

ALL INDIA

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EMERGING BENGAL



TRINAMOOOL CONDEMNS THE POLITICS OF HATE & VIOLENCE

Secular parties fight politically. But the Opposition is getting indulged in dirty politics and offensive acts for tarnishing the political atmosphere of Bengal. No communal politics: TMC, reports **All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau**

Subrata Mukherjee, Derek O'Brien and Partha Chatterjee addressed a press conference at Trinamool Bhavan. Subrata Mukherjee said "We condemn this incident which is tarnishing the political atmosphere. Official investigation will be done. The Opposition is indulging in suicidal political acts. We will fight them politically, we are a secular party. We want unbiased investigation and the public to know everything. Communal politics have started across India after the change of regime at Centre. We will counter them politically. West Bengal had no precedent of this kind of activities. This is highly condemnable. Mamata Banerjee has a long history of struggle. Her party cannot be defeated with incidents like this. We ask our party workers not to retaliate in the same way like the fanatic person. We have to fight politically. We ask all the people of Bengal to be united in this fight against politics of hate and violence. We are a secular party. We have seen news reports that the perpetrator of the incident was a religious fanatic." Partha Chatterjee said: "We will protest against this act without causing disruption on rail and road. People from across all districts in Bengal are protesting against the incident. There will be protest rallies against the cowardly attack on Abhishek Banerjee without disrupting public life." Derek O'Brien stated, "It was not only a disgrace to politics but also a disgrace to the nation because a young man in his early innings of his political career someone tried to stop



what he was trying to do in a clear, honest, transparent way. There is a pattern emerging in the last 6-7 months. Parties which talk about Digital India are creating Divisive India. They are trying to create a Destructive India. This can never happen in Bengal. For years and centuries people from all communities – Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains – have lived in harmony in Bengal. Trinamool stands for tolerance. Trinamool Congress stands for communal harmony. Trinamool stands for decency in politics. We believe, Sare Jahaan Se Achhe, Hindustan Humara. Our senior leaders have called for restraint. Our young MP Abhishek has also asked for restraint on social media." On a personal level, Abhishek Banerjee has also forgiven the perpetrator of the incident. Tri-

namool Youth Congress President and Diamond Harbour MP, Abhishek Banerjee wrote on on his Facebook page: It has been about 24 hours since the incident. What happened in Chandipur is now the subject of a police enquiry. So let me restrain myself from making any comments that would pre-judge the enquiry. My beliefs and my will to work will not lessen because of what happened. Whoever is behind this act of cowardice has no idea what we are made of. I am now doubly committed to working for the people and doing my very best for them. At a personal level, however, let me forgive the perpetrator and wish him early recovery. It is a new day, let us look ahead. I also urge my co-workers to maintain peace, harmony throughout the state and be restrained in their actions. ■



PROTESTS AGAINST LAND ORDINANCE BY TMC GOVERNMENT.



Continuing its protests against the ordinance to amend the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the Trinamool Congress on burnt symbolic copies of the ordinance in Kolkata. The protests comes a day after Chief Minister and party chairperson Mamata Banerjee described the ordinance as a 'black law' and said that she will not implement the law in West Bengal. The protests, which were held in the Esplanade area of the city, led by senior Trinamool leader and chief whip in the West Bengal Assembly Sovandeb Chattopadhyay. Stating that the ordinance was against the interests of farmers, Mr Chattopadhyay dubbed the ordinance as "draconian and undemocratic." He said that by

resorting to an ordinance, the Centre not only "bypassed Parliament, but also did not hold any discussions with Chief Ministers." "Our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held a 26-day long fast against forcible land acquisition at Singur in Hooghly district," Mr. Chattopadhyay said, adding that no one can forcibly occupy the land of farmers from the State. "Mamata Banerjee cannot disassociate herself from her sentiments regarding the issue (of forcible land acquisition) and hence she declared that she would not allow the Centre to implement the ordinance in West Bengal," he told media persons. Trinamool Chairperson Ms Mamata Banerjee said that the party will protest against Center's Land Acquisition Ordinance. The Central Govt. has forcefully brought this ordinance on land acquisition, she said. We will

Trinamool Congress protested against land ordinance to amend The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act.

fight against the unjust ordinance on land acquisition, she said. She was speaking at a workers' meeting in Kharagpur. The Trinamool Chairperson instructed the workers that the party will protest against this 'black' Ordinance by burning symbolic copies of the Ordinance. Background The Central Government had just passed an ordinance making amendments to the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 as passed by UPA. The BJP Government has exempted 80-20% consent for land acquisition for following cases: Rural infrastructure, electrification, affordable housing for poor, Defence, industrial corridor, PPP projects where ownership of land remains with govt. Higher compensation for land losers to continue. Trinamool Congress's stand on land acquisition is clear and the party is opposed to forceful acquisition from the poor farmers. But if acquisition of land is necessary by government organisations, it should be through discussion and sufficient compensation should be given to the farmers. Trinamool Congress had fought against forceful land acquisition in historic people's movements in Singur and Nandigram. The Central Government is taking away all our money. The Central Govt. has forcefully brought an ordinance on land acquisition. The country is going through a dangerous phase due to the BJP Govt. We will fight against the unjust ordinance on land acquisition. We will protest against this 'black' ordinance by burning symbolic copies. The centre is planning to stop '100 Days work', trying to sell the country by bringing in FDI in insurance, defence. The Left parties ran a reign of terror, when we came in power, we sought for change, not revenge. I will not accept and anti-party activity. The Seba Dal wing will be renamed Joy Hind Bahini, which will be beside the people in every block, in every cause and help And fight against CPM-BJP, money-power, media-power. ■



NATURE URBAN AGRICULTURE: BY TMC GOVERNMENT

Designing the Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities and Second Nature Urban Agriculture with the Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes and also protecting the cultural heritage of Bengal by Trinamool government of Ms Mamata Banerjee, reports **All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau**



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waited sequel to "Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes: Designing Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities".

"Second Nature Urban Agriculture" updates and extends the authors' concept for introducing productive urban landscapes, including urban agriculture, into cities as essential elements of sustainable urban infrastructure. It reviews recent research and projects on the subject and presents concrete actions aimed at making urban agriculture happen. As pioneering thinkers in this area, the authors bring a unique overview to contemporary developments and have the experience to judge opportunities and challenges facing those who wish to create more equitable, resilient, desirable and beautiful cities. Among the developing countries, India witnesses the highest urbanisation. United Nations projects that in developing countries the urban population will double itself by 2050. The fast pace of urbanisation has put tremendous pressure in the existing infrastructure and public service across the world. In last three and half years, the West Bengal Government has brought several schemes and policies with the purpose of improving the infrastructure of the municipalities. Here are the major achievements of the West Bengal Government in the last 3 and half years in the urban development sector: West Bengal Cabinet recently cleared 'Theme Township' scheme to be implemented at 6 cities – Kalyani, Siliguri, Bolpur, Durgapur, Bantala, Andal. 94 projects were undertaken for construction of dwelling houses for slum dwellers and urban poor. 15,000 houses have already been completed

