

## Besu impresses HRD

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# Expert team impressed with Besu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** There is every chance of Bengal Engineering and Science University (Besu) being elevated to the status of an IIT. For, the team of experts, sent by the Union ministry of human resources development, on Friday returned pretty impressed with the institute's zeal for excellence.



"There is no reason one should not be impressed with Besu. It has been consistently doing pioneering work in technological education and research with a meagre annual grant of Rs 12 crore," said team member Amitava Ghosh, former director of IIT Kharagpur and currently faculty member of IIT Kanpur.

"Moreover, everyone from the faculty to administrative

staff to students exuded confidence and sounded positive. I must say that both the students and the teachers here are of the level of national institutes," he added.

So, will Besu be upgraded? "Take an intelligent guess is all that I can say at this stage," Ghosh replied. "We will take about six weeks for writing and submitting the report and another 10 days will be spent on delibera-

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Amitabh Gosh, member MHRD team

tions with the Union HRD ministry before the final results are out. We have finished with six of the seven institutes, only one in Kochi is left."

He added that expectation should not be limited to IITs only. "This is just a yardstick. These institutes could even get a better status. We want to upgrade these to the level of an international in-

stitute and then nurture them." In the Eleventh Plan, the Centre will allocate Rs 2,000 crore to upgrade all the seven institutes. Besu has asked for Rs 950 crore from the MHRD for upgradation, which is higher than what other institutes have asked for.

The experts went through the records of all the 10 departments and four tech schools that Besu has. The latter had already submitted a vision document to MHRD regarding its present status and expansion plans.

On Friday, a large number of Besu alumni — either teaching in various universities of United States, United Kingdom and Canada or heading corporate houses — were present to interact with the experts.

Although Besu had raised

questions about the new form of governance it might have to adopt once it gets the new status, it presented to the experts the resolution of its board of management which said the new form of governance should be decided upon jointly by the Centre and the state as Besu is guided by an Act framed in the Assembly. So, any change has to be decided upon by the two governments.

"We have also been able to convince the team that our admission test, West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination, is of a national level and we do not need to switch over to a nationally organised test. We have been told by the team that ours was the best of the six institutions that they have visited till date," said N R Banerjee, Besu vice-chancellor.