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Upcoming Events

ICT East 2008: Moving Up The Value Chain

Date: 6th and 7th August, 2008
Venue: ITC The Sonar, Kolkata
Website: www.cii.in

Three-day Workshop on Wireless Communication Air Interface Design for Broadband Wireless Systems: WiMAX, 3GPP LTE, IMT – Advanced

Date: 4th -6th August, 2008
Venue: University College of Science and Technology, University of Calcutta, 92 Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, Kolkata - 700 009.
Website: www.astrowix.com

"New"-s This Month

- Bengal – No. 2 hotspot in Investment
- Centers for Entrepreneurs
- IT Township at Batanagar gets a 5 star hotel
- Tagore's literature for visually impaired
- Two Billion Solar Cell facility in State
- Jadavpur University ties up with Virginia Tech University
- Videocon suggests the correct approach
- Big plan for Videocon
- More Tech colleges in Bengal
- ICICI bank to have Regional KPO Hub in Kolkata

Bengal – No. 2 hotspot in Investment

An ASSOCHAM study yet again reveals West Bengal as a hotshot investment destination during the forth quarter of 2007-08. The State ranked second after Orissa and followed by Andhra Pradesh. During the third quarter, October-December-2007 West Bengal was No.1 at Rs 1,27,302 crore followed by Orissa at Rs 53,997 crore. Other than investment proposals in core sectors like Steel, Port and Shipping, Oil and Gas, the State could draw considerable investment in Power projects and Information Technology.

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Centers for Entrepreneurs

The State is being equipped with essential infrastructure to facilitate entrepreneurs to establish their operations. In an endeavor to support fresh ventures by new companies in Kolkata, the state IT Department has initiated setting up Incubation Centers at different locations. With ready logistics, a LAN, internet connectivity and comfy desks, it is an ideal place for small entrepreneurs to set up workstations within 24 hours. New entrepreneurs have already started operating in such Incubation Centers at Salt Lake, Taratala in South Kolkata, Durgapur and Siliguri. There are plans to open such centers in other parts of the State. Presently, more than 1500 people can work in these centers and there are plans to increase this capacity with the rising demand. This is again supported by a Training Subsidy being introduced recently under which the companies can provide six months training to the fresh recruits and get part of the expenditure reimbursed.

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IT Township at Batanagar gets a 5 star hotel

The 1300 crore IT project on 262 acres land at Batanagar will be completed by 2013. The township will have an IT SEZ, along with solid infrastructure like a 5 star hotel, an international standard hospital, retail chains and schools. The entire township has been fashioned to be developed by Bata India and Kolkata Metropolitan Group.

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Tagore's literature for visually impaired

The collection of Tagore's work "Rabindra Rachanaboli" and "Galpoguccha" have been transcribed into Braille for the visually impaired. Webel Mediatronics Limited, a State government undertaking under IT Department, has rendered an eighteen volume Tagores work the legendary 'Galpaguccha' into Braille script. With the help of Ministry of Communication, Government of India, the project has been completed and Braille Scripts have been distributed to all blind schools in the State. The students of different blind schools and academies are thrilled and fascinated by reading Tagore's work in computerized Braille transcription. The entire work has also been gifted to Central Library.

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Two Billion Solar Cell facility in State

An estimated investment of 8000 crore for a photovoltaic panel unit in West Bengal is all set to be made by the US based infrastructure and the management group Astonfield. The group is forming a Joint Venture with a Japanese firm which is a world leader in this field. Astonfield group is already implementing a Solar power project in Bankura and a Bio-mass project at South Dinajpur while the Japanese conglomerate has plants in Spain, Korea and Japan.

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Jadavpur University ties up with Virginia Tech University

Jadavpur University has tied up with Virginia Tech University, USA. This is the first institution to launch a dual degree programme in engineering and technology. To start with an advanced engineering course towards a dual degree Ph.D has been finalized. The students need to work and submit their thesis in both the institutions.

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Videocon suggests the correct approach

Videocon Chairman Venugopal Dhoot is confident in carrying out all their projects in Bengal with out and hindrances whatsoever. He felt that the correct approach may result in avoiding many complications in acquiring the land as the ordinary people have enormous sense of attachment to their land. He prescribed to spend more time in convincing people and also a generous compensation. With this approach the company expects not to face any challenges in acquiring the bulk of 5560 acres land it expected to acquire needs for three SEZ's in Bengal. Mr. Dhoot expressed his confidence in the States business potential and governments' commitment to promote industrializaion when he said that he would pump in fresh 500 crore on a 20 MW solar power plant in Purulia.

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More Tech colleges in Bengal

The State government takes initiatives in increasing the number of seats to the existing Engineering colleges and also establishing new Engineering colleges under West Bengal University of Technology. Students aspiring for a career in technology will have 14 more engineering colleges and 70 seats have been added to the existing engineering colleges. This is in line with the demand projection of technical people in next few years to come. A host of new courses including Animation and Film Making are being initiated.

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Big plan for Videocon

The Videocon Group announced an additional investment of Rs 6000 crore in IT Park project in Bengal. Two knowledge parks have been planned at Rs 3000 crore each, at Kalyani and Siliguri. The twin proposals were submitted to the Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal. The company has started the process of acquiring the land on its own in both the places. Besides, the company is also creating a 500 crore IT SEZ at Siliguri and a 1000 crore IT Park at Kolkata.

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ICICI bank to have Regional KPO Hub in Kolkata

ICICI is exploring the possibility of locating its proposed Regional Hub at Kolkata shortly for its Knowledge Processing Center. The Bank has asked for 25 acres land from Government of West Bengal. IT Department in government of West Bengal is evaluating various options to make the land available in one of the proposed IT Hubs in Kolkata. The Bank has been growing fast and looking at multiple business hubs across the country in order to tap the resource pool. The business hub will undertake the processing jobs for the banks credit card and retail loans business and will employ 5000 people.

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