and more than 10,000 are in the process. The KMC have completed the work of river bank development in Prinsep Ghat area. 14 other Ghats by the river Hooghly have been renovated. 10,000 new garbage bins are being introduced to Kolkata for making it a 'clean city'. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has launched many computerised citizen service centres. They can pay their bills, property tax, license fees and renewal etc under one roof. More than 1 lakh BPL urban youth have been trained under Swarnajayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana with an objective of self-employment. West Bengal Government launched helicopter services between Kolkata and Gangasagar, Bolpur and Santiniketan and from Durgapur, Malda and Balurghat. 720 flats have been constructed at New Town and Rajarhat under 'Gitanjali' prakalpo. With the financial assistance of JNNURM, 632 new Bus-services in Kolkata Metropolitan areas, 80 in Asansol-Durgapur areas and 140 in Siliguri-Jalpaiguri areas have been started. West Bengal Chief Minister inaugurated a slew of projects at Nimtala Ghat crematorium, which included electric chullis and two environment-friendly wooden chullis. She also inaugurated the renovated memorial for Rabindranath Tagore at Nimtala Ghat and a memorial for Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa at Kashipur Ghat. Miss Banerjee Delivered, Several years passed since independence. No one ever thought of renovating the place where last rites of Ramakrishna was held. We took over Roy Villa in the Hills where she breathed her last. We handed over to the Ramakrishna Mission. It is a heritage. We will not allow any insult to the culture of Bengal. We will maintain the her-

itage. We asked Rabindra Bharati University to set up another campus so that we could renovate Jorasanko museum. Kazi Nazrul Islam was ignored in West Bengal. He was an iconic poet. We named a university after him. We set up Nazrul Tirtha, Rabindra Tirtha. We are setting up a Centre of Excellence named after Swami Vivekananda. We are building Dhano Dhanye stadium, named after the patriotic song penned by Dwijendralal Roy. Religion does not teach discrimination. Sadbhavana means Sarva Dharma Samannay. A new temple of Kapil Muni have been built at Gangasagar. We are building a big Gateway to Gangasagar. The priest at Kapil Muni Ashram said the gateway will be called Sarva Dharma Sambhava. No matter how much you abuse me, I will keep working for the people. It is our duty to preserve the spot where Rabindranath Tagore was cremated. And for the holy occasion of Makar Sankranti Lakhs of pilgrims visit here for the occasion. We have done arrangements for the pilgrims visiting Gangasagar. We have withdrawn tax that they had to pay for visiting Gangasagar. Bengal is the only State where we have not levied water tax. CREDAI has given Rs 2.5 crore for development work under CSR. I thank them for the support. We beautified Ganga ghats. We beautified Millennium Park. Like London, Kolkata Eye is coming up soon. We will develop Nimtala Ghat like other ghats in Kolkata. Ramakrishna Mission, Bharat Sevashram Sangha work for all. We believe in harmony of all religions. United we stand, divided we fall. We respect all religions. Ramakrishna Paramhansa said Joto mot, toto poth. We must follow his ideals. ■



THEME TOWNSHIP, THEME GROWING BENGAL

Major achievements of West Bengal Government in the last three and half years in the urban development sector, reports **All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau**

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est Bengal Cabinet recently cleared 'Theme Township' scheme to be implemented at 6 cities – Kalyani, Siliguri, Bolpur, Durgapur, Bantala, Andal.

94 projects were undertaken for construction of dwelling houses for slum dwellers and urban poor. 15,000 houses have already been completed and more than 10,000 are in the process. The KMC have completed the work of river bank development in Prinsep Ghat area. 14 other Ghats by the river Hooghly have been renovated. 10,000 new garbage bins are being introduced to Kolkata for making it a 'clean city'. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has launched many computerised citizen service centres. They can pay their bills, property tax, license fees and renewal etc under one roof. More than 1 lakh BPL urban youth have been trained under Swarnajayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana with an objective of self-employment. More than 1 lakh BPL urban youth have been trained under Swarnajayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana with an objective of self-employment. West Bengal Government launched helicopter services between Kolkata and Gangasagar, Bolpur and Santiniketan and from Durgapur, Malda and Balurghat. 720 flats have been constructed at New Town and Rajarhat under 'Gitanjali' prakalpo. With the financial assistance of JN-NURM, 632 new Bus-services in Kolkata Metropolitan areas, 80 in Asansol-Durgapur areas and 140 in Siliguri-Jalpaiguri areas have been started. Infrastructure shapes the society and economy. Despite the economic constraints, West Bengal Government took measures to boost the infrastructure in the state. West Bengal which once faced severe power crisis is now a power-surplus state and load shedding is now a thing of past. With a rise of 19.9% in total installed generation capacity in just two years, West Bengal has increased its installed capacity base from 8,316.8 MW in 2010-11 to 9,974.1 MW in 2012-13. This shows the efforts put in by the state government to keep the power surplus state ready for 100% elec-



trification in the years to come. There have been some significant developments in every sphere of the power sector from generation to transmission. Here are some of the achievements in the last 3 years: 4000 km of roads upgraded to double lanes or intermediate lane. Construction of 16 big bridges and five flyovers on rail track has been completed. WBHDCL will construct 3000 km road in PPP model. The work of the bridge over the river Subarnarekha at Bhasaraghat is going in full swing. The flyover in the VIP road is also going on. Special emphasis has been given to Jangalmahal area. 12 new school buildings and hostels, one PTI, 74 hostels for girls. 4 new colleges, 3 new stadiums, sports academy, polytechnic, ITIs are being constructed. The Government is creating 16,000 kms of rural road covering 3349 gram panchayats. West Bengal is one the few states where arrangements have been made for 24 hour power supply. Target has been fixed to supply power to every household within the end of 2015-16. New thermal power centres are being constructed in Santaldih, Durgapur, Sagarighi, Raghunathpur. The Katwa thermal power project is expected to invite investment worth Rs 10,000 crore. Transmission sub sta-

tions have been installed in Dalkhola, Kalna, Khatra, Kakdwio, Kurseong, Sankrial food park, Howrah and Kharagpur. Power banks have been created, thus excess power produced is saved. Remote islands of Sunderbans are being supplied with power through grid. There has been remarkable development in power transmission infrastructure. 343 MVA Transformer capacity and construction of 887 km transmission line have been made in case of H T line. During the same time, in case of L T line, enhancement of 2654 MVA transformer capacity and construction of new 251674 km have been made. There has been development of hydro power projects in Jaldhaka and remarkable increase in capacity under 'Tista Canal Fall Hydel Power Scheme'. State Power Transmission Company has got the 'Power Line; 2012 award as the best power transmission company of India Power Finance Corporation, IKRA and CARE combinedly in a rating for 2013, have announced State Power Transmission Company as the second best transmission company in India. The state has secured the third prize in Best State Power Utility Awards, WBSEB received the second prize for management excellence and the first prize was awarded to CESC. ■



BENGAL'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

Economic growth expected through 'Bengal Shows The Way' is 83,000 crore of investment in the next three years of the government and standing rules for the development structure of Bengal, reports **All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau**



Bengal Global Business Summit, 2015, the first of its kind in its scale, is going to be held in Kolkata on 7th- 8th January, 2015.

