

# Buddha looks to BESU for tech manpower

Kolkata, November 24

CHIEF MINISTER Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee is heavily banking on the Bengal Engineering & Science University (BESU), Shibpur, to create the manpower needed for the state's future industrial growth.

Delivering his address at the BESU's sesqui-centenary celebrations, he said: "We are trying to develop the economy of the state, Bengal has been number one in agriculture, and now we want to be number one in industry, too. For this, we need proper infrastructure like ports, airports and highways, and a university like BESU, which has always supplied us with talented professionals, to help us now with the human resource."

Referring to the new centre of excellence in automobile engineering at BESU, Bhattacharjee said it would help Bengal to once again become an important centre of the industry. "Before independence Bengal was the hub for automobile industry but now we only have Hindmotors. But with companies like Tata Motors coming in, we will need more automobile engineers. And then BESU's automobile centre will have a very important role to play," he said.

Welcoming BESU's initiative to start new disciplines, Bhattacharjee said courses in nanotechnology and alternative power generation were very important. He also praised the varsity for venturing into defence research and disaster management. On the institute of national importance (INI) status, Bhattacharjee said the higher education minister was trying to convince the Centre in this regard.

**MC**