



# B. E. College Alumni Association, Delhi

J-217, Saket, New Delhi-110017. Website : [www.becollege.org](http://www.becollege.org) E-mail : [becdelhi@yahoo.co.in](mailto:becdelhi@yahoo.co.in)

21 September 2006

Dr. N.R. Banerjee  
Vice Chancellor  
Bengal Engineering and  
Science University, Shibpur  
P.O. – Botanic Garden  
Howrah – 711 103  
West Bengal

Dear Dr. Banerjee

It is heartening to know that you had a very productive meeting with the Secretary, MHRD, Shri Sudip Banerjee, at the BESU Campus and that he had met and interacted with the faculty and the students, besides inspecting laboratories and other infrastructure. It is a good feeling that, at the end of his visit on 7th September, he was, in general, quite satisfied with the present status of the University. And the credit for creating such positive impression goes entirely to you and your team. Our congratulations!

What is all the more pleasing, as we gather from the published news reports, is that the Report issued by the Anandakrishnan Committee has found favour with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for BESU to be upgraded to an INI through a Resolution to be enacted by the Parliament. For BESU to have this distinction from amongst the 13 elite technical institutions (including 7 IITs & ISI-Kolkata), is a great thing to happen - it speaks volumes of the prominent role played by its Alma-mater in promoting the cause of engineering education in India.

The Committee comprising of eminent academicians of the likes of Prof. Anandakrishnan, Prof. Amitabha Ghosh and Prof. D.V. Singh, in its Report, "Transformation of Selected Technical Institutions into a New System of Institutions of National Importance", recommended establishment of National Institutes that will combine the best characteristics of IITs and IISc with a focus on scientific research and engineering. We strongly believe that the group of IESTs will provide another option for the students interested in top-quality education and research in science and engineering. And decidedly, the conversion of BESU to IEST will be the first step forward in re-capturing its glory as a premier technical institution of India.

We understand Higher Education Ministry of West Bengal will be responding to the MHRD's proposal in a month. We do not know whether Higher Education Ministry will ask (or might have already asked) for any recommendations from BESU administration. In this context, discussion about other alternatives to MHRD recommendations in any forum at BESU may send a wrong signal to the MHRD. In the past, both BESUTA and AC took resolutions to pursue for IIT/INI status for BESU. In the special academic council meeting ([http://www.becollege.org/IIT/AC\\_IIT101105.pdf](http://www.becollege.org/IIT/AC_IIT101105.pdf)) held on November 10, 2005, members unanimously resolved to support IIT status for BESU. BESUTA also appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal to accept IIT status for BESU ([http://www.becollege.org/IIT/BESUTA\\_CM1.pdf](http://www.becollege.org/IIT/BESUTA_CM1.pdf)).



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It is well-known that in India, educational institutions with INI status are considered to have the best faculty and also that this faculty is recognized throughout the world for imparting top quality education. As such, INI status is the most coveted one in India. We therefore urge the BESU's administration as well as BESUTA to stick to the original resolutions passed by AC and BESUTA EC on IIT/INI issue. Any deviation from this agreed position will delay the overall process. As alumni, we are keenly interested for the welfare of BESU and would like to see that it gets its proper recognition for its continued contribution to the development process in India over the past 150 years. We request and appeal to you to lead the mission of converting BESU to IIST (an INI) and send a unified voice of the administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni for the single goal - INI status for our Alma Mater before 150th anniversary.

As GAABESU is at initial stage and ad-hoc executive team may not or may not be able to take any critical decision in a manner appropriate, we, all GAABESU life members from our country/local chapter organizations, request all of you to jointly approach WB Government to accept MHRD recommendations to convert BESU to an INI in the form of IIST before the start of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, just a 10-week away.

Best regards,

(P. P. Ghosh)  
President, BECAAD

cc

Dr. Sujoy Mukherjee, Secretary, BESUTA

Dr. Santanu K. Karmakar, Secretary, GAABESU