

ON THE SEVENTH death anniversary, Bina Majumdar handed over umbrellas to the vegetable sellers in the market. Apart from Bina Majumdar, doctors Ajay Mandal, Raju Roy and others were present.

# Scientific nationwide speed mgmt required to reduce fatal accidents

AGENCIES

KOLKATA: IIT Kharagpur has recommended scientific and uniform nationwide speed management to reduce fatal road accidents.

The premier institute, in a policy document, recommended the constitution of state and district road safety councils comprising various departments, scientific fixing of speed limits and erection of road signage, engineering initiatives, audit of existing speed management measures, study of accidents, speed monitoring, strict implementation of guidelines and mass public awareness about road safety.

IIT Kharagpur has recently submitted its recommendations to the state government and it has accepted the suggestions in principle but there is a need for nationwide and uniform implementation of them, Professor Bhargab Maitra of the institute's Civil Engineering Department, who led a team of professors in formulating the document, said on Sunday.

"We have made the recommendations based on road



geometry, traffic characteristics and roadside environment. Although there are several Indian Roads Congress (IRC) guidelines which may be followed for better traffic management, the lack of a comprehensive and uniform speed management policy is an important concern in the Indian context," he said.

The document observed that a majority of the road stretches in the country, both in urban and rural areas, have mixed traffic, absence of lane discipline, uncontrolled access, roadside development and activities and a significant

share of vulnerable road users.

Also, there is a need to curb speed limits near potentially risky areas such as shopping zones, schools and hospitals.

Only a few stretches have wide paved shoulders, median barriers, sufficient clear zones, access roads, good alignment and intersection treatments, which are important engineering aspects to ensure road safety. Hence, implementation of IIT Kharagpur's recommendations will be beneficial with the ongoing massive road development across the country, he said.

Maitra, quoting statistics of the Ministry of Road Transport

and Highways (MoRTH), said that speeding caused more than 72 per cent of road accidents and 69 per cent of road accident fatalities in 2020. "Road accidents are a leading cause of death and injuries in India, which tops the world in the number of fatalities due to such mishaps," he said. He said 4.5 lakh road accidents took place in 2019, resulting in more than 1.51 lakh deaths.

Despite COVID-induced restrictions on road travel, accident severity value (persons killed per 100 accidents) was 36 in 2020, up from 33.7 in 2019.

"Besides creating enormous social causes for families, road traffic injuries put a heavy burden on health services and the national economy," he said.

In 2021, MoRTH proposed reduction of road accidents and fatalities by 50 per cent by 2024. Speed management may provide scope of bringing down the severity of road accidents, he said.

"Keeping in mind the reality of traffic on Indian roads, it is essential to revisit and set appropriate speed limits to enhance road safety," he added.

# Abhijit's dream journey from Dinhata to Trivandrum's elite institute

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

DINHATA: Local boy Abhijit De got the opportunity to do PhD in Mathematics but the family is worried about financial issues. Many people are happy with the success of Abhijit.

Abhijit got the opportunity to do PhD in a reputed institute in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. De's home is in the station area of this town. Only a handful of people across the country have got this opportunity to study there. Father Asitbaran De has a grocery store. In this modern age when there is an opportunity for home delivery, the shop in this remote village does not work that way. It is very difficult to run a family with the income from the shop. The family is struggling to pay for their son's education due to financial constraints.

Asit Baran and his wife Saraswati spend the day with their two sons in a small house. To support his family, Abhijit's elder brother Arijit dropped out of school and started working in a drug store. In addition



Abhijit De with his poor but proud parents.

to the family, Arijit also helps his younger brother to study. The kitchen is on one side of a small room, and their accommodation is on the other side of that room. Somehow they spend the day.

In this difficult situation, Abhijit is trying to overcome the financial adversity by using his talent and indomitable will power. He is currently sitting for the sixth semester examination of the science department of Dinhata College. He took the all-India exams while studying this semester. After that test,

the interview was done online. The final list came out at the end of last month. Abhijit was one among the eight to get a chance in this institute.

Abhijit said, "I have had opportunities before in educational institutions like NIT Raulkela and IIT Tirupati." However, his childhood dream of studying at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Thiruvananthapuram is coming true. From here he would get the opportunity to do postgraduate studies in mathematics and research in algebra.

