The shops gutted in the fire at Dudhia, Kurseong subdivision, on Thursday

Shops go up in flames at Dudhia, Balurghat

OUR BUREAU

Siliguri/Raiganj: Five shops were gutted in fires at the Kurseong subdivision of Darjeeling and in Balurghat town in the early on Thursday.

Residents of Dudhia in the Kurseong subdivision, approximately 30km from Siliguri, spotted flames at a market around 4am.

The villagers rushed to douse the blaze after informing the fire department. Two fire tenders from the Kurseong and Matigara fire stations were dispatched and extinguished the blaze after nearly two hours.

Residents at the site of the fire, which destroyed three shops, in Balurghat town on Thursday

Two shops were gutted. Anit Thapa, the chief executive of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, visited the area later and spoke with the owners. He has assured them of all necessary assistance for their rehabilitation, said a source.

Residents requested that a fire tender be permanently deployed for the area, as the nearest fire station at Matigara is approximately 20km away.

Three shops were gutted in a fire at a market in the Bridge Kali Mandir area of Balurghat town.

A source said a wooden furniture shop, a steel furniture shop and a stationery shop were destroyed.

Five fire engines and police rushed to the scene. It took around three and a half hours to douse the flames.

The shop owners said goods worth around ₹50 lakh were reduced to ashes. The residents suspect that an electrical short circuit caused the blaze.

The police and the fire department are investigating the cause of the fire, said a source.

Cops attacked during tribal march in Siliguri

Police & adivasis clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Siliguri: Police used water cannon, teargas and batons to disperse 1,000 people who were marching to Uttarkanya, the branch secretariat of north Bengal, here on Thursday, when they attempted to breach barricades and pelted the law enforcers with stones and bottles.

A tribal outfit called Janajati Suraksha Mancha organised the march. Sikha Chatterjee, the BJP MLA of Dabgram-Fulbari, was part of the procession which was held to protest the assault on a pregnant tribal woman at Jhamaklal Jote in the Phansidewa Assembly constituency of Darjeeling district over a land dispute in December.

According to them, the woman sustained severe injuries in the attack and subsequently lost her child. The protesters demanded immediate arrests of the culprits, exemplary punishment for the accused, and adequate financial compensation for the victim's family.

Around 3pm, the rally started from Jalpai More and proceeded towards Uttarkanya. A large police contingent from the Siliguri Metropolitan Police, led by senior officers, was deployed at Tinbatti More to prevent the marchers.

Barricades were placed along Asian Highway 2, and water cannons were kept on standby as the area around Uttarkanya is designated a restricted zone.

Around 3.30pm, the protesters managed to remove one of the barricades and headed forward. The police told the marchers that such a large gathering would not be permitted to approach the secretariat.

The protesters, however, refused to disperse and began hurling water bottles and stones at the police. The police soon used the water cannon and batons and fired teargas shells. By 4pm, the situation was brought under control.

Sources said at least 10 police personnel were injured in the violence. On the other hand, 16 individuals were arrested on the spot.

"They had assembled unlawfully. We requested them to vacate the area. But when they attacked us with stones and bottles, we used minimum force to disperse the mob," said Rakesh Singh, deputy commissioner (east), and underscored that the march was organised without prior permission.

Siliguri mayor Gautam Deb, who is a senior Trinamool Congress leader, accused some BJP leaders of provoking the tribal community to engage in violent activities.

"After the incident (assault on the pregnant woman), all necessary steps were taken by the police and the administration. But two months after the incident, BJP leaders, including Darjeeling MP Raju Bista, are inciting the simple tribal people into violence by issuing provocative statements. We condemn it and demand steps against these leaders as the elections are ahead, and these people are conspiring as they lack proper issues," Deb said.

Last week, Bista visited the victim's family in Phansidewa and condemned the assault.

On Thursday, the MP as well as Chatterjee, the Dabgram-Fulbari MLA, condemned the lathi-charge.

"A tribal woman was assaulted, and her baby did not survive. But when the tribal people demanded justice for it, they were beaten and arrested. We want the chief minister to resign," she said.

Bista, in a social media post, alleged that the administration tried to shield the accused of the case, and so far, all those who were involved in the attack on the women have not been arrested.

"The peaceful protest was on the way to Uttarkanya. However, the police resorted to violence, ranging from teargas shelling, lathicharge, and using water cannon on tribal brothers and sisters," he wrote.

