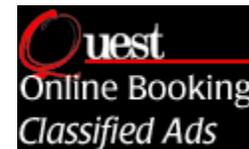




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Industrialists for Besu upgrade

Statesman News Service

KOLKATA, Oct. 22: Industrialists have come together in support of the recommendations of Anandkrishnan Committee, which has suggested an upgrade of Bengal Engineering and Science University (Besu) to Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST) status even though the state government has its own reservations on this.

At a convention held on 12 October at Besu, eminent industrialists like Mr Shiddharta Sengupta of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Mumbai, Mr Sudhangshu Sekhar Chakraborty of Consultancy Engineering Services (CES), Delhi, Mr Amitabha Ghosal, managing director Stup, Mr Susanta Chandra, factory manager Kitchen Appliances, Mr Goutam Chatterjee, director of Exide among others emphasised upon the need of upgrading Besu to overcome the lack of infrastructure and funds as well as bringing out quality manpower.

However, Prof. Sudarshan Roy Choudhury, state higher education minister, at a recent meeting with Besu officials gave his nod in favour of the upgraded status, but did not clear upon the two controversial issues ~ governance and admission procedure.

IISTs will have a common council wherein state will have no separate representation. Prof. Roy Choudhury spoke in favour of a participatory form of governance. The proposed admission process to gain entry into these institutes will be through a national level entrance test such as IIT-JEE or AIEEE, which too, the minister felt was not feasible as it will deny admission to many students from West Bengal.

“The 3,000 odd students that get selected in IITs are not enough to meet the


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demand of industries. There is a dire need of more institutions like the IITs. Upgrading Bsu to Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST) will churn out MTech and doctorate candidates to companies undertaking research and development,” said Prof. Sujoy Mukherjee, general secretary, Besu Teachers’ Association.

After upgradation, the institute will be able to give 100 to 300 PhD institutional fellowships in five years. Besu, presently, supports only ten PhD scholars in five years.

As per recommendations of the Anandkrishnan Committee, IEST will establish a new trend of five-year integrated dual degree programmes in place of the four-year bachelors degree. A student can even pursue two degrees in such an institute.

Around 20 to 30 per cent of foreign students will also find their way into IEST. “The industrial sector seems to foresee the position that the institute will attain after receiving the status,” said Prof. Mukherjee.

Discussion on this Bengal item

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No discussions on this item

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