

Knowledge Pays

BHUBANESWAR, NOW A SMART CITY, IS FAST EMERGING AS AN EDUCATION HUB OFFERING HUGE INVESTMENT AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES



mergence of Bhubaneswar as an education hub remains its most noticeable achievement since the first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru,

laid the foundation stone of the modern capital city 68 years ago on April 13, 1948. From nursery to universities, the city has top institutes at par with the best in the country. The city has top national institutes like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Institute of Physics, Institute of Life Sciences, Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) and others. This apart, eight universities and around 100 engineering and management institutions, attracting students from several other states and abroad, make it a students' city.

Odisha has large pool of skilled manpower 1,78,404 technical manpower per annum from 956 technical training institutions. "Bhubaneswar is indeed emerging as an educational hub as so many national and state institutes are here. It is a serene, calm and quiet city fit for education," said R V Rajakumar, director, IIT Bhubaneswar.

He also feels that Odisha has a variety of good institutes and students can have a varied choice for pursuing their education. "Besides top institutes in Bhubaneswar, Odisha has National Law University at Cuttack, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Sambalpur, Indian

Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Berhampur, NIT at Rourkela. So the state has almost all the top institutes to teach varieties of subjects. So we can call it as an emerging hub of education," he added.

Other government institutes like Institute of Mathematics and Applications, International Institute of Information and Technology (IIIT) and College of Engineering and Technology (CET) have created a special place among the students.

"The state government wants to make Odisha a hub of transnational educational activities. We are taking all necessary

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steps to make the state a hub of education in the country. We are on the job," said Bishnupada Sethi, higher education secretary.

Besides, the city has renowned campuses like Utkal University established in 1943, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) founded in 1962 and Rama Devi Women's University. These institutes have attracted many students to get education and conduct research and study on different subjects.

"First, Odisha has earned the reputation of best governance. This helped in implementing ideas for the growth of this sector. Second, it has a number of national institutes. Public universities are getting enough funds for development of education. Private institutions are also doing fine here. All these features prove that Odisha is an emerging hub of education"

said Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, vice chancellor, Utkal University.

Private institutions like Xavier University Bhubaneswar, KIIT, Siksha O Anusandhan, Sri Sri University and others have become successful in getting students from other states and neighbouring countries.

"Some experienced educationists have started setting up of colleges and universities in the city to cater to the educational need of the students. Later, the city witnessed booming of educational institutions. Because the eastern region was deficient in this kind of education, people made a beeline for this place to get their higher professional education," said Amit Banerjee, vice chancellor, SOA.

"Bhubaneswar is a clean city with nice people and reasonably disciplined traffic. Communication and transportation is good, so students can reach their institutes at time. Even parents visiting their children find hotels at reasonable prices and enjoy time here. I think these are the reasons why the capital city has become a hub of education," he added.

The state has a total of 12 state universities with hundreds of affiliated colleges, two technical universities, four private and two deemed universities and one central university. It has more than 133 engineering and management colleges and 16 pharmacy institutes. Besides these, it has both government and private medical colleges.

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