Union Ministers, Captains of industry from many foreign countries, representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industries both national and Ambassadors and Embassy Officials of different countries, entrepreneurs, and many distinguished guests and delegates from different forums will participate in the event and deliberate on doing business in Bengal. Representatives of many industrialized nations are likely to take part in the Bengal Global Business Summit, which is being organized by the Mamata Banerjee government to attract investment to the state. Investments are needed for growth and development in both the Urban and the rural segments of West Bengal. Entrepreneurs of national and international level will share their thoughts and experience in the two-day industry summit on January 7 and 8. A highly-placed source said delegates from 19 countries would take part in the industry summit. The participating countries include United States, United Kingdom, Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Luxembourg and Australia. Union finance minister Arun Jaitley will address the inaugural session of the summit. A state government official said that the UK delegation would be led by former British minister and chairman of the UK India Business Council Patricia Hewitt. The Japanese delegation would include officials from Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the chief executive

officer of Mitsubishi Chemicals, Hiroaki Ishizuka. South Korea will be represented by the director of the Korean Trade Investment Promotion Agency (Kotra) F H Kim. The global senior vice-president of Samsung Electronics and top officials of Doshan will also be a part of Korean delegation. In July last year, Kotra representatives visited the upcoming hardware cluster in Naihati to promote electronic systems design and manufacturing. Kotra has signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government for setting up a manufacturing hub there. It might explore the possibility of a second such facility in India in the future. The Bengal government also offered space in Panagarh and Goaltore industrial park to Kotra. There will be a strong delegation from Singapore that includes representatives of Changi. The chairman of Singapore-based Universal Success Enterprises Prasoon Mukherjee is also likely to attend the summit. According to sources, top officials of Malaysia-based Scomi Engineering which had evinced interest to be the operator for East-West Metro services, will also be present in the summit. "There will be more than 120 foreign delegates," added sources. The identified focus sectors for the summit include urban infrastructure and housing, information technology, software and hardware, food processing, horticulture and floriculture, small and medium enterprises, textiles, health care, education, manufacturing, energy, infrastructure, hospitality, tourism and entertainment and financial services. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee will be there to listen to the entrepreneurs on both the days of the summit. Mirco Small

Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector contributes nearly 8% of the GDP nationally, 45% of manufacturing outputs and 40% of exports. They provide the highest employment after agriculture. West Bengal has the second largest number of MSME enterprises. It has 36.64 lakh enterprises which constitute about 10% of total Indian MSME enterprises. With an output of Rs 78,880 lakh crore it represents an important sector of West Bengal's economy. During the last 30 months, 29,735 new industries have been set-up, with an investment of Rs 2,595 crore. This has resulted in employment generation to the tune of 2,02,245 jobs. There were many positive takeaways from the two-day Bengal Global Business Summit 2015 that drew to a close here on Thursday. While the proposed investment of a mind-boggling Rs 2.43 lakh crore was definitely the high point, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's statement on land for industry drew the high-fives. Ms Mamata Banerjee thanked Captains of the Industry and her team for making the Summit a grand success. Another positive outcome of the summit was that investment were not only sought and received for brick-and-mortar industries but for the crucial human resource development sector. The Chief Minister announced the setting up of many state and private colleges, universities and technical and management institutes to create a pool of skilled manpower for industry and social sectors. She said that 10 lakh unemployed youths would be trained in technical skills within 10 years under the MoUs signed with various skill providers at the summit. ■



Mamata Banerjee


facebook

Mamata Banerjee's Facebook page crosses 1 Million 'Likes'

January 14

Today is the birthday of our very own respected Mahasweta Devi.

I had personally gone two days back to wish her a long, happy and healthy life.

May she continue to contribute to our literary and social world in her best.

Happy Birthday, Mahasweta di.

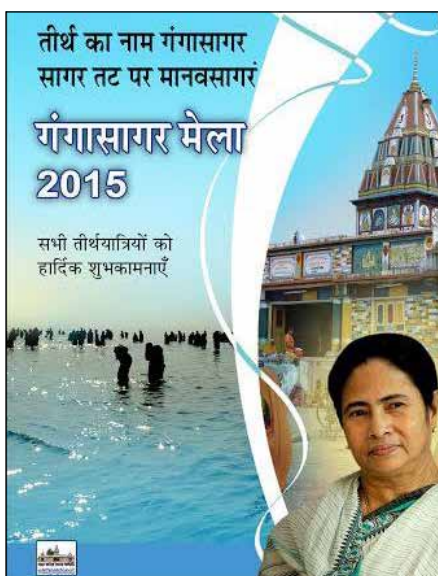
January 14

I wish all my brothers and sisters, a very happy Pongal and Magh Bihu.

May the festivals bring good luck, prosperity and good health to all of you.

January 14

Gangasagar Mela


January 12

Homage to the epoch maker Swami Vivekananda

January 10

January 10

To commemorate the 153rd birthday of Swami Vivekananda on 12th January in a befitting manner, a 3day "Vivek Chetna Utsav" is being celebrated all over the state.

Today, the first day of the programme is being observed as "Khel Dibas", to promote excellence in sports and games among our youth along the ideals of Swamiji.

"Khel Dibas" celebration is first in the country. From now on, every year, 10th January will be celebrated as "Khel Dibas".

In a colourful programme at the Netaji Indoor Stadium, outstanding sports personalities of Bengal were conferred Lifetime Achievement Awards, "Krira Guru", "Bisesh Khel Ratna", "Banglar Gourab" and "Khel Ratna" awards. Swami Suhitananda Ji, Secretary Maharaj of Ramkrishna Math and Mission, eminent sports personalities, other dignitaries and my thousands of young friends from all over the state were present on the occasion.

I am proud of the State; my brothers and sisters.

My best wishes to all of them.

January 09

Thank you so much my Facebook friends! On last Sunday, my Facebook Page likes have crossed 1 million mark in number.

To convey my thanks in a special way, I have some musicals played by Bickram Ghosh, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumder, Usha Uthup, Pulak Sarkar, Gopal Barman, Joyti Goho and Allarakha, to share with you.

You can listen to this presentation by clicking on this link here:

<http://youtu.be/MpEq5ylNrUg>

January 08

The first Bengal Global Business Summit ended today in a marvellous manner creating a magnificent record.

In the 2-day Summit, Bengal received investment proposals from India and many foreign countries, worth Rs 2 lakh 43 thousand Crore, which is an all-time record.

Bengal is deeply obliged.

1 Crore of jobs will be created when these projects are completed. It is our responsibility to ensure that all my investor friends do business in Bengal happily. The Global Business Summit has been an overwhelming success. I thank everyone for their hard work and dedicated support. The next Summit will be held on 8th and 9th January, 2016.

