

West Bengal Current Affairs 2020

WB Pathashree Abhijan Scheme

West Bengal state government has launched WB Pathashree Abhijan Scheme 2020. It is a road repair scheme, more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising of 12,000 kilometers across the state would be repaired.

CM Mamata Banerjee has launched this West Bengal Pathashree Abhijan Scheme on 1 October 2020.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee mentioned that under the WB Pathashree Abhijan Scheme 2020, the roads will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time-bound manner.

The state govt. of West Bengal has collated list of roads by collecting public opinion through Didi Ke Bolo campaign.

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WB Mamata Kitchen Scheme

West Bengal government has launched by WB Mamata Kitchen Scheme 2020. The state govt. aims to supports lakhs of migrant workers who suffered massive financial setback due to job losses because of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

All those migrants will get meals at Rs. 5 in the Didir Rannaghar (Mamata's Kitchen) Scheme.

Mamata Kitchen or Didir Rannaghar Scheme is a community kitchen scheme launched by the West Bengal government. Each meal will cost as little as Rs. 5 during Durga Puja period.

The community kitchen will be functional every day between 11 am to 3 pm.

The menu will change on daily basis and will comprise of mostly vegetarian and will include rice, dal (pulses), mix vegetable, 'shukto' (vegetable stew) soyabean, 'khichdi' (cooked rice and lentils), papad.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, WB govt. has decided to stand beside the people, primarily those belonging to the underprivileged sections/unorganised sectors.

These poor people have suffered a lot due to the pandemic situation. The state govt. is hopeful that "Didir Rannaghar" will benefit such people from economically weaker sections and workers immensely.

West Bengal Karma Sathi Prakalpa Scheme

West Bengal government has launched Karma Sathi Prakalpa Scheme 2020 for unemployed youths. Under this WB Karma Sathi Prakalpa Scheme, the state govt. will provide loans upto Rs. 2 lakh to jobless youth to make them self reliant.

In the recent Budget 2020-21, the state govt. has sanctioned Rs. 500 crore to make urban unemployment youths self dependent. Loans are to be given to take up various income generating projects.

State Cooperation Department of West Bengal will implement the WB Karma Sathi Prakalpa Scheme.

Every year, the state govt. will provide soft loans to 1 lakh youths to start their own business and to turn them into entrepreneurs.

From this loan money, youths can provide themselves with self employment opportunity and can become job creators rather than job seekers.

WB Chaa Sundari Scheme

West Bengal state government has set up to launched a new WB Chaa Sundari Scheme 2020. In this scheme, govt. will provide houses to tea workers of north Bengal.

State labour minister Moloy Ghatak has made announcement of WB Chaa Sundari Housing Scheme on 17 September 2020.

In the WB Chaa Sundari Scheme, the state govt. will construct houses of 792 families who dwell in this tea estate.

The state govt. has taken number of other initiatives for tea population. It includes distribution of ration to workers at subsidized rates.

The announcement to start Chaa Sundari Scheme was made earlier while tabling the state budget of current fiscal year 2020-21.



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WB Bangla Awas Yojana

West Bengal state Government is going to provide Free Houses for Sanatan (Hindu) Brahmin Priests under WB Bangla Awas Yojana 2020. Around 8,000 poor brahman pujari working in temples (mandirs) will get new homes under the flagship Banglar Awas Yojna housing scheme.

In addition to this, a monthly allowance of Rs. 1,000 per month will be provided to hindu priests.

Bangla Awas Yojana is a part of the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana flagship housing scheme in West Bengal.

The decision to provide free homes to Sanatan Brahmin Priests under WB Bangla Awas Yojana 2020 was taken ahead of the assembly polls in 2021.

The state govt. had earlier provided land to the Sanatan Brahmin sect to set up an academy at Kolaghat.

Many priests in this sect are financially weak. So the govt. has decided to help such hindu priests by providing them with an allowance of Rs. 1,000 per month and also free housing under the state government's housing scheme.

The state govt. of West Bengal will also distribute sanction certificates to beneficiaries on "Banglar Awas Bitaran Divas".

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West Bengal Snehaloy Housing Scheme

West Bengal state government has announced a new Snehaloy Housing Scheme 2020-21 for poor people where the WB state government will provide Rs. 1.20 lakh as financial assistance to build new homes.

