

**THUMBNAILS**



An illuminated Kolkata street ahead of New Year on Tuesday. ■ Biswajit Ghoshal

**Coaches augmented:** With a view to clear extra rush of passengers during the winter holidays, South Eastern Railway has augmented two extra general chair car coaches (GSCZ) with 12821 Howrah-Puri Dhauli Express during the period from 31 December to 31 January, 2015 and 12822 Puri-Howrah Dhauli Express during the period from 1 January, 2015 to 1 February, 2015.

**Train services disrupted:** Train services were disrupted on the south section of Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway on Tuesday as the supporters of a political party squatted on the Railway track on different stations, including Dakshin Barasat, Canning, Joy nagar Majilpur, Diamond Harbour and Baruipur, for one hour from 10 a.m.

**Blockade:** Cadres of Suci on Tuesday blocked rail services for an hour demanding more facilities for the train passengers at stations under Sealdah south section. The blockade continued from 10 am to 11 am.

**SUDIPTO SEN HOSPITALISED**

**Kolkata, 30 December:** Saradha Group chief Sudipto Sen was admitted to hospital in Alipore Correctional Home as he was suffering from fever. Rajat Majumder, who was also arrested in connection with the Saradha scam and at present is in Alipore Correctional Home, also fell ill and has been taken to the hospital in the correctional home. This morning Sen complaint of suffering from fever. He also had trouble breathing and pain in the heart. He was immediately taken to the hospital in the correctional home.

**Police suspect property dispute behind murder of 78-yr-old woman on Monday**

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
Kolkata, 30 December

A day after a 78-year-old woman was found murdered in her flat near Rashbehari avenue, police suspect a property dispute to be the motive behind the crime. The body of Kamala Devi was recovered from her flat at Jatindas road last evening with serious injuries on her head. She also had injury marks on other parts of her body. The woman had been living alone in the flat after the death of her husband, a businessman, ten years ago. Her body was lying on a floor in a prostrate condition. The relatives alerted the police after they opened the door of her house using a duplicate key. They turned up at her flat after she didn't appear at a wedding party.

# STARVING STATE SPENDS LAKHS ON UTPS

72 PER CENT OF INMATES OF STATE'S CORRECTIONAL HOMES ARE UNTRIAL PRISONERS

**GURVINDER SINGH**  
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Kolkata, 30 December

The funds-starved state government that has failed to launch new projects due to lack of money is spending lakhs of rupees on the food and medical expenses of undertrial prisoners (UTPs) languishing in different jails. This is due to the sluggish trial process stretching for years. Nearly 72 per cent of the prisoners lodged in the state jails are under trials. Of

the total 21,000-odd inmates in 58 jails across the state, 15,000 approximately are undertrials. The government allocates Rs 52 each day for the food expense on each prisoner. This roughly translates to around Rs 38 crores a year for all the prisoners. Of the total amount, Rs 27 crores is spent on undertrials alone. The amount, moreover, excludes the medical expenses and the funds spend on the prisoners' daily requirements. Among the prisoners are

**FIGURES**

- Total number of prisoners-20973
- Sanctioned strength-20916
- Undertrials-14999
- Convicts-5266
- Bangladeshis-450
- Food bills of UTP's-27 cr
- ★ All figures as of 1 December 2014

scores of Bangladeshi nationals who have already completed their term but

could not be released because of the delay in completion of legal formalities required before sending them back. The minister for correctional administration, Mr Haider Aziz Safwi, attributes the delay to the tiring judicial process, coupled with the absence of people to furnish the bail bonds of UTPs languishing in jails. "The complicated legal process delays the release of the prisoners, forcing them to spend time behind bars. Their overstay is not only a problem for the jails

already filled beyond capacity but is also an extra burden to the state treasury." The minister further pointed out that several UTPs become depressed and develop suicidal tendencies, while some who are charged with petty crimes graduate into hardened criminals due to their mingling with hard-core miscreants. The Bangladeshi nationals languishing in different jails, mainly in North Bengal, despite the com-

