

# City to get first eco resort soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Sayantana Ghosh

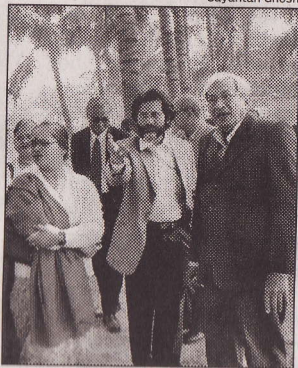
**Kolkata:** Kolkatans will soon have an eco-friendly resort to spend the weekend.

Bidhannagar Municipality chairman Biswajiban Majumdar laid the foundation stone of the project at the East Kolkata Wetlands on the occasion of World Wetland Day on Saturday.

Spread over 4.5-sq km on the fringes of Salt Lake, the twin wetlands at Sukantanagar bheri and Natar bheri will offer the people a chance to relax in the midst of nature. Members of local self-help groups (SHGs) who are stakeholders in the project mooted by NGO South Asian Forum for Environment (Safe), will run the eco-tourism project.

"To ensure that there is no littering, plastic and food will not be allowed from outside," said Dipayan Dey, chair research and planning, Safe. He also participated in The Times of India's Lead India programme.

Incidentally, this is the first bio-rights project in India. Bio-rights is a concept that attempts to protect areas of global biological importance by compensating poor people living



Green activist Dipayan Dey (centre), who participated in The Times of India's Lead India programme, along with Salt Lake Municipality chairman Biswajiban Majumder

near it and dependent on it for cash-generating activities.

Executed by Safe, the project is funded by DFID through Kolkata Urban Service for Poor's Innovative Challenge Fund. The project includes a state-of-the-art museum showcasing extinct water species. "This will be an educational experience for visitors, who will have a close look at the hardships of pisciculture and understand the biological importance of wetlands," said Dey.