Police use the water cannon to disperse the agitators in Siliguri on Thursday.
Pictures by Passang Yolmo

The agitators and the police at Tinbatti More in Siliguri on Thursday

Steel bridge restores road to Lachen

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Siliguri: Union minister of state for defence Sanjay Seth on Thursday inaugurated the newly constructed Taram Chu steel bridge, thus formally restoring vital connectivity on the Chungthang–Lachen road in north Sikkim.

Road connectivity to Lachen, a prominent tourist destination in Sikkim, was snapped in October 2023 due to a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) that wreaked havoc in the state.

Seth landed at the helipad in Chatten and went to the site nearby. Seth apart, Samdup Lepcha, the state minister for social welfare and the Lachen-Mangan MLA, officials of the army, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the General Reserve Engineering Force (GREF) were present at the event.

The MoS unveiled the plaque and formally inaugurated the steel suspension bridge. Priests performed traditional religious rituals.

In his address, Seth lauded the efforts of the BRO and the GREF for completing the project within a short timeframe despite the challenging terrain and adverse weather conditions. He also expressed gratitude to the Sikkim chief minister and the state government for their support and coordination.

Minister of state for defence Sanjay Seth (in a military green jacket) **and others on the newly constructed Taram Chu steel bridge on Thursday.** Picture courtesy: Sikkim government

"The bridge would not only restore normalcy for residents of Lachen and surrounding areas but also enhance strategic mobility in this sensitive border region," he said.

Minister Lepcha, who spoke at the event, highlighted the hardships faced by residents of Lachen and nearby areas after the GLOF and other natural calamities.

Sources said that the newly constructed 400-foot-long Bailey suspension steel bridge over Taram Chu and the restored 28-kilometre-long Chunthanh-Lachen Road marked a major milestone in post-disaster recovery efforts.

"The restoration re-establishes a crucial lifeline between Chungthang and Lachen, ensuring smooth civilian and tourist movement, uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, enhanced disaster response capability and strengthened national security logistics," said a BRO source.

Those associated with the tourism industry welcomed the development. After the GLOF, tourist movement stopped in north Sikkim due to extensive damage.

Eventually, tourist hotspot Lachung was opened to visitors, but Lachen remained closed with no road connectivity.

"It is good that connectivity to Lachen was finally restored today with the opening of the new bridge. We hope that in due course, tourists will be allowed to visit Lachen and the Gurudongmar Lake (beyond Lachen)," said Samrat Sanyal, general secretary, the Himalayan Hospitality and Tourism Development Network.

Posters target BJP MLA

KOUSIK SEN

Raiganj: Posters targeting Soumen Roy, the BJP MLA of Kaliaganj in North Dinajpur district, were put in the town and nearby areas on Thursday.

The posters, which were spotted near a local college and at Tarangapur market, carry the party symbol an says "courtesy: BJP workers". It calls the sitting MLA an "outsider" and carries slogans like "Remove traitor Soumen Roy, save BJP".

The BJP's decision to field Soumen Roy from Kaliaganj for the 2021 Assembly elections, despite him being perceived as an outsider, had sparked protests within the party's local ranks. Within a few months of becoming an MLA, Roy defected to the Trinamool, intensifying the resentment against him. He did not formally resign from the BJP, like some other BJP MLAs who have joined Trinamool.

He was reportedly seldom seen participating in political programmes in the constituency in the following three years. Roy rejoined the BJP before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Roy said: "These banners have been put up in the dead of night by Trinamool before the elections to mislead our party supporters and the public."

INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR REPAIRS

Dykes develop cracks, worry ahead of high tides

SUBHASISH CHAUDHURI

Calcutta: Sudden erosion-induced damage to earthen embankments at two separate locations in the Basirhat subdivision has prompted residents to urge the North 24-Parganas district administration to carry out immediate repairs to prevent large-scale inundation during the high tidal waves expected later next week.

A 150ft stretch of the earthen dyke along the Dasha river at Chak Khanpukur in Hansnabad caved in on Monday night. Around the same time, a 60ft portion of the embankment along the Chhoto Kulagachhi river near the Bermajur 1 cremation ghat in Sandeshkhali was also damaged.

Sources said the two embankments had developed cracks because of the erosion.

In both cases, the administration moved quickly, directing irrigation department officials to initiate protective measures before the anticipated high tide could worsen the situation.

