

Per Se

"The highly skilled and dedicated workforce in Bengal would be a serious consideration for German companies."

- Gunter Wehrmann,
German consul-general in Calcutta.

"New"-s This Month

- Another Finishing School at Durgapur & IT initiatives in Burdwan
- TCS plans to augment city headcount
- The German connection
- Dutch and Danish delegations also show interest in Bengal
- Norweigan Parliamentary delegation in the city
- Bengal on US firm radar
- City Traffic system gets a boost
- Hutch to spend Rs. 500 crore in state
- Rs. 1000 crore park in Rajarhat
- Bengal lauded for its sops to investors

Upcoming Events

- **Danish Day**

VENUE : ITC Sonar Bangla

DATE : 19th April, 2007

- **Inauguration of Wireless Innovation Platform Labs**

VENUE : Vedic Village, Rajarhat, Kolkata

DATE : 20th April, 2007

Another Finishing School at Durgapur & IT initiatives in Burdwan

Durgapur gets a Webel Finishing School which was inaugurated by Industry Minister Mr Nirupam Sen and IT minister, Dr. Debes Das on March 26 with the aim of making the local talent IT industry-ready. The two ministers also opened the new facility of Assurgent Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd. About two lakh fresh employment opportunities in Information Technology sector in the next three years are expected to be created in the state. Assurgent, a multinational software company which has also been assigned the task of training the students as well as their subsequent placement.

Acclaris Inc. an US based BPO outfit in Kolkata has entered in to a strategic partnership with Burdwan university for opening a business process outsourcing unit, a knowledge process outsourcing unit and a state-of-the art laboratory at the university campus to provide both theoretical as well as practical training to selected university students for a career in the IT sector. The joint effort will make engineering students as well as students from humanities and commerce industry ready.

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TCS plans to augment city headcount

Tata Consultancy Services is to reach of 10000 IT professionals in the city very soon. However, this does not include the requirement of the company's proposed facility on a 40-acre plot at Rajarhat. TCS is India's biggest software exporter and also the largest in STP Kolkata. The company is even planning to take in people from the finishing schools started recently by Webel. TCS is also working closely with Webel to design a 6-month course fro the finishing school that would meet the industry needs.

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The German connection

A ten-member 'Advantage Bengal' delegation led by Dr. (Prof.) Debes Das, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Government of West Bengal participated in the biggest and best-known International Trade Fair in the world for the ICT sector, **CeBIT** at Hannover, Germany. Hon'ble Minister held high level meetings with Ministers and senior officers of the Economic Affairs and finance department of Hannover, Hamburg and Saarland for possible collaboration in the IT sector. He also met High Officials of the Chamber of Commerce, distinguished faculty members of University of Hamburg and senior officials in Siemens, SAP and many other German and European ICT companies. The West Bengal Stall remained abuzz with activity throughout the fair and the companies received very encouries and business leads.

A 21 member strong German delegation, looking for joint ventures in the IT sector in Kolkata visited the city in March. the delegation commented that the booming city, much in sync with the European culture and with great business opportunities are the focus points to look at Kolkata for more German investment, the delegation commented. With the volume of bilateral trade with Germany topping 10 billion Euros three years ahead of target, the outlook is buoyant, boosted further by the state's participation n the German trade fair "CeBIT 2007"

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Dutch and Danish delegations also show interest in Bengal

A high level Dutch Delegation led by Marten van den Berg, Deputy Director General for Foreign Economic Relations of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs was in Kolkata on the 15th of this month. They have chosen Bengal as they have recognized it as one of the fastest growing states in India and a preferred investment destination. The Danish delegations are due for their visit in April wanting to set up IT, agro-processing and energy saving units here. The Danish government is also inviting big companies on a business trip to participate in celebrating Danish days in Kolkata on April 19 and 20.

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Norweigan Parliamentary delegation in the city

A seven member Norwegian Parliamentary Delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Thorbojorn Jagland, President of Parliamentary Committee (Storting) and the former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, showing keen interest in the already booming IT sector of the city, visited IT complex and Wipro's facility at Salt Lake, Kolkata on 16th March. Considering the huge pool of talent available in the city, the delegation found great opportunity in Kolkata for increased bilateral trade and business. The delegation met His Excellency, The Governor, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Hon'ble speaker of West Bengal legislative Assembly among other dignitaries.

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Bengal on US firm radar

US companies that want to cash in on the "India Rising" story are keen on Bengal. After Frito-Lay and IBM, smaller US companies are eager to set up bases here. The WIRE group, a US based property development company set up to cater to increasing MNC demand for Indian commercial real estate will start its first unit in the country at Kolkata with a local partner. The company would also set up a 500,000 sq.ft. IT park in sector V of the Salt Lake which will be ready by 2009.

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City Traffic system gets a boost

WEBEL, the state nodal agency will be introducing new indigenous technology to speed up the traffic systems in the city. First of it's kind in India, a completely state owned body will be implementing such a technology. Under this technology, electro magnetic sensors will be placed under the road-crossings to control traffic automatically, sensing the volume of traffic on different lanes. In all 42 different signal locations will be tested with this new system which will be later extended to 250 different traffic signal locations all over the city.

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Hutch to spend Rs. 500 crore in state

Hutchinson Telecom East will spend more than Rs. 500 crore on network up gradation in the Kolkata and Bengal telecom circle. The company currently has 2.5 million subscribers and 2300 towers in the state, aiming to establish additional 1000 towers to support the targeted 4-million-subscriber base in Kolkata and Bengal circles.

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Rs. 1000 crore park in Rajarhat

An amazing world of entertainment, leisure, healthcare, housing, business and education will soon open up in Rajarhat. A US based company has recently submitted a Rs 1000 crore proposal for a digitize water park on a 50 hectare water body in New Town, Rajarhat. The park will have a submarine and an underground aquarium, water scooter and boating facilities. The entertainment arena would also include a digital museum, a library, an auditorium, colorful waterfalls, artificial landscapes, a golf course, varies joyrides and a water park to provide entertainment and leisure. It would also house a multi cuisine food park and a housing area offering world class rejuvenation center with spas, yoga and medical facilities.

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Bengal lauded for its sops to investors

The incentives offered by Bengal to investors are the best among all states, according to Venugopal N. Dhoot chairman of Assocham and the Videocon group of industries. The cash incentives, quality of land and tax benefits in Bengal are still the best in the country, Dhoot said at the launch of operations of Industry Chamber Assocham in Andhra Pradesh.

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