

'Assam will receive significant boost in terms of rail connectivity', lauds Himanta

GUWAHATI, JAN 15

CHIEF Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said that Assam is set to receive a significant boost in terms of railway connectivity as the state will get two new Amrit Bharat trains along with the country's first Vande Bharat sleeper coach train.

Taking to X, CM Sarma wrote, "This weekend, Assam will receive a major boost to its rail connectivity when Bharat's first Vande Bharat Sleeper train rolls out from Guwahati & Kolkata. 2 New Amrit Bharat trains connecting Lucknow & Rohtak will also be flagged off by Adarniya @anarendramodi. Notably, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi will flag off the first Vande Bharat Sleeper Express between Guwahati and Kolkata on January 17, marking a major milestone in long-distance overnight rail travel and further strengthening connectivity between the northeast region and eastern India.

CM Sarma earlier said that Prime Minister Modi will visit Assam on January 17. During the visit, the Prime Minister will flag off new trains connecting Dibrugarh to Lucknow, Assam to Rohtak via Delhi, further integrating Assam with key regions of the country.

The Chief Minister had said that during the visit, PM Modi will also witness the traditional Bodo dance



'Bagurumba', showcasing Assam's rich cultural heritage on a national platform. On January 18, the Prime Minister will travel to Kaziranga to lay the foundation stone of the elevated corridor project.

Chief Minister Sarma had said that the Prime Minister's presence underlines the Centre's commitment to Assam's development and environmentally sensitive infrastructure. The elevated corridor through Kaziranga has long been one of the Assam government's flagship initiatives, envisioned to resolve the long-standing conflict between conservation and connectivity. With the Union Cabinet's recent approval of the project, the elevated corridor is expected to move swiftly into the implementation phase, officials said, calling it a major step towards sustainable development in the state. -- IANS

Assam targets 3,500 MW solar power by '30: CM
GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said the state has set a target of generating 3,500 MW solar power by 2030, operating 70 MW solar power plant at Khudigaon in Dibrui district's Bilaspur area. Sarma said the state government would implement development projects on government land cleared of encroachments, which would help generate employment and boost the local economy. "Today, our solar capacity has reached 68 MW and by April we will reach 750 MW, steadily advancing towards a sustainable, clean energy future," Sarma said in a post on X after inaugurating the solar park. "Assam's solar energy target is 3,500 MW by 2030!" he added. The new project has been jointly developed by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SHEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Navratna CPSE SJVN Ltd, and Assam Power Development Corporation Ltd (APDCL). -- PTI

BJP seeks central forces' deployment to complete SIR in Bengal following mob attack on Farakka BDO's office

KOLKATA, JAN 15

THE BJP on Thursday condemned the vandalism at Farakka BDO's office in Bengal's Murshidabad district and demanded deployment of central forces to complete the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in the state.

The reaction from the BJP leaders came a day after a mob led by Trinamool Congress MLA Monirul Islam went on a rampage at the said BDO's office and vandalised the premises while protesting against harassment of the people in the name of calling them for SIR hearing for simple errors in their voters information forms. Using his X handle, BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya said, "The murderous attack on the



BJP's office, ERO, AERO and micro observers in Farakka AC is an extremely serious matter. Even more disconcerting is the fact that the violence was allegedly orchestrated at the behest of Trinamool leaders. Law and order is a State subject, and the responsibility for this complete breakdown rests squarely with Mamata Banerjee."

The central BJP leader urged the Election Commission to take note of the incident and take action accordingly. "The @ECISVEEP and @CEOWestBengal must take urgent cognisance of this inci-

dent and ensure that accountability is fixed across the chain of command, from the DGP down to the SP concerned. Violence and intimidation cannot be allowed to undermine the electoral process," said Malviya.

On Wednesday, two persons were arrested after an irate mob led by Monirul Islam vandalised the Farakka BDO's office in Murshidabad district and ransacked the chamber of ERO. The vandalism resulted in the suspension of the SIR hearing of the voter list which was going on at the BDO's office. Following the incident, the BDO filed a complaint at the Farakka police station, based on which an FIR was registered under various Sections of BNS and the Prevention of Offence to Public Property (DPP) Act, 1984. -- IANS

CBI raids five locations in Kolkata in bank loan forgery case

KOLKATA, JAN 15

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), accompanied by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel, was conducting simultaneous raids and search operations at five locations in and around Kolkata on Thursday in connection with a probe into a multi-crore bank loan forgery.