The WB Snehaloy Housing Scheme is for those economically backward people who doesn't qualify for the state government's present housing scheme Bangle Awas Yojana.

In the WB Snehaloy Housing Scheme 2020-21, the entire amount of assistance would be borne by the state government.

There are 25,000 people from economically weaker sections (EWS) category who does not have their own houses.

They had telephoned the chief minister's grievance cell requesting for a house to live in as they are not entitled for Bangle Awas Yojana.

So, the state govt. led by Mamata Banerjee has decided to start Snehaloy Housing Scheme 2020-21 in West Bengal.

West Bengal Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana

West Bengal state government has launched Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2020 in the recent budget speech. Around 7.5 crore people in WB state will reap the benefits of this new free social security scheme.

All the landless labourers would be included as beneficiaries of BMSS. All the unorganized sector beneficiaries will get benefits of samajik suraksha on attaining the age of 60 years under WB Free Social Security Scheme.

The Finance department has allotted Rs. 500 crore in the FY 2020-21 for smooth running of West Bengal Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2020.

The West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee requested Finance Minister to include landless labourers as beneficiaries under Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana (BMSS).

Till date, there are 1.18 crore families which are enrolled under the Samajik Suraksha Yojana (SSY). The number will soon go upto 1.5 crore.

In case there are 5 members in every family, the total number of beneficiaries would go upto 7.5 crore. All the poor people belonging to various unorganized sectors would be able to get Provident Fund (PF) and other benefits on attaining the age of 60 years.

Poor people will have to pay single penny from their pockets. Previously, people needs to pay Rs. 25 per month while govt. used to contribute Rs. 30 for each beneficiary.

The govt. has announced that there is no longer need to pay premium as govt. will bear entire cost. In case of death of beneficiaries, the family members would receive Rs. 2 lakh. In case someone gets disabled, each beneficiary will receive Rs. 1 lakh.

CM has requested Finance and Labour dept. to make premium completely free as poor people belonging to unorganized sectors were facing difficulty in paying Rs. 25 per month. The CM also urges Finance Minister to bring landless labourers under Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana.

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Govt approved ₹107 crore for modern fire-fighting facilities at Haldia Dock

The government of India has approved ₹107 crore for modern fire-fighting facilities at Haldia Dock Complex of Kolkata Port to ensure safe cargo operations, especially petro-chemical goods. Kolkata Port is one of the top 12 major ports in the country.

The modern fire-fighting facility will enable Haldia Dock Complex in safe handling of the movement of petro-chemical products.

The existing fire-fighting facility does not support the handling the LPG and other petroleum products as per the guideline of Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

It has prioritised safety and security of cargo operation on all major ports and the move is towards compliance of global standards for fire safety.

LPG and LNG cargo at Haldia dock is projected to increase in the near future.

The state-of-the-art fire-fighting infrastructure will help to manage the petro-chemical goods in a safe and secure manner at Kolkata Port by complying OISD guidelines.

Haldia Dock Complex

Haldia Dock Complex has been built at the meeting place of the Haldi River and Hooghly river.

Kolkata Port Trust has been created in this port as the port's partner.

It has a vast hinterland comprising the entire north east of India including West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, North East Hill States and two landlocked neighbouring countries namely, Nepal and Bhutan and also the Autonomous Region of Tibet (China).

Haldia is an industrial port city in Purba Medinipur district in the Indian state of West Bengal. It is a major river port and industrial belt located approximately 125 kilometres southwest of Kolkata near the mouth of the Hooghly River, one of the tributaries of the Ganges.

Coast Guard ships Annie Besant and Amrit Kaur commissioned at Kolkata

Two Indian Coast Guard Ships namely Annie Besant and Amrit Kaur, second and third in the series of five Fast Patrol Vessels were commissioned and deployed along the eastern coast by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar at Khidderpore park Kolkata, West Bengal.

With a target of becoming a \$ 5 trillion economy by 2024, \$ 250 billion will be coming from the maritime zone. The Maritime economy constitutes nearly 5% of the world economy.

ICGS Annie Besant was named in honour of Annie Besant philanthropist, theosophist, prolific author and supporter of Indian freedom struggle.