My sincere thanks and best wishes to everyone.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF BENGAL

Witnessing the rapid growth in West Bengal, structural and infrastructural and at the base of Bengal, all are in structured sequential series of development process, through a glance. With The People, For The People, From The People and By The People named as 'Maa, Mati, Manush' a People's Forum, reports **Saheli Chakraborty**.

Trinamool Congress was founded on January 1, 1998. For 17 long years, the party has always been with the people, standing beside them in any time of need. From mass people's movements to the struggle for establishing democracy in Bengal, Trinamool has always served the Maa, Mati, Manush. After coming to power in 2011, the party has extensively worked for the all-round development of the State. Even before 2011, Trinamool has been part of the Union Government. Chairperson Ms Mamata Banerjee was the first woman Railway Minister of India. During her tenure she worked dedicatedly for the people and presented the Vision Document 2020 for Indian Railways. On the 17th Foundation Day of Trinamool Congress, we look at the major achievements of the party as the ruling force in West Bengal: Law and Order Kolkata has been awarded the safest city in "India Today Group". According to the NCRB data, the rate of rapes per lakh woman is 1.10 in Kolkata, while in other metros the rates per lakh woman are – Delhi (19.02), Raipur (15.62), Mumbai (4.59) and even much below the national average for major cities (6.39). 5 new commission rates, 88 fast track courts, 45 courts for woman, 20 woman police stations, 19 human rights court, either set up or notified. 400 new sub inspectors, 40,000 constables, 1.3 lakh civic police recruited. Peace restored in the disturbed areas of Jangalmahal. Top Maoist leaders have returned to the mainstream. Peace is prevailing in Darjeeling. WB Government observed the birth anniversary of Netaji at Darjeeling last year. Economic Progress and Industrial Growth. In FY 2013-14, GSDP growth rate was 7.7% vs national average of GDP : 4.9% In FY 2013-14, growth in agriculture and allied sector was 5.28% vs national average of 4.6% In FY 2013-14, growth in industrial sector



was 9.58% vs the national average of 0.7% In FY 2013-14, growth in service sector was 7.8% vs the national average of 6.9%. Total investment proposal received in 1000 days is in the tune of Rs 1,40,000 crore and the work in progress in the tune of Rs 78,000 crore. Interested companies include SAIL, Ultratech cements, Reliance cements, ESSAR and others. For the FY 2013-14, both in terms of growth (105%) of bank credit and in terms of amounts, West Bengal stands first in the nation in MSME sector. Social Schemes : More than 90,000 houses have been constructed under Gitanjali scheme for the economically challenged section. The Chief Minister opened the Kanyashree Prakalpa, which consists of an annual stipend of Rs 500 for girls aged between 13 to 18, studying in school and providing one time grant of Rs 25,000 to unmarried girl between the age to 18 and 19 and who are undergoing study or training. It has received international acclaim. An initiative has been undertaken for creating 16,000 km all-weather road, which will create about 3.5 crore man-days of work. In the last 3 years, the total pat-tas distributed to 1,85,000 thousand landless

families. Under the World Bank Project on Institutional Strengthening, 986 out of 999 Gram Panchayats of Bengal have qualified for award of block grant of around Rs 20 lakh each, after rigorous evaluation of all the developmental parameters. Only West Bengal Gram Panchayats are getting this grant in the country. Infrastructure Development. 4000 km of roads upgraded to double lanes or intermediate lane. Construction of 16 big bridges and five flyovers on rail track has been completed. 42 water supply schemes have been commissioned. New thermal power centres are being constructed in Santaldih, Durgapur, Sagar-dighi, Raghunathpur. Transmission sub stations have been installed in Dalkhola, Kalna, Khatra, Kakdwio, Kurseong, Sankrial food park, Howrah and Kharagpur. Power banks have been created, thus excess power produced is saved. Remote islands of Sunderbans are being supplied with power through grid. 8 new universities are being opened up, 31 new government colleges and 14 new private colleges are in the process of being set up. It should be noted that in the last 67 years, only 38 government colleges have been es-



AL GOVERNMENT IN 2014



Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee. From MSME sector to 100 Days Work, from a successful business trip to Singapore to the creation of a new district – Alipurduar, a surge of development is going on in different sectors. Here are the 14 BIG achievements of the West Bengal Government in 2014: MSME In terms of Bank lending, West Bengal has grown at the highest pace. Rate of developing series in Bengal is at a stress growing with the arise of Trinamool government from the year 2011. Bank lending to MSME sector has gone up by 105%. In 2014 WB Govt has set up 152 new clusters in three years of our Government in the MSME, Handloom and Khadi Sector, that will generate jobs for 4 lakh people. Singapore Business Trip Lead By Miss Banerjee: Mamata Banerjee headed for a 5 day trip to Singapore. She met with the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister of the Singapore and a host of business heads of Singapore. More than a dozen business dealings were commenced. Pact was signed with InfraCo Asia, Axsys Technologies and Compass Energy Pte Ltd, GIC and others. It opened new doors of understanding between Kolkata and Singapore. Uttar Kanya : The establishment of the Branch Secretariat of Government of West Bengal at Uttar Kanya, Dabgram, is another bold initiative taken by the present Government, after the creation of North Bengal Development Department. This will cater to the needs of 22% population residing in 24% of the total area of the state comprising of 7 districts. This not only signals the honest & sincere intention of the Government towards the overall development of North Bengal but this is the first such instance in the country. The first administrative meeting was held on 11th February, chaired by the CM Ms Mamata Banerjee. Kanyashree Dibas: Every year, 14th August is celebrated as the Kanyashree Dibas. The Chief Minister opened the Kanyashree Prkalpo, which consists of an annual stipend of Rs 500 for girls aged between 13 to 18, studying in school and providing one time grant of Rs 25,000 to unmarried girl between the age to 18 and 19 and who are undergoing study or training. About 11 lakh girls have already been enlisted and another 8 lakh sanctioned. It has been given international recognition by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and UNICEF. No. 1 in Hundred Days' Work Scheme: West Bengal ranked No.1 in the country in terms of expenditure under 100-days work in 2013-14. The State exceeded the budget and recorded highest-ever expenditure of more than Rs 5600 Crore. Fair Price Shops: Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee constantly monitored the market prices and met with the task force to keep the prices of foods in control. The Govt rolled out fair price seed shops, fair price vegetable shops and prices of the food grains were kept under close watch. The Govern-