pletion of their term is also a serious headache for the government. An estimate suggests of the total 5,226 convicts in state jails, 450 are Bangladeshis. "The legal hassles and the delay on the part of the Bangladesh government to verify their antecedents often results in the inmates having to overstay in jails," said a senior jail official. Legal experts rue that the shortage of judges coupled with the delay tactics of one or the other of the par-

ties, who expect to get adversely judgment drags the cases on for years. In Calcutta High Court, the current strength of judges is 42 as against the sanctioned capacity of 59. "Though the fast track courts have been set up, the shifting of judges along with holidays and delay tactics by the litigants often delays judgment resulting in the cases piling up in the courts for years," said Prasanna Kumar Dutta, member of West Bengal bar council.

## NRI doc highlights cases of medical negligence in state

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
Kolkata, 30 December

Glaring evidence of everyday gross medical negligence given by Dr Kunal Saha, an NRI doctor who lost his wife, Anuradha Saha, 15 years ago due to medical negligence, and many other victims today depicts the increasingly deteriorating quality of the state health sector. Attacking the chief minister, Dr Saha said, "Ms Mamata Banerjee is not only the state minister but also health minister. The health sector under her leadership has further deteriorated." Highlighting the incident of Korpan Shah, he said "While taking over the charge, Ms Banerjee said that the state health sector would improve, however, three years down the line medical students beat a man to death over an allegation of theft." Accusing Nirmal Majhi, Trinamul Congress MLA, of

shielding the accused of Korpan Shah's death, Dr Shah said that people like him and Ketan Desai are ruining the medical system backed by negligent doctors. General (Retd.) Shankar Roychowdhury suggested that the All India medical council and state medical councils should have 50 per cent of their members from non-medical background so as to facilitate fair and speedy judgments. Several victims came up with their harrowing experience of suffering inflicted on them by hospitals like Ruby General Hospital, Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, SSKM hospital and so on. One of the victims whose relative died, as claimed by him, due to medical negligence at Ruby General Hospital, sarcastically highlighted that the same hospital has been awarded as the best multi-speciality hospital by the union minister Mr Ram Vilas

Paswan. The father of Suhana Yasmin, a 12-year-old girl who died due to alleged medical negligence, said that he has been fighting for justice and further alleged that Dr Pradip Mitra, director of SSKM hospital, had said that although he has been trying to get him justice, he is being pressurised by ministers to bury the case. Dr Mitra, however, denied being pressurised by ministers and informed that the case of Yasmin is being reviewed and pursued critically. Dr Kunal Saha underlined the fact that although many a doctor would speak of medical negligence and even agree on a case of medical negligence yet hardly anyone would give the same in writing in the fear of facing backlash from the medical fraternity. He urged the common people to come forward as "nobody is immune to wrong treatment here".



New Years greeting cards on sale in Kolkata on Tuesday. ■ Dilip Dutta

## RBU to set up new campus at Rajarhat

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
Kolkata, 30 December

Rabindra Bharati University is to set up a new campus in Rajarhat as plans are underway to create a museum at the residence of Rabindranath Tagore at Jorasanko. The whole of the Nobel laureate poet's residence would be needed for the purpose of setting up the museum; hence it has become necessary to shift the campus. The university currently conducts many of its classes at the poet's residence in Jorasanko. The state government

**STATE'S SUPPORT**



- The state government has already agreed to provide 10 acre land in Rajarhat for setting up a new campus of the university.
- CM has directed the authorities to complete the project by the end of next year.
- St Xavier's College and Presidency University already have campuses at Rajarhat.

has already agreed to provide a 10-acre plot of land in Rajarhat for setting up a new campus of the university. The state government especially chief minister Mamata Banerjee has directed the authorities to complete the project by the end of next year. A campus of Saint Xavier's College and another of Presidency University have already been set up at Rajarhat. With increased space, the university can also accommodate lot more students. Following granting of land to Rabindra Bharati University, many more universities have become hopeful regarding extension of their campuses in Rajarhat area. The university has expressed its gratitude to the chief minister.