Arijit, the eldest of Asitbaran De and Saraswati's two sons, is a graduate, but is currently unable to pursue higher education due to financial constraints. Abhijit graduated from Dinhata College with a degree in Mathematics (Honours) and overcame all financial and social adversities with his talent and indomitable will power.

Abhijit said that from here he got the opportunity to do Masters in Mathematics (M.Sc.) and Research in Algebra (Ph.D.). As a result, he is very happy. He expressed his gratitude to his parents and home teacher Siddheshwar Saha. He helped him in many ways by collecting notebooks and undergraduate books at different times. On this day he was greeted by the students of Siddheshwar Saha Educare and Foundation of Dinhata and a cheque of Rs. 10,007 was handed over to him for his admission fee.

His parents are happy with the boy's success. They also highlighted the contribution of Siddheshwar Saha.

# Scam in 100 days work, TMC involvement alleged

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

BALURGHAT: Although not seen working in the field, a chief and her husband were working for a hundred days almost every day. Bills of thousands of rupees were also rising. The residents of the area have raised their voices alleging rampant corruption.

The shocking incident took place at Samajia Gram Panchayat in Kumarganj block of South Dinajpur district.

District Trinamool president Ujjwal Basak's own panchayat in his own area has been exposed to such corruption in the entire South Dinajpur district.

Balurghat MP himself and BJP state president Sukant Majumder also questioned the involvement of the district Trinamool president and getting a share of the money from there.

However, district Trinamool president Ujjwal Basak said he



was not aware of the matter.

The Samajia gram panchayat is adjacent to the Bangladesh border in the Kumarganj block.

In the 2016 panchayat elections, the BJP took over the panchayat. Ujjwal Basak is known as one of the TMC leaders in that area. At present, the Trinamool of South Dinajpur district is standing on his shoulders.

About a year ago, the ruling Trinamool Congress pushed the BJP out of distrust in the Samajia gram panchayat. The

head of which is Runa Laila Begum.

After the allegation, rampant corruption started in that panchayat.

The panchayat chief and her husband Yakub Ali Sarkar allegedly billed thousands of rupees in their own name without working in the field.

When the poor people of the village are not getting money even after working for 100 days, the locals have raised questions about how the bill for 100 days of work is being issued in the name of the chief and her husband.

Why is he silent in the face of such corruption in the Taluk of the district Trinamool president himself? However, the state president of the BJP has raised the issue of the involvement of the district Trinamool president behind the incident.

Balurghat MP Sukanta Majumder said the Trinamool had brought distrust in the panchayat as they did not compromise with corruption.

Now they are taking over and corrupting like themselves.

He also raised the issue of the involvement of the district Trinamool president behind the incident.

Local residents, Tozamble Sarkar and Farida Begum, said they had not received any money for seven to eight months, even after working for 100 days.

They never saw the chief and her husband at work. They are a gang of thieves, killing ordinary people.

Samajia gram panchayat chief Runa Laila Begum, however, said they had never worked for a hundred days.

It is against them that someone is trying to spread false slander.

District Trinamool president Ujjwal Basak, when asked by telephone, said he did not know the matter.

He will be able to inform about this after a thorough investigation.

# Game changer in e-commerce

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA: Gintaa is an e-commerce platform funded by Ascon Softech India, which brings unique features to its platform. It is set to be a game changer and aims to revive the traditional and ancient system where people can exchange goods with each other.

The company was launched in October 2021 in Bangalore.

The key mantra of this platform is 'exchange by sale'.

Based on a recent report by the World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimating 129 gigatonnes of solid waste by 2050, Gintaa promoters are hoping to integrate more disposable-product systems while combining short-term use and long-term environmental damage.

But in order to actually create those alternatives in the market, we need to harness the second driving force - this is the technological change driven by private-sector innovation.

# Pijush Saha's Jaalbandi becomes highest rated bengali film on IMDb

AGENCIES

KOLKATA: As the Covid hang-over seems over, the return of Bengali cinema to the big screen has been a welcome change in West Bengal.

