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School for the future

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Spacious, centrally air-conditioned classrooms; an Olympic-size swimming pool; a 3,000-seater auditorium; a bank and a medical store on campus....

A school for the future is fast coming up on a 23-bigha compound, two km from Rajarhat New Township. North Point Senior Secondary Boarding School will ring the bell for students in April 2002.

The Rs 5.5-crore project is being funded by the North Point Education Trust. "We want to build a school where kids can get everything they want, and more," says trustee Meena Sethi Mondol. "Hudco has approved a Rs 60-lakh loan for Phase I, to be completed next April. We target full completion within four years. A hospital and an orphanage will come up behind the school."

Admission for academic session 2002 is scheduled to open after the Pujas, as is recruitment of teachers. The four-storeyed school building at Langalpota, in Matiagacha, 10 km from the Baguiati-VIP Road crossing, will accommodate up to 10,000 students. A glass-capsule lift will take them to AC classes. "Special labs for geography, physics, chemistry and biology are also on the anvil. For instance, the geography lab will resemble a globe," says Mondol.

The CBSE school will boast of "world-class sports facilities", including a mega swimming pool, cricket oval, football field, two tennis courts, a basketball court, a volleyball court and a gymnasium. Hostels, to accommodate 6,000, will be divided into dormitories for younger children and rooms for the seniors. The hostel basement will house an indoor-games room, a library and com-

puters with Internet connections. Three guest huts will accommodate boarders' guardians, with a bungalow reserved for trustees and board officials.

Currently, the Trust runs North Point Senior Secondary Boarding School in Teghoria. "This is the only CBSE school in the area and we have students from all over the city," says Mondol. "For the new school, we expect a much wider response from boarders, especially from the Northeast, Bihar and north Bengal."

The Trust aims to keep fees "on par with other private schools" to give an opportunity to local children. Social projects will be a priority at North Point. "We are promoting educational awareness among local people, who mainly work in the nearby fisheries. We plan to start evening classes for them with National Open School affiliation."

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