

Besu on top in IIT-status race, bags highest grant

By Jhimli Mukherjee
Pandey/TNN

Kolkata: Bengal Engineering and Science University (Besu) is celebrating like never before. It has not only been adjudged the best tech college in the country along with the tech school of the University of Cochin, but most importantly, it has beaten its closest rival, Jadavpur University, in the race for excellence.

Besu and University of Cochin are getting the highest amount of assistance from the

Union human resources development ministry in the first phase of upgradation of five selected tech colleges to the level of IITs. The MHRD took a final decision last week and on Monday Besu and University of Cochin were informed that it will be given Rs 10 crore in the first phase. JU has managed to get only Rs 7 crore along with Osmania University and School of Technology, Vizag.

The classification was made on the basis of the recommendation and grading

done by the MHRD-appointed Anandakrishnan Committee. For the scheme of 'Institutions with Potential for Upgradation to IITs or Institutes of National Importance', the committee not only went through the academic records but also assessed upgradation proposals.

The fact that Besu wanted to expand its applied chemistry department and then introduced chemical engi-

neering and biotechnology reportedly captured the attention of the committee which awarded it higher grades



Besu, Shibpur

as against JU's proposal to focus on the campus facelift.

"We shall be spending on a six-storey building that will have central instrumentation facilities, central computing facilities and sophisticated labs for different branches of chemistry," Besu vice-chancellor N R Banerjea said. All the five universities have been told that they will have to spend the money by March 2007, else they would earn negative points. "We expected Rs 12 crore," said Partha Pratim Biswas, a JU faculty member.