## Tight security for New Year's Eve; drone may be deployed

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
Kolkata, 30 December

Security in the city will be tightened to avoid any untoward incident on the eve of New Year tomorrow. A senior police officer said Park Street area has been divided into five zones and policemen led by a deputy commissioner will be posted in each of the zones. Apart from the existing four, six more watch towers have been erected at different parts of Park Street and Shakespeare Sarani. Apart from Park Street,

an additional 2,500 policemen will be posted to maintain law and order in other parts of the city. Women police officers will also be deployed to stop harassment of women. Officers of the detective department will also patrol in plain clothes and officers, led by a senior officer, will be posted at all the important crossings near Park Street. Police assistance booths will be set up at Park Street. Three additional High Radio Flying Squads and 16 Radio Flying Squads (RFS) of Kolkata Police will be deployed to

avert any untoward incident. Two Quick Response teams will also be posted. Policemen will be posted at Park Street in two shifts. The first shift will start in the evening and end at 2 a.m. while another set of policemen, who will join duty at midnight will continue till 6 a.m. There will be security checks at 97 important intersections in the city. Policemen on motorbikes will also patrol in the city. An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle may also be used to keep a vigil in the Park Street area and its vicinity.

## 3 HELD FOR DAMAGING PORTION OF PVT HOSPITAL

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
Kolkata, 30 December

Three persons, named Taufiq, Dheeraj and Vishal Sau, were arrested on charges of damaging a portion of the reception desk of a private hospital at Alipore following a scuffle between two groups this evening. Sources said men backed by a close aide of a state minister allegedly ransacked the reception desk of the hospital as the hospital authorities refused to accept his demand to reduce the expenses of treatment of a patient by Rs 50,000. The incident took place when members of a rival group of the close aide of the minister also reached the hospital with a similar proposal of reducing treatment expenses of another patient.

know that she had a property in Kaliampang, from which she used to get rent every month. The rent was the source of her livelihood. "We suspect that property dispute might have been the reason for the crime, but it is too early to arrive at any conclusion," said another official connected with the investigation. The property row theory is strengthened by the fact that nothing was missing from the flat except Kamala's cell phone. Police are also yet to crack mystery behind the murder of a 60-year-old woman who was found dead at her house in Ramnagar Lane in Garden Reach, while her 12-year-old daughter was recovered in a critical state. The latter is battling for life at SSKM. Here too, property dispute is thought to be the reason behind the murder.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
Kolkata, 30 December

The West Bengal government today inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with three expert agencies, including the Unicef, for technical support in setting up the International Centre for Water Quality Research at Joka in south-west fringes of Kolkata. The Centre is to come up on a 9.5 acre plot at a cost of Rs 363-crore funded by the Central government and the completion deadline in 2016. Former finance minister Mr Pranab Mukherjee had made the announcement in the Union Budget of 2012-13 and had allocated Rs 50-

## STATE INKS MOU TO SET UP RESEARCH CENTRE

**MEMORANDUM**

- The Centre is to come up on a 9.5 acre plot at a cost of Rs 363-crore funded by the Central government and the completion deadline in 2016.
- Former finance minister Mr Pranab Mukherjee had made the announcement in the Union Budget of 2012-13 and had allocated Rs 50-

crore as the first installment. Principal secretary of the state public health and engineering (PHE) department Mr Saurav Das signed the MoU with representatives of Stockholm-based KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), in the presence

of state PHE minister Subrata Mukherjee. The MoU also covers collaborative research for implementation of sustainable arsenic mitigation methods in the affected localities of Bengal. "This is for the first time that a state government department has inked a MoU with international agencies of repute. This will go a

long way in tackling arsenic contamination in our state and ensure supply of quality drinking water to everyone," Mr Mukherjee said. The minister said that they were also contemplating setting up a hospital within the International Centre for Water Quality Research at Joka for people affected by water-related disease. According to figures available with the state PHE department, as on 1 April 2014, there are around 11,614 water quality affected localities / areas in Bengal and of them, 1,124 are affected by arsenic. In Kolkata, ground water in some localities in Jadavpur and Lake Gardens are affected by arsenic.

# Hand in hand