Weekly News Wrap: WB from November 14, 2026 – November 20, 2026

Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers
November 14, 2026 – November 20, 2026
Key Developments

New industrial policy to drive West Bengal's industrial momentum: Tapas Roy

West Bengal is seeking to revive its industrial momentum through a new industrial policy that prioritises investment, employment generation, emerging technologies and stronger government-industry collaboration, said Shri Tapas Roy, Minister for Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, Government of West Bengal. Roy highlighted the state's renewed focus on creating an investment-friendly industrial ecosystem through targeted financial incentives, sector-specific support, infrastructure development and streamlined administrative processes. Outlining the policy's framework, Roy said the new industrial policy seeks to support businesses across different stages of development, including new investments, expansion, diversification and industrial reconstruction. The policy covers micro, small and medium enterprises, large industrial units, strategic and mega projects, service-sector enterprises and eligible institutions operating on a not-for-profit basis. Existing industrial units undertaking expansion or diversification may also qualify for support, provided they meet prescribed conditions regarding additional capital investment, productive capacity, and employment generation. A significant component of the new policy is its emphasis on strategic and emerging industries.Detailing the policy's financial assistance framework, Roy outlined several incentives to reduce investment costs and improve the commercial viability of industrial projects. The policy also incorporates employment-related conditions, reinforcing the government's objective of linking investment incentives with measurable economic activity.
https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/new-industrial-policy-to-drive-west-bengals-industrial-momentum-tapas-roy/135967348

West Bengal plans new SOP for industrial land allocation, eyes law changes

Acknowledging that land is a basic resource for industrial investment, Shri Nripendra Singh, executive director of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, said the state would put in place a new standard operating procedure (SOP) for land allocation to industry. West Bengal Chief Minister Shri Suvendu Adhikari unveiled the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026, on November 5. Details of the policy were expected to be notified in December. The new SOP for land allocation to industry may follow in January, with most of the proposed amendments likely to be to the Land Reforms Act, 1955. One of the proposals understood to be under consideration is to relax the provisions of Section 14Y of the Land Reforms Act, based on the scale of investment. Under the proposed framework, the higher the investment by an industrial unit, the greater the landholding it may be permitted, beyond the existing ceiling of 24 acres in non-urban areas. The Land Reforms Act places a ceiling of 24 acres on land acquisition, while Section 14Y of the Act provides exemptions from the ceiling. While the new SOP for land allocation is in the works, the industrial promotion policy envisages a GIS-mapped inventory of industrial land. Land allotment will be based on published criteria, with applications invited online and scrutiny carried out through a time-stamped process. The policy also seeks to prioritise brownfield sites and the development of industrial parks along notified industrial corridors. Speaking at the event, Industry Minister Shri Tapas Roy said that the government and industry were partners in growth.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/west-bengal-plans-new-sop-for-industrial-land-allocation-eyes-law-changes-126111801201_1.html

Australia sees 'new chapter' in Bengal, eyes investments in mining, solar and education

Australia is exploring investment opportunities in West Bengal's mining, solar energy and education sectors, Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green said after meeting BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya on Wednesday. Green met Bhattacharya at the party office in Bidhannagar and discussed investment opportunities. He added that Australian companies were keen to assess the state's investment potential and had received assurances of cooperation from the BJP government. Bhattacharya said Australian investors viewed the state as more investment-friendly after the change in government. Australia already has eight university campuses in the country. They want to set up a campus in Kolkata. Australia had also expressed interest in expanding cooperation in nuclear and solar energy. Australian companies are eyeing investments in the mining, solar and education sectors.
https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/australia-investment-west-bengal-mining-solar-education-10968267/

Bengal govt plans to get back 4000 acres of land from JSW steel plant at Salboni to set up industrial park

The maiden BJP government in West Bengal plans to get back the bulk of the 4,102 acres of land of the JSW Steel plant at Salboni in Paschim Medinipur, promoted by industrialist Sajjan Jindal, to set up an industrial park. The move was initiated after the state industries and commerce department minister, Shri Tapas Roy, held a meeting with JSW officials, to discuss issues related to resumption of unused land from JSW Bengal Steel Limited. With the change in guard of power in Bengal, the state government is flooded with requests for allotment of industrial land from many investors for various projects. A huge bulk of land at the Salboni site has been lying unused for years. As per the norms, transfer of land for a different purpose from that of the originally conceived project is a deviation. In addition to this, keeping the land idle for 15 years is a sufficient ground for resumption of land by the state government, particularly at a time when it desperately wants industrial investments for employment. JSW Group, whose portfolio of businesses includes steel, cement, power, infrastructure and paint among others, also proposed to set up two thermal power plants of 800 MW on a plot at the site. According to the Central Electricity Authority (CTA), per MW requires 0.61 acres of land. The two proposed projects require hardly 1008 acres, as per the CTA. The plot is now protected with a 34 km boundary wall and is levelled.
https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/west-bengal/2026/Nov/15/bengal-govt-plans-to-get-back-4000-acres-of-land-from-jsw-steel-plant-at-salboni-to-set-up-industrial-park

