

ALL INDIA

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A woman with dark hair, wearing a white shawl over a striped shirt, is seated on an ornate wooden chair. She is laughing heartily, with her eyes closed and mouth open. The background is dark and out of focus.

ECONOMY RISES



RISING BARDHAMAN WITH

BARDHAMAN HAS EMERGED AS NUMBER ONE IN THE COUNTRY IN PROVIDING 100-DAY'S WORK UNDER THE MGNREGA, AS PER THE UNION RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY.

District Magistrate has been invited to accept a recognition regarding the same in New Delhi on February. The high rate of participation of SC, ST and women in works under the MGNREGA has been lauded. The feat was achieved due to relentless work of the entire district administration and officials working in the rural sector. Bengal bags awards for e-governance and Kanyashree Actions speak louder than words. West Bengal has shown the way again. West Bengal Government has bagged prestigious National Awards for "Excellence in Government Process Reengineering" and "Outstanding Service in Citizen-Centric Service." Bengal won Silver awards in both the categories, given away by the Central Government.

E-initiatives in Commercial Taxes:

The Finance Department of West Bengal has been awarded Silver Medal for the e-taxation project under the category of "Excellence in Government Process Reengineering". The Finance Minister, Amit Mitra welcomed the decision. "The cutting edge use of e-taxation has revolutionized the ease of doing business and doubled tax collections here", he added. West Bengal's tax revenues have gone up from Rs 21,000 crore in 2010-11, to about Rs 40,000 crore, which is historic.

Kanyashree Prakalpo:

The Department of Woman Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal has been awarded Silver Medal for the "Kanyashree Prakalpo" in the Category of "Outstanding Service in Citizen-Centric Service." The Chief Minister opened the Kanyashree Prakalpo, 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.



The seven-day long Mati Utsav was inaugurated. Soil has an integral connection with the people: WB CM at Mati Utsav

West Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee at Panagarh, Bardhaman. on 28th January, 2015 at Birudiha, Panagarh in Durgapur sub-division of Burdhaman district. This was the third edition of the unique programme connecting soils with humanity. To showcase and encourage culture and tradition of rural Bengal, Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee envisaged the 'Mati Utsav'. The festival is being celebrated since 2013. In an innovative manner, the Government of West Bengal also enlightens the people about the various services, schemes and programmes launched and run by state government, through this festival. This is a people's festival and common people will be informed about their various privileges and rights through this festival. Apart from this, the festival will also showcase whole range of village life and the real essence of rural Bengal.

The opening function witnessed the Government's commitment to the people through a slew of developmental projects and programmes. The festival also included laying foundation stones for new projects and inaugura-

tion of completed projects.

Over two hundred stalls consisting of various governments' departments have been put up in this festival.

Land gives us work and it is purer than gold, it defines our culture.

I am born in this soil. This soil is my 'Janma Bhumi', 'Karma Bhumi' and 'Dharma Bhumi'. Soil has an integral connection with the people.

I am proud of the young generation. They are the future of our country.

Farmers are our assets. We are proud of them. We are providing them with bicycles, machines and skill development programmes for all round development. I have given away Krishi Ratna and Krishak Samman. On 9 February inauguration of Mati Tirtha at Bardhaman. It will act as a permanent center for dissemination of knowledge and socio-economic exchanges on soil-based activities. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, for the first time, decision taken to celebrate 2015 as the "International Year of Soils". We are celebrating Mati Utsav in every block and every district.

Bengal is number 1 in Skill Development and Small Scale Industries.



H DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES



We have to preserve the environment. We must stop destruction of Nature. We must love Nature.

We have kept our commitment of Healthcare for all. We have made all beds free at Govt hospitals.

We have opened fair price medicine shops and fair price diagnostic centres. We will also be setting fair price shops in rural Bengal.

40 multi super specialty hospitals are coming up in Bengal.

83 Kisan Bazaars have been completed. 100 more are coming up. Farmers will now be able to directly sell their crops in the Kisan Bazar.

500 Karma Tirthas are coming up across the State. These Marketing centers will create new job opportunities.

From ITIs to Polytechnics, we are moving ahead. We will provide free skill development training to 1 lakh people.

Bengal shows the way. Our fair price shops are national model now.

We are No. 1 in 100 Days' Work. But Centre is not giving us due funds.

I can understand the sentiments of common man. I will always stand up to protect the rights of common man.

CPM incurred huge debts. Centre is taking away a large part of our revenue. We do not have fiscal autonomy.

The Centre has taken away Rs 21000 crore in the first year, then Rs 25000 crore in the second year and now Rs 28000 crore in this year.

We have increased our revenues. It has increased from Rs 21000 crore to Rs 40000 crore. We believe in courtesy. Our courtesy is not our weakness. People who insult the soil of Bengal will not get our respect. Investment and industry at the business meet in Asansol. Tmc leader will make further announcements of investments at Industrial Trade Fair. Some media houses are criticising us because they want to please Delhi. Reject such adulterated news shops. We will provide skill development training to 10 lakh youths. We received investment proposals worth Rs 2.4 lakh crore at Business Summit. 1 crore jobs will be generated. We a

re giving unemployment allowance to 1 lakh youths under Yuvasree scheme. We have set up employment bank. As long as I live, I will go across the State and interact with people. Water for all: Bengal shows the way Public Health Engineering Department has

been working towards the commitment of providing clean drinking water to every block in West Bengal. A 'Vision 2020' document has been formulated which involves step for the medium term and the long term with a budget of Rs 1295 crore and Rs 21,285 crore respectively. Here are the few key highlights in efforts of providing clean drinking water for all: 428 numbers of piped water projects has been sanctioned, which is estimated to benefit around 1.25 crore people (2011 census data). More than 41 thousand hand pumps installed. The coverage of piped water has increased from 37.95% to 44.11%. For arsenic purification, 349 projects have been undertaken. Out of which 212 have already started. More than 28 lakh people will benefit from this. A "International Centre for Water Quality" is proposed to come up at Joka, Kolkata. This will be the first in the kind in India. 7 bottling plants have already started and 15 on the move purification machines have started. Significant Projects: Jangalmahal : Around 50 projects of piped water has been undertaken in the backward areas of Jangalmahal, out of which 39 has already been commissioned. It involves an expenditure of Rs 141 crores and will benefit more than 3 lakh people. In Bankura under the BRGF (Backward Region Grant Fund) a project has been undertaken with a cost of 1011 crore which will benefit 30 lakh people. A project for Purulia is also undertaken with assistance from JICA worth Rs 1173 crore, which will benefit 15 lakh people. Major projects are underway in Kulpi, Panskura, Habra, Gaighata, Bally and others. Achievements in Kolkata: 95% of the area in Kolkata, under KMC is now supplied with clean drinking water. The project of laying of 64" diameter Transmission Main from Palta to Tallah, with a cost of Rs 326 crores, has been completed and it has benefited around 20 lakh citizens of Kolkata. Construction of 15 MGD Water treatment plant at Garden Reach and Chetla Booster Pumping Station has finished. These projects will benefit around 2.5 lakh residents of Behala, Chetla and parts of South Kolkata. Construction of Intake Jetty and Pump House at 'Mayer Ghat' along with 30 MGD capacity "Jai Hind" project at Dhapa and its distribution network has been completed with a cost of around Rs 400 crore. This will benefit around 7 lakh residents of Kolkata. ■



KOLKATA BEGINS TO SET AN EXAMPLE AS AN ECONOMIC PERFORMER

KOLKATA'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IS BETTER THAN OTHER MAJOR CITIES IN INDIA, BASED ON TWO ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND THE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE.