The places where the simultaneous raid and search operations were being conducted include the post locality of Alipore in South Kolkata and New

ECI flags slow docu authentication in WB SIR, directs DEOs to accelerate

KOLKATA, JAN 15

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) is concerned regarding the slow rate of verification of identification documents provided by "unmapped" voters who have participated in the current hearing sessions concerning the draft voters' list in West Bengal. Amid this situation, the Commission has directed the District Magistrates (DMs), who are also the District Electoral Officers (DEOs), to expedite the process of document authentication, considering that the deadline for publication of the final voters list is February 14 this year. Currently, the hearing of the "unmapped voters", that is, voters unable to establish links with the voters' list 2002 either through "self-mapping" or through "progeny-mapping", is being done.

According to the statistics available from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, of the 32 lakh unmapped voters, hearing has been completed for around 29 lakh voters till Wednesday evening. However, out of the 29 lakh voters, whose hearing processes have been completed, the supporting identification documents furnished by them at the hearing session have been uploaded in the system for just around 11 lakh voters till the same period. The third stage which is the verification of the supporting identity documents by the DMs or DEOs concerned, has been completed for only around one lakh "unmapped" voters. So, in the backdrop of the situation, the ECI has directed the DMs or the DEOs to expedite the process of document verification, a source in the CEO's office said. -- IANS

West Bengal Police to comply with ECI directive to transfer officers serving over 3 years in same post

KOLKATA, JAN 15

FOLLOWING instructions from the Election Commission, the West Bengal government has decided to transfer police officers who have been in their posts for three years or more. A state secretary official said on Thursday that a formal notification in this regard is likely to be issued soon.

This directive will apply to those who are serving in their home district or have been in the same position for an extended period. This directive has already been sent to all senior police officers, an official said. According to the Election Commission's guidelines of December 21, 2023, and December 23,



2008, police officers of the rank of Sub-Inspector who fall under the specified criteria must be transferred. According to state government sources, senior IPS officers have been given the responsibility to oversee the process of transfer of officers in their respective zones.

It was learnt that the ADG and IGP of South Bengal will oversee the Bithanagar, Barrackpore, and Howrah Police Commissionersate in addition to their own areas. The directive further says that the instructions of the Election Commission must be followed meticulously. If any clarification or explanation is needed, one must contact the ADG and IGP (Legal), West Bengal, or the ADG and IGP (Law and Order) without delay. After all transfer orders have been issued, a report on the steps taken will be submitted to the Police Directorate and the relevant higher authorities by January 24. -- IANS

Man posing as doctor on matrimony site 'dupes' woman of over ₹22 lakh, held

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 15

A 40-year-old man allegedly impersonated a doctor and a bank official on a matrimony website to dupe a woman and her family of Rs 22.70 lakh on the pretext of marriage, police said on Thursday.

The accused was arrested in connection with a case registered at Pahal police station near Bhubaneswar, Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said.

According to the complainant, the woman had created a profile on a matrimony site in 2021 and came in contact with a person, who claimed to be a doctor and who was searching for a bride for his brother.

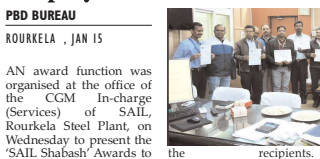
Between June and December 2021, the accused allegedly took Rs 22.70 lakh from the complainant and her family on various pretexts, Singh said.

SAIL Shabash awards presented to RSP employees for innovative contributions

PBD BUREAU

AN award function was organised at the office of the CGM In-charge (Services), PBD, Rourkela Steel Plant, on Wednesday to present the 'SAIL Shabash Awards' to employees from Civil Engineering (Services), Materials Recovery Department (MRD), Communication Department, Information Technology (C&IT) and R & C Laboratory (RCL) for their innovative endeavours and exemplary contributions.

