Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers

September 12, 2026 – September 18, 2026

Key Developments

West Bengal, Japan explore new trade, air connectivity and cultural partnerships

As India celebrates 75 years of Indo-Japan friendship next year, a joint cultural festival and exchange between Japan and West Bengal will be held in the state in 2027. A seven-member high-level Japanese delegation, led by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ayano Kunimitsu, visited Kolkata and held a meeting with industry and commerce minister Tapas Roy and other senior officials to explore bilateral trade, air connectivity and cultural ties between Japan and Bengal. Roy said the Indo-Japan cultural festival will feature food from both Bengal and Japan, animation, films and other cultural exchanges. The possibility of establishing direct air connectivity between Japan and Kolkata was also discussed. They also discussed a "hassle-free" business environment and renewable energy in Bengal. The minister said the government assured the delegation of providing a conducive business environment.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/west-bengal-japan-explore-new-trade-air-connectivity-and-cultural-partnerships/articleshow/134085070.cms?from=mdr

West Bengal CM Adhikari plans Ambani meet as state steps up investment pitch

West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari plans to meet Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani in Mumbai after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival to discuss investment opportunities in Bengal, stepping up efforts to bring big-ticket investments into the state. Chairman Gautam Adani is set to visit the state later this month to lay the foundation stone of a 2,000-bed hospital in the state. Meanwhile, the Bengal government has decided to provide land to 33 industries before the Durga Puja this year. An event will be held before the festival in which prominent businessmen from the state will be invited.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/west-bengal-cm-adhikari-plans-ambani-meet-as-state-steps-up-investment-pitch/articleshow/134084855.cms?from=mdr

Data centre business may get more space in West Bengal

According to real estate firm JLL, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh currently account for 75% of India's data centre capacity. With national capacity expected to triple to 6 GW by 2029 from 1.6 GW in mid-2026, other states are stepping up efforts to capture a share of this projected growth. The West Bengal government is considering allowing land in 18 industrial parks to be used for setting up data centres. Land parcels in designated industrial parks owned by the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) that have not been utilised may be permitted to host data centres (DCs).

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/data-centre-business-may-get-more-space-in-west-bengal/articleshow/133982947.cms?from=mdr

Suvendu Adhikari lays foundation for Rs 25 crore Uttam Kumar Film Centre in New Town

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari laid the foundation stone of Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Film Centre, which will include two 750-seater movie theatres, facilities for post-production laboratories and studios for movies, open-air theatre, at New Town which will help the media and entertainment industry. The state government has allocated Rs 25 crore for the project initially. Soil test is complete; site selection is already done. The DPR process is ongoing. After the monsoon, the agency will start work.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/suvendu-adhikari-lays-foundation-for-rs-25-crore-uttam-kumar-film-centre-in-new-town/articleshow/133755601.cms?from=mdr

Bengal to repurpose unused industrial land bank in Burdwan

The West Bengal government will no longer allow unused industrial land to sit idle and is actively moving to draw fresh investments to the sites of closed central public sector and private factories, State

Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister and Asansol South MLA, Agnimitra Paul, has announced. The statement has sparked fresh hopes of an industrial revival in the West Burdwan district, which currently sits on a land bank of roughly 2,100 acres belonging to defunct manufacturing units. These closed operations include prominent names such as Hindustan Cables Limited (Rupnarayanpur), Cycle Corporation of India, Sen Raleigh, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India (Durgapur), Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL, Durgapur), Kesoram Rayon Industries (Kulti), and the Hindustan Pilkington Glass Factory (Asansol).

https://www.thestatesman.com/cities/kolkata/bengal-to-repurpose-unused-industrial-land-bank-in-burdwan-1503638399.html

West Bengal seeks to restore industrial glory, economic growth; targets semiconductors, data centres

