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10,000 Crore Industrial Leap: CM Suwendu Adhikari Unveils Bengal's Manufacturing Vision with Shyam Steel Plant in Bankura

Kolkata, 17 July : West Bengal took a significant step towards strengthening its industrial future as Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari laid the foundation stone for a major Shyam Steel manufacturing plant at Mejia in Bankura district on Friday. The ceremony marked the beginning of one of the state's biggest industrial investments in recent years and was accompanied by the announcement of a broader ₹10,000 crore investment push aimed at accelerating manufacturing, infrastructure development and employment generation across West Bengal. The event was attended by senior government officials, industrialists, company executives, public representatives, entrepreneurs and thousands of local residents, reflecting the importance attached to the project by both the government and the private sector. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari described the new Shyam Steel facility as a landmark project that would redefine the industrial landscape of Bankura while strengthening West Bengal's position as one of India's emerging manufacturing destinations. He said the state government was committed to creating an investor-friendly ecosystem that encourages industries to establish large manufacturing units capable of generating sustainable economic growth and creating employment op-



portunities for the youth. According to the Chief Minister, industrialisation remains one of the strongest pillars for achieving long-term prosperity, and the government is determined to ensure that every district benefits from this transformation rather than limiting development to metropolitan regions. The proposed Shyam Steel manufacturing plant is expected to emerge as one of the largest industrial facilities in western West Bengal. Equipped with modern production technology, advanced automation systems and environmentally responsible manufacturing processes, the plant is designed to enhance steel production capacity while maintaining high standards of quality, efficiency and sustainability. Company officials said the new facility would

play a key role in meeting the rising domestic demand for steel generated by infrastructure projects, urban development, housing construction, railway expansion, highways, renewable energy installations and industrial growth across the country. During his address, the Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced that the state government was working towards attracting investments worth nearly ₹10,000 crore through a series of industrial initiatives spanning steel, engineering, logistics, manufacturing, warehousing and allied sectors. He emphasised that the government's industrial policy focuses not only on attracting capital investment but also on ensuring faster project approvals, improved ease of doing business, transparent governance and the

creation of world-class industrial infrastructure. He stated that West Bengal possesses every competitive advantage required to emerge as a preferred investment destination, including a skilled workforce, strategic geographic location, strong connectivity, access to ports, reliable power supply and abundant natural resources. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari highlighted that industrial development creates opportunities far beyond factory gates. While the Shyam Steel plant itself is expected to employ thousands of workers directly, its larger economic impact will be visible through the creation of indirect employment across transportation, logistics, construction, engineering services, equipment maintenance, hospitality, retail trade and numerous ancillary industries. He said that every large manufacturing unit generates a ripple effect that supports local businesses, encourages entrepreneurship and strengthens the economic foundation of surrounding communities. The project is expected to transform Bankura into a major industrial hub in western West Bengal. Traditionally recognised for agriculture, handicrafts and small-scale industries, the district is now poised to witness a new phase of industrial expansion that could significantly alter its economic profile.

Murshidabad Tragedy: Death Toll Rises, CM Suwendu Adhikari Warns 'No Mercy for Negligence'

Kolkata, 17 July : West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has expressed deep sorrow over a tragic accident in Murshidabad, extending his condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and assuring comprehensive assistance for the injured and those affected. The Chief Minister described the incident as deeply distressing and directed the state administration to ensure that rescue, relief, and medical services were carried out without delay.

The accident has sent shockwaves across the district, prompting an immediate response from local authorities, emergency personnel, and healthcare teams. Rescue operations were launched soon after the incident, with police, disaster response teams, and local volunteers working together to assist victims and transport the injured to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Reacting to the tragedy, Chief Minister Adhikari said the state government stands firmly with the affected families during this difficult time. He conveyed heartfelt sympathies to those who lost their



loved ones and wished a speedy recovery for the injured. The Chief Minister also instructed senior administrative officials to remain at the site, closely monitor the rescue efforts, and ensure that all necessary support reaches those in need.

According to officials, emergency services responded swiftly after receiving information about the accident. Medical teams were deployed to provide immediate treatment, while district authorities coordinated rescue and rehabilitation measures. Hospitals in the region were placed on alert to handle the influx of injured victims and provide specialised medical care wherever required.

The Chief Minister

stressed that no effort should be spared in providing quality healthcare and relief assistance. He directed the concerned departments to maintain close communication with the families of the victims and ensure that all government support schemes available for accident-affected families are implemented without unnecessary delay.

The incident has once again highlighted the importance of rapid emergency response systems and coordinated action during accidents. Local residents also joined the rescue efforts in the initial stages, assisting emergency workers in reaching those trapped or injured before professional rescue teams fully secured the area.



The Honorable Minister of West Bengal, Shri Suwendu Adhikari, laid the foundation stone for Shyam Steel's new production unit in Mejia, Bankura.

