

# IITBBS to increase seats from 1765 to 3000 in 4 yrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** IIT Bhubaneswar is planning to increase its student strength from the existing 1765 to 3000 within the next four years.

The institute's director R V Rajakumar announced the decision at the 7th annual convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar organised at Argul on Saturday.

The institute has 1101 BTech, 266 MTech, 142 MSc and 256 PhD students. "To accommodate these students, the institute is working on an expansion plan to construct three school buildings, four hostels and other infrastructure under its phase II expansion programme," said Rajakumar, adding that the project will cost Rs 850 crore. He said the 'second generation IIT' has emerged as the second largest one in terms of student intake among the new ones after IIT Hyderabad.

Ashutosh Sharma, secre-



Dignitaries at the 7th convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar on Saturday; (left) Ashutosh Sharma, secretary of the science and technology department, awards the President's gold medal to Nanduri Divakar (right)

tary of the department of science and technology, said the institute has received more than 100 sponsored and consultancy projects in its 10th year of existence.

A total of 332 students, including 162 BTech, 91 MTech, 69 MSc and 10 PhD scholars, received degrees during the convocation. The President of India Gold Medal was awarded to Nanduri Divakar of mecha-

nical sciences for the best academic performance. He also received the Institute Silver medal and Best Male Graduate award.

Debaleena Mukherjee from the MTech batch and Sayan Ray from MSc received the Director's Gold Medal for their academic performances. They also won Institute Silver medals for topping their respective schools.