West Bengal is working to revive industrialisation and restore Bengal's "past glory", with a focus on sectors such as semiconductors, data centres and renewable energy, the state's Industry and Commerce Minister Tapas Roy said. Roy said the state government is preparing new industrial and land policies, developing land banks and engaging major business groups including Tata, Birla, Mitsubishi and others to expand or set up units in the state. The minister noted that the government has formed a Group of Ministers and the state is working towards bringing industrialists to expand their businesses in West Bengal.

https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/west-bengal-seeks-to-restore-industrial-glory-economic-growth-targets-semiconductors-data-centres-commerce-minister-tapas-roy-14028583.html

West Bengal launches quantum and semiconductor technologies section at CSIR institute in Kolkata

The minister for food processing industries and horticulture of West Bengal has launched an Emerging Quantum and Semiconductor Technologies (EQST) section at the CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI) in Kolkata, aimed at bolstering the state's push to attract next-generation technology investments. Further, the minister added that West Bengal's challenge had not been a shortage of scientific talent or ambition, but the absence of a sufficiently focused institutional anchor for quantum and semiconductor research, describing the EQST section as a step towards creating one.

https://tele.net.in/national-news/west-bengal-launches-quantum-and-semiconductor-technologies-section-at-csir-institute-in-kolkata-12539092

West Bengal govt to sign MoUs for four airports to boost regional air connectivity

Four airports are set to come up in West Bengal as the state government moves to speed up regional air connectivity. The airports will be located at Chharra in Purulia, Balurghat in South Dinajpur, Hasimara in Alipurduar and Kalaikunda in Paschim Medinipur. A tripartite MoU between the Centre and the state for the four airports is expected to be signed under the UDAN scheme. The signing ceremony is scheduled at Nabanna Sabhaghar on 23rd September, in the presence of Union Civil Aviation Minister K. R. Naidu and Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari. The state government will provide land and develop basic infrastructure, including electricity and water. The Airports Authority of India will oversee airport infrastructure and flight operations.

https://newsonair.gov.in/west-bengal-govt-to-sign-mous-for-four-airports-to-boost-regional-air-connectivity/

Investment from Russia also in the state, says Shomik

Russia is investing in West Bengal. BJP state president Shamik Bhattacharya said that with their cooperation, a semiconductor industry and data center are going to be set up in the state. At the same time, Shamik said that the work of building a missile test center of DRDO in Junput, East Midnapore has also gained momentum. There is a collaboration with Russia. There will be investment in West Bengal in many areas.

https://eisamay.com/west-bengal-news/kolkata-news/investments-in-west-bengal-from-russia-too-claimed-samik-bhattacharya/200542793.cms

India exports around 500 tonnes of Hilsa fish to Bangladesh in two months

In a boost to India's fish-based economy, particularly in West Bengal, India has exported around 500 tonnes of Hilsa fish to Bangladesh in the last two months, with traders anticipating an additional 150 to 200 tonnes in the coming weeks. According to officials, the increased demand is reportedly linked to lower domestic Hilsa catches in Bangladesh. A substantial proportion of the consignments originated from Gujarat, particularly the Bharuch region, while some supplies moved through the Howrah wholesale fish market in West Bengal.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/west-bengal/india-exports-around-500-tonnes-of-hilsa-fish-to-bangladesh-in-two-months/article71473254.ece

Metal co to invest ₹800 cr in Haldia plant

City-based metal company Manaksia Steels is set to invest Rs 800 crore in two phases to expand its manufacturing base in Haldia. Speaking at an international conference on India-Africa Business Linkage, the company's managing director Varun Agrawal said, "In the first phase, we will invest around Rs 400 crore and the rest of the investment will be done in the next phase. The expansion will focus on speciality, including cold-rolled coils and coated steel products." The MD also sought policy support from state government. State industry and commerce minister Tapas Roy also spoke at the event, noting West Bengal's potential to enhance India-Africa business ties through its industrial strength and expressing the state government's readiness to facilitate mutual investments and partnerships.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/metal-co-to-invest-rs-800-crore-in-haldia-plant/amp_articleshow/134263680.cms