

No. BESUTA/ EC/ 2005-06/ CM02

Date: February 21, 2006

Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya
Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal,
Writers' Buildings,
Kolkata – 700 001

Subject: IIT status to Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur - the immediate issues.

Sir,

You might be aware that, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur (BESUS) is all set for achieving a national status in the form of an **IIT** / an Institution of National Importance (**INI**). BESUS ranked third in the list of seven Institutions shortlisted by the S. K. Joshi committee, formed by MHRD, Govt. of India. Subsequently, an expert-committee with Dr. Anandkrishnan as the Chairman was sent by the MHRD, Govt. of India, to visit all seven institutions in order to evaluate their readiness for the proposed upgradation and recommend the names to the MHRD in order of merit. As per the report submitted to MHRD by the Anandkrishnan Committee, BESUS is expected to be at the top of the list of the prospective Institutions. The Vice Chancellor of our University has since been invited to meet the officials of MHRD, at New Delhi on 23rd February, 2006, to discuss the related issues.

Sir, so far, the teaching community of this University has extended its full support to the Vice Chancellor in every possible form, so that, this 150-year-old Institution of higher learning gets its proper recognition. We understand that still there are two major issues which are to be immediately resolved by the Govt. of West Bengal to fructify this process; namely, the proposed model of governance and the student admission procedure. The teaching community of our University has made its stand clear on these issues as stated below.

1. In the question of Governance, it is most natural, and accordingly resolved unanimously, that, once upgraded its governance should primarily be like that of any other IIT/INI.
2. Similarly, the admission procedure for students should also be like any other IIT/INI.

Sir, most humbly, we state that for long this Institution had been considered as the best in Engineering Education at the national level and the present scope of upgradation to IIT/INI is indeed the last one of its kind, not only for its further growth, but also for its mere survival in the changed world of globalization and privatization of Engineering Education.

We, therefore, appeal for your wise intervention, which has become imperative, so that, the Govt. of West Bengal, with you at the helm of affairs, takes immediate affirmative stand to make the upgradation of BESUS a reality. Each member of the BESUS community is eagerly looking forward to this long-cherished upgradation. An excerpt from the comments made by a few distinguished alumni, including Prof. Shankar Kumar Sen is enclosed herewith for your kind perusal.

The executive committee of this association desires to meet you at your earliest convenience for seeking your valuable advice to decide its course of action in this regard. We shall be obliged to have confirmation of date and time from your end for such discussion.

With regards,

(Manas Hira)
Secretary, BESUTA.

Enclosure:

1. Excerpts from the resolution of BESUTA in support of the proposed upgradation of Bengal Engineering and Science University to an IIT.
2. Copy of the earlier letter of BESUTA (No. BESUTA/ EC/ 2005-06/ CM01, Dated November 18, 2005) to the CM, Govt. of West Bengal, seeking his appointment.
3. Excerpts from the comments made by a few distinguished alumni of B.E. College, Shibpur.