ment is also launching Fair Price Diagnostic Centres.7. Boost for Culture: Kolkata is often called the Cultural Capital of India. Two important developments that took place in the year 2014 is the inauguration of the Nazrul Tirtha and Mothers Wax Museum. Nazrul Manch which mainly hosts music gags has been renovated with better acoustic.8. New District of Alipurduar: 2014 is the year to remember for the people of North Bengal. The new district was formally formed on 25 June. CM Ms Mamata Banerjee officially announced the formation of Alipurduar district at a function held at Alipurduar parade ground. 9. Powerful achievements: West Bengal is no more a power-deficit state in 2014. There has been huge capacity building in the last 3 years. In Jan 2014, WBSEDCL had crossed 1 crore 35 lakh subscriber which is a mile stone for Bengal. Bengal received the third position in Best State Power Utility Award for providing 24X7 power supply. WBSEB received the second prize for management excellence and the first prize was awarded to CESC.10. New buses, new routes:2014 has been a year of rapid expansion of routes and new buses. Almost more than a double dozen new routes are opened with more than 700 new buses launched. New, no-refusal AC and non-AC taxis are also launched. Some AC buses have been made Wi-Fi enabled and 'smart buses' are being rolled out. World Bank's Award for Gram Panchayats of West Bengal: WB Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee announced that under the World Bank Project on Institutional Strengthening, 986 out of 999 Gram Panchayats of Bengal have qualified for award of block grant of around Rs. 20 lakh each. Awards Galore: In 2014, West Bengal was adjudged as the Best State in All India Skill Competition 2013. Kolkata received the safest city award by India Today group. The e-Abgari project of the Excise Department, West Bengal has bagged the Platinum Award conferred by the Skoch Foundation. During the Republic Day parade at New Delhi, the state's tableaux won the first prize. Boost for Tourism: WB CM visited Sagar Islands and Sunderbans with a delegation of industrialists who pledged to invest in the development of tourism infrastructure in these areas. The CM announced plans to develop a deep sea port at Sagar while eco-tourism would be the focus at Sunderbans.. Visit to Amlashole Amlashole is the poorest village of the State which hit the headlines years back due to starvation deaths. No Chief Minister in the past ever cared to visit Amlashole. It was Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee who visited Amlashole earlier this year, and took a slew of projects like creation of road from Kankrajhore to Amlashole, schools and others. Achievements at a glance with the rise of the TMC government, glimpse of the brightest era in the soil and field of Bengal. ■

established. 34 multi speciality hospital being set up. Works for 13 hospitals have already started. More than 65 fair price shops have been opened, discounts are provided at a range of 48% to 72%. 47 fair price diagnostic centres are also being set up. West Bengal Cabinet recently cleared 'Theme Township' scheme to be implemented at 6 cities – Kalyani, Siliguri, Bolpur, Durgapur, Bantala, Andal. Tourism is being developed under the PPP model in Gajoldoba, Jharkhali, Sabujdwip. New eco tourism parks, lodges adventure sports and other projects are being undertaken. Mamata Banerjee has set a new example in governance by undertaking over 75 district visits and conducting administrative review meetings at block level. Earlier people would have to come to Kolkata for official work. Now the Secretariat travels to the districts. She has also set up a Branch Secretariat at north Bengal and created a new district – Alipurduar. Trinamool will continue to work for the people in the days to come under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee, despite all the smear campaign by the Opposition. Bengal is witnessing rapid growth and progress under the leadership of Chief



BENGAL SURGING AHEAD IN TOURISM SECTOR

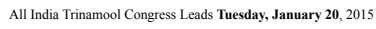
Tourism: enriching and flourishing the natural assets and possessions of Bengal towards the world and the nation. Encouraging traditional business tycoons to follow the natural 'beauty' resources of Bengal with their respective business aspects, reports **All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau**

West Bengal is a land of scenic beauty as well as rich cultural heritage. While on one hand, the State can boast providing tourist attractions such as mountains, wildlife, sea beaches and historical sites, on the other hand, in the field of entertainment, Bengal has been a frontrunner from cinema to theatre, literature to philosophical works. The last three years saw a surge in both tourism and entertainment sector with numerous newer projects commissioned and completed. Tourism: From the majestic hills at Darjeeling, to the beauty of Dooars, the historic places at Burdhaman, Murshidabad, the temples of Bishnupur, the forests at Jangalmahal, the Ayodha hills at Purulia, the vibrant city of Kolkata, the Royal Bengal Tiger of Sundarbans, the holy place of Gangasagar and the virgin beaches of Bay of Bengal, Bengal has it all. Sundarbans and Darjeeling have been announced as UNESCO World Heritage site. Digha Tourism is an area of focus for the new government. The budgetary allocation has been increased from 32 crore to 180 crore for the year 2014-15 and proper infrastructure are being put to place. Here are a few of the achievements of the government under the leadership of CM Ms Mamata Banerjee: Tourism is being developed under the PPP model in Gajoldoba, Jharkhali, Sabujdwip. New eco tourism parks, lodges adventure sports and other projects are being undertaken. Tourism parks are being created in Saili, Kunjanagar and Jaldapara. A tourist lodge is being constructed at Jhargram Rajbari under PPP model. Darjeeling and Dooars: The work of Eastern Dooars Tourism Circuit is complete and the work is going on the Western Circuit and the Mega Circuit project. Work of eco tourism project in Buxaduar is in the last phase. New tourist lodge is opened in Lamahata and renovation done for Tashi Ding Tourist Lodge. Vacant spaces in tea gardens will be used to develop and build tourist lodge.

Digha-Mandarmoni-Tajpur: A new Digha gateway has been constructed. A roadmarine drive from Digha and Mandarmoni is being planned. 36 tourist cottages have been constructed in Udaipur. Sunderban and Sagar Island: World's first Mangrove is being set up. Tourist lodge, tourism complex, eco tourism parks and new jetties are being set up. Jangalmahal: A circuit tourism is being set up in West Midnapore involving Jhargram, Belpahari and Hatibari. The project includes the development of Kankrajhore, Ketkijhora, Gurasini Hills, Ghagra Waterfalls, Ratneshwar Temple etc. Murutbaha Eco-Park is being built in Susunia Hills. Two circuit tourism projects, one involving Bankura, Susunia Hill, Saltora Range has been taken up and the other for Ayodhya Hills, Khayraberia and Murardi Dam

are being taken up. CM Ms Mamata Banerjee visited Gangasagar with a team of industrialists. A new deep sea port will be set up with an investment of 12,000 crore. Three new beaches were named as "Dheusagar", "Rupsagar" and "Bhorsagar". Special emphasis has been given to cultural tourism, heritage tourism and home stay tourism. A lot of beautification projects have taken place. A new eco park and a new wax museum have been opened in Rajarhaat. Entertainment Industry Bengal has a rich history of heritage and culture. Calcutta is called as the culture capital of India, and under the leadership of CM Ms Mamata Banerjee, entertainment industry has found a new hope. Below are some of the noted achievements. Six floors in the memory of Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Tapan Sinha, Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen and Rituparno Ghosh have been constructed in the studio and the technician studio has been modernized. Kolkata International Film Festival is now celebrated with greater grandeur. Various delegates from all over the globe grace the occasion. For the first time, Children's Film Festival is also being organised. Renovation of various sites have been undertaken like the Minerva Theatre, Mahajati Sadan, Nazrul Manch, State Music Academy and etc. Special assistance is given to folk artists. Pensions being given to many artists, technicians etc. Full scale film cities are being constructed in Dabgram and Baruipur. WB CM Ms Mamata Banerjee will chair a business meet on 19 January 2015, at Uttar Kanya, Siliguri. North Bengal Development Minister Gautam Deb informed that about 500 industrialists will be present in the meet. The meet will discuss the prospects for development of industry in the 7 districts of North Bengal. The focus areas will be to set up environment friendly "Green Industry". An education hub and IT hub will be created near Siliguri. The business meet will be also to promote tea industry, jute industry and tobacco industry. A Safari park near Sevak is being constructed with an investment of about Rs 250 crore. A mega tourist hub is under construction at Gajoldoba, 30 km from Siliguri. The project is estimated to involve an investment in the tune of Rs 2500 crore. One of the leading beverage companies has promised an investment of Rs 200 crores in the coming years. The Coochbehar airport will start its operation within the first half of 2015. A MoU has been signed in the recently concluded Bengal Global Summit, 2015 with the Ambuja group which will set up 5 star resorts at Makaibari tea estate, Kurseong, Ghoom, Darjeeling, Lataguri and Gorumara forest. Income generated by NBSTC (North Bengal State Transport Corporation) has now increased to 8 crores, but a monthly target of 10 crores has been set up. ■







INDUSTRY CAPTAINS PRAISE BENGAL AT GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT.

