

State received investment proposals worth Rs 2.19 l cr at BGBS: Mamata

■ Job potential for 20 lakh persons including 1 lakh of Mukesh Ambani group ■ Over 110 MoUs signed; sectors include mining, power, cutting edge tech, warehousing, food processing, transport etc

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KOLKATA, JAN 17 /--/ Despite boycott by Union ministers and absence of Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), West Bengal has been able to snag investment proposals worth Rs 2,19,925 crore from various companies from the country and abroad. This was today announced by chief minister Mamata Banerjee at the end of the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) held at the Convention Centre at New Town.

Last year the amount for new proposals was about Rs 2,35,000 crore of which half have been fructified, according to the chief minister. State minister for finance and commerce and industries Amit Mitra offered an explanation for the fall in investment. "The country's growth rate has slowed down and that is why new investments are not coming," Mitra said. While nine countries--Japan, Italy, Poland, Germany, Republic of Korea, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, France and United Arab Emirates were partner countries in this year's summit, in all 32 countries and 4,000 delegates attended BGBS 2018.

"We can assure you that all these business tie-ups will be able to generate 20 lakh jobs," a beaming Mamata said while making the announcements. While 110 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) have been signed, 1046 business to business meetings and 40 business to government meetings took place making the 4th edition of the BGBS the most successful business conclaves held by the state government so far. "The BGBS has become a super success.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Total investment of Rs 2,19,925 crore
- Mfg and infrastructure: Rs 1,56,811 cr
- MSME and Textiles: Rs 52,952 cr
- Hospitality and Tourism: Rs Rs 1,483 cr
- IT & ITES: Rs 1,146 crore
- ARD, Food Processing, Fisheries and Agribusiness: Rs 1,518 cr
- Health, Education and Skill Development: Rs 6,015 cr
- India Autism centre at New Town on 50 acres of land with an investment of Rs 600 crore
- Both CU and JU to get 5 acres of land each at Rajarhat for creating centres of excellence.
- Entrepreneurs from UP to invest in tanneries here to the tune of Rs 4,500 crore
- Noted MNCs like Pepsi Co, Samsung, Dassault, Armco, Covestro, Chemixil etc have expressed their interest for business tie-ups.



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on the closing day of BGBS —Shyamal Maitra

West Bengal had been the cultural hub of the country so far and now it will become the industrial hub of India. We are with the poor and the downtrodden and we will ensure that the fruits of our prosperity reach every inhabitant of the state," Mamata said. The chief minister also announced that next year the business summit will be held on February 7 and it will be followed by the conclave on February 8. Mamata also used the occasion to take a dig at the ruling BJP at the Centre as incidents of hate crimes allegedly committed by BJP cadres have been reported from across the country. "We are one large family and we do not indulge in division on the basis of caste, creed or religion. We love tolerance as we know that without this virtue one cannot become a good human being," the chief minister said. Earlier industrialist Pranab Adani of the Adani Group said they would double in the next five years their investment of Rs 750 crore in the state. "We have plans to set up a port here in the model of our Mundra port in the Kutch district of Gujarat. We will bring our expertise in the power sector and in agriculture too. We believe our new initiatives will generate 4,500 jobs. West Bengal has changed, thanks to the dynamic leadership of chief minister Mamata Banerjee," Adani said. The finance and industries minister said it was the sincerity and earnestness of the chief minister that brought so much of investment to the state. "What the industrialists find in our chief minister is confidence, faith, trust and touch and feel and that is what wins their hearts," Mitra said.

NEW DELHI, JAN 17 /--/

The Supreme Court today agreed to hear on Thursday a plea of the producers of the controversial Deepika Padukone-starrer movie 'Padmaavat' opposing the ban imposed on its screening by various state governments. A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud considered the submission of the counsel of Viacom 18 and other producers of the film that the plea be heard urgently as the movie was set for all-India release on January 25. Governments of Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand have declared that they will not al-

'Padmaavat' producers move apex court against ban by various states

low screening of the movie, which also stars Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh in lead roles. The Haryana government, at a recent cabinet meeting, decided to ban the movie in the state. The producers moved the top court through senior lawyer Harish Salve and advocate Mahesh Agarwal and submitted, in a petition, that the movie has undergone changes including in its title as suggested by the Central

Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Asserting that the film has been cleared by the CBFC, the plea said the states cannot impose a blanket ban on a film and its screening can be suspended in a particular area or areas on account of law and order problem, not across the states. Earlier on two occasions, the apex court had thwarted attempts to stall release of the film, saying it cannot prejudice a movie before the authorised body CBFC takes a decision. The top court had on November 28 expressed unhappiness over remarks made by politicians over the movie and asked them to desist from reacting as they could prejudice censor board's decision.

