

# Better administration needed to bag IIT status

**HT Correspondent**

Kolkata, November 21

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY and Bengal Engineering and Science University (Besu) will have to improve their administration to make an impression on inspectors, who will come calling next month, and get a nod for the coveted deemed IIT status.

Human resource & development (HRD) ministry education secretary Sudeep Banerjee, on a one-day visit to Kolkata, said the universities would have to prove themselves capable of handling the change and work with greater autonomy. "We would be glad to give them IIT status. Once they are able to show us that they are ready for



the change," he said.

The deemed IIT status promises greater autonomy, but Banerjee said: "We have no desire to take away authority from the government. The institu-

tions will be autonomous and will receive central funding. Both the central and state governments will oversee them."

HRD ministry representatives will visit Besu and JU on De-

cember 2 to examine the claims made by the varsities in the vision documents. "Both JU and Besu have the potential of becoming institutions of national importance, but they will have to prove that they can make the best use of the funds that they get once they have the IIT status," Banerjee said.

But before bestowing the IIT status, the ministry wants to ensure that their internal governance is up to the mark. "The structure of internal governance of the IITs is considerably different. So once both institutions get the IIT status, we will expect them to work with greater academic and financial autonomy. For that to happen they will have to upgrade the

existing quality of their internal governance," said Banerjee.

The ministry wants to ensure that both Besu and JU are capable of exercising autonomy and have the expertise to do so. One of the major pointers to detect this capability is the utilisation of available funds. Both JU and Besu have received 50 crore each as part of the Technology Education Quality Improvement Programme from World Bank and HRD ministry wants to see both institutions make optimum use of the amount. To upgrade the facilities at Besu and JU, the ministry is ready to provide them with resources. "We already held discussions with the V-Cs and are encouraged by their response".

## JU intervenes

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY authorities have finally responded to the demand of the students. Registrar Rajat Bandopadhyay reached Writers' Building on Monday to try and dissolve the police cases filed against nine engineering students of the varsity.

Engineering students led by Fetsu activists had been boycotting classes for the past eleven days. They were protesting against the non-intervention of the authorities on behalf of the chargesheeted students, who are in trouble because of the June 10 incident. Bandopadhyay, however, categorically said he had gone to the Writers' to attend to loads of other work also.