The ship will be based at Chennai, Tamil Nadu under the operational and administrative control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region(East). It is commanded by Commandant (JG) Sunny Deo.

ICGS Amrit Kaur derives the name from Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, who belonged to the ruling family of Kapurthala, Punjab.

She took an active part in the 'Salt Satyagraha' and 'Quit India Movement', and served Independent India as its first Health Minister.

She was a founder member of All India Women's Conference and founder President of Indian Council for Child Welfare.

The ship will be based at Haldia, West Bengal under the operational and administrative control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (North East). It is commanded by Commandant (JG) Himanshu Mishra.

The two ICG fast patrol vessels designed and manufactured by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., (GRSE) Kolkata, West Bengal.

Both ships are 48.9 metres long and 7.5 metres wide, with a displacement of 308 tonnes.

The ships are capable of achieving a maximum speed of 34 knots, powered by MTU (Motoren- und Turbinen- Union) 4000 series engines and propelled by three 71s type III Kamewa water jets by Rolls Royce.

They are fitted with state-of-the-art technology, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery and also capable of undertaking multifaceted tasks such as surveillance, search and rescue and medical evacuation.

The ships are also equipped with Bofors 40/60 guns and 12.7 mm SRCGs (Stabilising Remote Controlled Gun) for enhancing the fighting efficiency of the ship.

The ship carries one RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) and a Gemini boat each for swift boarding and search and rescue operations.

CSIR-CMERI developed the World's Largest Solar Tree

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute has developed the World's Largest Solar Tree, which is installed at CSIR-CMERI Residential Colony, Durgapur, West Bengal.

The installed capacity of the Solar Tree is above 11.5 kWp. It has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power.

There are a total of 35 Solar PV Panels in each tree with a capacity of 330 wp each.

The inclination of the arms holding the Solar PV Panels are flexible and can be adjusted as per requirement, this feature is not available in Roof-Mounted Solar facilities.

Each Solar Tree will cost Rs 7.5 lakhs and the interested MSMEs can align their Business Model with the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evem Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme for farmers, for developing a Renewable Energy based Energy Grid.

The Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (also known as CSIR-CMERI Durgapur) is a public engineering research and development institution in Durgapur, West Bengal. It is a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

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West Bengal launched “Karmo Bhumi” to help IT professionals

West Bengal state government has launched a job portal named Karmo Bhumi to help Information Technology professionals who have lost their jobs after the outbreak of COVID-19 and returned to the state. The portal will enable them to get employment in the state.

The portal acts as a medium between the professionals and IT companies in Bengal.

It eliminates the need of middlemen who waste the money of job seekers. The main benefit of the portal is that the jobs will be readily available for job seekers.

The portal can be accessed through <http://karmabhumi.nltr.org>

West Bengal launched two new schemes- ‘Sneher Porosh’ & ‘Prochesta’

West Bengal CM launched two schemes ‘Sneher Porosh’ to provide support for the migrant workers and ‘Prochesta’ to help the workers of the unorganised sector of Bengal to enable them to earn their living in the lockdown situation.

Prochesta Scheme:

Prochesta Scheme is to provide daily wages to all the daily wage workers whose livelihood are disturbed because of the national lockdown.

The scheme application submission commenced on 15th April 2020 and the last date for submission of the application is 15th May 2020.

The eligibility criteria for applying for this scheme are, The applicant should be a resident of West Bengal state.

The applicant should be a daily wage worker and a sole earning member of the family Should not be a beneficiary of any social scheme of the state

Only one person of a family is eligible Should not have other source of income

The application to the scheme can be done through online in the official site: prachestawb.in or the form can be obtained from the office of District Magistrate or Office of Commissioner of Kolkata Municipal corporation for free of cost or through the android mobile application ‘Prochesta Prokolpo’

The beneficiaries will benefit Rs 1000 directly to their bank account.

Sneher Porosh:

Snehera Parash scheme is to provide support for the migrant workers of West Bengal who are stranded in different parts of the nation.

The scheme application submission commenced on 20th April 2020 and the last date for submission of the application is 3rd May 2020.