Forces ready for any exigency: Army Chief Rawat on Doklam

NEW DELHI, JAN 17 /--/ The Army does not visualise any "serious trouble" post-Doklam episode as the border forces of India and China are holding regular exchange and the earlier "bonhomie" has returned, but the forces are prepared for any exigency, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said today. Rawat also insisted that the PLA soldiers were not in the same numbers in the North Dolam (Doklam) area as they were at the time of the (India-China military) stand-off. "They have carried out some infrastructure development, most of it is temporary in

nature. But while their troops may have returned and the infrastructure remains, it is any body's guess whether they would come back there, or it is because of the winter they could not take their equipment away," the Army Chief said. He was responding to a question on Facebook Live, posted by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), one of the organisers of the multi-lateral 'Raisina Dialogue'. "But then we are also there. In case they come (back), we will face them," Rawat added. The Army Chief's remarks come in the wake of media reports about China carrying

out some infrastructure development in the disputed region. He said the mechanism in place to defuse the tensions between the two countries are working very well. "After the Dolam incident... we have started our border personnel meeting. We are meeting regularly, exchanges are taking place, communications between the commanders at the ground level is on and the bonhomie has returned which was prior to the Dolam (incident)," he said. The Army chief added: "We don't visualise serious trouble but then one has to be prepared for it."

AT A GLANCE

Mamata remembers Jyoti Basu on his death anniversary

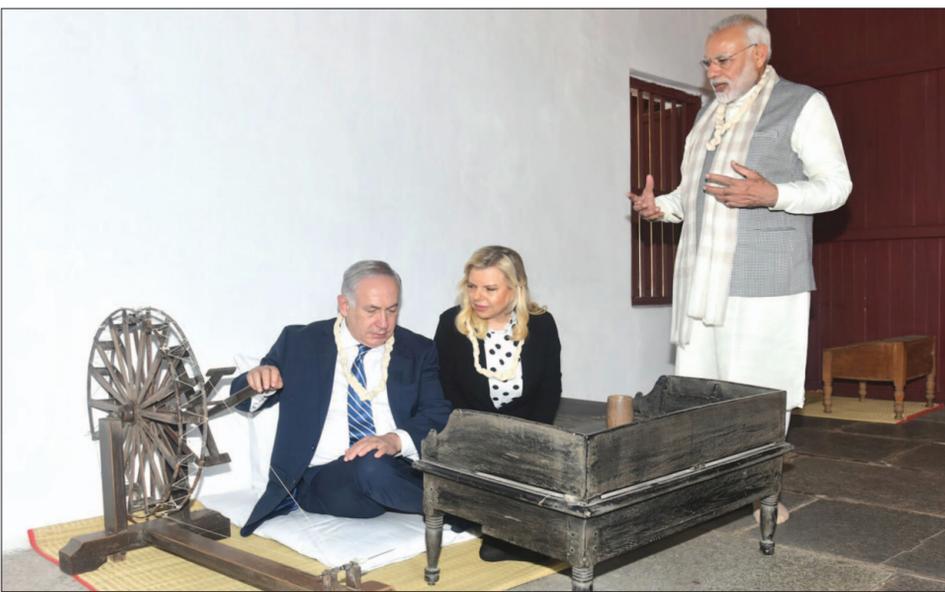
KOLKATA: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee today remembered former chief minister Jyoti Basu on his eighth death anniversary. "Solemnly remembering former chief minister Jyoti Basu on his death anniversary," Mamata wrote on her Twitter handle this morning. Basu, the longest serving chief minister of West Bengal, had passed away on this day in 2010. The CPM patriarch had served as chief minister from 1977 to 2000. Even after relinquishing office as chief minister in 2000, he continued to play a big role in the CPM and Indian politics till repeated bouts of illness finally took their toll.

Justice Chelameswar on leave

NEW DELHI: Justice J Chelameswar, one of the four Supreme Court judges who had openly castigated the functioning of the top court headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra, is on leave today as he is unwell, sources said. It is confirmed that Justice Chelameswar will not hold the court today, said the sources. It was expected that the CJI would have a morning meeting with all the four senior-most judges after he had a 15 minute deliberations with them on Tuesday. Besides Justice Chelameswar, other three judges who held the controversial press conference on January 12 are Justices Ranjan Gogoi, Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph.