With Bengal back in business it will turn up the new era of business structure throughout the State and will resurge with a never ending business and economic standard policy in the soil-fields of Bengal. Maa-Maati-Manush rises with the business aspects, reports **All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau**

Inaugural day of the Global Bengal Business Summit 2015 started off with the Industry Captains sharing their experiences of working in Bengal as well as intentions of investments in the State. Delegates And Captains Of Industries Praises Mamata Banerjee's Efforts And Ease Of Doing Business And The Openness Of Business Investment Proposals. Showcasing The Investment Potential of the State, Miss Banerjee Addressed. A day before the Bengal Global Business Summit 2015, WB CM Ms Mamata Banerjee had a series of pre-Summit meetings with various captains of the industry and delegates of foreign countries. She met with the UKIBC (United Kingdom India Business Council) Chair RT Hon Patricia Hewitt in a very engaging meeting. UKIBC has also expressed interest to learn about the rapid growth in West Bengal and the State's effort with "ease of doing business", "openness of investment proposal" and have praised the CM's effort. CM Ms Mamata Banerjee has termed this meeting as "fruitful". She had a one on one meeting with Adi Godrej, Chairman of Godrej group, Niranjan and Darshan Hiranandani of the Hiranandani Group, and Sulajja Firodia Motwani, Joint MD of Kinetic Motor Company. She also met with His Excellency Ambassador of Israel, Daniel Carmon, who has two concrete proposals which will be taken up for tomorrow. West Bengal has been taking a number of initiatives to rejuvenate the industrial scenario in the State. The State Government has been undertaking several policy measures and incentives for the overall socio-economic development of the economy. Bengal Global Business Summit 2015, a brainchild of WB CM Ms Mamata Banerjee, will showcase the investment potential of the State before delegates and guests from 19 countries.

Reactions by the Industry Captains: Well done CM of Bengal for improving the ease of doing



business in Bengal. Highest acceleration of consumer goods growth in the last 3 months has been in Eastern India and most so in Bengal: Adi Godrej, Chairman, Godrej Group. It is not easy to turn around a sick industry. But Bengal is taking a firm step. I commend industry to come to India. Come to Bengal. Of our new investments of Rs 25000 crore, Rs 3000 crore is in Bengal.: YC Deveshwar, MD, ITC We find it very rewarding to work in Bengal. We are creating 20,000 more top class talent and jobs: TCS Chief in Bengal. Bengal is back in business. You don't invest thousands of crores on emotion. We do so because it makes sound business sense. Despite what is being said in the media, decision making in Bengal is quick and precise. Land acquisition was like a dream: Sanjeev

Goenka, Chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group. Massive hydrocarbon gas project is coming up in Bengal. This Rs 5000 crore project to be completed in 2018: Niranjan Hiranandani, House of Hiranandani. We will be doubling our investment in Bengal. We will be setting up a wagon factory at Kulti: Chairman, SAIL. We will take part in Education sector, Agri business, revamping of universities and tourism, Say Yes to West Bengal: Rana Kapur, President, Yes Bank. The CM is working very hard to rejuvenate tourism industry. The State developing infrastructure to promote tourism: Dr Jyotsna Suri, Chairperson & Managing Director, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group. Looking forward to have direct and very approachable business prospects and projects with Bengal in future. ■



WB CM TO ATTEND BHASA DIVAS CELEBRATION IN DHAKA AS GUEST OF HONOUR

West Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee has accepted an invitation from Bangladesh government to participate in the Bhasa Divas celebrations in Dhaka on February 21 as guest of honour.

Bangladesh deputy high commissioner Zokey Ahad called on the CM at her office at Nabanna on Monday to hand over the written invitation from Bangladesh foreign minister A H Mahmood Ali. WB CM readily agreed. "I have accepted the invitation and am happy and overjoyed with it. I love Bangladesh and its people. We were one people till Partition. We all have an emotional attachment with Bangladesh and if the people of Bangladesh are happy, we're also happy. It is mutually beneficial to have good ties with each other," the chief minister told a newspaper on Monday evening. Mamata recalled that she was the one to start 'Bhasa Divas' celebrations in Kolkata when she was a Lok Sabha MP, with money from her MP local area development fund. It has since become an annual feature in Bengal and Kolkata Municipal Corporation now funds the celebrations in Kolkata, she said.

CM INAUGURATES 19th JATRA UTSAV

Ms Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the 19th edition of the annual Jatra festival today at Barasat, North 24 Parganas. Ms Mamata Banerjee had been instrumental in reviving the age old art form of jatra, the traditional musical plays of the State. The West Bengal Jatra Academy has also been rejuvenated. Ministers, Aroop Biswas, Jyotipriya Mullik, Upendranath Biswas, Bratya Basu, Purnendu Bose, Manjul Krishana Thakur and many other dignitaries will be present on the occasion. Last year, the state government published 'Jatra Darpan' – a booklet consisting of various Jatra groups and has given a copy to all district magistrates and police superintendents in the districts in an effort to rejuvenate Jatra culture in the state. The booklet has contact number and addresses of several reputed operas and Jatra groups. Excerpts of the Chief Minister's speech on the occasion. Culture is an essential part of the civilization. Jatra is an important part of our culture. We will form a databank which consists the names of all Jatra artistes. We will institute mediclaim for Jatra artistes, we will also increase the pension for the aged Jatra artistes by Rs 1000. The Jatra season last for six months in a year. In the rest of the year we will promote Jatra on behalf of the Govt.