Economic Performance Of Kolkata Leads 32, Among 300 World Cities In The Annual 2014 economic rankings of cities worldwide conducted by the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase.

Kolkata ranks 32 in performance among 300 world cities in the annual 2014 economic rankings of cities worldwide conducted by the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase. It has left behind Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai. The only better ranked city of India in the report is Delhi.

A study was conducted of world's largest 300 cities, which accounted for almost half of global output in 2014. The report is based on two key economic indicators- annualised growth rate of real GDP per capita and annualised growth rate of employment. These indicators were combined into an economic performance index and the metros were ranked. For India, 5 leading cities viz Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad were considered for the study. Except for Delhi, all cities are ranked below Kolkata. Kolkata has been ranked at 32 out of the 300 cities. The rank for other cities in India are - Delhi (18), Mumbai (52), Chennai (57), Hyderabad (76), and Bengaluru (87). Kolkata: The annualised growth rate of real GDP for 2013-14 is 2.5% and annualised growth rate of employment is 4.7%. Promising all support to prospective investors in the state, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said that Ambuja Group and Keven-ter Group would invest in north Bengal. The government would create a fund of Rs 200 crore to support entrepreneurs in the region, Banerjee announced at a business summit "North Bengal Business Summit-2015" here. West Bengal's Durga puja industry is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 35 percent and is expected to touch Rs.40,000 crore by 2015 from its current size of Rs.25,000 crore, according to an industry lobby Monday.

"Despite falling rupee, rising inflation and slowdown in the economy, the large business industries are targeting high profits margins during Durga Puja in West Bengal which is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 35 percent," revealed a latest survey by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). Making public its recent paper on "West Bengal cashing in on Durga Puja celebrations", the ASSOCHAM said the cost of organising the puja has increased as much as over 30 percent compared to last year due to

hike in the materials used. The current size of the Durga Puja industry is about Rs.25,000 crore, and is likely to touch Rs.40,000 crore by 2015 with its annual growth rate of 35 percent," it said. As per the estimates, the pandal (marquee) industry is expected to touch Rs.500 crore in 2013 from Rs.350 crore in 2012, by growing at the same rate of 35 percent this year. "About 10,000 Durgapuja mar-quees come up every year. The average expenditure of organisers is expected to go up by 20 percent this year owing to the surging inflation," says the paper. "The total expenses have increased by 20 percent due to appreciation in all expenses from artists conceptualizing the theme to labour constructing the pandals to cost of idols, transportation, price of puja offerings and charge of dhakis (drum-mers)." The entertainment companies as well as organisations in the lighting and decoration business seize the opportunity and often also see more than 35 percent growth in total

turnover compared to other times, says ASSOCHAM.

Every year, over 20,000-30,000 idols are prepared across Kolkata. As per the estimates, the cost of raw materials for making the idols have also gone up by almost 15-20 percent this year. "Due to the rising inflation, the prices of raw materials like clay, paint, clothes, ornaments etc are on the rise which has raised the total cost. It is being found that the cost of preparing idol has also increased between Rs.60,000 and Rs.5 lakh.

The food and beverage industry is anticipated to do an additional business of Rs.50-60 crores during the festive season. "The demand for items for the puja such as lightings, flowers, flooring etc has already started increasing and is expected to increase this year by 20 percent compared to last year." As per the ASSOCHAM findings, Durga Puja will also increase the profit margins of micro, small and medium enterprises. ■





BRITISH HOUSE LORDS DELEGATION VISITED WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY VISIT BY BRITISH LORDS DELEGATION AND ALSO HIGHLIGHTING THE KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION'S ECOFRIENDLY INITIATIVES EQUATED A BEST PIECE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROSPECT.

Ten-member British delegation will meet elected representatives from the West Bengal Legislative Assembly today. The UK delegation will call on the Chief Minister of West Bengal during their visit to Kolkata. Baroness D'Souza CMG, Speaker of the House of Lords, lead a delegation of members from the House of Lords and the House of Commons to Kolkata. The delegation looks to strengthen links and co-operation between Indian and British parliamentarians. Apart from meeting legislator, the visiting delegation will also have meetings with trade and industry leaders, see firsthand civil society at work and interact with social activists, and engage in Indo-UK work on environment issues. A priority for the visiting delegation is to learn how India is dealing with issues of international concern, including tackling climate change and developing climate smart

cities and promoting renewable energy; advancing women and girl's rights; and the work towards ensuring food security. The UK delegation will have interaction with the State Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mr Partha Chatterjee, Chief Government Whip Mr Sovandeb Chatterjee, and other members of the State Assembly. WBLA Speaker Mr Biman Bandopadhyay informed that this is the first occasion that any delegation from the House of Lords, UK is visiting the State Assembly. In a constant effort to serve the public in the best possible way, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation takes another innovative step. As part of its multi-faceted, eco-friendly initiative, KMC has launched the country's first 'battery less, carbon neutral Solar Street Lights at one of the city's favourite public place, the Deshapriya Park. In the august presence of Sri Manish Gupta, Hon'ble MIC Power & Non-conventional Energy and other eminent personalities,

Mayor Sovan Chatterjee inaugurated the path breaking project on 12th February, 2015. Fifty solar electric posts have been set up at Deshapriya Park each of which will have an 180-watt LED based panel that is equivalent of 400 watts of sodium vapour electricity. The solar panels will help generate electricity throughout the day and the generated power will be put into the grid. The LEDs will be lighted up with the generated power in the night. An automatic control system has been put in place and the lights will be switched on automatically after evening. It will be a carbon-neutral lighting. This project has been made with an estimated cost of Rs 40 lakh and is expected to bring down electricity bills for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Corporation leading towards a healthy development towards the city's structural infrastructure as well as the betterment of the household areas and so on. ■





