave Howrah Maidan at 6am, instead of 6.39am, from Monday to Saturday. The number of daily trains from Monday to Friday will be 236 instead of 228. On Saturday, there will be 212 trains, up from 204. Ticket counters will close at 9.30pm; passengers must then use smart cards, online tickets or vending machines.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/kolkata/metro-extends-service-hours-adds-more-trains-on-both-green-and-blue-lines-prnt/cid/2171902

Bengal grants ONGC exploration & mining leases in 4 dists

In a significant step towards emerging as a hydrocarbon-producing state, the Bengal government has recently granted petroleum exploration and mining leases to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and East Burdwan districts. Presenting the budget for the department of industry, commerce and enterprises in the assembly, industry minister Tapas Roy mentioned that the lease to ONGC — under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025 — was for exploring a block covering 2,872.6 sq km across Murshidabad, East Burdwan and Nadia. A petroleum mining lease has been approved for ONGC's NELP block (WB-ONN-2005/4) in Ashoknagar field, spread over nearly 99 sq km in North 24 Parganas, for commercial extraction of crude oil and natural gas. The Ashoknagar project is expected to generate nearly Rs 104 crore in royalty for the state government, putting Bengal on India's hydrocarbon production map. Commercial production from the Ashoknagar field will also elevate Bengal Basin from a Category II to a Category I sedimentary basin.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/bengal-grants-ongc-exploration-mining-leases-in-4-dists/articleshow/132541414.cms

Bengal's GST collections rise 12% in Q1 despite rate cuts

West Bengal's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection rose 12 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of 2026-27 compared with the corresponding period last fiscal. The state collected Rs 12,905 crore during the quarter, an increase of Rs 1,373 crore over the same period of 2025-26. Emphasis on data analytics has contributed to higher GST collections through targeted enforcement, real-time invoice matching and rapid fraud detection. Tools such as artificial intelligence and big data platforms have helped tax authorities detect massive Input Tax Credit (ITC) discrepancies while expanding the formal taxpayer base.

https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/bengals-gst-collections-rise-12-in-q1-despite-rate-cuts-670426

State notifies wastewater reuse policy, offers incentives to Inds

To encourage industries to reduce their dependence on freshwater, the West Bengal government has notified a policy proposing incentives and suitable pricing mechanisms to promote the use of treated wastewater for non-potable purposes, while directing Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and development authorities to constitute task forces for its implementation and monitoring. The 'Safe Reuse of Treated Wastewater Policy of West Bengal', notified through the Kolkata Gazette, also mandates ULBs and development authorities to promote decentralised wastewater treatment and expand the safe reuse of treated wastewater across the state.

https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/state-notifies-wastewater-reuse-policy-offers-incentives-to-inds-670375

Self-survey push for PMAY-G; about 2.35L complete process

The state Panchayats and Rural Development (P & RD) department is pushing for a self-survey mechanism to identify beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) rural housing scheme, in addition to government officials conducting field surveys for the same purpose. This is the first time the state P & RD department has introduced a self-survey through which eligible citizens can complete the process online on their smartphones without visiting any office. The exercise can be done till August 15. As per data of the state P & RD department, 2.35 lakh beneficiaries have done a self-survey. Malda has witnessed the maximum number of self survey with 55632, followed by Jalpaiguri with 46366 and Cooch Behar with 25874.

https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/self-survey-push-for-pmay-gabout-235l-complete-process-670374

Sealdah station gets major facility upgrades

A series of passenger-centric measures, including the opening of a dedicated Central Gate for Mail and Express passengers, to ease congestion and improve access to long-distance platforms at Sealdah Station were announced. The new gate, will serve Platforms 11 to 14, primarily used by long-distance trains. The dedicated access point will provide wider and hassle-free entry and exit, allowing passengers to reach the prepaid taxi stand directly without passing through crowded suburban sections. A 400-square-metre passenger area has also been created near the gate to facilitate smoother movement. Future infrastructure upgradation plans, including dedicated pick-up and drop-off points, a modern airport-style toilet complex, and the upgradation of platform surfaces, are also being considered. Existing toilet facilities will also be renovated soon.

https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/sealdah-station-gets-major-facility-upgrades-670371

Over Rs 2,000 crore infra push for North Bengal

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari inaugurated the long-awaited Road Over Bridge (ROB), connecting Air View More and Jhankar More on the Burdwan road in Siliguri. Addressing the gathering at the inauguration programme, Adhikari described North Bengal as the "gateway to Northeast India," stressing on the strategically vital location popular as the Chicken's Neck, connecting the North East states with mainland India. The present government is strengthening both development and security by allocating land to the Border Security Force (BSF) according to requirements and substantially increasing funding for North Bengal. A sum of Rs 2200 crore has been earmarked exclusively for the development of North Bengal. Grants to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) have been increased, ten ministers have been assigned to oversee North Bengal, and seven roads have been transferred to the National Highways Authority. land has been provided for the Hili-Cooch Behar railway project; Hasimara Airport will be developed for commercial operations; Land will also be allotted for the expansion of Bagdogra Airport.

https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/over-rs-2000-crore-infra-push-for-north-bengal-says-suvendu-669904

Adventz joins West Bengal investment advent with ₹1,700 crore push

The race to invest in West Bengal is gathering momentum after the Bharatiya Janata Party government took over the reins of the state, with Kolkata-headquartered Adventz group (formerly part of the KK Birla group), controlled by Chairman Saroj Poddar, announcing investments of ₹1,700 crore. The two projects include a ₹1,200 crore logistics and warehousing park at Sankrail on 100 acres of land already owned by the group and a ₹500 crore plant to manufacture specialised wagon tankers. For the wagon project, the group has signed a collaboration agreement with Nymwag of Nymburk, Czech Republic, the third-largest player in this segment in Europe, and is also looking at export opportunities from India.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/adventz-joins-west-bengal-investment-advent-with-1-700-crore-push-126072901336_1.html