The eligibility for applying for this scheme are The beneficiary should be a resident of West Bengal

The persons who are stranded in the other parts of the country

Should have a proof of residence in West Bengal like Khadyasathi number or Voter card number

The migrant labours are required to submit the physical application forms.

The Jai Bangla Sneher Porosh App can be used to apply for the Jai Bangla 1000 Rs scheme for migrant workers.

[Click here for Current Affairs PDF](#)**150th Anniversary Celebrations of Kolkata Port Trust**

Prime Minister Modi unveiled a plaque at the site of original Port Jetties to commemorate 150 years of the Kolkata Port Trust and also participated in the grand sesquicentenary celebrations during which he launched the Port Anthem of the Kolkata Port Trust and released the commemorative stamp marking the 150 years celebration of the port trust.

During the anniversary celebration, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the following:

- For Cochin Kolkata Ship Repair Unit an upgraded ship repairing facility at the Netaji Subhas Dry Dock.
- For smooth cargo movement and improving turnaround time, a Full Rake Handling Facility and upgraded railway infrastructure.
- A proposed riverfront development scheme and mechanization of berth no.3 of Haldia Dock Complex.
- For 200 tribal girl students in Sunderbans, Kaushal Vikas Kendra and Pritilata Chhatra Awas.

The Prime Minister also announced that the Kolkata Port Trust will be renamed after Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

Indian Railways launched its first 'Restaurant on Wheels' at Asansol Railway station

Indian Railways recently launched its first 'Restaurant on Wheels' at Asansol Railway station, located in the state of West Bengal.

The restaurant, which is to serve both the passengers and general public, is developed by refurbishing two over aged MEMU coaches.

This addition in infrastructure is expected to generate non-fare revenue earnings of approximately Rs 50 lakhs in the next five years.

West Bengal topped the List for Performance Assessment for States

All India Football Federation has carried out the performance assessment test for the football associations in the states.

In this, Indian Football Association (IFA), West Bengal, has come at the top of the rankings whereas Western Indian Football Association (WIFA), Maharashtra and Kerala Football Association have followed IFA in the list, for the 2019-20 football season.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has introduced the state-based ranking system in order to push for reforms and excellence in the state associations so that these organizations can contribute to the development of the sports in the concerned states.

It is a points-based assessment system that indicates the performance of the states on the various operational verticals. These are:

- Coaches Education (AIFF D Certificate Courses)
- Grassroots consisting of AIFF Golden Baby Leagues and AIFF E-Certificate Courses
- AIFF Academy Accreditation Endorsements
- Referees Education
- Conduction of leagues and competitions including accreditation of academies

The points are allotted to the states based on the activities carried out by the football associations in that state. All states have development officers deputed and funded by the AIFF.

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CamScanner alternative SelfScan app launched in India

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has launched a new app called 'SelfScan'. This new application has been developed by the state's information technology department and as the name suggests, it is built to scan documents.

The new SelfScan app by the state government of West Bengal is in response to filling that void.

The features of the app have been listed on Amazon's application store. It claims that the data always stays in the device and there will be no storing of data by the app on any server.

It also claims that SelfScan does not capture any personal data of the user which includes cookies and other background data collection.

Once installed, the application will not require an internet connection for Scanning documents even for OCR. The scanning is done inside the user's device without sending it to the server.

According to the description, the app is completely free and comes without adds. The user won't even need to register in order to use this app

Considering that no data is sent to the server, the app developers claim that it poses a challenge in improving the scanning ability of handwritten text. However, they do provide assurance that they are working on the feature.

Currently, the app is available in English but the developers claim that they are working on Bengali, Hindi and other regional languages as well.

SNBNCBS developed Nanomedicine to alter oxidative stress to treat COVID-19

S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata developed a nanomedicine, safe and cost-effective, to treat many diseases by altering oxidative stress in the body and the research will support the combat against the COVID-19 in India.

The medicine combines nanoparticles extracted from magnesium salt with citrus extract from citrus fruits like lemon.

The nanomedicine is produced by combining the manganese and citrate with the tricks of nanotechnology.

The Nanomedicine helps to decrease or increase reactive oxygen species in the human body based on the situation and cure the disease. The immune system of humans produces ROS or generative oxidative stress to kill foreign bodies like viruses, bacterias and infected cells.

