



ITTBS technology makes concrete out of aluminium waste 'red mud'

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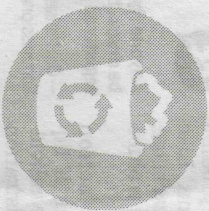
IN near future, areas surrounding aluminium manufacturing units will not be affected by environmental hazards caused due to the by-product of plants 'red mud'. Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar (ITTBS) in one of its research verticals, 'waste to construction material', has developed a technology by which red mud is converted to concrete.

The new material has already been tested under different scenarios and can be used for all kinds of constructions. Director ITTBS Prof RV Raja Kumar said. A two-member team is working on improvisations to make the tech-

nology more robust and commercially feasible and an alternative for cement.

The Director said the material is already in its marketing stage and soon, the premier institute would apply for a patent for the technology. He was addressing mediapersons on the pre-event ceremony of fifth convocation of ITTBS.

Prof Kumar mentioned that ITTBS has taken up a mission of reverse brain drain by promoting the institute and its infrastructure in Western and Eastern shores of USA and the United Kingdom. The idea is to bring back brilliant



students from India who have moved out to foreign countries to explore research opportunities. Sustained efforts are being made to improve research facilities to match global standards, the Director said. Currently there are 112 full-time faculty members in the institute and professors from sister institutes in the country and abroad are invited frequently to teach

at ITTBS. On the societal front, the institute is working on solutions to prevent erosion at Puri coast, groundwater replenishment and exploration and commercialisa-

tion of rare earth materials at Ganjam coast. On September 4, a workshop on rare earth materials and another in January, on ocean sciences, will be organised by ITTBS, Prof Kumar said. While equipment worth ₹9 crore have already been purchased for the ambitious Bay of Bengal Coastal Ocean Observatory (BABCO) project, the proposed land for the project near Puri is yet to be demarcated.

ITTBS receives at least 30 applications from start-ups every year. So far, 85 per cent of academic activities are conducted on the permanent campus at Arugul in Jatani. By mid 2017, all academic blocks will be ready on the new campus, Prof Kumar added.

Fifth convocation today

Bhubaneswar: IIT Bhubaneswar will hold its fifth convocation on its permanent campus at Arugul in Jatani on Tuesday. This year, the institute would confer degrees on seven PhD scholars, 55 MTech, 69 MSc and 110 BTech students. Chairman, National Board of Accreditation and former Director, IIT Delhi Prof Surendra Prasad would be the chief guest and Chairman, Board of Governors of IIT Bhubaneswar, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel would preside over the convocation. Director of the institute Prof RV Raja Kumar would award the degrees to the graduating students. Currently the institute has 1,237 Students (BTech-715, MTech-170, MSc-145, PhD-207) and 112 full-time faculty members including one Chair Professor. This year, the highest pay package in campus placements stood at ₹16 lakh while the average salary offered was ₹8 lakh. Around 85 per cent of BTech students got placed in different companies and 80 per cent of the jobs were in core sectors, Prof Kumar said.