Atish Chandra Sarkar, CGM In-Charge (Services), presided over the function and presented the awards to



the recipients. Congratulating the awardees, he lauded their commitment, innovation and contributions towards enhancing the departmental efficiency, and encouraged employees to draw inspiration from their performance.

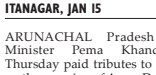
Two employees from each of the departments were awarded under the scheme. Nihar Ranjan Jena, Deputy Manager, CE (S), and Dharendra K Singh, Junior Engineering

CM Khandu, Dy CM Mein pay tribute to soldiers on Army Day

ITANAGAR, JAN 15

ARUNACHAL Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Thursday paid tributes to soldiers on the occasion of Army Day, lauding their unwavering dedication and supreme sacrifice in safeguarding the nation. Army Day is observed on January 15 to mark Field Marshal K M Cariappa taking over as the first Indian Chief of the Indian Army, replacing his British predecessor General Sir FRR Suler in 1949. "In celebrating Indian Army Day, we salute the unmatched valour, unwavering dedication and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers who stand as the shield of the nation," Khandu said in a post on X.

The CM said soldiers serve in the harshest terrains and under the most challenging conditions, and their courage, discipline and commitment are the true strength of India. Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein also extended greetings to soldiers on the occasion. "Today, on Indian Army Day, I join the nation in expressing heartfelt gratitude to the brave men and women of the Indian Army, whose courage and dedication safeguard our country and ensure its peace and stability. As a citizen, I have in the most difficult terrains and under extreme conditions, soldiers uphold the highest ideals of discipline, honour and selfless service. -- PTI



litigation," he said. Intense farmers' protests, led by the then opposition TMC, against forcible acquisition of fertile agricultural land by the Buddhdeb Bhattacharjee Left Front government escalated to violence, arson and clashes, forcing Tata Motors to pull the plug on the Singur project in 2008 and relocate it to Gujarat when Modi was the CM there. "I once mentioned that if somebody puts a gun to my head, you either pull the trigger or you take the gun away. Because I have not moved my head, I think Ms Banerjee has pulled the trigger," an exasperated Ratan Tata, then Tata Sons chairman, had said, while officially announcing the Singur pullout on October 3, 2008, identifying Banerjee as the sole cause for his decision. PTI

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. EL-S-ANGL-OT-25-26-10
Name of Work: REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF SANDERS IN ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES AT ELECTRIC LOCO SHED ANGI, FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.
Approximate Value: ₹ 34,49,286.48, EMD: ₹ 2,00,000, Period of Completion: 24 Months
Bidding start date: 21.01.2026, Tender closing date & time: 15:00 hrs. on 04.02.2026.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete details & tender documents will be available at www.tenders.gov.in.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (T&S), Angi, PR-101102/25-26 (Angi)

EAST COAST RAILWAY

SUPPLY OF MATERIALS

E-Tender Notice No. Sr.DMISBSP/Sigores Tender Publication/2026, Dtd. 01.01.2026
DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: TRACK MEASURING SYSTEM
Tender Value: ₹ 1,32,82,000.00, EMD @ 2%: ₹ 2,65,640.00
E-Tender Notice No. Sr.DMISBSP/Sigores Tender Publication/2026, Dtd. 01.01.2026
DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: MS CLAMPS FOR 60KG JOGGLED FISH PLATES.
Tender Value: ₹ 1,05,84,000.00, EMD @ 2%: ₹ 2,11,680.00
Tender closing date & time: till 16:00 hrs. of 22.01.2026 (for SI, No. 1 & 8 at 15:00 hrs. of 22.01.2026 for SI, No. 2).
E-Tender Notice No. Sr.DMISBSP/Sigores Tender Publication/2026, Dtd. 12.01.2026
DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: JOGGLED FISH PLATES FOR 60KG RAILS.
Tender Value: ₹ 1,86,35,360.04, EMD @ 2%: ₹ 3,72,707.20
Tender closing date & time till 15:00 hrs. of 02.02.2026.
Complete details & tender documents will be available at www.tenders.gov.in.
Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, PR-101102/25-26 Sambalpur

CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

C-2079 "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Tender ID : 2025_ORULB_124507
Bid Reference No. M/C(MC) CTC_Div-I, No. 20/2025-26
Tender Call Notice No. 498 (PW) Date. 13.01.2026

