

**Per Se**

"I am very positively impressed. I'm convinced no investor would encounter an atmosphere not conducive to congeniality (in the state)."

- Richard Stagg,  
 British High Commissioner in India.

**Upcoming Events**
**9th International Conference on Distributed Computing and Networking**

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Website: [www.icdcn.org](http://www.icdcn.org)

**"New"-s This Month**

- Bengal SEZ exports up by 99%
- Besu, Belfast varsity tie up
- Australian Investors high on West Bengal
- General Motors ties-up with IIT Kharagpur for Research
- Ixia to double its head count in Kolkata
- More US concentration in the State
- Bengal IT pavilion bags award
- India Design Center Kolkata gets partner soon
- French Consulate in Kolkata
- South Kolkata IT Central Business District

**Bengal SEZ exports up by 99%**

Exports from three functional different products SEZs in West Bengal shot up by more than 99 % in 2006-07 over the preceding year. Wipro, one of the IT specific SEZs registered a growth of 166% individually during the same period. While notification has been made for three more IT specific SEZs in the state, 16 more SEZs have received in-principle approval from the Board of Approvals (BoA), Government of India.

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**Besu, Belfast varsity tie up**

An agreement has been signed between the prestigious Queen's University in Belfast and Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, West Bengal with a view to collaborate in driving forward Northern Ireland's economy by Bengal Science and Technology students. The students from Bengal Engineering and Science University will study at the world class research center in the Institute of Electronics, Communication and Information Technology of Queen's University, Belfast. The opportunity of this collaboration, apart from exchange studentships also includes staff exchange and research partnerships.

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**Australian Investors high on West Bengal**

The Australian High Commissioner in India Mr. John McCarthy expressed his country's confidence in Kolkata and feels that the recent challenges faced by the state will not influence the Australian investment proposal in the city in anyway. Mr. McCarthy said that Australia has full confidence in the good intentions of the state to take forward the international business. Four Australian companies will be opening their offices in Kolkata very soon, he added.

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**General Motors ties-up with IIT Kharagpur for Reseach**

Leading global automakers General Motors Corporation announced setting up of the 10<sup>th</sup> Global Collaborative Research Lab (CRL) in partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur to carry out research in the areas of electronics, controls and software. The GM will spend Rs 5 crore in this exclusive new Lab.

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**Ixia to double its head count in Kolkata**

Nasdaq-listed Ixia, a California based company will double its headcount at its Salt Lake facility. The company started it's operation in Kolkata in 2005. The increasing contribution of Kolkata center to the company's growth worldwide and the availability of talent are the deciding factors. The company conducts 30% of its R&D operations in Kolkata and is also one of the biggest exporters from the city's Software Technology Park. Ixia, Kolkata hopes to increase more than 50% of its present export and will in future handle the entire Asia-Pacific region.

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**More US concentration in the State**

Kolkata will have more commercial service staff to handle the increasing pressure feels Mr. Henry Jardine, the US Consul General in Kolkata. A joint report carried out by PWC and Amcham reveals that 93% of Amcham members who happen to be mostly US companies are planning to expand their businesses with additional investments. All these companies were keen to increase their headcounts rapidly. Mr. Jardine expressed that the state remained investment friendly and no American company has faced any challenge in the state in the recent times.

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**Bengal IT pavilion bags award**

The Advantage Bengal Pavilion was adjudged second best in the States category at the Asia's biggest ICT show in Bangalore. The Pavilion showcased the growth of IT industry in Bengal and it's future potential. The high profile show of Advantage Bengal was led by the IT Minister, the IT Secretary and other high officials from IT Department of Bengal. The Bengal Pavilion was partnered by seven major infrastructure companies who have found more business sense to invest in Kolkata.

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**India Design Center Kolkata gets partner soon**

Rs 300 crore India Design Center (IDC) in Kolkata which is the first of its kind infrastructure in the country to promote the semiconductor industry under one umbrella is set to finalize a partner. Based on public-private partnership (PPP) model, the IDC 500,000 sq ft. building in Salt Lake is expected to become operational within a year.

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**French Consulate in Kolkata**

French Embassy in India is all set to open a Consulate Office in Kolkata. The Consulate office is expected to be opened by an important French Minister, said the French Ambassador in India Mr. Jerome Bonnafont. French government will also offer attractive scholarships to Indian students in the field of IT and other subjects like Hospitality and Engineering.

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**South Kolkata IT Central Business District**

South Kolkata, an alternative business district has already attracted three IT majors at Nonadanga because of it's locational advantage. A mixed-use public-private-partnership project in the vicinity is underway comprising of a sport stadium, a 17 level IT enabled business tower, a shopping mall with a four screen multiplex and a three level car park facility and housing. Besides Rs 10,000 crore infrastructure Projects have been announced recently by a home grown Real Estate Company which will create Industrial Estates, Factory outlets, Hospitality stops, Retail Infrastructure and Housing in next five years.

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