Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers

September 05, 2026 – September 11, 2026

Key Developments

Centre approves Rs 2,077 crore for four-laning of NH-327 through strategic Siliguri corridor

The Union government has cleared a Rs 2,077.18 crore project to four-lane a 31.02-km stretch of National Highway 327 in West Bengal's Darjeeling district, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced on X. The approved stretch runs from Bagdogra through Panitanki and Kharibari to Galgalia, cutting through the Siliguri Corridor that links the country's mainland to its entire Northeast region. The Siliguri Corridor narrows to as little as 20-22 km at some points, squeezed between the international borders of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. It is the only land route connecting Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to the rest of India, which makes any infrastructure work here carry weight well beyond local traffic concerns.

Centre approves Rs 2,077 crore for four-laning of NH-327 through strategic Siliguri corridor

Want Kolkata to have stronger direct international connectivity with US: Shankar Ghosh

West Bengal Tourism Minister Shankar Ghosh discussed the possibility of direct international flight connectivity to Kolkata with US Consul General Katherin Giles-Diaz, as the state seeks to attract more American tourists and expand its links with global tourism markets. Ghosh, who met Giles-Diaz and US Consular Section Chief Noah Hogan at the New Secretariat Building, said the state government would pursue direct international flights to Kolkata airport to facilitate international travel and boost tourism in West Bengal. The meeting also focused on tourist safety, with Ghosh informing the US delegation that West Bengal was preparing to launch 23 district-level 24×7 helplines and a centralised state tourism helpline operating 365 days a year.

Want Kolkata to have stronger direct international connectivity with US: Shankar Ghosh - The Statesman

Bengal's Berhampore Bypass on NH-12 to get Rs 85.59 crore facelift under NHAI supervision

Commuters using the Berhampore Bypass on NH-12 in West Bengal are set to see repair and rehabilitation work on a 10.5-km stretch of the highway, with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) earmarking Rs 85.59 crore for the project. The work is aimed at improving the condition of the bypass between Km 191.700 and Km 202.500 on the Berhampore-Farakka section. The project covers the entire identified bypass stretch and will include repair and rehabilitation works intended to improve the road's condition and usability for traffic. NHAI has set a six-month timeline for completing the work.

Bengal's Berhampore Bypass on NH-12 to get Rs 85.59 crore facelift under NHAI supervision - Roadways News | The Financial Express

Bengal government plans global campaign to promote Durga Puja

From New York's Times Square to Dubai's Burj Khalifa and London's Piccadilly Lights, Durga Puja is set to make a global splash as the West Bengal government launches an ambitious campaign to promote Bengal's biggest festival as an international cultural and tourism brand. According to sources in the state secretariat, the campaign will feature special Durga Puja displays and activations on premium digital billboards at New York's Times Square. The festival will also be showcased on the LED facade of the Burj Khalifa or another prominent landmark of comparable stature in Dubai. A special digital display is planned at London's Piccadilly Lights as well. The campaign, titled 'Bishwajure Bangalir Abeg, Durga Puja Global Connect 2026', will also cover airports and railway stations across India, as well as 1,000 major puja pandals in West Bengal.

Bengal government plans global campaign to promote Durga Puja - The Statesman

'Where India Feels Different' branding in Rs 500 cr state tourism push

Chief minister Suvendu Adhikari unveiled a new logo along with a fresh brand identity and announced a Rs 500-crore push for tourism infrastructure as part of the state's ambitious plan for further development of tourism. The new tourism branding will not be limited to infrastructure and destinations as the state will be weaving Bengal's cultural identity into its tourism campaign. Tourism dept

employees and officials will wear traditional Bengali attire on the preceding working day of 12 designated occasions during the year – including Saraswati Puja, Dol, Buddha Purnima, Poila Baishakh, Jamai Shashti, Rathayatra, Rakhi Purnima, Janmashtami, Durga Puja's Ashtami, Kali Puja, Bhai Phonta and Poush Sankranti. The tourism employees and officials who will have to come to office or be part of any programme on these 12 days will also have to don the traditional attire.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/where-india-feels-different-branding-in-rs-500-cr-state-tourism-push/articleshow/133769401.cms

From rivers to ropeways: Bengal's tourism revamp on the radar

The Suvendu Adhikari government is preparing to revamp Bengal's tourism sector, with a push for river tourism and ropeway projects across key tourist destinations. Tourism minister Shankar Ghosh recently held a meeting with Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on the proposed initiatives. Sources said CM offered several suggestions to the department, with particular emphasis on exploring river-based tourism and developing ropeways in tourist areas across the state. Ropeways are being viewed not only as a way to offer tourists a new experience but also as an alternative mode of transport. The Chief Minister has suggested integrating such modern transport systems with Bengal's tourism infrastructure.

https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/from-rivers-to-ropeways-bengals-tourism-revamp-on-the-radar-673701

