



Speakers at the convention Fifth Dimension at BE College auditorium on October 12 and (below) section of the audience. Pictures by Amit Datta

## Que sera, sera, what will BE?

**T**he campus is waiting for its upgraded status with bated breath. It is only in fitness of things that Bengal Engineering and Science University (Besu) be given its due after years of giving the nation its manufacturers, engineers, metallurgists,

architects and other scientific and technical manpower.

'History: To Become or Create' is an apt motion for a house that is on the verge of the path of unprecedented development or extinction. What will it be? It is now up to the govern-

ments in power to decide. But the university's faculty together with its students are sparing no effort in underlining the need for Besu to be upgraded to an Institute of National Importance (INI). And to buttress this demand, Bengal Engineering College Students' Union (BECSU) arranged a convention calling upon industry captains, academics to debate whether Besu will "create history or become history".

And they came. Siddhartha Sengupta from TCS, Mumbai, Sudhangshu Shekhar Chakraborty, MD, CES, Delhi, Gautam Chatterjee, chairman,

CII, Technical Education Sub-committee, Amitabha Ghoshal, president of Global Alumni Association, Besu, Soumitra Banerjee, professor, IIT-Kharagpur. And they unequivocally called for Besu to be upgraded to the new brand of education institutes — Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology (IEST) as recommended by the Anandakrishnan Committee to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

All speakers exhorted the state government to allow this upgrade which will only fit in with the development scenario in the state. As pointed out most aptly by Siddhartha Sengupta, "If farmers in Singur are being asked to give up their land in the name of development then why can't the state government give up Besu for upgradation?" Moot point that found approval from the audience at the Besu auditorium on October 12.

Gautam Chatterjee of CII pointed out the need for technical manpower for a nation that is growing at an unprecedented rate of 8-9 per cent. "We need highly qualified and adequately trained manpower for the knowledge-based industries. And for that we need institutes with adequate research and training facilities." Who better but Besu, a 150-year-old institute, with an acclaimed faculty that can provide the nation with the required manpower, provided it has the access to funds and resources?

Sudhangshu Shekhar Chakra-

borty, an alumni of Besu, turns sentimental whenever his alma mater is compared to IITs. "Its time Besu was given the IIT/INI status."

### FIFTH DIMENSION

1. Civil Engineering College - 1856
2. BE College, Shipbur - 1920
3. B.E. College (Deemed University) - 1993
4. Bengal Engineering and Science University (Besu), Shibpur - 2004
5. Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology - 2007(?)

Soumitra Banerjee points out the pitfalls on the path of Besu's development asking it not to blindly follow the IIT model and instead pick up its best practices and avoid its negative features. He warned that the recent violence on

the campus points to a rot in the system that should be tended to before it is late.

So, everyone waits in anticipation, is Besu on the verge of its fifth upgrade, the fifth dimension as its students call it?

Anasuya Basu



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