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IIT plans to raise seats

ANWESHAAMBALY

Bhubaneswar, Feb. 12: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here plans to increase its BTech seats for various streams from 260 to 350 from the next academic session.

The IIT authorities also plan to shift all their academic operations to their permanent campus at Argul from the coming session. In January last year, the institute started shifting some of its units to its permanent campus at Argul village on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

The IIT is also set to introduce a number of subjects from the next academic session at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

“Our focus is on contributing to the societal development with dedicated student and faculty engagements,” said IIT Bhubaneswar director R.V. Raja Kumar, while speaking on the occasion of its 9th foundation day celebrations today.

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who attended the event as the chief guest, gladly offered to be the “brand ambassador” of the institution to take it to greater heights.

“India, particularly the state of Odisha, with its culture richness and heritage, can surpass any country in the world if an institution, such as the IIT Bhubaneswar, takes up the challenge in pro-

viding the leadership. I assure all the help from the central government in the process,” Pradhan said addressing the students.

The central minister emphasised on the state’s mineral richness of the state of Odisha in the natural resources and called upon the students and faculty to dream big and use their potentials in a manner so that the country benefits from their innovation.

Union human resource development minister Prakash Javadekar also conveyed his best wishes to the students, faculty and staff on the foundation day through a telephonic conversation with Pradhan.

The state government has given the IIT 40 acres at Laudigaon in Ganjam district to set up a coastal observatory and an innovation centre for climate change. The director said the work on the centre was going on in full swing.

The institution also gave away excellence awards to faculty members for their contributions in innovative teaching and research based on the feedback received from students.

Assistant professors Yogesh Ganpat Bhoomkar and Arindam Sarkar, associate professor Mihir Pandit and adjunct professor Kumkum Mohanty received the awards.

Niser director V. Chandrasekhar, who was guest of honour, delivered his talk on the life of scientist C.V.Raman.



IIT Bhubaneswar director RV Raja Kumar felicitates Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan on the institute campus on Sunday. Telegraph picture