

# TIMES BUSINESS

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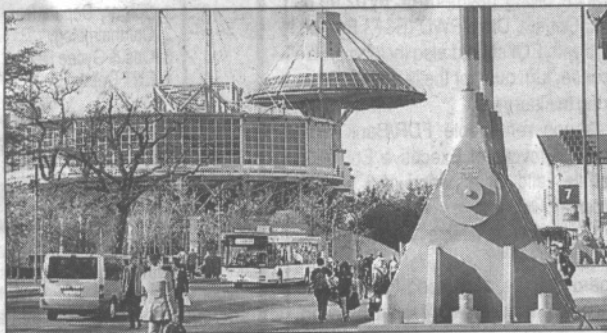
## State green body invited to coveted trade fair

Udit Prasanna Mukherji | TNN

**Kolkata:** Finally, something to cheer on the business front.

At a time when most industrial projects in the state are either being derailed or deferred, West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation (WBGEDC) has received an invitation from Hannover Messe for participating in the Indian edition of the Hannover Fair. WBGEDC will be the first state undertaking in the country to participate in the coveted fair.

Hannover Messe organizes industrial fairs in Germany and other parts of the globe. It began organising the Indian edition of the Hannover Fair in Mumbai from 2007 through its Indian arm — Hannover



**GERMANY CALLING**

Milano Fairs India (P) Ltd (HMFIL).

S J Patil, HMFIL's managing director, told TOI that it has formally invited WBGEDC to participate in Energy India, a part of Hannover Fair in India, in December 2009. HMFIL

is organising four industrial fairs in Mumbai from December 10 to 13. These are CeMAT India for material handling and logistics sectors, MDA India for motion, Automation India for process and production automation, and Energy India

for renewable energy and captive power plants.

Patil pointed out that, so far, no state government organisations have participated in any edition of the Hannover Fair in India. "This is the third edition of the Hannover Fair in India. So far, no state government organisations have participated. We have invited West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation as they are doing a good job," he said.

When contacted, WBGEDC managing director S P Gonchowdhury said that it has accepted the invitation from the Hannover authority. "We will put up a stall there. Our plan is to showcase activities in the renewable energy area through our existing ventures," he added.

Gonchowdhury pointed out that eight companies have already invested Rs 500 crore for manufacturing solar cells, ingot and modules in the state. "Unlike other industrial segments, we are in the front row of green energy in the country," he said.

Earlier, elaborating on the Hannover Fair in India, Patil said that the previous show, held in 2008, attracted 570 exhibitors from across the globe. For the forthcoming show in 2009, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, China and Taiwan have confirmed they would set up national pavilions at the fair. "Besides national pavilions, there will be individual company pavilions as well. We are expecting at least 30 companies from Germany itself."