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NEWS

Buddha lays stress on rapid industrialisation

Express News Service

Kolkata, November 24: The chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and the state minister for higher education, Professor Sudarshan Roychowdhury, during the 150th year celebrations of the Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU), Shibpur, made it quite clear that West Bengal will not be confining itself to agriculture anymore.

Talking about the importance of science and technology in creating wealth for the human civilisation, Bhattacharjee, said, "There is need to develop more than one road for industrial development. We are going to set up a nuclear plant at Egra in East Midnapore. The opposition is trying to stop us but we are determined to go on."

Roychowdhury's statement had the same essence. "Rapid or sustainable development of industrialisation will serve the interests of our people. We won't be confining ourselves to agriculture anymore," said Professor Roychowdhury.

BESU is eagerly awaiting the formal announcement of it being an Institute of National Importance (INI).

Bhattacharjee said: "Sudarshan is trying to convince the Ministry of Human Resource Development to grant this university INI status. I have even written to the Prime Minister for funds for the development of this university. I have even requested him to come here during the closing ceremony of this 150th year and inspire the students here."

In the course of his speech the chief minister also said that the University of

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Calcutta has joined hands with the Ministry of Defence to set up an institute in the state for the purpose of defence research.

BESU has also signed up a MOU with the University of Windsor, Canada, to collaborate in the field of automobile engineering.

Prof Graham Reader, Dean of engineering department from the University of Windsor, Canada, made this announcement. He also said, "Apart from all these new programmes professors from this university will be going to participate in the World Congress."

Alongwith the collaborative efforts of University of Windsor, BESU will be working extensively in the field of automobile engineering because according to the chief minister the state needs to have more automobile units. "We just have the Hind Motors. Now the Tatas are coming. With these kind of programmes we are trying to revive the automobile industry in the state," said Bhattacharjee.

Speaking on the auspicious occasion, Professor Nikhil Ranjan Banerjea, vice chancellor of the university said, "We have requested the chief minister for a fund of Rs 46.3 crores for the development of infrastructure and for awarding merit and research scholarships. We have also requested for a plot of land near our present campus."

The university's also starting a course on disaster mitigation will come in good stead for the state.

"The need for the hour is to develop the economy of the state and for that industrialisation is imperative. We need more seaports, airports, highways and so on. But most importantly we need human resources and this university is working towards giving us better human resources," said Bhattacharjee.

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