KRISHI KATHA - PROGRAMM TO INSPIRE AND ENCOURAGE FARMERS

KRISHI KATHA PROGRAMME FOR FARMERS INAUGURATED AT BARDHAMAN BY CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE, TO SET A DIRECTION FOR THE FARMERS.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will directly meet the farmers and listen to their problems in this programme. She will give the information about many socio-economic development schemes taken up by the State Government. The Chief Minister will also meet the North Bengal farmers in the coming March. All schemes related to agricultural and farmer development will be described elaborately by State Government in this program. Some schemes may also be announced. More than one lakh farmers will participate here. In this three days program, government experts as well as Agricultural University professors will participate. State Agricultural Minister Mr Purnendu Bose informed that 'Krishi Katha' will be turned into a fair and there will be many agriculture related stalls and the experts who will try to solve problems related to agriculture. Small and medium farmers will be participating along with the big farmers in this program. The State Government has received the 'Krishi Kormon' awards for agricultural development three times. Last year on the 1st of Baishakh, the agriculture calendar was published by the Government. Farmers can get information about the profitable crops and their diseases and pesticides to be applied from this calendar. The department of Animal Husbandry will also participate in the three-day programme. The farmers will be able to get information about loans from banks and

governmental agencies for animal husbandry from this programme. The West Bengal government is taking up the agriculture scheme - 'Amar Dhan Amar Chatal' in which sheds will be set up and paddy drying machines will be provided to farmers across the state to protect the procured paddy from getting damaged before it is sent to the rice mills. The scheme which is under the central government entails farmers to protect paddy by bringing it under a shed and the drying machines will be supplied to farmers to produce rice in the mills. It is more of a post harvesting care for ensuring food security. The scheme will fall under the second green revolution in eastern India. The drying machines, that will be brought from Germany, cost around Rs 10,000 each. Food camps will be held in 165 blocks across the state for selling rice to the farmers. The state government will also give 15 paise of subsidy for procuring per kilogram of rice. Besides, Agriculture department officials have started working on distributing leaflets to farmers to make them aware on how potato plants could be protected from various kinds of diseases. CM announces development board for Sherpas. The feat was achieved due to relentless work of the entire district administration and officials working in the rural sector. West Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee was present at the concluding ceremony of the two-month long Himal-Terai-Dooars Sports Festival 2015 at a programme held at Darjeeling

Police Ground. She distributed the prizes to the winners and also inaugurated the ladies hostel of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. The sports festival was jointly organised by the district police departments of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, the police commissioner of Siliguri and the State Sports dept. The West Bengal Chief Minister is on a visit to North Bengal. On January 19, she attended the North Bengal Industry Meet, 2015 at Siliguri, which was the first of its kind in North Bengal. Yesterday, the week-long 'Uttarbanga Utsav', 2015 was inaugurated in a colourful programme at Kanchenjunga Stadium, Siliguri by the West Bengal Chief Minister. West Bengal Chief Minister to distribute prizes of the Himal-Terai-Dooars Sports Festival 2015. After the formation of the development boards for the Lepcha and Tamang communities, West Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee announced the formation of a separate development board for the Sherpa community in the Darjeeling Hills. She further declared that the Sherpa Cultural Development board will receive a cheque of Rs 5 Crore for the development of the Sherpa community, in the 119th birth anniversary celebration of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Chowrasta, Darjeeling. The state's various water projects have been brought under this programme. Water from rivers, dams, underground sources among others will be made available for cultivation through canals and drainage network. ■





Mamata Banerjee

@
facebook

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

February 18

Today I was present in the foundation stone laying ceremony of the new Priyamvada Birla Campus of South Point School in Mukundapur, Kolkata.

Our Government has given land for this new campus on which South Point will set up their largest school.

My best wishes to all the students, parents, teachers, staff, alumni and management of South Point School on this great occasion.

I am also happy to share with you that we will be setting up a new Sanskrit University for the first time in the State. This will give a huge fillip to studies and research on one of the most ancient languages known to mankind. Also, time has come for Madhyamik, ICSE, Higher Secondary, ISC, CBSE examinations this year.

I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the students who will appear in the examinations, their parents and their teachers.

I appeal to all to extend all possible cooperation, so that the examinations are conducted peacefully.

All the best to everyone.

February 17

Today I received a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Delegation of eight Hon'ble MPs of the United Kingdom representing various political parties and Officials led by Rt. Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG, Lord Speaker, at "Nabanna".

We had a very useful discussion on wide range of topics.

They wanted to know about the priorities of the state government like empowerment of women, paid maternity leave for women employees, reservation of seats for women in local bodies and urban and rural development initiatives.

The Delegation expressed keen interest about our "Kanyashree" scheme. I am so

happy that "Kanyashree" scheme for our girl child has evoked so much of interest all over the world.

They also wanted to know about the constraints we face in carrying out development work.

I mentioned to them about the legacy of huge debt left over by the previous government and our repayment burden as the major hurdle to development work and how hard we are working to overcome this obstacle



February 16

We dedicate today's election victory to Maa, Maati Manush, to all my brothers and sisters. Salutes to all of you.

There was so much of negative campaign and vilification. But you have placed your confidence and faith on us.

We are deeply touched.

Heartiest congratulations to all the voters of Bongaon and Krishnaganj.

Heartiest congratulations to all our workers also.

We will have to work even harder in the coming days for development and to deliver more good governance.

Your support and co-operation will be our guiding force.

February 15

Heartiest Congratulations to Team India.

It's a magnificent victory in the first match against Pakistan in the World Cup 2015.

All the Best to Team India for the upcoming matches.

February 14

World Champion India meets Pakistan on 15th February in their first match in the ICC Cricket World Cup, 2015.

All the best to Team India.

February 13

Today, I inaugurated "Bangla Sangeetmela 2015" at Nazrul Mancha. We have dedicated this in memory of Kishore Kumar, Sachin Dev Burman and Rahul Dev Burman.

A weeklong celebration of music has begun. Till the 19th of February, across 9 venues in the city, renowned artistes will enthral hearts and minds with their captivating performances. In today's event, outstanding achievers from the world of music were honoured with the prestigious "Sangeet Mahasamman" and "Sangeet Samman" awards, which we had instituted in 2012.

After the award-distribution ceremony, a beautiful musical presentation added a special touch to today's inaugural programme.

February 11

For the first time in India, Bengal has launched today Micro Business Credit Card for small and medium businesses in the State.

In association with State Bank of India, under this flagship programme, entrepreneurs will get cash credit or loan upto Rs.5 lakh for business activity on easy terms, even without collateral security.

This will give huge boost to small businesses in the State.

My best wishes to everyone.



STATES IN NUMBERS ARE SUFFERING FROM MAL NUTRITION IN INDIA

STRESS ON NEED FOR POLICIES TO TACKLE MALNUTRITION AND ADEQUATE BUDGETS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION TO FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF PROGRAMME ON MALNUTRITION.



S

evere acute malnutrition should be recognized as a medical emergency with one million children under five dying in India due to malnutrition related causes, say activists. A new

study in Baran, Rajasthan and Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh has found that preventable deaths continue to hit children in the poorest areas of the country.

According to UNICEF, every year 1 million children below five die due to malnutrition related causes in India. The statistics are alarming, and far above the emergency threshold for acute malnutrition (as per WHO classification of the severity of malnutrition).

ACF India and Fight Hunger Foundation announced the launch of the Generational Nutrition Program. Speaking about the program ACF India deputy country director Rajiv Tandon said that there was an urgent need to recognize severe acute malnutrition as a medical emergency. He also stressed on the need for policies to tackle malnutrition and adequate budgets for implementation.

The ACF report says that the number of children affected in India is higher than all the

south Asian countries with high burden of wasting or acute malnutrition.

