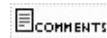


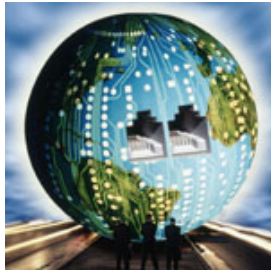
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COMMENTS

Country's First IT Association Strides To Move Forward



Organisers have asked the civic body to give land for a crèche for 100 to 150 babies.

Thursday, November 16, 2006: Kolkata: The first step of the country's first association for IT professionals, the one-day-old West Bengal IT Services Association (WBITSA), was somewhat different. All that the organisers had in mind was babies. At a rally on Tuesday, the association submitted a proposal to *Nabadiganta*, the nodal development agency for Salt Lake's technology hub, to set up a crèche.

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If that was the first baby-step, the association's head, Shyamal Chakraborty, who's also the state CITU president, said that a child born yesterday couldn't be expected to run tomorrow. Everybody is not Budhia Singh.

Somnath Bhattacharya, the association secretary, said that they would take the lead in the project, as it is an essential requirement in the area for working mothers. They have asked the civic body to allot land for a crèche for 100 to 150 babies.

Bhattacharya and his colleagues met S.A. Ahmed, chairman of *Nabadiganta*, this morning to hand over a detailed project report.

Chakraborty said that the association needed a positive atmosphere to grow. Their explanations at yesterday's rally have already dispelled misgivings of a large number of IT employers who were initially apprehensive about the association.

Although it was a tongue-in-cheek comment, some employers were not shutting the door on the possibility of cooperation. The word 'loopholes' alluded charges levelled at yesterday's launch rally about some companies not following the laws.

Chakraborty had named Vishnu Solutions, Papyrus, Oxygen, Pecon Infotech and Octagon, alleging that they had sacked 30 employees without notice.

Even these companies are willing to talk to the association. One of the five owners said that there might be some mistakes at their end and they are willing to change if the association can point out the problem areas.

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Chakraborty also added, that 15 individuals have already applied online for membership to the WBITSA.

Others followed suit, flaunting a list of individuals and government bodies – West Bengal University of Technology, All Bengal Computer Teachers' Association, government colleges, employees of Webel Technology Ltd., West Bengal electronics Infrastructure Development Corporation, Netwatch Digital Solutions to name a few.

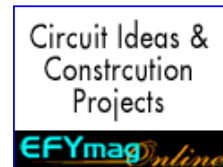
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