

West Bengal IT News Letter (May 2005)

'New'-s of the month

Quote of the month

- The State Wide Network For Bengal
- Government-University tie up for BPO training
- Capital rush to Bengal
- Offshore Customer Management International Conference
- Bengal - Yunnan joint task force for economic cooperation
- North Bengal Calling
- "Anupam Tech" Forays Into BPO
- Euro - tour starts paying off
- Maharaja will fly thrice a week to London

"Intellectual orientation and a global perspective are West Bengal's two biggest advantages"

- **Caj Soderlund**
Minister Counsellor,
Embassy of Finland in India

Coming events

Doing Business in Europe
Co-ordinator: Cornelia Heinen,
Direktorin TOTALINX - Total
Infosystems GmbH
Date: May 16, 05
Venue: The Circle Club, VIP
Road, Kolkata

Retail 2005
Co-ordinator: Rahab A. Soni
Date: July 14, 05
Venue: Oberoi Grand

Infocom 2005
Conference Venue: Hyatt
Regency Hotel
Dates: December 7-11, 05
Exhibition: Salt Lake Stadium

The State Wide Network For Bengal

Department of IT, Government of India has approved the proposal for **"State Wide Area Network"** – **'SWAN'** for Bengal at a total estimated outlay of Rs 66.93 Crore to build up a robust networking backbone for the Government of West Bengal to usher e-governance in the State. This will ensure connectivity up to 341 blocks in the state.

The district of Burdwan has been chosen as the pilot district for **'WBSWAN'** expansion connecting all 277 Gram Panchayats. This venture is first of its kind in the country.

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Government-University tie up for BPO training

To cater to the ever increasing appetite of the IT industries in Bengal *University of Calcutta*, Department of IT, Govt of West Bengal, *'Webel'* & *'Technable'* signed an MoU to introduce the **Voice Based BPO Training** in 7 Colleges of the University on April 4, 05 at College Street Campus.

Calcutta University will arrange for an Aptitude, Competency & Employability Test (ACET) and the corresponding training program available to all aspirants. Manabendra Mukherjee, IT Minister, Bengal was present at the MoU signing ceremony.

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Capital rush to Bengal

They used to talk about Karnataka or Andhra whenever investment was discussed. Talking Bengal scenario was never fashionable. Now the 'Planning Commission' figures are speaking of an altogether different yet real story. **Bengal ranks 2nd in investment race** next only to Gujarat in post '91 period.

Gujarat saw an investment of Rs 34,758 Crore in 1,002 projects between Aug '91 & end-2004 as Bengal came 2nd with 382 industrial ventures bringing in Rs 28,198 Crore.

(Details)

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Offshore Customer Management International Conference

The *Offshore Customer Management International Conference* was organized on April 25-27 in New Delhi. Delegates representing off shoring communities from US, Western Europe and Africa took part in the conference to experience the reality of the offshore phenomenon.

Manabendra Mukherjee, the Bengal IT Minister opened the event titled "Welcome to India" and made a presentation relating to the prospects of IT in Bengal.

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Bengal - Yunnan joint task force for economic cooperation

CII organized an interaction with the delegation from Yunnan for **Bengal-Yunnan Joint Task Force for Economic Cooperation** on April 11, 05 at New Delhi. The Prime Minister of China headed the delegation. Sumit Mazumdar, ex-Chairman, CII Eastern Region, Tang Lili, Assistant Governor of Yunnan Provincial People's Government; Dr G D Gautama, Principal Secy, IT, Bengal, were present at the meeting. Dr Gautama made a presentation on the IT prospects of Bengal.

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North Bengal Calling

A seminar entitled **"North Bengal Calling"** was held at Siliguri on April 17-18, 05. This was jointly organized by CII (Eastern Region), Siliguri-Jalpaiguri Development Authority & West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation. Discussions were held on the prospects & opportunities for investments in North Bengal. A presentation was made by the IT Department, Government of West Bengal about the prospects of IT in North Bengal.

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"Anupam Tech" Forays Into BPO

City-based *'Anupam Technologies'* has started BPO operation with a 110 seat contact center at Salt Lake. The contact center will serve as a base for telemarketing various services offered by telecom companies, mainly in the UK & the US. The group, which has a presence in the paints market offers web solutions through *'Anupam Infotech'*, set up in 1999. Anupam Technologies is the ITeS arm of the group.

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Euro - tour starts paying off

Bengal's participation in CeBIT 2005 held in Hannover (March 10-14) has stated paying off with Kolkata based IT companies getting good business. An IT delegation headed by the Bengal IT Minister had a number of fruitful meetings and tie-ups during the visit of the IT delegation to Stockholm, Hannover and UK.

- Kolkata based *'Elecom Software'* bagged orders from *'M/s Brundig'*, *'M/s SWAC'* and *'M/s Ozdemir'* for Software development and Animation.
- A MoU was signed between Kolkata based *'JDS Technologies'* and *'WorldSport TV GmbH'* at Bremen.
- Kolkata based *'Ontrack Systems'* and Sweden based *'TeliaSonera'* have agreed to work together in the fields of mobile application market.
- *'Skytech Solutions'*, WDC, DESCON, *'Impex Infotech Ltd'*, *'Aesthetic Technologies'*, *'Anshin Software'* etc are in the process of implementing various business opportunities which came out of the trip.

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Maharaja will fly thrice a week to London

They were all sceptic about the potential of the Bengal resurgence. Now they have had to change their minds. Air India will fly three direct service a week to Heathrow from June 4, 05.

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Suggestion

To send mails
Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee
Chief Minister,
Government of West Bengal
cm@wb.gov.in

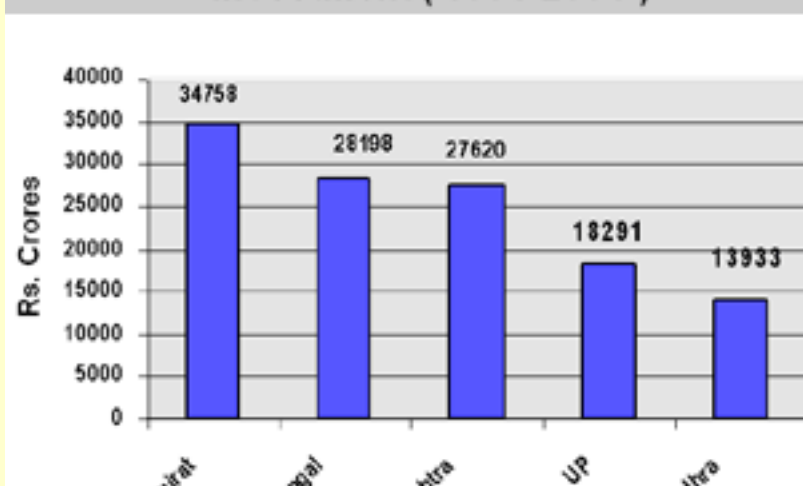


To send mails
Manabendra Mukherjee
Minister-in-Charge, IT
Government of West Bengal
micit@wb.gov.in



Figures Speak

Investment (1991-2004)



Source: Planning Commission, Govt of India

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