"Within India, scheduled tribes (28%), scheduled castes (21%) and other backward castes (20%) and rural communities (21%) have a high burden of acute malnutrition," the report said. These reports throw light on the malnutrition situation in the two districts analyzing the infant mortality rates and child deaths due to conditions which are preventable. In Madhya Pradesh, according to NFHS 3, 40% children were stunted down from [NFHS 2 - 49%], 60% underweight up from [NFHS 2 - 54%] and 33% wasted [NFHS 2 - 20%]. "The rise in these nutritional indicators in the state is worrisome and it is essential that strategies for addressing this are adopted on a war footing," the report says.

Regarding Rajasthan the report said that according to NFHS-3, 20% of children under five are wasted, an increase from 11.7% in NFHS-2, 24% are stunted as opposed to (52% in NFHS-2) and 44% are underweight (50.6% in NFHS-2). The NFHS-3 data also shows that children under five belonging to scheduled tribes in Rajasthan have the highest prevalence of severe acute malnutrition and here in

Bengal scenario in totally different TMC government rising with the empowerment of Bengal in every aspect. Growth rate increased in every aspect of the society, economy, culture, education and many more. West Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee, who is also in-charge of the Health Department of the State, has decided the poor will be provided with free 'stent' for angioplasty. This innovative step is being taken by the West Bengal Government after a detailed study by the specialised Committee formed by the CM. In the report submitted by the Committee, USA's Bear Metal Platinum Chromium's stent has been recommended. After negotiating with the company, the WB Govt drew up a model plan for free distribution of stent. In the State Government's Super Specialty hospital, SSKM, everyday nearly 200 cases of angioplasty takes place alone. To apply for the stent, the concerned patient has to apply to the State Government through the hospital Super with a copy of his/her income certificate. After scrutiny, the same will be granted. The stent also can be procured from the 'Fair Price Medical Shop', in that case it will be reimbursed by the 'State Illness Assistant Fund', later. ■



INAUGURATION OF BANGLA SANGEET MELA & ANNOUNCEMENT OF SANSKRIT VARSITY

WB CM INAUGURATES BANGLA SANGEET MELA AND THE FIRST SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY IN BENGAL HAS BEEN DECIDED TO BE ESTABLISHED.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee announced the decision on Wednesday, saying the varsity would be named 'Paschim Banga Sanskrito Viswa Vidyalaya'. A commission under Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri has been formed to decide the likely cost, location and other key details. The panel has to submit its report in two months.

The CM seemed quite enthusiastic about the project. In the evening, Mamata posted on her Facebook page: "I am happy to share with you that we will be setting up a new Sanskrit University for the first time in the state. This will give a huge fillip to studies and research on one of the most ancient languages known to mankind."

The existing Sanskrit college in Kolkata will come under the ambit of the university, say sources. This will be the third Sanskrit university in eastern India after Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya in Puri (1981) and Kumar Bhaskar Varman Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University in Nalbari, Assam (2011).

The announcement came a day before Mamata is to leave for Bangladesh to attend the Bhasha Divas celebrations. The visit will help further strengthen ties between Bangladesh and West Bengal.

"We are very happy that we are going to Bangladesh to attend the Bhasha Divas celebrations. We will pay our homage to the martyrs. I have gone to Bangladesh previously. We are

overwhelmed at their hospitality. We will meet the Prime Minister and President. There will be business meets, too. Our language, food and culture are the same and we hope that this trip will make our bond stronger," the chief minister said.

Mamata's delegation is a mix of ministers, MPs, bureaucrats, industrialists and cultural personalities. Filmmaker Gautam Ghosh, poet Subodh Sarkar, actors Prasenjit, Moon Moon Sen and Dev and singer Indranil Sen will join ministers Firhad Hakim and Bratya Basu.

However, former MP Kabir Suman is not in the team. Replying to a question from media persons, Mamata said she would have been happy if Suman had been part of the state delegation. "But he may have some health reasons for not going," she said. A replica of the Bhasha Shahid Smarak will be set up near Birla Planetarium.

West Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the annual 'Bangla Sangeet Mela' at Nazrul Mancha. She holds highest regards for artists and their art. She announced several awards to felicitate artists connected to various form of art from time to time. Keeping with the practice, she also gave away 'Sangeet Samman' and 'Sangeet Maha Samman'.

Various singers performing at different venues across the city namely Rabindra Sadan, Sisir Mancha, Deshapriya Park, Princep Memorial, Phanibhushan Vidyavinod Jatra Mancha, Hedua Park, Madhusudan Mancha, Rabindra

Tirtha between 13 to 19 February 2015.

An exhibition paying tribute to Sachin Dev Burman, Kishore Kumar and Rahul Dev Burman will also be held during this time at Ganendra Pradarsasala.

The closing ceremony of Bangla Sangeet Mela will be held on 19 February 2015 at Rabindra Sadan with a whole night of musical function. The event is being organised by Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal.

We will give away Sangeet Samman and Sangeet Maha Samman today. Sangeet Mela will continue for 7 days

We will honour people associated with music from all over the world

We gave the first Sangeet Samman to Manna Dey, Sandhya Mukherjee and Dwijen da

I went to Bangalore personally to honour Manna Dey. Those who are being honoured today

are matchless. They have their own identity We are paying tributes to Rahul Dev Barman this year

We should prepare a handbook of all the artists who have performed in various art forms – be it music or films

The handbook of the artists will be released on Poila Boishakh (Bengali New Year)

Kolkata is the cultural capital of the world

Let music bring us all together. We are honoured to have been able to honour those who are present here

We have artists from Darjeeling, jhumur artists. ■





WIFI CITY KOLKATA, A COMMON LINGO TO CONNECT

GROWTH FOR ALL IS THE COMMON LINGO OF WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT UNDER CM MAMATA BANERJEE. TO INITIATE THIS, THE CITY EXPERIENCED ITS FIRST WIFI FOR ALL CONNECTIVITY FROM THE MOST CHARMING PARK STREET.

Growth for all' is the mantra of the WB Government under CM Ms Mamata Banerjee. The State's economy has seen a turnaround in the last 3 years. While the State's GSDP has been growing at a much higher pace than the national GDP and the state revenues have grown historically by more than 85% in just 3 years, it is also the backward class which has perceived the growth. It is only when the backward class, economically and socially challenged sections are given the benefits of the growth, development becomes inclusive and holistic. Development of the backward class and the socially challenged class has received a huge boost under the government led by Mamata Banerjee. The annual average of building hostels from State Fund for backward class in the last 3 years has increased to 183 from 117.5 (during the last 3 years of CPM rule). While on an annual average 5 hostels were built from central grants from 2009-10 to 2011-12, the average was 12.3 hostels in the last 3 years. The annual average expenditure grew by 73% from Rs 57.2 crore (2009-10 to 2011-12) to Rs 99.97 crore (2011-12 to 2013-14) In the last 3 years Trinamool Government has given scholarships to more than 31.45 lakh students compared to 8.92 lakh in the last 2 years of Left Front. In terms of empowering backward classes with distributing the caste certificate West Bengal under TMC has outperformed Left's regime. Caste certificates were given to 23.22 lakh people in the last 3 years compared to 7.56 lakh in the last 2 years of Left rule. Kolkata