The research has the ability for controlled enhancement of ROS in mammals through the application of nanomedicine in controlling virus infections, like COVID-19.

The Reduction and Oxidation Process on the Animal trial for healing of several diseases is completed. The clinical trials on humans will begin after the institute finds sponsors for the research.

The usage of Hydrogen peroxide is advised to inactivate the COVID-19 whose direct application can cause direct oxidation of normal body cells, replacing the hydrogen peroxide with the nanomedicine will be beneficial.

In October 2019, the review titled “ Role of Nanomedicine in Redox Medicated Healing at Molecular level” was published in the journal Bimolecular concepts containing all the developments and concepts drawn the attention of the international experts.

The developed nanomedicine in balancing oxidative stress(ROS) in mice was tested by injecting Lead ions to create higher oxidative stress and liver damage and found that the nanomedicine reduces the risks due to lead exposure and helps in removing toxins ions from the liver and preventing the organ damage.

Kolkata International Children Film Festival

The 9th edition of the ‘Kolkata International Children’s Film Festival’ is being conducted in Kolkata by the Shishu Kishore Akademi, which is an institution under the aegis of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal.

First organized in 2001, the film festival is an initiative of the West Bengal state government in collaboration with the Shishu Kishore Akademi which showcases a plethora of films from across the globe for children from not only feature films and animation films, but also short documentaries and educational films.

The film festival provides a platform for the organizers to bring good cinema for the children so that they can learn through the magic on screen.

For this year’s Kolkata International Children’s Film Festival (KICFF), workshops and quiz competitions have also been organized apart from the best of classics to contemporary from the world cinema.

This year, spread across nine venues across Kolkata, the festival includes the screening of about 250 films from 35 countries.

PURVODAYA mission launched in Kolkata

Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Ministry launched PURVODAYA with the aim of driving accelerated development of eastern India through integrated steel hub in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The proposed steel hub encompasses of Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Northern Andhra Pradesh. The objective of this hub is to enable swift capacity addition and improve overall competitiveness of steel producers in terms of cost as well as quality.

The Integrated Steel Hub will focus on 3 key elements. They are Capacity addition through greenfield steel plants.

Steel cluster development near integrated steel plants & demand centres.

Logistics & utilities infrastructure transformation for change in socio-economic landscape in the East.

India has come up with Rs. 102 lakh crore worth National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

Half of India's aspirational districts are from West Bengal region.

Regions with rich mineral components: Eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal) and Northern part of Andhra Pradesh collectively hold 80% of India's iron ore, 100% of coking coal and significant portion of chromite, bauxite and other dolomite reserves.

Major ports such as Paradip (Odisha), Haldia (West Bengal), Vizag (Andhra Pradesh), Kolkata (West Bengal) constitute more than 30% of India's major port capacity.

The eastern belt has the potential to add more than 75% of the country's incremental steel capacity envisioned by the National Steel Policy. This region alone is expected to produce 200Mt (Million Tons) out of 300Mt of steel by 2030-31 driven by Industry 4.0.

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West Bengal topped in Vegetable Production, Andhra Pradesh in Fruits

Ministry of Agriculture released the State-wise horticulture production data for the year 2018-19. This the third advance estimate report, as per which, West Bengal was the top State in vegetable production with 29.55 million tonnes (mt) of vegetables last year.

The state accounted for 15.9 % of the country's total vegetable production in 2018-19.

The number one state during 2017-18 was Uttar Pradesh, which is pushed to the second place this year, with 27.71mt vegetables.

In fruit production, a total of 98.58mt of fruit was produced in the country which was about 31.4 percent of the total horticultural crops in which Andhra Pradesh continued to hold the top spot with 17.61mt, followed by Maharashtra overtaking Assam with 10.82mt, and Uttar Pradesh at the third place.

In 2018-19, the area under vegetable cultivation was 10.10 million hectares in the country, while a total of 6.65mh of the area was under fruit crop cultivation in the country.

WB launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000-acre barren land in 6 districts

West Bengal launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts for income-generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals.

There is at least 50,000 acre of barren land in Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Jhargram, West Burdwan and West Midnapore districts, which cannot produce anything naturally nor can the farmers cultivate on the strip.