FOR THE SERVICE OF MASS AND COMMUNITY-JAI HIND PARTY

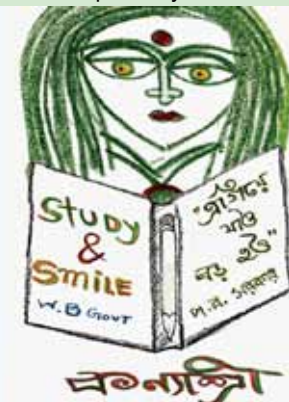
Jai Hind Bahini was formed as a result of an announcement by Trinamool Congress Party Chairperson Ms Mamata Banerjee on December 30, 2014. She renamed the Seva Dal after the iconic slogan of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The journey of the newly-reconstructed body of Jai Hind Bahini started on January 12, 2015, on the 153rd birthday of Swami Vivekananda. Following the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, Jai Hind Bahini will be spreading the ideals of a tolerance and a society free from religious racism. The birthday of Swami Vivekananda was observed by Jai Hind Bahini across the State through various youth meets, rallies, debates and seminars on the life and teaching of Swamiji. Jai Hind Bahini will be operating at every block of West Bengal and will strive to provide social justice and spread the oath of Sarva Dharma Samannaya, and maintain religious harmony. Jai Hind Bahini will also celebrate Netaji's birthday on 23 January, Republic day on 26 January and observe Sampriti Dibas on 30 January. Primarily it has been decided that the Jai Hind Bahini will have blue and white uniforms. Youths from various fields will be absorbed for social and cultural events.

TRINAMOOL LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ON THE OCCASION OF FOUNDATION DAY.

On the occasion of the Foundation Day of All India Trinamool Congress, the new membership drive of the party was launched by party Secretary General Partha Chatterjee at Trinamool Bhavan. Party Chairperson and sixty other leaders became Life Members. The photocopy of one's PAN Card is mandatory while applying for membership. A Scrutiny Committee, headed by party State President and MP Subrata Bakshi, will scrutinise the application forms. The committee consists of Secretary General Partha Chatterjee and All India General Secretary Mukul Roy. Arup Biswas, Firhad Hakim and Abhishek Banerjee are also a part of the Scrutiny Committee. Jai Hind Vahini, which is the new name for Seva Dal, organised a programme near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on Mayo Road to mark the Foundation Day of the party. State government has also decided to start helicopter services in all the districts of the state, for which 21 helipads will be built. Arambagh and Chinsura are first on the list. As per the directives from Nabanna, a team comprising MLA Krishna Chandra Santra Arambagh Municipal Chairman, Swapam Nandy IC Arambagh Alope Ranjan Munshi visited the proposed site for the construction of the helipad at Kalipur adjacent to the bridge in Arambagh for further survey. Mr Santra said all the required documents for the helipad at Kalipur has been submitted at Nabanna.

SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE AMONG GIRLS FALLS IN BENGAL: KANYASHREE PRAKALPA

Kanyashree, the internationally acclaimed project started by the Government of West Bengal, has borne fruit. According to data from the National Sample Survey 2014, the school dropout rate among girls in the State has come down. The report says that while the National average for school drop-3.23%, the same 1.28%. In the 2009 stood at 2.34% for scheme The Kan- was inaugurated Congress govern-2013, with the ex-ensuring the edu- thereby preventing riage. Under the ernment provides ship of Rs. 500 to and 18 years (class continue with their they are unmarried.



of Rs 25,000 is also provided to the girl, once she reaches the age of 18, to pursue higher studies. International recognition The project was applauded by UNICEF which partnered with the State for implementation. The project also received international recognition by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and State representatives were invited to the London Girls' Summit 2014 in to talk about the scheme in front of a global audience.



BENGAL WILL ROAR AGAIN LIKE A BENGAL TIGER: ASSOCHAM



Rise of Bengal with the growth and development in every sphere and aspect of Bengal's development series. Growth story of Bengal in the last three years, according to financial sectors and the contributions of MSME to the GDP, reports *All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau*

ASSOCHAM, India's apex knowledge chamber, along with YES BANK, the fourth largest private bank of India, joined hands with the Government of West Bengal in the Bengal Global Business Summit, held on 7-8 January, 2015 in Kolkata. The ASSOCHAM praised the growth story of Bengal in the last three years and said that the State's economy will again roar like a Royal Bengal Tiger. The Chairman of ASSOCHAM Eastern council, Mr Sanjay Jhunjhunwala felt that Bengal will emerge as the new hub for Finance and legal services. Here is what the Mr Rana Kapoor, President, ASSOCHAM and also the CEO, MD of YES BANK said about the rise of Bengal: The growth of Bengal GSDP in the last three years is higher than the National GDP. Bengal's economy is well poised to tap the huge investment potential. There are opportunities of accelerated growth in sectors of agri-business, manufacturing, infrastructure, health, education and tourism in Bengal. Business-friendly regulatory framework, easy Finance and MSME focus will help the state immensely. State's industry and economy will soon revive the latent spirit with all the new initiatives taken. On the sidelines of the Summit, Mr Rana Kapoor also talked about the expansion plans of YES BANK. West Bengal

will be made the central hub of operations for 13 states in India and the number of branches will be increased from 15 to 50 in another fiscal. Micro Small Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector contributes nearly 8% of the GDP nationally, 45% of manufacturing outputs and 40% of exports. They provide the highest employment after agriculture. West Bengal has the second largest number of MSME enterprises. It has 36.64 lakh enterprises which constitute about 10% of total Indian MSME enterprises. With an output of Rs 78,880 lakh crore it represents an important sector of West Bengal's economy. During the last 30 months, 29,735 new industries have been set-up, with an investment of Rs 2,595 crore. This has resulted in employment generation to the tune of 2,02,245 jobs. Actions speak louder than words: Policy for medium, micro and small-scale, and textile, industries, 2013-18 has been announced. More than 29 thousand new enterprises have been set up with and investment in 2595 crore and expected employment generation of more than 2 lakh people. Incentives of worth of Rs 191 crore have been provided. In terms of credit allotment by banks the amount stands at 8900 crore in the first month of the FY 2013-14. Both in terms of growth (105%) of bank credit and in terms of amounts, West Bengal stands first in the nation. More than 5 lakhs identity card has

been issued for both weavers and artisans. More than 3.8 lakh weavers have been registered in health insurance schemes. Various Marketing hubs, clusters, common facility centers have been set up. Biswa Bangla Haats have been opened in Durgapur and Rajarhat and in Santiniketan, Purulia, Bishnupur, Alipurduar, Siliguri and Jhargram more haats are in the process of opening. Three new industrial hubs have been opened and construction work going on for Mega Textile Park in Belur, Silk Park in Malda, Eco-tourism Park in Banarhat and World Micro Market in Santiniketan. 16 Common Facility centres (CFC) have been created and 17 clusters have been created. 20 lakh man days have been generated in handloom sector and Rs 194 crore has been invested for 5 lakh handloom weavers. A programme has been initiated under National Fibre Mission (NFM) to invest Rs 257 crore for 17,000 artisans and weavers in 11 underdeveloped districts. Technology Facilitation Centre (TFC) has been started with co-operation of CSIR in Kolkata for MSME. Design Facilitation Centre (DFC) has been created in Kolkata for handloom weavers. While the country performed abysmally with a 0.7% growth rate in the industrial sector, constant focus on the MSME sector has been a major factor in West Bengal's achievement of a 9.58% industrial growth rate in the financial year 2013-14. ■



WB GOVT SETS EXAMPLE FOR MASS CONGREGATIONS.



