



Virat's COMEBACK

SPORTS P16



Park Street Flyover to remain SHUT

P3



Mahesh Babu tested POSITIVE

P22

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IN Brief

Bengal Covid Reports



In a massive spike in covid 19 cases, the State reported 17 deaths and 14,022 fresh cases on Wednesday, nearly 4,949 more than yesterday. Containment zones in Kolkata increased from 25 to 48 due to the increase in covid 19 patients.

15-18 Aged Covid Vaccine

Around 1 Lakh beneficiaries in the age bracket of 15 – 18 years were vaccinated in Bengal on Monday.



The drive started in several private hospitals, KMC clinics and 16 schools in Kolkata. "On the first day of drive, 1,02,837 doses were administered", said Ajay Chakraborty, director of health services.

Municipal Corporation Elections Amidst Covid



Election Protocols Monitoring

Photo:PTI

West Bengal : The West Bengal State Election Commission on Monday announced that polls to four major municipal corporations Siliguri, Chandannagar, Bidhannagar, Asansol will be held on January 22.

The voting will be from 7am to 5pm and counting of votes will take place on January 25. The Article 21 of constitution says about right to life, right to health which cannot be suspended even in during an emergency, but getting challenges in Bengal's corporation election where covid cases are rising but people are giving more interest in polls. West Bengal state elec-

tion commission announced model code of conduct for the four municipal corporations election in Bengal. Across the four municipal corporations, over 19 lakh registered voters will elect candidates for 227 seats at 2,078 polling stations. Out of the four centres, Asansol city is the biggest urban centre with 106 seats and a voter voter base of over 9laks, followed by siliguri with 47 seats, chandannagar with 33 and Bidhannagar with 41 wards, the SEC said. EC bans large rallies and urge to people to maintain proper guidelines but does this implements on the ground?

Government Fearing Covid Postpones Student's Week



Student's Week Cancellation

Photo:Miraj Das

West Bengal : Starting January 1, the Mamata Banerjee led Trinamool Congress party planned to organize a week dedicated to all the students of the state. The program was planned for every school, college, university and educational institute. Similarly, the program was to be held at District and State levels. In context of the deteriorating COVID-19 situation in West Bengal, the state government has decided to cancel and postponed the Students' Week programme which was scheduled to be held between January 1 and 7 at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata. The week aimed to focus on

awareness of the students regarding different beneficial schemes implemented by the State government. She also went ahead and declared January 1 as Student's day. "From now on, the first day of the year would be dedicated to the students because they are our future", said the hon'ble Chief Minister. In the light of the rapidly evolving situation regarding the spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, govt was forced to shut down the student's week program as a result of the ongoing situation in the state. West Bengal reported 9,073 fresh Covid-19 cases, an increase of over 49.27 percent in a single day.

Siliguri Pride Walk Featuring Towards LGBTQ+ Equality



Same Sex Love

Photo : Miraj Das

Siliguri Pride Walk (SPW 2021) : A group of enthusiastic activists along with the members of the LGBTQ+ community head out for a protesting rally on 26th December 2021 marching all the way from Air view more to Baghatin park protesting for the injustice faced by the LGBTQ+

community and a throaty demand for their equal rights. The agenda for the walk were adoption rights, LGBTQ+ marriage rights, asking for a gender-neutral washroom and sanitary facilities, demanding changes in the transgender person's act, 2019, to eradicate violence against the commu-

nity, scope of sensitization in workplace, LGBTQ+ inclusive education and lastly a horizontal reservation in all the quotas. People from in and around the town were invited to join the rally with absolutely no participation fees. Everyone along with the community people were face painted with the pride colours, creative posters were ready and briefing was done supported by the Siliguri Metropolitan Police. "Hey Hey Ho Ho, HOMOPHOBIA has to go" was the most spoken slogan during the rally. "If equality is not given through appeals and requests, we know how to snatch the rights through protest" A head volunteer said

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