US Airstrikes Shake Chabahar Dream, Middle East War Puts India's China Strategy Under Pressure

New Delhi, 17 July : India's long-standing strategic vision of transforming Iran's Chabahar Port into a gateway for trade with Afghanistan, Central Asia and Europe has come under fresh uncertainty as renewed American military strikes in Iran deepen instability across the Middle East. What was once seen as New Delhi's most ambitious geopolitical investment is now facing one of its toughest tests, with experts warning that the conflict could reshape regional trade routes and strengthen China's influence. The latest escalation began after a series of US airstrikes targeted strategic military installations inside Iran, triggering fresh tensions across the Gulf region. As fears of a wider regional conflict grow, concerns are mounting over the future of critical infrastructure projects, including the Chabahar Port, where India has invested heavily for more than a decade. For India, Chabahar is much more than a commercial

port. It represents a strategic alternative to Pakistan's Gwadar Port, which has been developed by China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. By operating Chabahar, India sought to bypass Pakistan and establish direct connectivity with Afghanistan and the resource-rich Central Asian republics. The project was also expected to strengthen India's position in the International North-South



Transport Corridor linking India with Europe through Iran, the Caucasus and Russia. However, the worsening security situation has cast serious doubts over these ambitions. Military activity near

Iranian territory has raised concerns about shipping safety, insurance costs and the willingness of global logistics companies to operate in the region. Any prolonged disruption could delay cargo movement, discourage investors and weaken the economic viability of the port. The conflict has also revived fears about the security of vital maritime routes in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea. Al-

though Chabahar lies outside the Strait of Hormuz, any escalation involving Iran could affect regional shipping traffic, leading to higher freight costs and greater uncertainty for international trade. Energy

markets are also watching developments closely, as any disruption to oil exports from the Gulf could increase crude prices and impact India's energy security. Strategic analysts believe the crisis could indirectly benefit China. Beijing has already expanded its economic and strategic footprint across West Asia through long-term investments, infrastructure projects and diplomatic engagement with regional powers. If instability slows India's progress at Chabahar while Chinese-backed projects continue to advance, New Delhi's efforts to counter Beijing's influence in the region could suffer a significant setback. India has maintained a carefully balanced diplomatic approach throughout the crisis, calling for restraint and peaceful dialogue while preserving relations with both Iran and the United States. New Delhi faces the difficult challenge of protecting its strategic interests without alienating either partner.

Sonam Wangchuk Ends Hunger Strike, Urges Citizens to Carry Forward Ladakh's Fight

New Delhi, 17 July: Climate activist and education reformer Sonam Wangchuk is expected to break his hunger strike after leading a march towards Parliament, bringing renewed attention to the long-standing demands of Ladakh residents. The protest, which has drawn national attention, focused on issues related to environmental protection, constitutional safeguards, and greater representation for the Union Territory. Wangchuk, known for his work in sustainable development and grassroots education, began the hunger strike as part of a campaign highlighting concerns raised by people of Ladakh. The protest movement has demanded stronger protections for the fragile Himalayan ecosystem and greater involvement of local communities in decisions affecting their land, resources, and future. The hunger strike gained momentum as supporters, activists,



and civil society groups joined the campaign, expressing concerns over rapid development pressures in the ecologically sensitive region. Ladakh, which became a Union Territory in 2019, has witnessed increasing debates over issues such as employment opportunities, environmental conservation, and administrative powers. The Parliament march organised by Wangchuk and his supporters became a significant moment in the protest campaign. Carrying messages related to democracy, climate

protection, and local rights, participants marched towards the national capital to draw attention from lawmakers and policymakers. The demonstration highlighted the growing concerns among sections of Ladakh's population regarding the protection of their unique cultural and ecological identity. Wangchuk's decision to end the hunger strike comes after the protest succeeded in bringing wider public focus to the issues raised by the movement. Supporters said the objective was not only to stage a

protest but also to encourage dialogue between the government and representatives of Ladakh. The activist has repeatedly emphasised that development in the Himalayan region must be carefully planned to avoid environmental damage. According to campaigners, Ladakh's fragile ecosystem faces challenges from climate change, water scarcity, and increasing pressure from infrastructure expansion. They have called for policies that balance economic growth with ecological responsibility. The protest has also highlighted demands for constitutional safeguards that would provide greater protection to land, culture, and local employment opportunities. Supporters argue that such measures are necessary to preserve the interests of indigenous communities and ensure sustainable development in the region.

Narendra Modi Launches India's First Hydrogen Train, Marking a New Era of Green Rail Transport

New Delhi, 17 July : India marked a significant milestone in its journey towards clean and sustainable transportation as Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the country's first hydrogen-powered train in Haryana's Jind district. Calling the launch a symbol of India's technological progress and commitment to green energy, the Prime Minister declared that the nation's development journey has continued uninterrupted despite global wars, geopolitical tensions, and fluctuations in international oil markets. The inauguration of the hydrogen train represents a major step in India's efforts to modernise its railway network while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Designed to operate using hydrogen fuel technology, the train is expected to contribute to cleaner mobility by producing minimal emissions compared to conven-



tional diesel-powered locomotives. Addressing a large gathering during the launch ceremony, Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's resilience in the face of global economic uncertainty. Referring to ongoing international conflicts and volatility in crude oil prices, he said that while many countries have experienced economic disruptions, India has maintained the momentum of its development agenda through sustained investments in

infrastructure, innovation, and energy security. The Prime Minister stated that the country's growth trajectory has been driven by long-term planning and technological advancement rather than being dictated by external challenges. He described the hydrogen train as an example of India's determination to embrace future-ready technologies while pursuing environmentally sustainable development. The hydrogen-powered train forms part of

the government's broader strategy to promote green transportation and reduce carbon emissions. Hydrogen fuel cells generate electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, producing water vapour as the primary by-product. This technology is increasingly being viewed worldwide as an important solution for achieving cleaner public transport systems and meeting climate goals. Officials associated with the railway project explained that the introduction of hydrogen-powered trains aligns with Indian Railways' vision of becoming a more environmentally responsible transport network. The initiative is also expected to encourage research and domestic manufacturing in hydrogen-based technologies, supporting India's ambition to emerge as a global hub for clean energy innovation.