West Bengal CM also mentioned that the work has been initiated in 6,500 acres of land at the micro-level and this is an environment-friendly scheme.

Farmers will be involved in constituting cooperative societies, which will get financial support from the cooperative banks. Preference would be given to locals for carrying out the project in which "lakhs of women self- help groups (SHG)" will be involved.

The State Government also announced the grant of an ad hoc bonus of Rs 4,200 as the festival advances for the year 2020-21, an increase of Rs 200 over the year 2019. Also, the salary ceiling for eligibility has been increased from Rs 30,000 to Rs 34,250.

The salary ceiling for eligibility has been increased from Rs 30,000 to Rs 34,250.

The festival advance is raised from Rs 8,000 in 2019- 20 to Rs 10,000 and the salary ceiling for eligibility from Rs 34,250 to Rs 41,100.

This increase in bonus and festival advance, and also the eligibility will benefit over 10 lakh government employees and employees of panchayat and municipal bodies, university and school staff. The total financial implication will be about Rs 400 crore.

NABARD Sanctioned ₹795 Cr for Re-Construction of Infra in West Bengal

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has decided to sanction Rs 795 Crores for the re-construction of infrastructure in West Bengal, necessitated due to the recent devastation of the recent cyclone, Amphan.

The State Government requested for Rs 1028 Crores from NABARD for this work as part of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund but the agriculture and rural development sector regulator has sanctioned Rs 795 crores, for the time being.

NABARD has already sanctioned Rs 145 Crores to the State Government in order to provide liquidity support for boosting rural infrastructure in the country during the COVID 19 pandemic.

It is the regulator for the agriculture credit and rural development in the country and it also regulates the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the country.

It was established in 1982 on the recommendations of the B Sivaraman Committee. NABARD replaced the erstwhile Agriculture Refinance and Development Corporation.

NABARD is the apex institution in India for the primary sector development.

India's first underwater metro to be launched in Kolkata

Kolkata Metro Rail Corp. expects to complete its East-West project, which runs partly under the city's iconic Hooghly river by March 2022 after a delay of several years doubled costs.

About 40% of total transport demand will be tackled by these two metro services. It will be a relief for environmental pollution and the city should be much more decongested.

The new line is expected to carry about 9,00,000 people daily, — roughly 20% of the city's population — and will take less than a minute to cross a 520-meter underwater tunnel.

Depending on the time of day, it takes some 20 minutes to use the ferry and anywhere upward of an hour to cross the Howrah bridge.

Amazon India partnered with Eastern Railways to set up kiosk at Sealdah railway station

Amazon India has partnered with Eastern Railways in order to set up a pick-up kiosk at the Sealdah railway station in Kolkata, West Bengal. Previously successful pilot of pickup kiosks in 4 railway stations across Mumbai, Maharashtra was set up in 2019.

Customers can use this point as a pickup location on the checkout page of their order.

A kiosk is a small open-fronted hut or cubicle from where newspapers, refreshments, tickets, etc will be sold

India Post launched free digital parcel locker service for the first time in India

The Indian Post is introducing a free digital parcel locker service in the city to enable customers to collect their consignment from specified post offices at their convenience for the first time in India.

The facility will be available in two post offices in Kolkata– the Nabadiganta IT Post Office in Sector 5 of Salt Lake City and another in New Town.

The facility, which is popular in European countries, will be limited to consignments received through registered post or speed post.

Customer will be given a specific locker number as the address where India Post will drop the parcel.

Consignments will be dropped into the digital parcel locker and an SMS will be issued along with an OTP number to the customer concerned.

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4th Buxa bird festival 2020 commenced in West Bengal

The 4th edition of the Buxa Bird Festival 2020 has begun in Buxa National Park in the Alipurduar district of West Bengal.

The festival, organized by West Bengal Forest Department, will see the participation of around 50 people, including prominent ornithologists, birdwatchers and bird enthusiasts from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

Till now, the presence of More than 300 rare species of birds has been noticed in Buxa National Park.

Kolkata Police started 3rd edition of 'Sukanya' project

Kolkata police of started the 3rd edition of the 'Sukanya' project in the state which provides self-defence training to girls studying in school and colleges of Kolkata city.