In Hansnabad, block development officer Samir Mondal, Ananda Sarkar, the Hansnabad 1 block president of the Trinamool Congress, and irrigation engineers reached the site and began emergency earth-filling operations.

"We have somehow begun temporary repairs using earth movers. Senior engineers will examine the situation further and take up the job. Preferably, a pucca embankment will be constructed to ensure a permanent solution. Since the monsoon is just a couple of months away and this problem could recur, we aim to ensure a permanent solution. Otherwise, people in three adjacent gram panchayat areas will face inundation and huge losses to land and property," said Sarkar.

He said the earthen dyke of the Dasha had already been in a very bad state.

"Irrigation officials visited the spot. We have told the BDO and irrigation authorities that most people here are farmers. If any breach remains unrepaired, the village will be flooded, creating a major survival crisis."

Mondal assured residents of swift action.

"Local people have long complained about the poor condition of the embankment. They have also suggested permanent solutions such as a concrete dyke. Their demands are under discussion, and we are ensuring fast preventive measures," he said.

Similarly, panic gripped residents of Bermajur village in Sandeshkhali 1 block after nearly 50ft of the earthen dyke along the Chhoto Kulagachhi river eroded on Monday night. The villagers alleged that poor maintenance had left the embankment in a deplorable condition.

"A stretch of the dyke has already been swallowed by the river, and another portion has developed a long crack, making the situation extremely vulnerable. We fear the damaged stretch could collapse at any time, causing severe damage to our farmland because of flooding," said resident and CPM leader Pradipta Sarkar.

The villagers are particularly worried about the high tide forecast for March 1 and 2.

"The water level is already rising alarmingly because of tidal effects, which could create serious trouble for the embankment and surrounding areas unless repairs are carried out immediately. If this dilapidated dyke is not repaired now, at least four adjacent villages will be inundated. Crops and fish cultivation will suffer because of saline water intrusion, apart from other losses," Sarkar added.

Residents have appealed to public representatives and the administration to expedite the repairs, especially before the high tide arrives.

"The embankment has become extremely fragile because of soil erosion at the base. We fear a serious outcome very soon, particularly with the high tide expected within the next two days," said another villager.

Sandeshkhali Trinamool MLA Sukumar Mahata said he had already taken up the matter with the irrigation department.

"I have informed the irrigation authorities, and they have assured me that they are looking into the matter urgently so that no further damage occurs," he said.

The damaged portion of the embankment along the Chhoto Kulagachhi river at Bermajur in Sandeshkhali.
Picture by Pashupati Das

Madhyamik checking instructions

SUBHANKAR CHOWDHURY

Calcutta: The secondary education board has asked examiners to maintain "highest standards of security, confidentiality and professional discipline" while evaluating Madhyamik answer scripts.

On Wednesday, the board said in a notification that the written answer scripts of the Class X board exams, which ended on February 12, are being distributed.

"It is imperative for the board to reiterate the necessity for the highest standards of security, confidentiality and professional discipline throughout evaluation process," the notification, signed by the board's secretary Subrata Ghosh, says.

"The board trusts in the professionalism and diligence of the examiners to endure a flawless and transparent evaluation cycle for Madhyamik, 2026," it added.

The board told the examiners that sharing, taking picture or discussing the contents of answer scripts or specific marking instructions with unauthorised persons are strictly prohibited.

"The integrity of results depends on your discretion," the notification states.

The examiners have been told that the evaluation of answer scripts must not be conducted in public spaces, staff rooms or any workplace. The answer scripts must be stored in a secure and locked location, accessible only to the examiners.

The board had reminded the examiners that the timely publication of results is a collective commitment.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक ...भरोसे का प्रतीक ! punjab national bank ...the name you can BANK upon!