Texmaco Rail & Engineering secures orders worth Rs 131.36 cr

Texmaco Rail & Engineering has received two orders worth Rs 131.36 crore. The first order from Transport Corporation of India is worth Rs 24.48 crore for manufacture and supply of 1 rake of Type: ACT-1 wagon alongwith 1 BVCM wagon. The second order valued at Rs 106.88 crore is from Touax Texmaco Railcar Leasing for manufacture and supply of 4 rakes of BFNS22.9 wagons alongwith 4 BVCM wagons. This order is considered related party transaction as the company is one of the promoters of the M/s Touax Texmaco Railcar Leasing.

https://www.business-standard.com/markets/capital-market-news/texmaco-rail-engineering-secures-orders-worth-rs-131-36-cr-126090700441_1.html

GRSE launches ₹840 crore 'Sagar Manthan' to strengthen India's deep-sea research capabilities

GRSE launched 'Sagar Manthan', an indigenous ocean research vessel being built for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), in a major boost to India's capabilities in deep-sea exploration and scientific research. A ₹840-crore research vessel is expected to be ready for use by early 2028. Earth Sciences secretary Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, who was present at the launch event, said the vessel is being built as part of the government's Deep Ocean Mission and will significantly enhance the country's ability to undertake scientific research in the Indian Ocean region and beyond.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/west-bengal/kolkata-based-grse-launches-indigenous-ocean-research-vessel-sagar-manthan/article71446742.ece

8 railway multi-tracking projects worth Rs 20,804 crore approved

Government approved eight railway multi-tracking projects worth Rs 20,804 crore as part of a big push for faster movement of passengers and goods across its high-density networks. Spanning 14 districts of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh; and 17 other districts, it will increase the capacity of the eight lines for running passenger and freight trains. On completion of these projects by 2029-30, the railway network will increase by 1,196 km, freight loading by 74 million tonnes per annum. The projects are for key routes for movement of coal, cement, iron and steel, containers, automobiles, foodgrains, petroleum products and fertiliser. The three multitracking projects across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal will also "encourage tourism, especially heritage and wildlife related tourism", besides lowering logistics costs.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/8-railway-multi-tracking-projects-worth-rs-20804-crore-approved/articleshow/133984650.cms

50th Kolkata Book Fair to celebrate Vande Mataram's 150 years, Israel may be theme country

The central theme for the next edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair will be the 150th anniversary of national song 'Vande Mataram'. The 50th International Kolkata Book Fair will be held from January 22 to February 3 next year. Israel could be considered as the theme country. On stall allocation, the committee said it was considering a technology-driven system similar to those used at major book fairs globally. Stalls could be allocated through computerised or automated systems, with different-sized units being created and combined according to the requirements of publishers.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/kolkata/50th-kolkata-book-fair-to-celebrate-vande-matarams-150-years-israel-may-be-theme-country/cid/2178807

Indian Railways clears Rs 272 crore Adra-Joychandipahar bypass

Indian Railways has approved an Rs 272 crore Adra-Joychandipahar bypass line in West Bengal to improve railway freight capacity and ease congestion on the existing network. The 11-km bypass will be built between the Adra end and Joychandipahar under South Eastern Railway. It will provide a dedicated route for freight movement and a bi-directional connection to the upcoming third line. The project is expected to support 6.065 freight rakes per day as industrial traffic grows. It will also help address operational bottlenecks and delays caused by surface crossings along the Adra-Joychandipahar section.

https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/indian-railways-adra-joychandipahar-bypass-approved-rs-272-crore-2988664-2026-09-07

GRSE Signs MoUs With DNV And Damen For Shipbuilding

GRSE has signed separate MoUs with DNV and Damen to boost its shipbuilding, green tech and dredger construction capabilities. The first MoU is with DNV, formerly known as Det Norske Veritas, a Norwegian organisation known for vessel classification, certification and maritime advisory work. The partnership brings GRSE shipbuilding experience together with DNV's expertise in advanced warships, green shipping technology and digital shipbuilding tools like AI and Industry 4.0 systems. Training and skill exchange between the two teams are also part of the plan. The second deal, with Netherlands-based Damen Technical Cooperation, moves into different territory altogether, dredgers. GRSE and Damen will explore designing and building dredgers for Indian customers, pairing GRSE's manufacturing base with Damen's know-how in Trailing Suction Hopper Dredgers and Water Injection Dredgers.

https://www.equitypandit.com/grse-signs-mous-with-dnv-and-damen-for-shipbuilding/

State on the verge of new steps in tourism, special emphasis on water travel

The West Bengal government has taken the initiative to explore the tourism potential of the riverine areas of the state. For this, special emphasis is being placed on water transport. To improve tourism in the state, the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited has awarded a contract to Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) to build two hybrid diesel-electric ferries and two Bailey bridges. For this, the state has signed an MoU with the state-owned company worth a total of Rs 45 crore. The ferries will be used in areas like Barrackpore, Chandannagar, Bandel in the coming days. On the other hand, two Bailey bridges collapsed in Jaldapara recently will be built. As part of that, he wants to use the bungalows of jute mills in South Bengal for tourism purposes. In his words, 'These bungalows are usually located in riverside areas. That is why the plan has been made to use the bungalows of jute mills.'

https://eisamay.com/business/business-news/west-bengal-government-taken-initiative-to-explore-tourism-potential-in-riverbank-areas-of-state/200536511.cms