

BITS plans to set up mgmt institute in AP

Our Bureau
HYDERABAD

BIRLA Institute of Technology & Sciences (BITS) is planning to set up an institute of management on the lines of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Andhra Pradesh. It has also tied up with a university abroad for curriculum development. "We have not finalised our plans. We are looking at starting the institute in two years," said K K Birla, chancellor of BITS.

Talking to media on the sidelines of a function organised on the sidelines of the foundation stone laying ceremony of BITS campus in Hyderabad, he said, the institute wanted to diversify and that he would accept the offer made by the state chief minister to provide all the support for setting up another institute. "We wanted to offer quality education in different fields," he said.

BITS is setting up a campus in Hyderabad at an investment of about Rs 280 crore. "We have acquired 200 acres of land and the first phase of the campus would be ready by 2008-09 academic year. Initially our student intake will be 600 and we will offer degree programmes in engineering and science," he said. The institute is also looking at doubling its student intake every year. "By 2011, the campus will be functional with its full capacity," Mr Birla said.

Besides Pilani, BITS currently has campuses in Dubai and Goa. "Presently our Dubai campus houses 1,200 students while we have about 1,700 students in Goa. Our aim is to increase the student intake to 1,500 in Dubai," he said.



Diversification: Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (right), Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, with Mr K.K. Birla, Chancellor, BITS-Pilani, at the foundation laying ceremony for the Hyderabad campus on Saturday. — Satish H

BITS plans management institute

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, April 28

Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani is planning to diversify and set up an institute of management on the lines of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

BITS would also like to collaborate with a reputed international institute to offer world-class management education, Mr K.K. Birla, Chancellor, BITS, said at the stone-laying ceremony for the BITS Hyderabad campus on Saturday.

Mr Birla later told newsmen that he had accepted the Chief Minister, Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's request to locate the proposed institution in Andhra Pradesh.

On the probable period of setting up the institution, Mr Birla said: "It will take some time. May be one or two years."

On the quality of education in BITS, he said notwithstanding the increase in number of students, the quality would not be compromised.

Dr Reddy, who laid the foundation stone, described the occasion as "a dream come true" as Andhra Pradesh is the single largest State to send students to BITS.

COURSES OFFERED

BITS is investing over Rs 270 crore for building its Hyderabad campus in 200 acres of land at Jawahar Nagar, Shammeerpet.

It will initially offer first degree programmes in engineering and science leading to B.E. (Hons) in chemical, civil, computer science, electrical and electronics, electronics and instrumentation, mechanical engineering and B.Pharm and M.Sc (Hons) in science and M.Sc (Tech) in information systems.

In future, the Hyderabad campus would introduce higher degree programmes such as M.E., M.Pharm, M.Phil., and Ph.D.

The initial intake for these courses would be 600, according to Prof V.S. Rao, Director, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad campus.

HT Nation

Now, BITS plans for best B-school

Ashok Das
Hyderabad, April 28

THE BIRLA Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), having established its name as a premier institute for technical education on par with the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and having three campuses including one in Dubai, is aiming high. On the anvil are plans for a top class Business School on the lines of IIMs.

"After the Hyderabad Campus is completed, we would like to diversify and establish an institute of management on the lines of IIMs. At my age, one may call it a dream. But I hope this dream will turn out to be true," said Dr K.K. Birla, noted industrialist and Chancellor of BITS, at the foundation laying ceremony of the Hyderabad campus of BITS.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy laid the foundation for the campus at Jawaharnagar in Rangareddy district on Saturday.

Dr Birla said that the institute of management would be set up in collaboration with a reputed international institute and would be one of the best.

He said that the Hyderabad Campus of BITS would be a world-class campus, replicating all good educational programmes at BITS, Pilani. "The Goa campus of BITS is regarded, from the angle of architecture and beauty, as the best institute in the country. Our aim will be to make the Hyderabad Campus even superior to the Goa campus," he added.

He said Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had invited him way back in October 2005 to set up a campus of BITS, Pilani at Hyderabad. Prior to that, many MPs from the state had requested him in this regard. "You (Rajasekhara Reddy) were so persuasive that I had to accept this challenge of establishing the vast campus in Hyderabad. A challenge it is, as on Sunday, 18th November 2007, just a few months hence, on the holy festival of Gopashtami connected with Bhagwan Shree Krishna, I shall be entering the 90th year of my life. In spite of my age, I have accepted this challenge," he stated amidst loud applause from the



B.K. RAMESH

AIMING HIGH

Dr K.K. Birla, industrialist and Chancellor of the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, laying the foundation of the Hyderabad campus of the institute on Saturday.

crowd. He said it was because of the personal interest taken by the Chief Minister and also because of the high level of cooperation from the state government agencies that BITS could acquire a plot of 200 acres in Jawaharnagar, Shamirpet Mandal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in a short span of time. The campus would be developed with a total outlay of Rs. 270 to Rs. 280 crores.

Dr Birla said that when he took charge of BITS Pilani as its Chairman in July 1983, it had only 2,500 students. Today the number of students, including those enrolled in the off-campus programmes, has increased to 18,000. By next year, BITS Pilani will be turning out 5,000 graduates per year - 90 per cent of them engineering graduates. In the next five years, this number should double.

"At the same time, we are conscious that the quality of education should not suffer with the increase in numbers. In fact, my aim is to further improve the quality of education imparted at BITS. Not only are we involved in quality education in BITS; we are also conducting several research and

development programmes. All our campuses at Pilani, Dubai and Goa house many research laboratories in all areas of science and engineering. One of our significant research programmes is about safe disposal of nuclear waste, which poses a major danger for humanity. In our research we are using the technique of compacting nuclear waste by using special strains of bacteria," Dr Birla said.

Quoting former President Dr Radhakrishnan, he said that education must include not only the training of intellect but also refinement of the heart and discipline of the spirit. "Keeping that in view, our efforts at BITS also are to offer a judicious mix of courses which impart knowledge of science and technology, tempered and mellowed with a sense of moral values leading to the harmonious development of our students."

He said BITS was the only university that is privately funded by trust/trusts set up by the Birla family. It also offers scholarships to 22 per cent of students from its own budget. The system attracts the best young minds from the country and, every year,

over 20 Board toppers from among the 26 Boards join BITS.

"We feel proud to see that students of BITS have found a niche for themselves in the society and are occupying high positions in various walks of life, not only in our country but also abroad. Alumni of BITS can be found in a large number of countries. Many of our alumni are also associated with us in the developmental activities of their Alma Mater. I would also like to add that many alumni belonging to Andhra Pradesh who are in high positions are willing to be associated with us in our endeavours pertaining to the Hyderabad Campus," Dr Birla said.

Rajasekhara Reddy profusely thanked Dr Birla for deciding to set up BITS campus at Hyderabad. "It is a dream come true for us," he said and announced waiver of Rs 2.5-Rs 3 crore that BITS was to pay to Hyderabad Urban Development Authority towards statutory charges. Referring to Dr Birla's intent to set up a IIM like B-school, Reddy said he would not like to sound greedy but would request Dr Birla to be benevolent to set up the B-school at Hyderabad or anywhere in Andhra Pradesh.