Bus blues may ease as 435 vehicles join Kolkata fleet

To ease the shortage of public buses in Kolkata and its adjoining areas, the state is preparing to induct 435 new buses into the West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) fleet, including 358 electric and CNG vehicles. The proposed expansion, which comes amid mounting complaints about ageing buses, reduced fleet availability and long waits at bus stops, could substantially improve urban, suburban and long-distance connectivity. The proposed fleet comprises 152 AC electric buses, 206 non-AC CNG buses, 40 non-AC diesel midi buses and 37 Volvo coaches, including four sleeper buses. Electric and CNG vehicles together will account for more than 82% of the new fleet. The expansion is expected to help WBTC replace ageing vehicles, restore services affected by bus shortages and improve frequency on several busy routes connecting Kolkata with Howrah, Salt Lake, New Town and the suburbs. Of the 152 AC electric buses, 30 will be 40-seaters, while the remaining 122 will be suitable for high-demand urban corridors. The CNG fleet will comprise 30 standard non-AC buses, 76 vehicles with 50 seats each and 100 buses measuring 12 metres.
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/bus-blues-may-ease-as-435-vehicles-join-kolkata-fleet/articleshow/135969417.cms

Kolkata Metro Orange Line Update: PM Modi Likely To Inaugurate Beleghata-Sector V Stretch On Nov 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit West Bengal on Saturday, November 21, where he is expected to inaugurate several government projects. Key highlight of his visit is the inauguration of the 4.5-km Beleghata-Sector V (IT Centre) extension of Kolkata's Orange Line Metro. Once this Beleghata-Sector V stretch opens, commuters will get a direct metro connection from New Garia to Sector V. Currently, Kolkata's Orange Line Metro operates on the 9.8-km stretch between Kavi Subhash (New Garia) and Beleghata. Although the full corridor is planned to connect New Garia directly to Kolkata Airport, expansion beyond Beleghata remained stalled for a long time. Following the change of government in the state, the pending work at Chingrighata was completed rapidly, establishing the missing link between Beleghata and Sector V. Trial runs on the newly built Beleghata-Sector V stretch, which adds three new stations (Gour Kishore Ghosh, Nalban, and IT Centre), began on October 10 and are currently underway. Once mandatory safety clearances from the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) are received and the Prime Minister flags off the stretch, trains will run directly between New Garia and Sector V. In the next phase of expansion, the Orange Line will be extended further from Sector V to Kolkata Airport. Once the Beleghata-Sector V stretch is operational, it will ease traffic congestion along the EM Bypass and around Beleghata while cutting travel time between South Kolkata and Sector V (IT Centre). Additionally, passengers getting off at Sector V will be able to switch directly to the Kolkata Metro Green Line (East-West Metro), which connects Sealdah and Howrah, making travel much more convenient for daily commuters across the city.
https://www.thedailyjagran.com/india/news/kolkata-metro-orange-line-update-beleghata-sector-v-stretch-likely-to-open-on-november-21-check-route-stations-10336225

Kolkata office retrofitting can unlock Rs 4,800 crore in value: Knight Frank

Retrofitting of existing office buildings in Kolkata could unlock an additional Rs 4,800 crore in asset value, with nearly 25 per cent of the city's office inventory eligible for modernisation, according to a Knight Frank India report. The valuation of the eligible properties could rise 48 per cent from Rs 10,200 crore to Rs 15,000 crore, the report titled 'Age to Advantage: Retrofitting India's Office Stock' said. Around 25 per cent of Kolkata's total office stock of 34 million sq ft has been identified as suitable for retrofitting, which involves upgrading existing buildings with modern systems, technologies and materials to improve performance, safety, energy efficiency and sustainability without complete redevelopment. The report said eligible office stock in the Central Business District (CBD), including Park Street, Camac Street and Dalhousie Square, could unlock Rs 3,700 crore in incremental value, representing a 47 per cent valuation increase. In Secondary Business Districts (SBD), including EM Bypass, Anandapur and Rajdanga, the potential additional value is estimated at Rs 1,200 crore, with a 50 per cent increase. Retrofitting would help bridge the gap between ageing infrastructure and changing occupier expectations, particularly in sustainability, technology integration and workplace experience.
https://hr.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/kolkata-office-retrofitting-can-unlock-rs-4800-crore-in-value-knight-frank/135923575

Kolkata Port zone hosp to become 500-bed facility with pvt help

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) has decided to transform its 104-bed Centenary Hospital in Majerhat into a 450-500-bed super-specialty facility under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, with Charnock Hospital investing around Rs 411 crore. This is the third hospital of the group in Kolkata and the second under a PPP model after it transformed Lohia Matri Seva Sadan into a super-specialty hospital. The project will be implemented under the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) framework, with Kolkata Port maintaining that the initiative is aimed at upgrading healthcare infrastructure for its employees and pensioners, without any capital investment burden on the port authority. The chairman of Charnock, pointed out that they were getting it on a 60-year lease. The hospital now stands in a 1.5-lakh-square-foot building on a 7-acre plot. It has the provision of an additional FAR of 11 lakh square feet. Under the approved concession agreement, port employees will continue to receive cashless treatment, with 100%

reimbursement by SMPK, while pensioners will retain heavily subsidised healthcare facilities, an official said.
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/kolkata-port-zone-hosp-to-become-500-bed-facility-with-pvt-help/articleshow/135937440.cms