Director Pijush Saha, who has been credited with making commercial stars of the calibre of Soham Chakraborty, Ankush, Rubel Das and all, has come up with his new venture 'Jaalbandi'.

Based on Samaresh Majumdar's novel of the same name, 'Jaalbandi' has been released amidst much interest among film enthusiasts and youngsters. This time around, Pijush Saha has given his son Prince a fitting realistic story, a role who walks on the tight rope of life. Neither a rom-com nor a 'boy meets girl kind of a story, Jaalbandi is a fresh distraction from all the stereotypical feel-good films released recently in Bengal.



The opening scene of Jaalbandi itself is so symbolic of the character Anish played by Prince, who is an insurance agent by profession. In a target-based world, where achievements are defined by time-bound fulfillments, Prince doesn't have the luxury to live in a comfortable zone. As his life goes on, Anish gets entangled with different events, which change his life forever. The unpredictable nature of his job and subsequently his journey

in life itself is the essence of this rollercoaster story.

The ensemble cast of the film itself has been a big asset. Veteran Dipankar De, Kharaj Mukherjee, and June Malia have been true to their roles onscreen. The chemistry between Prince and Darshana has been lively, to say the least, and as usual, Payel Sarkar has been pivotal in getting the glam quotient of the film. The editing of Pronoy Dasgupta has been top class and ever-dependable

and industry stalwart cinematographer Gopi Bhagat has weaved magic frames with his usual finesse. Amit and Ishan's music is fresh and for a change, synced well with the story.

Director Pijush Saha deserves accolades for believing in the new format of modern-day commercial storytelling. This film has all the ingredients to be remade in other vernacular languages, and even better to some extent.

In the changing film dynamics of Indian cinema, when commercial southern films like RRR, Pushpa are making new records almost every day, Bengal needs to promote films such as Jaalbandi for keeping its true essence with the look, feel and treatment of the story. No additional melodrama or plethora of expressions, Prince has won hearts with his sincere attempt in his debut film. No doubt, he seems to have a big career ahead on the big screen.

# WB govt tasks Garden Reach shipbuilders to build next-generation electric ferry

AGENCIES

KOLKATA: In pursuit of reducing the carbon footprint in West Bengal, the leading shipbuilder in India, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.(GRSE), which is also into warship building has been contracted by the state government to design and construct an electric ferry that will help reduce carbon emissions in the state's water transport sector.

The contract was signed by Cdr. Shantanu Bose, the director of GRSE, and Special Secretary of the West Bengal Transport Department, Mr. Anindya Sengupta, in the presence of other senior officials of the company. The agreement is being seen as a big step towards reducing carbon footprint in the state's water transport sector.

"This 'Green' vessel has the potential to replace the conventional diesel engine



driven ferries operated in the Hooghly river. The arrival of the electric ferry shall transform the inland water transport system in National Waterway-1 (NW-1), which is being developed from Haldia to Varanasi under the Ministry of Shipping," reads a GRSE statement.

The authorities of GRSE

stated that the electric ferry, which is expected to be delivered in the next couple of years, will be powered by a liquid-cooled energy storage system of 210 kilowatt per hour. It will also feature air conditioning seating arrangement for 150 passengers. The 24-meter-long electric ferry, constructed by GRSE, will be equipped

with twin screw propellers and a catamaran aluminum hull. It will also be equipped with solar panels on the upper part of its superstructure.

The electric ferry, which will be capable of operating at speeds of up to 10 knots, will be designed and built by GRSE's in-house design team. It has been designed using the latest technology and is being built to comply with the regulations of the classification society. The vessel's hull will also be designed and built to meet the latest safety standards.

The project, which is expected to transform the water transport system in West Bengal, is being carried out through the government's Make-in-India initiative. Cmde PR Hari, the chairman and managing director of GRSE, said that the company was proud to partner with the West Bengal government and was eager to replicate the success of the project in other states.

# Jhargram - a must visit with many attractions throughout the year

SAMIR CHAKRABORTY

Nearly 800 years long and rich history of today's Jhargram district of Midnapur division keeps it vibrant. King and kingdom with feudal dominance from time was witnessed by Jhargram.

But the nature and the lives of common people remained the same amid the war.