– India's first WiFi city is still creating buzz in the world of social media and random coffee shops around the city. Much to the delight of those who are using the services rolled out by the Bengal government in Park Street a week before today, the latest addition to the city has brought nothing but smiles on citizens' faces. Here's what much enthusiastic social media 'keedas' have to say a week from the launch of WiFi Kolkata Kolkata Bloggers Rejoice Kolkata now comes up with a variety of visible changes to the city – beautiful river banks, newer set of trident street lights, AC bus stops to name a few and now the Wi-Fi – Anirban Saha The youth today are more at ease today with wireless devices and welcome this move by the government – Anirban Saha The 5th of February, 2015 was historic. Kolkata needed WiFi. And it was served what it needed – Nabhoneel Majumdar This was a momentous occasion for all bloggers – going digital is the way forward – Arjyak Bhattacharya

With free Wi-Fi more people will get access to internet, thus making Kolkata a 'smart city'. As your phone number gets registered, all illegal activities done using the Wi-Fi network can be tracked easily – Rimbik Das 5 February will be remembered in the history of #KolkataMilestones as it becomes #WiFiKolkata – Abhishek Chamaria The world today is digitally advanced..having a social identity online.. Industries and Entrepreneurs have this Wi-Fi zoning of the city like a gift to them...not mentioning the benefits for the common people – Saimantick Bhadra Citizen journalism can evolve

in due course of time. Will benefit during an emergency to establish communication with those who need help – Asmita Nandy Kolkata having the reputation for being the city of firsts, from golf to metros and trams, it is now the first fully WiFi enabled city in India – Kanishk Xavier Gomes Kolkata is the first metro city which aims to go fully WiFi by April 2015 – Poorna Banerjee Home is where the Wi-Fi connects automatically and much justifies Kolkata being our hometown – Sonket Folk of Kolkata logged in merrily on Park Street by putting to rest all apprehensions about connectivity. Hundreds strolling down the party street, stopping over at restaurants or just passing through the area availed of the free Wi-Fi service launched on Thursday. Most were happy with the service.

Private firm employee Suparna Gupta happened to be on Park Street for a business lunch. The moment she walked out of the restaurant, Suparna remembered that she was in the Wi-Fi zone. She fished out her smartphone and scanned the Wi-Fi option. "And yes, there it was. The network asked me to type out my phone number and the moment I did, a password was SMSed to me. The network speed was good," she said. Ankit Jain, a student, dropped in at a cafeteria for a quick cuppa. The moment he started fiddling with his phone, the Reliance Jionet icon popped up on his screen. "I logged in more out of curiosity. It worked pretty well," said Jain.

"It's been fast and efficient so far," said Abhishek Ray, a blogger. ■





Snapshots of January - February



THE RECENT POLLS SUM UP THE ACTUAL SCENARIO OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN BENGAL

NEVER DISRESPECT PEOPLE IN A DEMOCRACY, ARROGANCE AND POLITICAL VENDETTA BY OTHERS HAVE BEEN DECLINED BY WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE.

With the BJP suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of AAP in Delhi polls, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said "arrogance and political vendetta have been defeated" and that BJP's "balloon has burst".

"Never disrespect people in a democracy. Arrogance and political vendetta have been defeated today. People have the final word in a democracy. What an audacity? There is a (Bengali) proverb that unchecked rise of anything leads to its downfall," Banerjee said. "In politics there should not be political vengeance and character assassination and insulting the people", the Trinamool Congress supremo said.

Banerjee is strongly critical of various policies of the Modi government and had earlier accused the BJP of political vendetta against her party over the CBI probe into Saradha scam. Hailing AAP's victory, Banerjee who is speaking at a state government function on welfare projects said, "This is a victory for formation of government of the people, by the people and for the people. Loser is always a loser and winner is a winner."

Earlier in the day she had tweeted that the Delhi Assembly polls were a "turning point" in the present political situation which showed that political vendetta had no place in democracy. Party Spokesman Derek O'Brien said besides congratulating AAP for its landslide victory in Delhi polls on Twitter, she has sent a SMS to Kejriwal congratulating him. Mamata Banerjee stole BJP's thunder: Abhishek Banerjee at Bongaon Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has "stolen the thunder" of the BJP while accusing the saffron party of unleashing a "shameful smear campaign against Bengal". "Bengal gave us 34 (Lok Sabha) MPs. Modi is not sure if he can even win the Assembly in Delhi. And he dreams of winning here," Abhishek, Mamata Banerjee's nephew, said addressing a poll campaign meeting for the by-election to Bongaon Lok Sabha seat. "They have unleashed a shameful smear campaign against Bengal," he said. "Mamata Banerjee has stolen the thunder of



BJP. Narendra Modi and Rahul Sinha (state BJP chief) are nervous," he said. Along with Bongaon Lok Sabha seat, by-elections will be held in the Krishnaganj Assembly seat in Nadia district. Abhishek Banerjee said that the Delhi electorate today has said BHAG MODI BHAG! He also raised the slogan: "Delhi te holo Shuru, Banglai hobe sesh, Ebar Bharat dekhbe, Modi-mukto desh (Delhi has started, Bengal will end, India will witness BJP's end)." He was addressing a campaign rally at Badkulla in Krishnaganj Assembly constituency at Nadia in support of the Trinamool candidate Mr Satyajit Biswas. The Trinamool Youth Congress Chief urged people to set an example by raising the margin of victory and defeating the Opposition. On BJP being decimated at the Delhi elections, he congratulated Kejriwal saying, "Today's verdict in Delhi has proven that political vendetta, smear campaign and arrogance have no place in a healthy democracy. Today AAP did to BJP what the later did to Indian National Congress in the 2014 LS. BJP at this juncture can't even claim the LOP in Delhi Assembly. History repeats itself. Such is the strength and power of our democracy." "The change has started from Delhi. This victory is of the people. Delhi elections are a game changer. Janata is janardan in any democracy. The common people have spoken and replied befittingly to the autocratic narcissists. Entire country will follow Delhi's example in future," he had earlier written on his Facebook page. Trinamool Congress on Monday won the by-poll in Krishnaganj Assembly seat by a margin of over 37,000 votes and took a massive lead in Bongaon Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal. TMC candidate Satyajit Biswas, who secured

95,397 votes, won the Krishnaganj seat by a margin of 36,960 votes.

In Bongaon (SC) Lok Sabha seat, TMC candidate Mamatabala Thakur won the election by a margin of over 2 lakh votes.

A voter turnout of 79.80 and 81.80 per cent respectively was recorded on February 13 in the by-elections to Bongaon Lok Sabha seat and Krishnaganj Assembly seat.

The Bongaon LS seat fell vacant after the death of Trinamool Congress member Kapil Krishna Thakur on October 13 last year. In the Krishnaganj seat, the election was being held due to the death of the sitting TMC MLA Sushil Biswas on October 21 last year.

Partha Chatterjee, Secretary General of AITC, addressed the press after the results. Here are some of the excerpts from the press meet:

We thank the people of Bongaon and Krishnaganj. People have the final say in a democracy. People have reposed their faith on Mamata Banerjee despite the slander campaign by Opposition.

Trinamool has not only won but emerged victorious by a huge margin.

People have given the mandate in favour of the developmental agenda of Mamata Banerjee.

