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BESUS seeks Rs 519-cr grant in 11th plan

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KOLKATA: To achieve IIT-level standards, Bengal Engineering & Science University, Shibpur (BESUS) has approached Planning Commission for a Rs 519 crore grant in the Eleventh Plan. BESUS intends to use the fund to up-grade infrastructure, set up a new campus, start several UG and PG level courses in emerging areas and also increase research base.

Talking at a press meet here on Tuesday, BESUS vice chancellor N. R Banerjea said the union HRD ministry has given in-principle nod for the grant. "The Planning Commission is working on the finer issues and we expect to receive a confirmation soon," Mr Banerjea said.

Of the proposed Rs 519 crore grant, BESUS intends to use Rs 283 crore for infrastructure development and the balance for recurring expenditure. "We intend to have a residential campus and much of the investment will be for construction of residential quarters for faculty and students as well as a central library," said Mr Banerjea.

The university is also in the process of receiving 70 acres from the West Bengal government besides its existing facility to develop this new infrastructure. The state government has also committed a grant of Rs 17 crore towards development of infrastructure.

"State chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee has also approached Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to provide us an additional grant of Rs 46.3 crore to beef up infrastructure facilities as part of our 150-years celebration. This is for creation of academic chairs in each department, build a new administrative building and auditorium," said Mr Banerjea.

This apart, BESUS is in the process of starting four new undergraduate courses in areas like biotechnology, food technology and applied nutrition, safety and occupational health, and chemical engineering. A slew of post-graduate programmes will also be started from next academic session in subjects like nanotechnology, disaster mitigation engineering, robotics and developmental studies.

BESUS is also close to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Canada's University of Windsor to start programmes in five areas -- automobile engineering, structural engineering, material science, signal and image processing, and environmental engineering. "We also have plans to set up a centre of excellence with University of Windsor in automobile engineering," said B. N. Datta, dean, BESUS.



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