Banned notes of Rs 96 cr seized

KANPUR: As many as 16 people, including a noted builder, were arrested by the Kanpur police in connection with the seizure of over Rs 96 crore in demonetised currency notes from the builder's ancestral house in Swaroop Nagar here. Senior Superintendent of Police Akhilesh Kumar Meena said today that Rs 95 crore belonged to Anand Khatri, the builder, and over a dozen others owned the remaining amount.



Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu trying his hand on Charkha during his visit to Sabarmati Ashram, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also seen in the picture.

Modi, Netanyahu hold grand roadshow in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD, JAN 17 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu today held a roadshow in the city under a heavy security blanket as thousands of people lined up along the route to greet them.

After arriving in Modi's home state, the two leaders, along with the Israeli Prime Minister's wife Sara Netanyahu, set out in a car from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Airport here. Around 50 stages were erected on the roadside along the stretch to showcase performances by troupes of different states to welcome the guests. People carrying Indian and Israeli flags stood in large numbers on both sides of the tastefully decorated road. The two leaders waved at the people, who greeted them with loud cheers. The roadshow concluded at Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram, after traversing eight km. At 'Hriday Kunj', Gandhi's home in the ashram, Modi showed them Gandhi's room and the articles he used. Netanyahu and his wife tried their hands at Gandhi's cherished spinning wheel. The Prime Minister also showed kites to his Israeli counterpart,

whose visit comes just a few days after 'Uttarayana', the popular festival of kites in Gujarat. Netanyahu and his wife then took a try at flying kites in the ashram. The Israeli Prime Minister is the third international leader whom Modi is hosting in his home state of Gujarat. Modi today said his government is making efforts to create systems that are innovation-friendly to build an innovation-driven new India. The Prime Minister was speaking after he and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu dedicated to the nation a centre for entrepreneurship and technology in Deo Dholera village near Ahmedabad. Called the International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate), a public-private partnership (PPP) venture set up to nurture entrepreneurs by providing them funds, space, mentors and other facilities. "When I went to Israel last year, I made up my mind that this foundation should have more strong relations with Israel. Since then, I was waiting for my friend Benjamin Netanyahu to come to India. He is here and now we are inaugurating this foundation," Modi said.

Scottish varsity strikes pact for new satellite city in Bengal

LONDON, JAN 17 /--/ A Scottish university today announced an agreement with the New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) to collaborate on a new satellite city in West Bengal. The agreement will see academics from the Institute for Future Cities (IFC) at University of Strathclyde work with officials at the NKDA on research and the sustainable development of the smart city dubbed New Town Kolkata. "India will be the world's second-

largest source of urban growth in the next 30 years with hundreds of millions more Indians moving to cities. We need to ensure the cities of the future are sustainable both economically and environmentally and are good places to live," said Richard Bellingham, director of IFC. "New Town Kolkata is a major initiative which is a good match for the skills at the University of Strathclyde, which places an emphasis on 'useful learning'. We want to make a

difference; this is the kind of collaboration where our research and expertise can be put into practice in the real world," he added. New Town is a rapidly-expanding planned residential and information technology hub to the north-east of Kolkata, covering 11 square miles with a current population of 30,000. Its leaders have a strong interest in deploying and testing innovative solutions that work in a Kolkata context, the university noted. The Strathclyde

researchers will share expertise, data and identify issues for joint action, with a focus on key issues for Kolkata including sustainable energy, reducing pollution, increasing resilience and optimising transport systems. The agreement, signed by Bellingham, was exchanged with Debashi Sen, additional chief secretary, IT, West Bengal, by Bruce Bucknell, the British Deputy High Commissioner. Sen noted: "New Town is already approved as one of the 100

smart cities of India. It is also an IT and Educational Hub. It aspires to be a future-ready, green and happy city. The collaboration with the Institute of Future Cities will help New Town to move in that direction at an accelerating pace." The pact follows a business delegation led by West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee to Scotland in November. University of Strathclyde said its agreement with NKDA follows two separate collaboration agree-

ments signed between Strathclyde and Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai and The Energy Research Institute (TERI), Delhi. The Institute for Future Cities at the University of Strathclyde brings together governments, businesses, academics and citizens to imagine and engage with the future of our cities, and explore how to make cities more successful, healthier, safer and more sustainable for us all.