SALE NOTICE, E-AUCTION DATED: 27.03.2026

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH, DURGAPUR,
City Centre, Red Cross Road, Durgapur-713216, Paschim Bardhaman, W.B., e-mail : cs8222@pnb.bank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) AND DOCUMENTS: 27.03.2026 UP TO 2.00 PM

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[The Said Properties are under Constructive Possession/ Physical possession of the Secured Creditor]

SL No	Account Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged, Owner's Name (Mortgagers of property(ies) & Possession	A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) B) Date of Possession C) Outstanding as on the date of 13(2)	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amt (in Rs.)	Date & Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1	B/O-048210- Haldi Ac : M/S IPZ Layer Firm Ac no : 048210EG00000010, 04824011000820, 04827011000661 04827121000032 VILI+ PO- Orgaram PS:- Bhatar, Dist Purba Burdwan WB Pin 713128 Sk Imamuddin (Partner) Parsina Begam (Partner)	1.EM Of Land & building at Vill- Orgram, Mouza - Orgram, JL No. 11, LR Kh No. 6790 and 6554 (Previous LR Kh No 31) LR Plot No. 5278, 5280, 5281, 5205/16617 and 5279, covered under Deed No. I-066/2018 & I-5906/2017 Area : 2.34 Acre, Owner Parsina Begum & Sk Imamuddin. 2.EM of property at Vill - Orgram, Mouza- Orgram, JL No, 11, LR Plot no. 8419, LR Kh No. 6554, (Previous LR Kh No. 8269), Bastu Land, PO- Orgram PS Bhatar Under Deed no. 03458/2011, Area 0.17 Acre, Owner -Sk Imamuddin. Symbolic	A) 14.05.2024 B) 24-07-2024 C)Rs 3,00,20,717.15 as on 07-05-2024 with further interest and charges until payment in full	A) Rs 2,81,68,065/- B) Rs 2816806.50/- C) Rs 10000	27-03-2026 From 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Not Known To bank
2	B/O- 125410- Burdwan -Statin Bazar Ac: ORGRAM HATACHERIES Ac no. 125410EG00000021 12544015000438 12547121000267 Vill+PO-Orgram Near Saban Factory PS-Bhatar Dist: Purba Bardhman, West Bengal-713128 Sk Imamuddin (Partner) Parsina Begam (Partner)	Primary Security:- Exclusive charge over entire current assets of the unit,present & future, including hypothecation of stocks and bookd debts, receivables and other current assets of the firm i.e. stocks of poultry birds, chicks,feeds,raw materials present and future.Hypothecation of entire plant & machinaries,structure & shed, other fixed assets of the firm installed inside the premises and all other assets created out of bank finance. Colleral Security:- EM of land and building located at mouza-Orgram, PS-Bhatar, District-Purba Bardhman,J L No-11, LR Kh no-6554 & 6790, Plot no-5205/16613, Sale deed no-565/2010, 1942/2010, 1943/2010.Classification of land -Poultry farm & feed mill.Area-1.32 acre,Owner-SK Imamuddin and Smt Parsina Begam. (Symbolic)	1)09-07-2024 2)25-09-2024 3)Rs 1,65,07,615.86/- as on 30-06-2024 with further interest and charges until payment in full	A) 1,00,22,085.00/- B) 10,02,208.50/- C) Rs 10000	27-03-2026 From 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Not Known To bank
3	B/O-048210- Haldi Ac IPZ Enterprise Ac nos: 048210870000053 8 048210CN00000011	Primary Security: Exclusive Charges over entire current assets of the unit, present & Future, including Hypothecation of stock and book debt and other current assets of the firm present and future i.e. stock of egg tray, raw material, plant and machinery & Allied Equipments. Collateral Security: Land, Building and Structure situated at District: Purba Bardhaman, PS: Bhatar, Mouza: Orgram, JL No.11, under Sahebganj .2 Gram Panchyat, Vide R.S and L.R Plot No 5205/16613, under L R Khatain No. 6554, Class Poultry Area: 1.32 Acres, in the Name of SK Imamuddin. Deed No. 3003 Dated 14.11.2013 & 1113 Dated 06.06.2024	1) 10-06-2024 2) 20/08/2024 (symbolic possession) 3) 2,05,61,656.53/- As on 06-06-2024	a) Rs 3,31,34,445.00/- b) Rs 33,13,444.50/- c)10000/-	27-03-2026 From 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Not Known To bank

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

1. The properties are being sold on **'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website **https://www.baanknet.com on 27-03-2026@ 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM**
4. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to website: **www.baanknet.com.**
5. For any queries regarding the terms and conditions of the sale, the interested bidders may contact **Mr. Ashok Kumar (Chief Manager) Mob: 9102405790.**

STATUTORY 30/15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) & RULE 9 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT RULES, 2002

Date: 27.02.2026
Place: Durgapur

AUTHORISED OFFICER,
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9 (1) & 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002