WB Govt takes measures for the benefit of pilgrims of Gangasagar Mela. Effective management and strong administrative arrangements by TMC government leads to set an instance for the country's holy places. Emphasizing and promoting tourism as well, reports *All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau*

The Gangasagar Mela, held on Sagar Island, is the biggest religious fair in West Bengal. Ms Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, to promote tourism, had undertaken a boat ride to Sagar Island with top industrialists last October. The Government has laid emphasis on electrification, drainage, sewerage, water purification, sewerage treatment, night shelters, roads (construction of a ring road) and general beautification. For this purpose, the Gangasagar Development Authority has been set up. Government has also made several arrangements for the annual Gangasagar Mela. Various arrangements of temporary nature for adequate accommodation, offices, water supply, sanitation Temporary hospitals along with outdoor dispensary at Sagar island along with emergency helicopter services. Safe and adequate drinking water services are being provided. Temporary sanitary (mobile toilets) and waste water disposal arrangements. Arrangements for fire-fighting, including setting up facilities at Kolkata's

Outram Ghat, Kachuberia, Chemaguri/ Benuban and Sagar Mela ground Arrangements for bathing ghats (including changing rooms) at Sagar Island. Arrangement of temporary banking facility at Sagar Mela ground. Police outposts at Sagar Mela ground. Solid waste collection by automatic disposal vehicle. As a special initiative, the Chief Minister has waived pilgrims' tax. West Bengal Tourism is also promoting Gangasagar and its surrounding islands in a big way. More than 10 lakh people have visited Gangasagar this time since the annual congregation commenced on 12 January, the South 24-Parganas district administration reported. Elaborate security arrangement The State administration had made elaborate security arrangements for the mela. More than 30 CCTV cameras were installed and a similar number of watchtowers erected in and around the Kapil Muni temple on the island's bank. Deployment of 6,500 policemen was made along with coast guards, BSF and Navy personnel to ensure adequate security of the area. Security forces in the sea were equipped with hovercraft and small aircraft.

West Bengal Panchayat Minister Subrata Mukherjee along with Power Minister Manish Gupta, Sunderban Affairs minister Manturam Pakhira and Minister of State for Minority Affairs Giasuddin Mollah and the Zilla Sabhadipati, District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and other top officials of South 24 Parganas, were present to monitor the situation. Record turnout Most of the pilgrims hailed from states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh and Odisha; there were also a good number of them from Assam and Tripura, besides the home state Bengal. For the pilgrims there were temporary sheds at Sagar Mela ground where they could take rest. Arrangement of temporary toilets and cooking was made without compromising on the cleanliness of the mela ground. There was adequate arrangement for electricity. Every possible ways of arrangements was ready for the mass so as to protect and secure the holy pilgrims. More advanced and polished form of arrangements will be waiting for in further future for such holy occasion. ■



GOVT. COMMITS DEVELOPMENT FOR SPORTS



Vivekananda's thoughts must be ornamented as gems for the life of a youth: addresses WB CM Mamata Banerjee at Vivek Chetana Utsav. Promote excellence in sports & games, reports **All India Trinamool Congress Leads Bureau**

Commemorate the 153rd birthday of Swami Vivekananda in a befitting manner, a 3-day "Vivek Chetna Utsav" is being celebrated all over the state. On the first day of the programme the State Government observed "Khel Dibas", to promote excellence in sports and games among our youth along the ideals of Swami ji. West Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee paid homage to the great icon on social media as well. She tweeted that January 12, the 153rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda has been declared State Government holiday. On the occasion of 152nd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the Department of Sports & Department of Youth Services, Government of West Bengal is organising a 3-day Vivek Chetana Utsav, in association with Ramakrishna Math and Mission from 10-12 January, 2015. A centralised programme was inaugurated at Netaji Indoor Stadium earlier today by WB CM Mamata Bandyopadhyay and General Secretary of Ramakrishna Math and Mission Swami Suhitanandaji Maharaj. On this occasion WB CM gave away the 'Khel Sanman' awards to the eminent players and financial grants were provided to club organisations. From now, every year January 10 will be celebrated as 'Khel Divas'. On 11 and 12 January, 2015 the Vivek Chetana Utsav will be organised in 341 Blocks, 121 Municipali-

ties, 15 Boroughs of Kolkata Municipal Corporation including 5 Corporations and in all the District Headquarters in the State. West Bengal Government honouring 19 sports icons today including veteran sportsperson like PK Banerjee, Chuni Goswami and others. We will also give financial assistance to various clubs. Local clubs at grassroots are keeping the tradition of sports alive. Sports and culture are complementary. Both the fields need to be nourished; nurtured and flourished in the same sense of development. We will give Rs 2 lakh to 3500 clubs for infrastructure development. 3500 clubs will get Rs 1 lakh for infrastructure development. We have given assistance to upcoming sports players at grassroots. Budget for Sports Ministry has been increased fivefold. We are building infrastructure. We dedicated Yuva Bharti Krirangan to Swami Vivekananda. Belur Math has always been involved in social work. They have always stood beside the people. Swami Vivekananda won hearts at Chicago Conference. We are setting up a Centre of Excellence in the name of Swami Vivekananda at Rajarhat. Sister Nivedita's house was acquired and handed over to Ramakrishna Mission. We have taken the initiative to preserve the ancestral home of Maa Sarada. We have set up two chairs – at Calcutta University and Presidency University – after Swami Vivekananda. Swami Vivekananda stood for the youth. He called for dedication, devotion and determination.

We have to overcome all hurdles and keep moving ahead. This is the ideal of Swami Vivekananda. We have to believe in Sarva Dharma Samany. The teachings and ideals of icons like Swami Vivekananda will never die. They are immortal. WB CM felicitates sports icons with Khel Samman: Dola Banerjee (Archery), Trisha Deb (Archery), Sourav Ghoshal (Table Tennis) receives Khel Samman for 2014. PK Banerjee (veteran footballer) and Gurbux Singh (Hockey) honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award. Amal Dutta, Joyprokash Chakrabarty, Joydeep Mukherjee honoured with Krira Guru Samman. Rita Sen, Saraswati Saha, Sanjay Kumar Rai (Athletics) honoured with Banglar Gourab Samman. Manoj Guha, Deepu Ghosh (Badminton) honoured with Banglar Gaurab Samman. Malay Roy (Body-builder) receives Banglar Gaurab Samman. Tushar Kanti Sil (Body-builder) receives Banglar Gaurab Samman. Shakti Majumder (Boxing) receives Banglar Gaurab Samman. Gopal Krishna Ghosh (Cricket) receives Banglar Gaurab Samman. Supravat Chakraborty (Cycling) receives Banglar Gaurab Samman. Pradip Chowdhury (Football) receives Banglar Gaurab Samman. Shankar Banerjee (Football) receives Banglar Gaurab Samman. Footballer Mihir Baran Basu and Tarun Kumar Bose receive Banglar Gaurab Samman. Along with education, youth must be acknowledged with the spirit and enthusiasm of sports and games. ■