In the 3rd batch of the project, 100 city based schools and colleges lying in the Kolkata police jurisdiction were given training.

Girl students of VIII, IX, XI class and girls studying in the 1st year at educational institutions will be provided with the self defence training.

It is an initiative by the Kolkata Police's Community Policing Wing and is funded by Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department of the West Bengal government.

West Bengal launched exit app for stranded people of other states

West Bengal launched an "exit app" for people of other states who are stranded in the state due to the lockdown and want to return to their native place.

The app can be downloaded from the state government's 'Egiye Bangla' website.

Persons willing to go back to their native states can apply online through this 'Exit app' and permission for the same will be practically automatic and extremely easy.

The home secretary also requested the nodal officers of all neighbouring states to ease the exit of such people for reaching their native places.

West Bengal led in vegetable production in 2018-19

West Bengal has been at the forefront of vegetable production in 2018-19 where the production of vegetables was 29.55 million tonnes according to the State-wise horticulture production data released at a conference organised by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.

Andhra Pradesh continued to hold the top spot in fruits with 17.61MT in 2018-19. It was followed by Maharashtra (10.82 mt) and UP (10.65 mt).

West Bengal's share in total vegetable production is 15.9 % of the country's total vegetable production. UP accounted for 14.9 % of the total vegetable production, 9.6% of Madhya Pradesh, 9% of Bihar and 6.8 % of Gujarat.

In the previous crop year 2017-18, West Bengal stood 2nd with production of 27.7 million tonnes. At that time Uttar Pradesh was at the top with a production of 28.8 million tonnes.

The total area under vegetable cultivation rose to 10.10 million hectare (mh) in 2018-19 from 6.74 mh in 2004-05. The area under vegetable production was 10.10 mh in 2018-19. Whereas, area under fruit crops cultivation during 2018-19 was 6.65 mh.

The production of vegetable rose to 185.88 tonnes in 2018-19 from 101.25 mt in 2004-05, while the fruit production accounted 98.58 mt.

Indian Railways launched its First "Restaurant on Wheels" at Asansol Station

Indian railways launched its first "Restaurant on Wheels" at Asansol Station (division of Eastern railway), West Bengal, for railway passengers and citizens of the city.

The Restaurant on wheels was developed by modifying 2 over aged MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) coaches. This effort will not only improve the facilities at Asansol station but also generate non-fare revenue earnings of Rs 50 lakhs approximately in the next 5 years.

The restaurant is named 'Wow Bhojan' and the tea boutique has been developed named 'Chai-Chun'.

The Electronic Reservation Chart Display System (through MPLAD fund) at Asansol station will provide easy access to information about the reservation status in different trains and will be very helpful for the railway passengers.

The 2 new air-conditioned retiring rooms equipped with state-of-the-art furniture & other equipment will provide much comfort to the passengers.

The battery operated car will be very helpful for the Divyangjan & senior citizen passengers for their comfortable movement at the station area.

Indian Navy conducted 5-day coastal security exercise in Kolkata

Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'Matla Abhiyaan' at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters.

The exercise, named after Matla River, witnessed the 2 naval boats Flagged in' at the 'Man of War Jetty' & carrying out a passage from Kolkata to Hemnagar (Both in West Bengal) via the international trade protocol route between India-Bangladesh.

During the exercise, the naval officers interacted with the crew of fishing boats, tankers & coastal police stations at Maipit, Jharkhali, Hemnagar and Gobindgarpur.

International Conference on Nano Science and Nano Technology (ICONSAT)

The International Conference on Nano Science and Nano Technology (ICONSAT) under the aegis of Nano Mission, Department of Science and Technology (DST) is being held at Kolkata focusing on the recent advances in this frontier research field.

ICONSAT is the series of biennial international conference held in India under the aegis of Nano Mission, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India that provides a global platform of interactions among eminent scientists to bring to fore the recent advances in the area of nanoscience and technology.

The Conference proposes to host several speakers from the academia, industrial sectors and young entrepreneurs from all over the world as delegates.

It also aims to provide a potential platform for the young researchers and students from within the country and abroad to keep pace with the latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology.

An industrial session is proposed to be held for the entrepreneurs and start-up companies for enhanced industry academia interactions.

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