Let them try to bloom water lilies first then they can dream about lotus blooming.

Quality of life of people has improved. People have witnessed development. That is why they showered us with blessings.

Slander campaign and propaganda will not work. Development speaks. We will continue to work for people.

We dedicate the victory to Maa, Mati, Manush. I congratulate and thank TMC workers. ■



CONSTANTLY WORK FOR THE PEOPLE: SUBRATA BAKSHI TO TRINAMOOOL WORKERS

Trinamool will move ahead following the path set by the party Chairperson Ms Mamata Banerjee, said All India General Secretary of the party and South Kolkata MP Subrata Bakshi on Wednesday. He was addressing a conference of party workers at Chinar Park in New Town.

He congratulated the party workers for their tedious campaign leading to Trinamool's record victories in the bypolls held for Krishnaganj Assembly seat and the Bongaon Lok Sabha seat.

He reminded the party workers that it is necessary to constantly work for the people. He reiterated that people brought the party to power and it was duty to serve them. He also said that if any party worker indulges in any shameful work, the party will take measures against them. He asked everyone to follow the path of transparency and honour. Trinamool MP Saugata Roy, State Agriculture Minister Purnendu Bose, Food and Supplies Minister and party's North 24 Parganas district head Mr Jyotipriya Mullik and AITUC State President Ms Dola Sen were present at the conference.

DIGITISED RATIN CARDS IN BENGAL FROM POILA BOISHAKH

WB Government takes a new leap in e-governance as it is all set to introduce online application of Ration Cards. The new software is already in its place, and after necessary cabinet clearance and test runs it will be implemented from the first day of the Bengali New Year.

Once the application is done through prescribed online form, an inspector will visit for physical verification within 24 hours and within 3 days Aadhaar linked digital ration card will be issued.

West Bengal Government has already undertaken the initiative of digitalising of more than 9 crore ration card. Digitalisation of ration cards will also help to detect fake cards.

Greater transparency is implemented in the PDS system. Digitalisation of ration card will help the government to keep an eye on how the benefits of PDS system have reached to the common people and thus make necessary police decisions.

GOVT TO PROVIDE FREE 'STENT' FOR ANGIOPLASTY TO THE POOR

West Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee, who is also in-charge of the Health Department of the State, has decided the poor will be provided with free 'stent' for angioplasty.

This innovative step is being taken by the West Bengal Government after a detailed study by the specialised Committee formed by the CM. In the report submitted by the Committee, USA's Bear Metal Platinum Chromium's stent has been recommended. After negotiating with the company, the WB Govt drew up a model plan for free distribution of stent.

In the State Government's Super Specialty hospital, SSKM, everyday nearly 200 cases of angioplasty takes place alone.

To apply for the stent, the concerned patient has to apply to the State Government through the hospital Super with a copy of his/her income certificate. After scrutiny, the same will be granted. The stent also can be procured from the 'Fair Price Medical Shop', in that case it will be reimbursed by the 'State Illness Assistant Fund', later.

WB CM TO VISIT BANGLADESH 19TH FEB TO ATTEND 'BHASHA DIBAS'

WB CM Ms Mamata Banerjee will be leaving for Bangladesh today to attend the "Bhasa Divas" celebration at Dhaka on February, 21.

She will be accompanied by a team of Ministers, MPs, bureaucrats, industrialists and distinguished personalities from the cultural world. She has been invited as the Chief Guest for the celebration of "Bhasa Divas" at the Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka to pay homage to the martyrs of the language movement.

WB CM Ms Mamata Banerjee is expected to attend a business meet organised by the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Indian Chambers of Commerce, Kolkata. While addressing the media regarding her visit, WB CM said that she hoped this visit will strengthen the ties between Bangladesh and West Bengal. "There should be stronger cultural ties between the two Bengals. Hope this trip will make our bond stronger," she added. WB CM also said that the State Government will build a replica of the Bhasha Shahid Smarak in Kolkata near Birla Planetarium. The foundation stone will be laid 19th Feb.



RAJARHAT TO GET EDUCATION HUB

An education hub is coming up at Rajarhat New Town. At least 30 different educational institutes have been allotted land in the township, covering more than 150 acres, to set up their campuses in different parts of the township.

While Presidency University, St Xavier's College and Rabindra Bharati University are developing their second campuses here, institutes like Aliah University and Techno India have already set up their campuses and started operations.

Officials said that talks are on with several other institutes and more land could be allotted for their campuses. Campuses of several government and private institutes like Netaji Subhas Open University, Ganguly Educational Society, Bhawanipor Gujrati Education Society, IILM Foundation, WBSEDCL Staff Training Centre, State Government Vocational Institute, State Social Welfare School and others are also coming up in the township. Authorities have been allotting land -from two acres to 10 acres -to different institutes through e-tenders.

Besides, the authorities have also earmarked a 20-acre plot to set up a government medical college and hospital. Tenders will be floated again. Cities across the world like Boston and Cambridge revolve around a big education hub where worldclass universities along with schools and colleges are located.



STILL BLACK MONEY IS UNDER PROTECTION: FAILURE OF COMMITMENT BY BJP GOVERNMENT

SENIOR MOST ADVOCATE RAM JETHMALANI EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF THE BLACK MONEY LAW AND IF THE ECONOMIC STATUS CAN BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT DONE SO FAR BY THE TMC GOVERNMENT.

Senior Advocate Ram Jetmalani expressed his disappointment over delays in introducing a black money law that he had mooted and the government's failure to get back funds illegally stashed overseas during a hearing on the matter in Supreme Court. Jehmalani, formerly with the Bharatiya Janata Party, was instrumental in filling a public interest litigation on the issues that caused much embarrassment to the previous UPA Government. The BJP which heads the current Government had promised to recover black money held abroad in the run-up to the elections and even set up a special investigation team (SIT) to inquire into this as directed by the top court. But no money has been recovered yet, Jetmalani's lawyer Anil Divan told the bench comprising chief justice Madan B Lokur and AK Sikri. "Not a single rupee has been brought back in the last six months," Divan said. "There might have been some attachment, raid here and there." Jetmalani said the government's response

on the issue was a "total disappointment". "I am not recovering my money, but the nation's money. Till Legislation is passed, not a farthing will come," he said. "I drafted a law and sent a copy to the Prime Minister. It has been passed on to the finance ministry. Are they in favour of this legislation? If they don't want to do it, they should let it be known. Otherwise I will go to the real sovereign- the people." The Chief Justice was clear on the issue of the government sharing the named of those holding such mney abroad with the public- a demand made by lawyer Prashant Bhushan. We are interested in recovering the black money and nit in the names of those who had admitted to holding such abroad and had been allowed to pay taxes and penalties on it. Black money should be recovered as early as possible as per the commitment made by the BJP government. Being vocal against any other party & party wing, with any piece of issues and allegations a perfect scrutiny should be done readily and efficiently so as to protect the fundamental rights.

If set a sight towards the economical set up of Bengal then it should be concluded with the status hereby

The All India Trinamool Congress booklet, on the occasion of completion of two years of governance, says that the gross state domestic product (GSDP) growth rate in 2012-13 was at 7.60% compared to the national average of 4.96%. But a closer look suggests that the picture may not be all that rosy.