The land of Sal, Mahua trees



relieving of the routine humdrum of city life is Jhargram. The forest of Simul and Segun on its entire simplicity has made the people of these areas beautiful and simple, too. In this village cum rural town people cannot restrain their emotion to see many spots in limited turnouts. Season fruits in winter are consigned for the demand of local people and tourists; apart, garden of Cactus and Archid flowers

being an abundant source tourists don't miss to assemble here.

Another notable attraction here is the Jhargram palace and with its vast area enclosed the Rajbari that still exists. With three silver pillars built on two storied palace, the front of area or foyer is a garden of flowers also and fruits are in expanse. Visiting Rajbari proceeds to Savitri Mandir. One hair accumulated Petika is worshipped here.

Nearer to the Rajbari Savitri Mandir is reached from where you may go to bus stand that is just walking distance. From bus stand buses are plying to Junglemahal. Before encroaching to Junglemahal a beautiful forest comes out of the forest. You may find Chilkgarh where the Rajbari of kings may peep you into. Dulung river and famous Kanakdurga Mandir and fort are another quest here. It is 14 km from Jhargram the big foyer of the palace at Chilkgarh palace is seen with

## GETAWAY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

rose garden.

Another attraction of Chilkgarh is chow dance. The kings appreciated these dances. As distinct from Mayurganj and Purulia chow dance this chow are reverberated in Junglemahal. With the name of Babu chow and Maratha chow another dances are performed by the tribals which are equally beautiful and responsive to cultural community.

Two big dams built by the king in Radhanagar is worth seeing. Mail dam and Kerender dam dug by the king are another attraction so far. From there it is easy to go Dear park. In Raghunathpur is established Government's tribal cultural centre that provides the people with cultural activity to grace the standard of people. Here one may find many information about tribal people and their cultural activities. Their dresses, ornaments, Dhak,

Dhol, Madal, manuscripts are carefully preserved. For orphaned girls and less aged widows Lady Abala Basu, wife of Acharya Jagadish Chandra Basu, had erected Vidyasagar Bhawan. These ragged girls and widows are taught how to sew in general stitches and Nakshi kantha also.

From Jhargram a road leading to Gopiballavpur to Baripada in Odisha, another one going to Hatibari in a distance of 65 km on West Bengal-Jharkhand-Odisha border covering mostly forested areas with Sal, Piyal and Mahua trees. Here forest is clasped with hills and so enthralling that tourists sometimes get lost in emotion and down to Subarnarekha is flown with roaring water.

Wildlife, different types of birds and reptiles may meet you at any time. Though a portion of river seems to be in dry wash still beauty persists with other beauties, too. It's nice to

see the stream trickles down into the hollow. While birds are trilling out in the nearby bushes white monkeys scoot past in haste. Young plants are thrusting up everywhere and the two wood cutters stride away down to the hills. Sallying forth one fine morning to seek adventure must turn you in an another world.

Again, Belpahari may beckon you up, 45 km from the district where the Sal-Segun trees are thickly stood on either side of the road and it looks like a valley. During Makarshankranti Belpahari becomes vibrant with Tusu Utsov.

From Belpahari via Valuvada 28 km and Shiyarbeda in 36 km may reach you to Kankrajhor. Either side of the hilly road the dominance of forest makes a shade if fortune goes well you may come across wild-life bear, wild pigs, bison and even elephants of Dalma. From Jhargram going to Hatibari via Jamsol, if not bus available



then from Jamsol to Lodhasuli 4km and forest here is different dimension.

Going to Jhargram by train is very easy. Get down after 155 km journey from any train plying between Howrah-Tatanagar section and ask vehicles for Jhargram travel areas. Apart, by personal car Jhargram can be easily reached from Howrah on NH-6 and take changes routes from Jhargram proper. More buses available from Digha,

Purulia, Belpahari, Bankura, Khargapur and Tatanagar to Jhargram.

Staying is also problem free as several hotels have come up there. 1. Aranya Sundari guest House, Jail Khana more, Ghoradhara Mob.9433271101, 9547668966; 2. Banani Atithi Nibas, Kadam Karon; 3. Josodha Bhaban Guest House, Central bus stand, Mob.No. 9800055195; 4. Viewpoint Guest House, Lodhasuli mob. 9933926112.