

IIT-K all set to develop DIETs as centres of excellence in UP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: In an attempt to enhance the functioning of state-run elementary schools and improve subject knowledge, pedagogical abilities and teaching approaches of teachers in UP, the basic education department has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, to develop District Institute of Education and Training (DIETs) as Centres of Excellence (CoE).

As per the agreement, IIT-K will prepare a visionary document to transform DIETs to improve the learning environment and prepare students for a digital and knowledge-driven society using cutting-edge technology. These DIETs of excellence will focus on empowering teachers through in-depth training programmes. They will also be committed to creating and upgrading curricular frameworks, textbooks and teaching-learning materials. In addition, these CoEs will have research and innovation as a crucial component.

The upgradation will be done in phases. In the first phase, 13 DIETs, one each in

Lucknow, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Jaunpur, Aligarh, Jhansi, Kanpur, Etawah, Lakhimpur Kheri, Meerut, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, and Saharanpur will undergo transformation. The department has prepared a proposal for 14 more DIETs to be developed as CoEs in the second phase. This includes one each in Azamgarh, Bareilly, Bhadohi, Firozabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Ghazi-

TO EMPOWER TEACHERS

pur, Hathras, Kanpur Nagar, Kaushambi, Mathura, Pratapgarh, Shravasti, Sultanpur and Unnao.

These model DIETs will have appropriate infrastructure and resource support, empower teachers through continuous professional development, research and evidence-based practices, support inclusive education and foster collaboration among educational institutions.

According to the joint director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), UP, Pawan Sachan, DIETs will be transformed ho-

listically. "The IITK will develop a conceptual model to strengthen our DIETs. This will further improve the learning environment and prepare students for a digital and knowledge-driven society using cutting-edge technology," Sachan said.

Besides, a research environment is being created in DIETs by partnering with MS Baroda University and Azim Premji University, under which research and innovation cells are being formed in each DIET. The decision to develop model DIETs was taken after a study undertaken by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and UNICEF highlighted gaps and provided short-term and long-term recommendations. The report focused primarily on developing infrastructure, improving academics and enhancing the quality of pre-service training in developing smart teachers.

DIETs were envisioned in the National Policy of Education, 1986 and were created in the 1990s to strengthen elementary education and support the decentralisation of education to the district level.