The numbers reveal that West Bengal's GSDP growth is much less than the peak growth in the last five years, which came in 2010-11, when GSDP grew at 9.22% (at 2004-05 prices), according to data available with the Planning Commission.

In the first year of Mamata Banerjee's tenure in 2011-12, the GSDP growth fell to 6.58%, data from Planning Commission suggests. However, West Bengal's GSDP growth was higher than the national average of 6.21% in 2011-12. "The analysis of an economy should be based on a trend, and not on annual growth rates. If we compare the per capita GSDP of West Bengal with per capita GDP of India between 2004-05 and 2012-13, West Bengal's growth and per capita number has been lower than that in India," says Dipankar Dasgupta, former professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute.

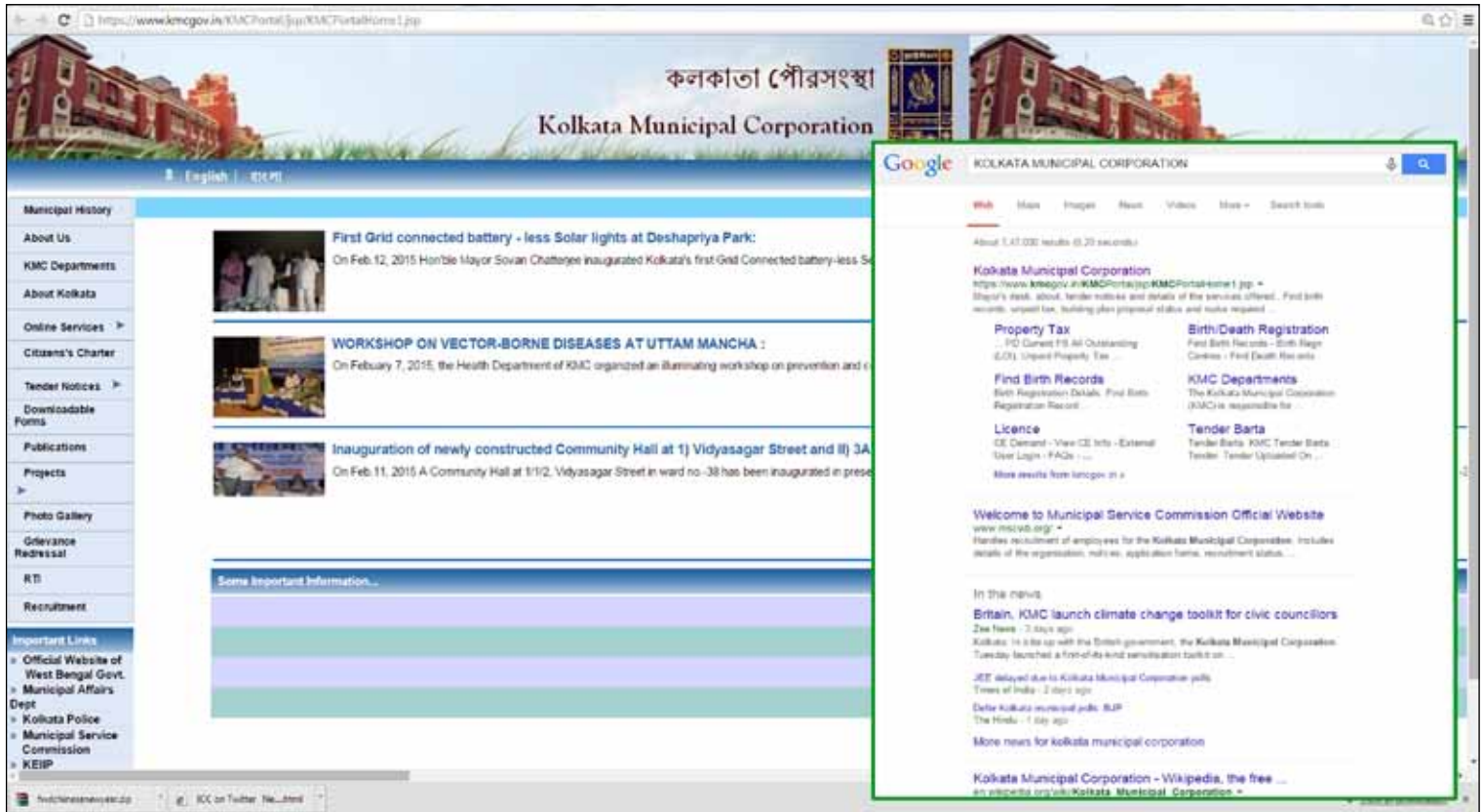
According to the last Economic Survey by the government of India, in 2011-12, West Bengal's per capita net state domestic product (at current prices) was Rs 54,830, which was greater than states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. However, the per capita income of West Bengal was lower than the all India average of Rs 60,603 (Economic Survey, government of India, 2012-13). In the year 2011-12, West Bengal saw a 14.88% growth in per capita income over the last year, which was higher than the all India average of 13.64%. However, in the year 2010-12, the growth in West Bengal's per capita income was less than that in 2010-11 (16.31%) and 2009-10 (15.66%). The data from Planning Commission also suggests that the growth of industry (as a percentage of GSDP) fell from 6.90% in 2010-11 to 3.71% in 2011-12. In its presentation to the Planning Commission for the Annual Plan of 2013-14, West Bengal has stated that the industry grew by 6.24%, which is an improvement of 2.53 percentage points over the previous year. In the services sector, which accounts for nearly 60% of the state's GSDP, West Bengal's growth has been consistent. In 2012-13, it grew by 9.48%, against 8.37% in 2011-12, 9.97% in 2010-11 and 7.86% in 2009-10. ■





KOLKATA MY CITY

TYPE IN 'KOLKATA MY CITY' INTO THE GOOGLE SEARCH BAR AND YOU'LL BE SURPRISED WHAT YOUR SEARCH WILL SHOW. KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IS THE FIRST WEBSITE THAT WILL BE SHOWN IN YOUR SEARCH RESULTS.



The landing page of the KMC website shows the 'Kolkata My City' logo before taking you to the home page of the website. The logo symbolises the Bengali letter 'Kaw' in the form of a heart. Kolkatans share a deep bonding and possessiveness with the roots of this city, better known as the 'adda' city, which is expressed through this beautiful logo.

About the campaign Logo

'Kolkata My City' turned out to be an endearing and encompassing full form for the acronym KMC, says Anurag Hira, the man who conceptualized this logo.

Anurag, Director of One by One Design, explained that with a distinct colour palette of blue and white, the heart (symbolizing a Bengali 'Kaw') seemed to be the most appropriate depiction to play an integral role in the representation for Kolkata My City. 'Kaw' has an inverted comma to support its graphic form.

'Clean City' campaign

Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) aka Kolkata My City has taken an initiative called 'Clean City' project under 'Kolkata My City' campaign through which Kolkata will soon become a garbage vat free city.

Steps are being taken to abolish the open vats throughout the city and put in the service of solid waste compactors.