Name of Works : Civil Works
No of Works : 05 Nos
Bid Value : Rs. 1.18 Lakh to Rs. 51.53 Lakh
Period of Completion : Three Calendar Months to Four Calendar Months

Date and Time schedule :
Start End Opening
12.00 PM on dt. 16.01.2026 5.00 PM on dt. 31.01.2026 11.00 AM on dt. 04.02.2026

Tender Details : can be seen from the procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Executive Engineer, City Div-I

CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

C-2084 "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Tender ID : 2026_ORULB_124404
Bid Reference No. M/C(MC) CTC_Div-I, No.19/2025-26
Tender Call Notice No. 427 (PW) Date. 12.01.2026

Name of Works : Civil Works
No of Works : 24 Nos
Bid Value : Rs. 4.19 Lakh to Rs. 46.77 Lakh
Period of Completion : One Calendar Month to Six Calendar Months

Date and Time schedule :
Start End Opening
3.00 PM on dt. 15.01.2026 5.00 PM on dt. 28.01.2026 11.00 AM on dt. 31.01.2026

Tender Details : can be seen from the procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Executive Engineer, City Div-I

CM Nitish, Nitin attend Chirag's Sankranti feast

PATNA, JAN 15

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and BJP working president Nitin Nambiar on Thursday attended a feast organised by Union Minister Chirag Paswan on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. The 'Dahi-Chura Bhoj' was organised at the office of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) in Patna's Wheeler Road. Among the other leaders who attended the feast were Union minister Nityanand Rai, Deputy CM Samart Choudhary, and state ministers Mangal Pandey, Ramkrishna Yadav and Vijay Choudhary. Several MPs and MLAs of the NDA were also present. Chirag Paswan said that Sankranti is a festival that brings a lot of warmth and joy. It brings happiness and prosperity. Bihar is moving towards prosperity," Paswan told reporters.

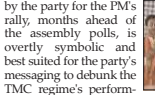
Asked about JJD founder Tej Pratap Yadav's complaint that he wanted to invite Paswan to the feast he hosted on Wednesday but could not get through, the Hajipur MP said, "I may not have been able to take his phone call because of pressing engagements. However, he is like a younger brother to me, and I have affection for him." Paswan was also asked about Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of the opposition in the assembly, not visiting his elder brother Tej Pratap's house for the feast, which was attended by their father Lalu Prasad, the RID chief, despite his old age and illness. "These are family matters on which it will not be appropriate for me to comment. However, when the head of the family was there, it should be deemed to be sufficient," he said. -- PTI

'BJP set to sharpen 'lost industry' narrative in Bengal with PM Modi's Singur Jan 18 rally

KOLKATA, JAN 15

THE BJP seemed all set to sharpen its narrative around industrialisation of West Bengal by organising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's January 18 rally at the Singur site, where the abandoned Tata Nano factory once stood, in a bid to lure a renewed push around the state's missed economic opportunities, ahead of the high-stakes assembly polls.

Gearing up to go full throttle on its poll campaigns to take on the TMC, BJP leaders are hoping that Modi's address in Singur in Hooghly district would include a fervent vision on the path to attract big-ticket investments to Bengal, piggybacking on the lasting perception that the state has remained industry-starved since the exit of the small car project. The site chosen



by the party for the PM's rally months ahead of the assembly polls, is a former Tata Nano factory site, best suited for the party's messaging to debunk the TMC regime's performance in attracting business and share its counter vision to reviving industry in Bengal. If it comes to power, "I need a comprehensive land policy to attract heavy industry, which is the only way to retain home-grown merit and stop brain drain and forced migration of the workforce. That policy should include making the state the most attractive in industries for which they would need to give up land, if required," state BJP presi-



dent Samik Bhattacharya told PTI. Rejecting the "agriculture-industry cooperation" policy favoured by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bhattacharya said big industries can only be set up on farmland, as 82 per cent of land in the state is held by small farmers. Bengal enjoys a unique topographical advantage of rivers, a sea and two immensely mineral-rich states in its neighbourhood. Investors can only be set up here if we can render the state the most attractive free of political pressure to extend impartial judgments for business houses during

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