

**Press Release****Dt. 13.03.2006****on****Upgradation of the University to the level of IIT / INI**

The popularly known Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur in its long traverse since 1856, amidst a plethora of cases for deprivation, still survives as knowledge hub mainly in the area of technical education for the nation. In 1993 the college was conferred with the status of a Deemed University. The autonomy entrusted was, indeed, a major boost for the members of the University community that ignited new hopes and aspiration. But, besides the change in sign-board, the material input for development has really been paltry. Thus, the flaunty aspiration of the University community was soon challenged by the crises of sustenance of its excellence, not to speak of development.

The indomitable commitment of the University community and the unsubduable passion of its alumni towards their alma-mater, comes out with a very legitimate and rational demand for its upgradation beyond a state-controlled University. Accordingly, Vice-Chancellor sends such proposal to the Central Government for conferring the status of IIT / INI on this University on the eve of its celebration of 150 years. This may not be out of place here to mention that this institute has already been deprived once of such opportunity during the implementation of N. R. Sarkar report concerning formation of IITs as early as in 1947.

The opportunity comes handy. The Central Government identifies the University as a priority choice for its upgradation to the level of IIT / INI. Such independent identification based on rigid parameters for performance, achievements and potential, supplements the claims and reinforces the long-standing demands voiced by the University community for such transmutation.

The absence of any objection or adverse attitude of the State Government in response to the communications from the university at different stages of the process apparently surmises an affirmative notation, inspiring the effort. At the same time, the absence of any pro-active gesture in snaffling the opportunity, on the part of the State Government, unlike other (Kerala Government passes unanimous resolution in the State Legislature in favour of Cochi University for such upgradation), is also conspicuous. However, the university community stood firmly with their ambitions complying relentlessly with each and every steps and conditions necessitated by MHRD-GOI in this regard.

Amidst the process, the Institute, was conferred the status of a State University in 2004 (renamed as Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur) with recurrent lackadaisical attempt towards solution to the mounting crises imperilling the sustenance and without any special provision for budget or cogitated plan for development.

On this background, the Association demands that, in the interest of survival and development of this great heritage Institute and in commemoration of its 150 years of existence, the Institute be declared immediately, by the Central Government, as an IIT / INI , following recommendation of S. K. Joshi Committee. It also demands that, the State Government should leave no stone unturned in fructifying this scope. Any confusion in this regard, if at all, be resolved through a transparent decision-making process, involving all stake-holders and not be overshadowed by whims or preconceived ideas of any handful.

The Association gives a clarion call to all sections of its fraternity, teachers, officers, staff, students and their guardians, alumni across the globe, Industry houses and all other stake-holders as well as well-wishers of this institute, irrespective of any political caste or creed, to join hands with the Association in this noble move which is considered not just the path for future development but without which the glorious existence of the institute is at stake.

(Manas Hira)

**Secretary**