The first solid waste compactor was introduced on December 12, 2012 at Kalighat Park. Further KMC intends to set up 78 compactor stations. KMC has already completed 44 modern compactor stations and 15 of them are currently operational. The rest will be inaugurated and operational in a few days. 39 new mobile compactors are also being bought for the same project. 16 portable compactors and 5 prime movers had been purchased by KEIP under ADB scheme.

KMC Clean City project to turn Kolkata vat-free

Kolkata Municipal Corporation's solid waste management department is on its way to realize the dream of a vat-free city that they had started nurturing after the introduction of mechanized compactors last year. Aptly christened Clean City programme, this is a boon for the citizens who had for years lived through stench from more than 200 open vats around the city. The open vats are being discontinued.

Once the garbage disposal modernization project is fully implemented, there will be as many as 78 modern garbage transfer sta-

tions – located at vantage points of the city – fitted with modern vehicles and equipment. These stations will replace large garbage vats that litter the road.

Currently, there are such station at Kalighat, Southern Avenue, Ballygunge Circular Road, Tallah, Chetla, Northern Park, Samsul Huda Road, Mirza Ghalib Street and other junctures. KMC is striving hard to replace all major vats since there are no less than 150 such vats in Kolkata. This apart, the KMC plans to buy movable compactors to collect garbage from roadside vats.

Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee said that Kolkata Municipal Corporation has taken up a project to turn Kolkata into a "Vat free" city within March 2015.

Around 163 moveable compactors will be set up in all the fifteen boroughs replacing the vats at an estimated cost of Rs 152 crore. The project is expected to be completed by March 2015. Some of the wards under KMC have already got compactor machines. Around 15 such machines have already begun functioning. This is part of a beautification drive for the city, the Mayor said.

KMC has been also planning to extend the time of duty from 5 to 9 p.m. for workers who are deployed to clean the city. ■



FELICITATING LEGENDS OF BENGALI TELEVISION



TELE SCREEN AWARDS FOR THE LEGENDARY CHARACTERS OF BENGALI TELEVISION INDUSTRY, FELICITATING THE DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITIES FROM THE BENGALI INDUSTRY BY CM MAMATA BANERJEE.

W

est Bengal Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee felicitated personalities from the Bengali television world at the Tele Akademi Awards programme held at the Nazrul Mancha. The

Tele Akademi Awards is being organized by the West Bengal Tele Academy since last year where personalities from the Bengali television industry are awarded for their exceptional performances throughout the year. Distinguished personalities-actors, directors, producers and technicians of Bengali television are awarded through this programme. After the award ceremony a colourful cultural programme was performed by the television artistes. In 2014, the inaugural year of the Tele Akademi Awards, actors Sabyasachi Chakraborty, Monoj Mitra, Sabitri Chattopadhyay and Madhabi Mukhopadhyay were presented with Lifetime Achievement Awards. The Trinamool Government had introduced Banga Sammanana in the year 2011 for notable contribution to the state; the Govt has also been honouring distinguished artists from the field of music with Sangeet Samman, and those associated with sports with the Khel Samman. I am very glad to be here at Tele Akademi Awards. This is a Milan Mela of television actors. We set up the Tele Academy last year. We are proud of our TV actors. Television is the most popular entertainment medium. People who reach the hearts of mil-

lions of people are true artists. Television is a big industry. It generates a lot of jobs. This is a cultural industry. People from Hollywood and Bollywood are shooting films in Bengal. This is a matter of pride. We are honouring 106 people today. We have honoured Jatra artists, folk artists, technicians, musicians. My best wishes to all. We are setting up a Tele Studio at Baruipur. A flyover is also being set up for better connectivity. If you need any co-operation, let us know. Death of culture is the death of a civilisation. Every day after work, I watch serials on TV. I love music-based shows also. I believe every serial has a message. West Bengal Government is celebrating 'Subhas Utsav' on 22-23 January, 2015 to commemorate the 118th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The festival is being organised by the Department of Youth Affairs, Govt of West Bengal.

WB CM Ms Mamata Banerjee participated in the celebrations along with other dignitaries at Darjeeling Mall on 23rd January at 12 noon. Celebrations in the past took place in Kolkata but on the initiative of our present Chief Minister, the official celebration of Netaji's birth anniversary was held in Darjeeling last year. This Utsav will comprise many programmes and competitions including processions, exhibitions on the life and work of Subhas Chandra, quizzes on him, debates, sit & draw competition, essay writing and other events. Incidentally, the grand nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sugata Bose is a Trinamool MP representing Jadavpur constituency in the Lok Sabha. Darjeeling Mall: Netaji is one of the most inspirational persons in Indian history. There can never be a substitute for Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Netaji gave the slogan Jai Hind. He formed the Indian National Army. Netaji said renunciation and realisation are two sides of the coin. "Kadam kadam badaye jaa" is still a popular song. The final days of Netaji is still a mystery. What happened to him, no one knows. History is incomplete. History of India is incomplete. Netaji has not got the honour he deserved from the powers that be. Netaji gave the slogan of Dilli Chalo. People loved and adored Netaji. We have set up Jai Hind Bahini to serve people. Earlier the official celebration of Netaji's birthday happened in Kolkata. Now we hold it in the Hills. Earlier no one used to come to Darjeeling. I came to the Hills more than 40 times in 3 years. I love my brothers and sisters of the Hills. I do not discriminate on the basis of caste, creed, race or religion. If tourism prospers, Darjeeling will prosper. People will get jobs. Finances will improve. We love the soil of Bengal, the soil of India. "Saare jahaan se acha, Hindustan humara." I pay my tributes to all those who risk their lives for the security of the country. I pay my tributes to all the martyrs who laid down their lives for India. I am ready to sacrifice my life for preserving the unity of this country. Let us salute the great son of the soil Netaji on his birth anniversary. Jai Hind. ■

moor MP representing Jadavpur constituency in the Lok Sabha. Darjeeling Mall: Netaji is one of the most inspirational persons in Indian history. There can never be a substitute for Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Netaji gave the slogan Jai Hind. He formed the Indian National Army. Netaji said renunciation and realisation are two sides of the coin. "Kadam kadam badaye jaa" is still a popular song. The final days of Netaji is still a mystery. What happened to him, no one knows. History is incomplete. History of India is incomplete. Netaji has not got the honour he deserved from the powers that be. Netaji gave the slogan of Dilli Chalo. People loved and adored Netaji. We have set up Jai Hind Bahini to serve people. Earlier the official celebration of Netaji's birthday happened in Kolkata. Now we hold it in the Hills. Earlier no one used to come to Darjeeling. I came to the Hills more than 40 times in 3 years. I love my brothers and sisters of the Hills. I do not discriminate on the basis of caste, creed, race or religion. If tourism prospers, Darjeeling will prosper. People will get jobs. Finances will improve. We love the soil of Bengal, the soil of India. "Saare jahaan se acha, Hindustan humara." I pay my tributes to all those who risk their lives for the security of the country. I pay my tributes to all the martyrs who laid down their lives for India. I am ready to sacrifice my life for preserving the unity of this country. Let us salute the great son of the soil Netaji on his birth anniversary. Jai Hind. ■